

# SAVING HABIT AMONG LABOUR CLASS WOMEN - A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO LABOUR WOMEN IN SELECTED REGIONS OF MANGALURU CITY

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## ABSTRACT

*"You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women". -Jawaharlal Nehru.*

*The status of women in India has been many ups and downs. Indian economy to a great extent is characterized by large number of people working in unorganised sectors as unorganised workers, transitional nature of the Indian economy, disparity in education, skill and training are some of the major factors abetting such a large concentration of workers in an area most vulnerable to exogenous economic vicissitudes. Women working in unorganised sector deserve a separate mention as they are much marginalised.*

**Keywords :** *savings, women, labour, socio-economic*

## I. INTRODUCTION

"Female labour has been an important segment of the workforce of India. With the changing Socio-economic scenario, women's productive roles have assumed new dimensions. The observance of the International Women's Year in the last quarter of the 20th century was a historic landmark in the calendar of women's progress. Frankly speaking, it was in recognition of crucial importance and need that women's participation has always been necessary for the success of social and economic development. Over the years, the main objective of the policies of the Government of India with regard to female labour has been to remove the handicaps under which they work, to strengthen their bargaining capacity, to improve their wages and working conditions, to augment their skills and to open up better employment facilities for them. It is hoped that Female Labour in India will be well received in various academic circles."

**- Female Labour in India (1975)**

A lot has been written about the India growth story; relatively little, however, about the ongoing radical transformation in the Indian economy. This transformation has much to do with women rather than men; inclusion today and growth tomorrow. When you look back on the history of a woman's position in society, no matter what class you look at, females have always been looked upon as second class citizens. Women have

always given stereotypical working conditions of cooking, cleaning, childcare.

A woman has the capability of handling herself along with the family. At the present day women not only manage household work but also work outside the boundaries of house. This makes Women as multitasking experts. They earn and spend for their necessities. No wonder women are shopoholics and they spend what they have earned. But it is also necessary to save a part of income for future purpose.

In a country like India, the income standard is almost uncertain and leads to more consumption rather than savings, which has now been a central problem. The study is basically aimed at identifying the pattern of saving behavior among labor class women and to identify the factors that affect the respondents towards savings.

The study will give proper direction towards discussing the saving habits among labor class women. Findings of the study is the reflection of real life situation of respondents. Suggestions of the research will fetch a value only if it's brought into practice and it will be a real perfect tone for the songs of labour class women.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Thomas Jefferson once said "*Never spend you're your money before you have it.*" Indeed, one of the most important aspects of managing wealth is ascertaining how much he has, in order that it may be properly handled by adding it to savings.

Saving is a very important component which is responsible for combating or meeting any emergency accrued by the individuals or the households or any corporate agencies. Saving is more of meant for meeting contingencies but sometimes it also acts as a form of investment. But sometimes people are not inclined towards saving and the very delicate reason is lack of awareness. The present study can be a relevant one to know the reason of dissaving and if saving occurs then what are the determinants which are responsible for saving.

Aggregate saving in any economy is dependent on a number of variables. For effective economic planning, the planners should have an idea regarding the volume of saving of different groups of people and the method by which saving can be improved more over in a better way. To advocate appeals for saving, there is a need to know about the saving motives of the individuals. An understanding of the saving preferences also helps in calculating the saving instruments which can efficiently arouse saving.

Right now, saving more and spending more simultaneously has become the basic and conflicting factor for the economy. The present influence of the labour women should experience total saving, which helps to step up the saving in the economy. Thus, there is an immediate need to carefully understand of both the saving rate and the saving pattern among labour class working women.

## III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to determine the savings pattern of labour class working women. The following objectives are framed.

- ✓ To study the socio economic conditions of the labour women
- ✓ To measure the savings and its pattern of labour women.
- ✓ To identify the problems faced by the respondents towards savings.
- ✓ To offer valuable suggestions

## IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is focused on collection of primary data from the field. The secondary data is used to draw a general background and over all scenario in a cross states context. Constraint of time did not allow a census mode of collection. A proportionate sample was drawn based on principle of stratification on random basis giving weightage to physical, social and demographic factors. Cross-sectional primary data were collected through interview by questionnaire method are used in this study. Main variables of interest related to labour women includes; education level of respondent, occupation, dependency ratio, the various expenditures, income from various sources, deposit rates, incomes, savings/deposits and credits/loans.

The study was conducted with 100 labour women drawing a sample from Mangaluru taluk. 100 different labour women i.e; fish coolie workers, vegetable and fruit coolie workers, factory workers and maids from Mangaluru taluk is selected ensuring balanced representation of the elements in universe. The income, level of expenditure, consumption pattern and saving behaviour is taken as the criteria for drawing the samples.

## V. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study suffers from following limitations:

- Only a sample of population was taken for the study.
- The sample size is restricted to 100
- The study is restricted to the labour women of Mangaluru city.
- The results of the study are biased to suffer from the demerits of sampling design, human bias and prejudice.

## VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

### 1. Sex

All the respondents studied in this study are Females of the labour class women.

### 2. Age Group:

Table 2

Distribution of the Respondents According to Age

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage
20 -30	8	8
30- 40	32	32
40- 50	52	52
50 – 60	8	8
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (52%) of the respondents fall in the age group of 40-50 years old.

### 3. Education

Table 3. Education level

Distribution of the Respondents According to the Education

Level of Education	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	25	25
Primary	35	35
High School	36	36
P.U.C	4	4
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (36%) of the respondents have studied upto High School.

### 4. Marital Status

Table 4 Marital Status

Distribution of the Respondents According to Marital Status

Marital Status	Number Of Respondents	Percentages
Single	8	8
Married	72	72
Divorced	4	4
Widow	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** A vast majority (72%) of the respondents were married.

## 5. Family Background

Table No. 5.

Distribution of the Respondents According to Nature of Family

Type of family	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Joint Family	28	28
Nuclear Family	72	72
Single	0	0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

**Inference:** A majority (72%) of the respondents are living in Nuclear family system. This implies that in this region the joint family system is slowly reducing its practice.

## 6. Head of the family

Table 6

Distribution of the Respondents According to Head of the Family

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Yes	32	32
No	58	58
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (68%) of the respondents are not the head of the family.

## 7. Job status

Table 7

Distribution of the Respondents According to the Status of the Job

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	83	83

No	17	17
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority ( 83%) of the family members are happy with the status of the job of the respondents.

## 8. Monthly Income

Table 8

Distribution of the Respondents According to their Monthly Income

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 10,000	32	32
10,000-20,000	32	32
20,000-30,000	16	16
30,000-40,000	20	20
Above 50,000	0	0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (32%) of the respondents of the respondents fall under both the income category of less than 10,000 and 10,000-20

## 9. Ownership Pattern of the House

Table 9

Distribution of the Respondents According to the Ownership Pattern of the House

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Own	56	56
Rented	32	32
Lease	12	12
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (56%) of the respondents own houses.

## 10. Type of House

Table 10  
Distribution of Respondents According to Type of House

Type of House	Number of Respondents	Percentage
RCC	24	24
Titled	76	76
Thatched	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (76%) of the respondents dwell in tiled houses.

## 11. Type of labour

Table 11  
Distribution of Respondents According to Type of Labour

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Full time	60	60
Part Time	28	28
Occasionally	12	12
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (60%) of the respondents do full time work.

## 12. Type of Job

Table 12  
Distribution of the Respondents According to Type of Job

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Skilled	36	36
Semi- Skilled	52	52
Unskilled	12	12
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (52%) of the respondents perform semi- skilled work.

## 13. Reasons for Choosing Labour Occupation

Table 13

Distribution of Respondents According to Choice of Occupation

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Availability	8	8
Salary	68	68
Hereditary	20	20
Other	4	4
Total 100	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (68%) of the respondents chose labour occupation due to payment of salary.

## 14. Security at work place

Table 14

Distribution of Respondents According to Security at Work Place

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Secured	80	80
Unsecured	20	20
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (80%) of the respondents feel secured at their work place.

## 15. Equality at Work Place

Table 15

Distribution of Respondents According to Equality at Work Place

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	32	32
Agree	36	36
Neutral	12	12
Disagree	8	8
Strongly disagree	12	12
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (36%) of the respondents are of the opinion that there is equality at workplace.



## 16. Condition to Save

Table 16

Distribution of the Respondents According to the Affordable Conditions of the Respondents to Save

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Affordable	80	83
Unaffordable	16	17
Total	96	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (83%) of the respondents are in an affordable condition to save.

## 17. Average Monthly Savings

Table 17

Distribution of the Respondents According to their Average Monthly Savings

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 1,000	32	40
1,000 - 2,000	20	25
2,000 - 3,000	8	10
3,000 - 4,000	0	0
4,000 - 5,000	16	20
More than 5,000	4	5
Total	80	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (40%) of the respondents save less than 1,000 rupees.

## 18. Investment of Savings

Table 18

Distribution of Respondents According to Investment of Savings

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Bank	96	89
Post-Office	8	7
Gold	4	4
Stock Market	0	0
Real-estate	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	108	100

Source: Primary Data, MRR = 1.13

**Interpretation:** Majority (89%) of the respondents invest their savings in banks.

## 19. Type of Savings Preferred

Table 19

Distribution of the Respondents According to Types of Savings preferred by the Respondents

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
High return with high risks	12	12
Low return with low risks	16	17
Medium return with medium risk	68	71
Total	96	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (71%) of the respondents prefer medium returns with medium risks.

## 20. Purpose of Savings

Table 20

Distribution of Respondents According to the Purpose of Savings

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Excess Income	24	25
Secured Future	72	75
More Returns/profit	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	96	100

Source: Primary Data

**Interpretation:** Majority (75%) of the respondents save for the purpose of secured future.

## V. FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The summary of the important findings and meaningful conclusions drawn have been precisely presented in this study. This study was proved to be a valuable and worthwhile one as the inferences drawn throws a good light in understanding and gaining meaningful insights in the selected components and aspects pertaining to the profile of the Women Labour Workers. Accepting that the universe of the study is limited, taking full cognizance of the fact that the study is limited to selected variables and areas and components and finally realizing the need and scope for further research of areas not covered in this study, a few suggestions have been listed out for further research.

### Interpretation of Results – Major Findings:

- Majority (52%) of the respondents belong to the age group of 40-50 years.
- Majority (36%) of the respondents have studied up to high school.
- Majority (72%) of the respondents are married.

- Majority (72%) of the respondents belong to nuclear family.
- Majority (68%) of the respondents are not the head of the family.
- Majority (83%) of family members of the respondents are happy with the status of job of the respondent.
- Majority (32%) of the respondents fall under both the income category of less than 1,000 rupees and 10,000 to 20,000 rupees.
- Majority (56%) of the respondents dwell in own houses.
- Majority (76%) of the respondents dwell in tiled house.
- Majority (60%) of the respondents do full time work.
- Majority (52%) of the respondents are semi-skilled.
- Majority (68%) of the respondents chose labour occupation for payment of good salary.
- Majority (80%) of the respondents feel secured at workplace.
- Majority (36%) of the respondents feel that they are treated equally with men at workplace.
- Majority (56%) of the respondents have a good recognition in the society.
- Majority (83%) of the respondents are in an affordable condition to save.
- Majority (40%) of the respondents save less than 1,000 rupees.
- Majority (89%) of the respondents invest their savings in banks.
- Majority (71%) of the respondents prefer medium return with medium risk savings.
- Majority (75%) of the respondents save for the purpose of securing the future.

## VI. SUGGESTIONS

- Special medical assistance may be given to the labour women workers which may be useful to improve their health condition.
- The labour women workers should be made aware of human rights and legal protection. For that they may be allowed to attend legal awareness camps.
- Banks can provide liberal interest rates on repayment of loans taken by them, if any.
- The government can provide better housing condition to all the labour women workers
- More facilities should be provided to the children of the respondents to pursue their education without any hindrances.
- Necessary steps may be taken by the Government to give free quota to children.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Due to the transition in the role performance of women labourworkers they face many adjustment problems when they play a dual role at their working places as well as their homes. Majority of the respondents are from Nuclear family. This implies that in this region the Joint Family system is slowly reducing its practice. If we look into the savings of the respondents, we find that savings are accounted to be very low as because of their low occupational status and low income. All the income is spent on consumption and it is very difficult to bear

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the cost of education of their dependents.

The increase in the financial institutions like banks, microfinance institutions, self-help groups and other local banks provide an opportunity to save more. The increase in awareness among the people for their future security has made people inclined to save. Most of the respondents prefer medium returns on their savings invested with minimum risks.

There must be a proper channel of agents who can advise or council these people regarding savings.

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