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**Title: Women's Work and its Impact on Family Roles (A Field Social Study in the City of Al-Diwaniyah)**

Dear Authors

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Thaer Raheem Kadhim<sup>1</sup>**

**Baidaa Salam Miri<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Dept. of Sociology , College of Arts, Al-Qadisiyah University-Iraq

<sup>2</sup> (M.A. Student) Dept. of Sociology , College of Arts , Al-Qadisiyah University-Iraq

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**International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation**

# Women's Work and its Impact on Family Roles (A Field Social Study in the City of Al-Diwaniyah)

<sup>1</sup> Baidaa Salam Miri, <sup>2</sup> Thaer Raheem Kadhim

## **Abstract**

*When family is well-being, the entire society is reformed, especially the mother or wife. The family is considered as the natural environment and the suitable ground for the growth and building of the individual personality of the child. Yet the spread and availability of education for women makes her getting work that affected her family life by performing other roles besides her main role as a mother and housewife. As such, many problems have been resulted because of conflicting roles of the domestic roles and the roles of the new work. The current study deals with the effects that are generated from women's work that influences, in one way or another, their family roles as wives, mothers or housewives. So that the woman's work is seen through its effect other parties like the husband or children. Generally, the value of any research larks in its benefit after conducting it scientifically. Accordingly, the main goal of the research is to discover and find out the reasons that prompted the woman to work. As well as, it aims at knowledge of the positive and negative aspects of her work on her family members. So the research form is distributed on a sample consisting of (225) surveyed women working in the city of Diwaniyah in which the social survey methodology is used in addition to the questionnaire form as a basic method for collecting the statement. Then, it is concluded some results, the most important of which are: The economic factor is at the forefront of the reasons that pushed women to enter the field of work outside the home and compete with men for social and psychological reasons, and work has many effects on the woman herself and her family.*

*Key words: women, family, work.*

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## **Introduction**

It is also known that the family is the first building block in any society that consisting from parents and children who live together, linked by several strong bonds. It is seen that all societies are very keen on them, especially the main part that is woman who is responsible for protecting and taking care of the new generation of society. Yet, woman's work has threatened this stability somewhat due to the departure of this main constituent and its practice in various fields of work. As such, the family is exposed to several changes in its joints due to the successive human and social sciences revolution variables as well as the technological revolution. The availability of education for women has a major role in making her getting work. This has a great effect on family life. Trying to reduce the economic burdens on her family, woman gets work to have another responsibility besides her traditional responsibilities as a housewife. She starts working and she knows that she is sacrificing her stability and happiness in order to make her family happy and help them advance in all areas of their lives. Additionally, some problems are resulted from woman work as conflicting of roles between women and men, and some of them neglect their roles in the home.

Despite the positive aspects of women's work, it has some problems that accompany the exit of women to work and that affect them and their families in Iraqi society and particularly the community of the city of Diwaniyah. In order to

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<sup>1</sup> Dept. of Sociology, College of Arts, Al-Qadisiyah University-Iraq Corresponding Author's E-mail: [baidaasala@gmail.com](mailto:baidaasala@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Dept. of Sociology College of Arts, Al-Qadisiyah University-Iraq Corresponding Author's E-mail: [thaer.raheem78@gmail.com](mailto:thaer.raheem78@gmail.com)

achieve the aims of the current study, a research sample consisting of (225) respondents that are selected for the purpose of knowing the impact of women's work on their family roles. The research was divided into three sections, the first of which deals with the general framework of the study and includes several points, the first of which deals with the problem of research and the second deals with the importance of research, while the third point deals with the aims of the research and the fourth point clarifies the concepts contained in the research. The second section deals with the scientific and methodological procedures for research in three points, the first is the scientific method, the second is an analysis of field study data, and the third is concerned with stating the most important results and recommendations that the research has reached for.

## **Section One**

### **The General Framework of the Study**

#### **First: The Problem**

It is well known that the family has many functions for its members, represented in protecting them, upbringing them socially, and giving them social status, protection, sympathy, and transmission of heritage through successive generations. Also, it is a source of social control. There is no doubt that the emergence of new fields of work in line with the nature of the changes taking place in society led to the opening doors for women to work, and women took their roles in the labor market just like men.

Accordingly, it follows that a woman's work needs studies to know its effects on her life and family roles and her relationship with all members of her family. Then, it is required to know her ability to achieve compatibility between her family roles and her practical roles. Here, it is imperative that we monitor and discuss the problems and changes occurring in the nature of the distribution of roles within the family as a result of this new variable. Further, it tends to provide a social treatment for the issue of women's work, which must be multifaceted and not only taken into account the interest of women. That is, the treatment must contain the parties whose work may affect them, especially the husband, children and others surrounding the working woman, such as the father, mother, brothers and sisters, and so on. The research problem is represented in the following questions that represent the justification for conducting the research:

- 1- What are the main functions of the family?
- 2- What are the justifications that motivated women to work?
- 3- Does work have an effect on family members?

#### **Second : The Importance of the Research**

The value of any research lies in the benefit derived from it after conducting it, and accordingly the importance of the current research is represented in the following:

- 1- Shedding light on the importance of the role of women in serving societal development issues in all its aspects .
- 2- Knowing the effect of a woman's work on the family.
- 3- Exposing the aspects of support provided by the family to the working woman to continue her work.

#### **Third: The Aims of the Study**

It aims at the following:

- 1- Finding out the most important functions performed by the family.
- 2- Knowing the factors and causes of women's work.
- 3- Knowing the effects of work on family members

#### **Fourth: Defining the Concepts**

**A-The work:** Work is defined as the muscular and mental efforts that a person makes in order to satisfy his material and moral needs at the same time, in order to acquire a prestigious social position.

**B- A woman:** She is known as the basic seed that blooms in society with life and constitutes the half of the society, that is the first responsible for its preparation and formation in the way it wants to give birth and raise the other half.

**C- The role:** It is all that a woman does in terms of work, behavior or activity to serve her family and the institution to which she belongs, or to serve the various groups of society and to achieve personal interest, and at the same time she is married and has children.

**The family:** It is that social group whose main pillars are the father and mother, with or without children, who live in one house and have strong bonds of cohesion between them, and sometimes it is extended to include grandparents as well.

## Section Two

### Scientific and Methodological Procedures of the Research

#### First: Research methodology:

The nature of social research is coherent and interdependent. That is, the research introductions are related to its results as the results are related to the introductions. This is why the researcher must develop an accurate systematic design for all research steps since he chooses the phenomenon studied (Hassan 1998: 123). Then, any science is advanced of science depends, to a large extent, on the existence of a clear-cut and specific approach to research that helps in connecting to an accurate and organizing knowledge of aspects of reality. Scientific research is the process of investigating reality using an organized method to achieve one of the goals (Al-Fawal, 1982: 163). The researcher used a scientific method to obtain the information and facts required in the study. For this, the social survey method was used.

**The Social Survey Method:** The social survey method is one of the basic methods in descriptive research. As it is concerned with studying the social, political, economic and other conditions in a particular society, with the intention of gathering facts and drawing the necessary conclusions to solve the problems of that community (Age, 1986: 68). The social survey curriculum has several stages, classified as follows:

**1) Determining the study type:** Through the descriptive study, it is necessary to define a goal, methodology, concept, tools and areas, and collect data, and then analyze and unpack it to reach results and recommendations for the current study.

**2) Defining the fields of study:** Another methodological step is to define the study methodology, and there are three main areas of study:

**A- The human field:** It is intended to define the research community, that is, the people on whom the study is conducted. Therefore, the human field for our study was defined (225 respondents), taking into account that they are representative of the research community.

**B- Spatial domain:** It means the geographical area in which the study is conducted. Here, the geographical area of our study is the city of Diwaniyah.

**C- The time domain:** it means the time the study that the study takes place in which starts in a date and extended to.

**3) Designing the statistical sample:** The design of the statistical sample requires attention to important steps related to determining the size of the sample, testing its reliability, determining the geographical area from which it is received, as well as determining the type of sample withdrawn from the research community. We will explain these steps in detail, which are the following:

**A- Determining the size of the sample:** The sample size depends on several factors, including the subject of the research under study, the degree of accuracy of the data to be identified through the research, and the nature of the researched community, i.e. being (homogeneous, semi-homogeneous or heterogeneous) in terms of social, material, cultural and geographical characteristics. The sample size also depends on the material, national and human capabilities of the researcher (Abu Saleh et al., 2000: 183).

**B- The type of the sample:** The sample that represented the studied community was (225) women, which is a stratified random sample.

**Study tools:** the tool is a translation of the English word "Technique", and the concept of (tool) means the means by which the researcher collects the data he needs in addressing his research topic (Hassan, 1982: 306). Therefore, the questionnaire form was used in the current study, as a basic method of collecting information from the respondents. The questionnaire is defined as a model designed from a set of questions directed to the respondents with the intention of obtaining specific data (Gharib, 1997: 37).

**Second / Presentation and Analysis of Tables Data**

**Table (1) shows the sample according to the age variable**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
30- 20	40	%17.8
40 – 31	101	%44.9
50 – 41	50	%22.2
51 and more	34	%15.1
<b>The Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

Through the analysis of the data of the above table data on the age variable of working women in the research community, it is evident that the age group, whose ages range between (31-40) years, is the most representative group of the research community, as their percentage constituted 44.9% of the total number of working women. The age range between (41-50) years, by 22.2%. The age representation of the research sample between these two groups is also similar, and the age representation of the research community is less than that of the age group between (20-30) years by 17.8%, and less. Among them, the age group is over the age of (51) years, as their percentage reached 15.1%, according to the data of the above table.

**Table (2) shows the scientific level of the respondents**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Primary	20	%8.9
Secondary	23	%10.2
High school	56	%24.9
Bachelor	98	%43.6
Diploma	28	%12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

By looking at the data of the above table concerned with the educational level of the respondents, it appears that the highest percentages are holders of a bachelor's degree in various university specialties, at 43.6% of the total research sample, since most of the state departments need employees who hold a bachelor's degree and the diversity of their fields of work, followed by holders of a preparatory certificate and a diploma if the percentages is 24.9% and 12.4% respectively, followed by 10.2% for intermediate degree holders who work in craft work and the fact that the work fields of this category are very small. The rate was 8.9% for primary school holders, as shown in the above table data.

**Table (3) shows the marital status of the respondents**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Single	39	%17.3
Married	80	%35.6
Divorced	56	%24.9
widow	50	%22.2

<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>
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Through the data of the above table related to the marital status of the respondents in the research community, it is clear that 17.3% of the workers were single, unmarried, and the reason is due to their delay in studying or their desire to financially help their family. As for married workers, their percentage reached 35.6%, the highest percentage of the total sample Research, and if this indicates anything, it indicates a departure from the traditional view of women and their limited role within the walls of the house and the fact that this group needs to work more than others due to the high prices, the diversity of economic and social conditions, and the large number of family burdens. As for the divorced women (separated from husbands), their percentage reached 24.9% Of the total research sample for economic or social reasons, and some of them suffer from family disintegration, this preferred divorce, followed by the proportion of widows (missing husbands) by 22.2% due to the large number of death accidents in the city and its diversity, which is the lowest representation of the research sample we were shown in the table data.

**Table (4) shows the number of families members of the respondents**

<b>The Choice</b>	<b>The Number</b>	<b>The Percentage</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>%26.7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>%15.1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>%47.1</b>
<b>5 and more</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>%11.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

Through the table data, it becomes clear to us that the families of the respondents that consist of only two people (husband and wife) is about 26.7% of the total research sample, most of whom were newlyweds and do not pass their marriage for a long time, and 15.1% for the families of the respondents that consisted of three persons, as for the families which consisted of four people, whose percentage was 47.1% in the representation of the research sample as a result of the increase in monthly income and the reward for work, which encourages childbearing and reproduction, which is the highest percentage, and for families that consist of five people or more, their representation rate was 11.1% of the total research sample as a result of following most families Methods of birth control and birth control in search of economic, social and material stability.

**Table (5) shows the attitudes of working women’s families towards their work**

<b>The Choice</b>	<b>The Number</b>	<b>The Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>%59.1</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>%11.1</b>
<b>Somehow</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>%29.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

In the spreadsheet on the attitudes of families of the research sample regarding their work, it is found that the majority of families have a positive attitude towards the work of their daughters, so the attitude of consent, acceptance and continuous support on the part of the families represented 59.1% of the total research sample. This is due to their abandonment of the traditional view of women that she is confined to the man’s desires, housework, and childcare. As for the positions of dissatisfaction with the girl’s work outside the home, it represented 11.1% of the total sample size, due to their adherence to outdated ideas and customs that make the woman a machine in the man’s hand in any capacity (whether the father or brother or even the grandfather in Some cases), and 67% of the respondents' families agreed, fluctuating between offer, negation, and satisfaction or not, and providing them with assistance.

**Table (6) shows the man’s view of the working woman**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Yes	143	%63.6
No	82	%36.4
Total	225	%100

The above table shows the man's view of the working woman and whether the man deals with her with respect or not. The respondents' answer was that the man deals with her with respect, representing 63.6% of the total sample size because of the woman's knowledge of her limits, rights and duties at work in addition to the financial salary that she receives as a result of her work. Large compared to the respondents who answered (no), and they accounted for 36.4% of the representation of the research community who faced domestic violence as a result of their work due to the lack of approval and acceptance of their field of work.

**Table (7) shows the justifications for men's respect for working women**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
She is more experienced and clear	24	%16.8
Her work a source of increased income	75	%52.4
Increasing the social status of the family	31	%21.7
Her ability to run her family and her home	13	%9.1
Total	143	%100

It is noticed through the table of justifications for the man's respect for working women, that the main reason for the respectful view of women is that it is a source of increased income, at a rate of 52.4% of the total research sample, because she contributes effectively, side by side with the man, to bearing the costs and burdens of family life and also to the high status and independence of women. Further, she is more informed, experienced and practiced in various types of work, followed by a rate of 21.7% of the men of men who see that the working woman has an increase in the family's social position, which leads to an increase in the types of apparent consumption. Total research sample, and finally the ability of working women to manage their families and homes came in last place, with a rate of 9.1% to represent the research sample, as it is constantly searching for the best in all fields to increase its family.

**Table (8) shows the impact of women's work on the family**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Yes	160	%71.1
No	65	%28.9
Total	225	%100

Through the above table on the impact of a woman's work on her family, 71.1% of the respondents answered that work has a clear effect on their families' lives in terms of well-being and economic independence, and from a social

standpoint that is embodied in apparent consumption and their enjoyment of good health as a result of health care and the provision of their requirements, as well. Most of them have a high level of education for their children as a result of having enough time to study, provide for their school needs and pay their tuition fees, which is the highest percentage in representation, and the percentage of 28.9 in the representation of the research sample was for the workers who answered (no), meaning there is no effect of work on their lives from the total research sample.

**Table (9) shows the reasons for women working**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
The economic need	140	%62.2
Individual independence financially	39	%17.3
Social standing and gaining respect	31	%13.8
Others	15	%6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

That economic need is the main motivation for women's work. This is proven by the respondents in the current research sample through the data of the above table and by 62.2% of the total research sample, which is the highest percentage of representation due to the pressure of financial need that forces everyone to go out to practice work in order to meet the needs of the family They belong to it, followed by 17.3% of workers who want individual financial independence and self-reliance in meeting their needs, and 13.8% of the respondents who were presented with this question chose to work for the reason of social status and gain respect, and for other reasons that the workers chose and preferred not to disclose them. 6.7% of the total research sample.

**Table (10) shows the extent of women's ability to work to raise the level of the family**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Yes	175	%77.8
No	50	%22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

The above table reviews the respondents' opinion of the extent to which a woman's work is able to improve the overall level of the family. Accordingly, 77.8% of the respondents who presented this question to them answered (yes), i.e. half of the sample by fulfilling the desires and aspirations of family members and helping them make correct decisions related to their lives and help. In completing their education, 22.2% of the respondents asserted that the work of women has nothing to do with raising the general level of the family, since the feeling of responsibility or not is the primary responsibility for raising the level of the family out of the total research sample.

**Table (11) shows the extent of the contribution of working women to the family income**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
All income	91	%40.4
Half the income	60	%26.7
A quarter of the income	50	%22.2
There is no contribution	24	%10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

The highest percentage in the representation of the research community is 40.4% of the respondents who contribute with all their income in order to provide for the needs of the family, according to what is shown in the table above, which indicates the amount of the contribution of working women to the provision of family expenses from their monthly income, and the majority of them are the breadwinners for the family due to the absence of a husband or that he is Unemployed, as for women who contribute half of their income, they account for 26.7% in the representation of the research sample because of the help of husbands to meet the requirements of the family and sometimes children, and by 22.2% for women who contribute a quarter of their monthly income, and the lowest percentage in the representation of the research sample amounted to 10.7% for workers who They did not have any contribution to family expenses from their monthly income and they mostly belonged to luxury and financially capable families.

**Table (12) shows the workers 'desire to leave work and devote themselves to family affairs**

The Choice	The number	The Percentage
Yes	80	%35.6
No	145	%64.4
Total	225	%100

The majority of the respondents who are asked to leave work and devote themselves to family and home affairs are strongly rejected because of their pride in their work and by 64.4% of the total sample size and their estimate of the value of the working woman and their efforts according to the data of the above table. As for the respondents who preferred to leave work and devote themselves to their family affairs, they represented the sample. The research is 35.6% of the total research sample, who suffered from difficulty coping and lack of compatibility between work and home duties due to role conflict.

**Table (13) illustrates the alternatives for leaving children and going to work**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
With family	36	%17.1
In the nursery	30	%20.6
They take care of themselves	20	%11.4
With the husband's family	74	%42.3
Other places	15	%8.6
Total	175	%100

The alternatives for leaving children and going to work are varied among working women. Accordingly, the data of the above table are concerned with an indication of these alternatives and the extent of each of them contribution to the representation of the research sample. Nursery, both public and private, at a rate of 20.6% in order for women to guarantee their children in security hands due to the primary care and education provided by nurseries for children, followed by 17.1%. The total number of the research sample, and some female workers would take their children with them to their workplace and sometimes other places, at a rate of 4% of the total research sample.

**Table (14) shows whether work reduces the chances of working women to marry**

The Choice	The Choice	The Percentage
Yes	58	%25.8
No	167	%74.2
Total	225	%100

More than half of the respondents who were presented with a question answered whether the work reduces the chances of marriage for working women by (no) and by 74.2% of the total research sample, according to what the data of the table above showed. As for the working women who confirmed that work reduces the chances of marriage for workers, their percentage came 25.8% of the representative of the research sample.

**Table (15) shows the reasons why work reduces the chances of women getting married**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
The length of the study period	16	%27.6
The girl's desire to help her family	22	%37.9
The family's desire to benefit from the girl's work	12	%20.7
other reasons	8	%13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>%100</b>

The above table shows the justifications for which work reduces the chances of working women to marry. The most important of these reasons, and with the largest percentage of representation for the sample, 37.9%, the reason for the girl's desire to help her family for the longest period possible is an appreciation and appreciation for the efforts they exerted in caring for her studies and their endurance of hardship and fatigue, and the reason why the family is not She is financially able in some cases. As for the justification for the length of the study period, the percentage of her representation of the sample was 27.6%, followed by the family's desire to benefit more time from the girl's work at a rate of 20.7%, and by 13.8%, it was for reasons specific to female workers.

**Table (16) shows the extent to which work has achieved the aspirations of working women**

The Choice	The Number	The Percentage
Yes	155	%68.9
No	70	%31.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>%100</b>

To what extent does the work achieve the aspirations and hopes of working women? When this question was asked to working women, the respondent (155) answered that the work achieved for her all what she aspired to achieve before work, in terms of helping people and meeting their needs, a good remembrance and a good conduct, in addition to her dependence on herself financially and achieving self-sufficiency that helps her to strengthen and build Her personality, with a percentage of representation for the sample, was 68.9%. As for the workers who confirmed that the work did not achieve anything for them from their ambitions, their percentage was 31.1, and this is confirmed by the data of the above table.

**Second: Conclusions and Recommendations**

**First / conclusions:** the present study has reached the following conclusions:

1. The largest age group among the working women in the research sample is from 31 to 40 years old.
2. Working women possess different and different levels of education.
3. The majority of the respondents are married women, at a rate of 35.6%, or more than half of the sample.
4. The majority of respondents are women workers who live in the city center or nearby places.
5. The family has unavoidable functions that it performs for its members.

6. That the economic reason is the most important reasons and motives for working women due to the different social and economic conditions of life.
7. The work of women has great effects on the family and is distributed over all aspects of life in the manifestations of public development.
8. The economic factor has the greatest impact on women going out to work, and after that came the social and psychological factor, respectively.
9. Many of the respondents indicate that men view working women as a source of income increases by 26%, which increases society's respect for them.
10. The alternatives to leaving children and going to work for women are many and varied. Most of them are in kindergartens or they are supported by parents.
11. The majority of the respondents indicates that the girl's desire to financially help her family and the length of the study period are among the factors that lead to reducing the chances of working women getting married.
12. The work achieves the most aspirations for working women in life, in addition to the fact that they enjoy job security.

### **Second: Recommendations**

The present study recommends the following:

1. Ensuring that all types of care are provided for working women.
2. Ensuring the participation of women in all sectors of work, and their access to productive work.
3. Preparing the necessary programs and training courses to increase the effectiveness of the role of women in the family and society.
4. Providing the maximum amount of protection for working women, the psychological, social and professional risks they are exposed to.
5. Taking care of women, retraining them, and providing them with the necessary knowledge and life skills.
6. The necessity of educating women about their legal and political rights and achieving better support for them in the face of what hinders their access to work.
7. paying attention to the active participation of women in various aspects of life and not to make them confined to home work.

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