

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION IN CARE-ECONOMY: A CASE STUDY ON WOMEN SERVING IN FORMAL SECTOR JOBS

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Care economy is a newly developed section of the modern economy in which women play a critical role than men. This study examined the contribution of permanently employed women for the care economy in the Bandarawela municipality area. The study collected data from 200 women serving in formal sector jobs and the women were purposefully selected based on their occupation type. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and ANOVA, while mean separation was made using least significant difference. The value of household unpaid care activities was developed using the Household Satellite Account and Replacement Cost Method. Results indicated that clerks, nurses and management level job holders had no significant difference with each other ($p > 0.05$) and those groups differed from both teachers and labourers in contribution to care economy ($p < 0.05$). Further, results revealed that 60% of women had contributed to household economy through their unpaid care activities in the household (Rs.37,854/month/head) than their productive activities (Rs. 29,316/month/head). The majority (97%) of women had involved in child care activities, 24% of the women had participated in adult care activities and 100% of them had engaged in meal preparation, laundering and housekeeping. Women teachers were the majority (24%) who had contributed to care economy and women labourers were the least (16%) contributors. The majority of women spent seven hours per day for unpaid care activities and four hours out of this seven hours were occupied by the unpaid child-care activities and 15 minutes for adult-care activities. On an average, two hours/day were occupied with meal preparation while housekeeping and laundering activities took cumulatively 48 minutes/day. According to the results of the study, it can be concluded that the majority of women, working in formal sector jobs contributes to household economy, more through the care economic activities than productive activities in the Bandarawela municipality.

Keywords: Care economy, Economy, Household, Unpaid care, Women