Maternal Employment and Poverty : A Case Study of District Lahore

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ABSTRACT

This comprehensive paper analyses the role of Maternal Employment in tackling poverty and raising social mobility of district Lahore, Pakistan. This is vital for our economic restructuring and achieving women participation in income earning activities. For this analyses, Study splitter the data into two categories, employed and unemployed mothers Using primary data the author elucidate the impact of maternal employment on poverty reduction and rising social mobility This paper further examined that total household income and saving is not equal in term of working and non working mothers which shows that maternal employment has strong influence for household income. Analysis indicates that more income and ability to buy for children. Most of the women identified having more income as a primary benefit of work for them, their children and their families. The empirical results indicate that high level of women employment poses a benefit to families, child development and child cognitive abilities.

This paper illustratively outlines that the empirical studies, surveys and reports pinpoint that maternal employment lifting the families turn out the poverty and stimulate the economic growth. To calculate the poverty level, author uses the Multidimensional Poverty Index of working and non working mother by the help of Alkaier- Foster Methodology. Analysis shows, non working mothers of the two towns of Lahore exhibit the highest deprivation levels in access to different indicators of poverty by using the MPI.The paper concludes that Maternal employment contributes in increase in income, saving and household member live above the poverty line. They enjoy more facilities of life as compared to those household in which there is only one earning person (father) and more dependent person.

Index Terms

Alkaier- Foster Methodology ,MPI, Maternal Employment, Poverty, , Poverty Incidence, Poverty Intensity,

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INTRODUCTION:

Increase in employment level is the most important link between economic growth and poverty reduction. It is often described that to provide income earning opportunities through wage employment or self employment for poor women and men is crucial to raise incomes and overcome poverty circle. Today maternal employment is very important topic for all debaters and they presented two main arguments regarding women and economic empowerment. Right-based argument focuses on increasing women's job opportunities and their freedom to work in security and dignity and raise social rights. The economic argument emphasizes to increase women's economic capacities and potential contribution to economic growth through participating in income generating activities. The economic argument draws on the fact that women tend to reinvest their income in improved nutrition, health and education for their children and others household members, thus increasing living standards and reducing non-income poverty. Majority economists have the opinion about women employment that it is the key driver to increase the standard of living and alleviate the poverty in the long term. According to the U.S. Board of Labor Statistics and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development employed mothers were positively correlated with cognitive development and lower behavior and character building problem. The main reason of low employment rate of married women is the effect of child health. Most of the mothers prefer the part time job due to the work responsibilities. According to the Australian Institute of Family Studies, (2008). Mother's employment does not harm the development of their baby. Bulk of evidence support the maternal employment despites of the public opinion. It really does not affect the child health, abilities and household responsibilities.(Wallop,2009) Married women face many problems during the job and receive low wage for the same work. Low pay and lack of social protection make women vulnerable and exploited in the front of people.(Global Poverty Project, 2005)

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Most of the literature showed that mother's employment is an important contributory factor in poverty alleviation. Lack of women participation in labor market, less wage, low education and agricultural non-paid jobs are the basic reasons to the feminization of poverty in Pakistan (Abdullah, 2013). The poverty level of those household are lower in which women are actively participated in labor force than in which women are not actively participated. (Stier and Lewin, 2007). There is positive relation between maternal employment and increase to control over the resources because women are fond of spending their money on food and fulfill to other necessities of their children. (Desai and Jain,1995). Women employment reduces the poverty level of household because low dependence ratio downfall the poverty level and increase the level of social rights. (Awan and Iqbal, 2010). Maternal education which may often have no clear relation to the sex ratio of childhood mortality even that absolute levels of child mortality are lower for educated mothers. (Basu and Basu,1991).

Employed women face multiple costs and benefits of work for themselves and their children. Benefits consist of: increased income; increased self-esteem, feelings of independence, and social integration; and the ability to model work and self-sufficiency values for children. On the other hand employed women bear heavy costs in form of working without increased income; overload, exhaustion, and stress; and less time and energy to be with, supervise, and support children. (Scott, Edin and Hunter, 2004),Caregivers have less interest to be observed washing the hands and inadequate care of health which was associated with less food variety, less use of health care. All these things have negative impact on the relationship among maternal employment, child care health and nutritional status of children. (Lamontagne, Engle and Zeitlin 1997). Spending on child health is the negatively associated with maternal employment in econometric analysis because this affects the women work and earning. (Ashbaugh, 1997).But working low income mother was not associated to change their parenting attitude. (Young. J, 2011).

Women contribution in economic activities is not sufficient. Women-owned businesses are smaller and less profitable than men-owned businesses. The flexibility of self-employment takes precedence over earnings and economic self-sufficiency. (McManus, 2001). Non Muslim women in Pakistan neither in India have less autonomy or control over their lives because the study suggested that these women have lower probability of employment. (Sathar and Jejeebhoy 2001). Women of rural areas face more inequalities in order of human assets then urban women. They do not have better opportunities of education and lack of health facilities and do not contribute in income generation process in formal way. (Laborsta, 2008).). Better opportunities of rural women to grow their own crops and sale it so that it enhance their status within families and invest their income to fulfill the basic needs of household and providing better facilities of education to their children. (Hafeez, 2010). Govt. and other organizations should promote the women entrepreneurship, and make it easy for women to participate in formal and non formal economic activities and protest for all social and culture barriers. (Krogh and Hansen 2009).

Studies provide strong evidence for a U-shaped relationship between household economic status and women's current employment status. (Kumar,2003).Women employment has negative relationship with low husband salary and positive relationship with high level of education. (Faridi and Chaudhry, 2009). Husband attitude changes ideologically because they understand that wife do market work for running home in batter manner because of the need of money so husband contribute in home activities to enable household in function and welfare of their children do not decline. (Huber and Spitze1991).

Existing socio-cultural norms continues to strengthen gender discrimination and are a source of a massive wastage of the human capital in Pakistan. (Sadaquat and Sheikh, 2011). Full time maternal employment has negative effect of rules for routines but it has positive effect of physical discipline. The basic target of government is to create the employment opportunities and better education facilities which encourage the women to enter in economic activity, and participate in skilled labor force and come out of poverty.(McBride,2012). Employed women contributes in reducing the poverty level of their family and rising social mobility.(Waldfogel,2012).

Most of the research concluded that maternal employment is an important factor for poverty alleviation but how much a mother employment contributes in poverty reduction has not been quantified. This study aims to estimate the contribution of an employed mother in poverty reduction by finding the difference between the multidimensional poverty index of working and non working mother

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

An economic theory states that maternal employment is the best method of ensuring the poverty alleviation and rising social mobility. A supporter believes that raising the women employment lifts the families turn out the poverty and stimulates the economic growth. There is positive relationship between maternal employment and social rights of women and negative relationship with poverty reduction. There is positive relationship of maternal employment and control over the resources. It is positive consequences of women's increased control over resources due to the better employment opportunity. (Singh, and Chand, 1990). The theoretical framework of this paper estimates labor supply functions including both hours worked and participation. Married women have a higher participation rate in labor market and their participation rate affect their household income. (Franz, 1985). Women tend to reinvest their income in improved nutrition, health and education for household members, thus increasing living standards.(Krogh,and Thomas). For Asian specific countries, it has been estimated that gender discrimination costs up to USD 80 billion a year due to restriction on women's labour market participation and access to schooling (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - UNESCAP, 2007). Removing gender-based barriers to the labor market and create best opportunity for women which would lead to a significant reduction in the poverty rate (Costa and Silva, 2008).There are many theories which support that women are the main producers of food and crucial for the well-being of their family. Expanding women's employment opportunities promises a pathway out of poverty.

METHDOLOGY:

Study Area
The areas selected for the present study are Allama Iqbal Town and Data Gunj Baksh Town which are two important towns of Lahore. Study collects the data randomly from the two towns of Lahore.

Study Period
The field survey was conducted from January 2013 to May 2013 for the collection of primary data.

Data Collection

The survey was based on personal interview of mothers either they are working or non working. Study collected the information of every type of employed women like college lecture, school teacher, bank officer, private worker as well as house maids.

Questionnaire Design.

Mostly questions were related to the socio-economic profile of respondents some question were about the different indicators of poverty. Structured and dichotomous question were designed to collect the information. Structured question were based on multiple choice question in which respondents had the choice to

select one or more of the alternative and dichotomous question are those which had two alternative option of YES and NO.

Analysis of the study.

The present study consists of the two different analyses: Statistical analysis and Poverty analysis.

Statistical Analysis:

Statistical Analysis is the statistical evaluation based upon the t-test, Chi – Square and Proportion Test by using the SPSS 17.0 Student Version and Minitab software. The research analyzed the relationship among **poverty indicators and Health ,education ,living standard indicators of working and non working mother**. Hypothesis is rejected or accepted by using the 5 and 10 percent level of significance.

Hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference in the multidimensional poverty index of working and non working mother
2. Deprivation index of Education, of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers.
3. Deprivation index of health and of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers.
4. Deprivation index of living standard of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers.

Poverty Analysis.

Study developed its multidimensional poverty index of two towns of Lahore. Multidimensional poverty measure includes:

☐ **Education** (five year of schooling, Educational attainment, Expenditure of school)

☐ **Health** (Child mortality, Chronically disease and Malnutrition)

☐ **Living standard** (Water, Electricity, Sanitation, Cook on dung, Dirt floor and Assets)

These dimensions are measured through 12 indicators. A person is considered multidimensional poor by this measure when deprived in at least 33 per cent of the indicators.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.

Deprivation Index of Poverty:

Independent Sample T- Test of Deprivation Index of Three Dimensions of Poverty (Education, Health and Living standard)

- **Education index = weighted (five year of schooling)+ weighted(attend school at 8) + weighted(expenditure of school)**

- **Health index = weighted (death of child)+ weighted (chronically disease) + weighted(malnutrition)**

- **Living standard index = weighted (electricity)+ weighted (sanitation) + weighted(water) +weighted (floor) + weighted (cook on dung) + weighted (assets)**

For education index, we calculated all the weighted indicators of education and added them $H_0: \mu_{1=}\mu_2$ $H_1: \mu_{1\ne}\mu_2$ Reject H_0 at 5

percent level of significance as $p < \infty$. There is statistically significance evidence of deprivation index of education of working mothers are not equal to the non working mothers if the sample size is 328. Working mothers are more conscious about the education of their children and they provide better education facilities as compared to non working mothers. For health index, we calculated all the weighted indicators of health and add them than calculate the education index

$H_0: \mu_{1=}\mu_2$, $H_1: \mu_{1\ne}\mu_2$. Reject H_0 at 5 percent level of significance as $p < \infty$. There is statistically significance evidence of deprivation index of health working mothers are not equal to the non working mothers if the sample

size is 328. $H_0: \mu_{1=}\mu_2$, $H_1: \mu_{1\ne}\mu_2$. Reject H_0 at 5 percent level of significance as $p < \infty$. There is statistically significance evidence of deprivation index of living standard of working mothers are not equal to the non working mothers if the sample size is 328.

Household member are considered to be deprived if they have no access of clean water, electricity, dirt floor, cooks with dung, charcoal, no assets, any child mortality, permanent disability and not attending school up to class 8 and etc.

Computing the MPI.

According to the methodology of Alkaire and Foster, it computes the two piece of information.

1. **Incidence.** The proportion of people who experience multiple deprivations. How many poor people are in two town's asproportion of whole sample?
2. **Intensity.** The average proportion of people who experience deprivation.

Steps to compute the multidimensional poverty index

1. **Deprivation score.**

$$c = w_1 I_1 + w_2 I_2 + w_3 I_3 + \cdots \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots + w_n I_n$$

C = deprivation score

W = weight of indicators

Null hypothesis = H_0	Working &nonworking women	t-value	Sig(2 tail- test)	Results
Depriva-tion index of education of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers	Equal variances	3.577	.000	Reject the H_0
	Not equal variance	3.577	.000	
Depriva-tion index of health of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers	Equal variances	2.213	.028	Reject the H_0
	Not equal variance	2.213	.028	
Depriva-tion index of living standard of working mothers is equal to the non working mothers	Equal variances	1.906	.05	Reject the H_0
	Not equal variance	1.906	.05	

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (Alkaire-Foster Methodology)

Weight calculation

I = Indicators

Dimension	Weight calculation	Weight	Indicators
Education	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Years of Schooling
	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Child School Attendance
	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Expenditure of School
Health	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Child Mortality
	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Disease or Permanently disability.
	1/3 ÷3	1/9	Nutrition
Living Standard	1/3 ÷6	1/18	Electricity
	1/3 ÷6	1/18	Improved Sanitation
	1/3 ÷6	1/18	Improved Drinking Water
	1/3 ÷6	1/18	Flooring
	1/3 ÷6	1/18	Cooking Fuel
		1/18	Assets ownership

The deprivation score of each person is calculated by taking a weighted sum of the number of deprivations. Deprivation score of each person lies between 0 and 1. The person who is deprived in indictors receive the score of 1 when the person is not deprive in indicators receive the score of 0. $I_{\bar{i}} = 1$ when the person is deprived in i indicators otherwise $I_{\bar{i}} = 0$

$$0 < c < 1$$

2. Poverty cutoff.

The person is considered poor if her deprivation scores are greater or equal to the poverty cutoff. Poverty cutoff denoted with k so the person is poor if c ≥ k. The person is considered poor if her deprivation scores are greater or equal to the 1/3. So according to the MPI methodology, a person is considered multidimensional poor if her deprivation must be no less than 1/3 of considered indicator.

3. Censored Deprivation.

On the other hand, whose deprivation score is below the poverty cut-off, even if it is non-zero, this is replaced by a "0". It is known as censoring in poverty measurement. Study uses some notation for the censored deprivation score,

When c ≥ k then c (k) = c

When c<k then c (k) = 0

4. Incidence of people

To find out the MPI, the first stage is to calculate the proportion or incidence of people that how many people are poor in two towns as a proportion of whole sample? It is called the **multidimensional headcount ratio** (H):

$$H = q / n$$

q = the number of poor people who are deprived in many indicators.

n = total population

5. Intensity of poverty.

The second stage to calculate the MPI is intensity of poverty. It is the average deprivation score of those people who are multidimensional poor.

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^{n} c\,(k)\,/\,q$$

$c\,(k) =$ Is the censored deprivation score of individual i

q = is the number of people who are multidimensional poor

6. Multidimensional Poverty Index

Multidimensional poverty index is the product of H * A[3]

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[3] **The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**
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MPI = H * A

Calculation the MPI of Data GunjBaksh

Town	H	A	MPI
Data Gunj Baksh Town	0.35	0.43	0.15
1working mother	0.32	0.41	0.13
2 non working Mother	0.38	0.43	0.16

Above table shows the MPI figures of whole sample of Data Gunj Baksh and sub sample of working and non working mothers had different multidimensional headcount ratio (H). Yet they have different intensities of poverty, and that is why, in turn, they have different MPIs. The above analysis shows that MPI is lower for working mothers.

Household in which mothers are employed, are not deprived in many indicator especially expenditure of good school, disease and disability, five year of schooling and less malnutrition. Working mothers participate for the well being of their children and poverty alleviation than non working mothers.

In this town38 per cent of non working mothers are MPI poor. Its means there are many household who are deprived in multiple indicators like no clean water, a dirt floor and un-improved sanitation and etc. on the other hand, on average 43% of non working mothers are poor in weighted indicators. The intensity of poverty is higher than the working mother so the intensity of poverty is 43 percent. The non working mothers of Data Gunj Baksh town are deprived in 16 per cent of the total potential deprivations it could experience overall.

In this town32 per cent of working mothers are MPI poor. Its means there are few household who are deprived in multiple indicators like no clean water, a dirt floor and un-improved sanitation and etc. on the other hand, on average 41% of working mothers are poor in weighted indicators. So the intensity of poverty is 41 percent. The working mothers of Data Gunj Baksh town are deprived in 13 per cent of the total potential deprivations it could experience overall.
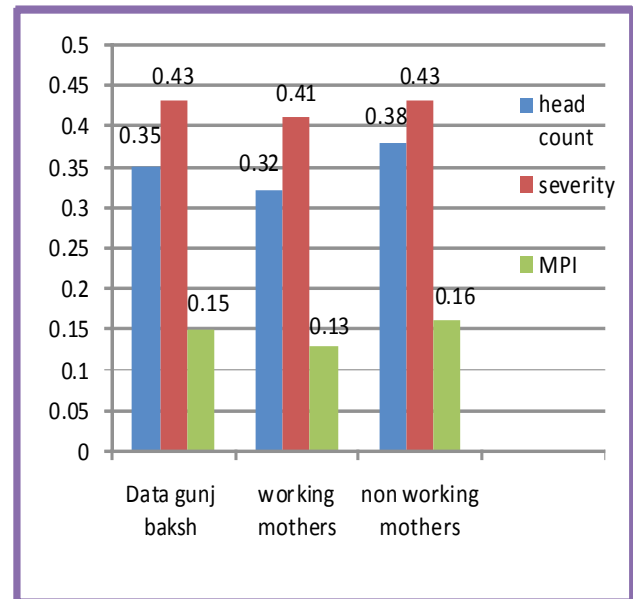

Calculation of MPI for Allama Iqbal Town

In this town 15 per cent of people are proportionally poor. Its means there are 15 percent household who are deprived in multiple indicators like no clean water, a dirt floor and un-improved sanitation and etc. on the other hand, on average 42 % of people are poor in weighted indicators. If study considered only H so 15 % people are poor but the question is that are they

Town	H	A	MPI
Allama iqbal town town	0.15	0.42	0.06
1working mother	0.14	0.40	0.05
2non working mother	0.15	0.43	0.07

equally poor so in this town they are not.

The working mothers of Allama Iqbal Town are deprived in 5 per cent of the total potential deprivations it could experience overall which is lower than the working mother of Data Gunj Baksh Town. In this town 14 per cent of working mothers are MPI poor. On the other hand, on average 40% of working mothers are poor in weighted indicators. In this town 15 per cent of non working mothers are MPI poor. Its means there are few household who are deprived in multiple indicators like no clean water, a dirt floor and un-improved sanitation and etc. on the other hand, on average 43% of non working mothers are poor in weighted indicators. The non working mothers of Allama Iqbal Town are deprived in 7 per cent of the total potential deprivations it could experience overall which is lower than the non working mother of Data Gunj Baksh Town.
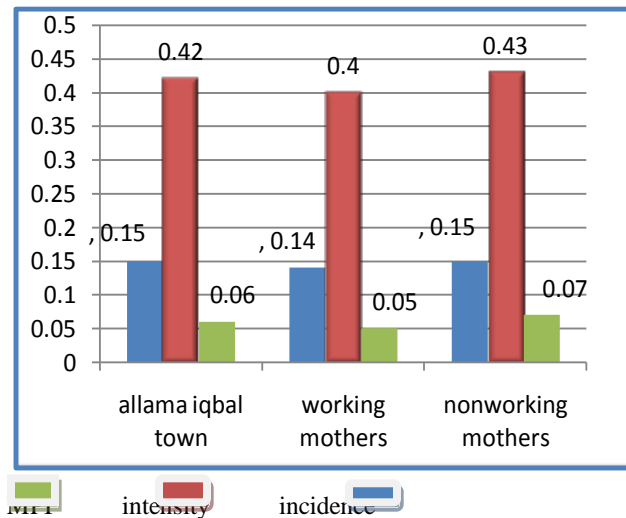
Decomposition by population subgroup (Allama Iqbal Town)

One key feature of the MPI is that it can be decomposed by population sub-groups such as working and non working mothers depending upon the sample design. If the entire population is divided into two subgroup of X and X_2, then the overall M_0 is the weighted sum of M_0 in each subgroup.

$M_0 = (n_1/n) M_1 (X_1 ; z) + (n_2/n) M_2(X_2; z)$

$$(82/164)0.05 + (82/164)0.075$$

$$M_0 = 0.06$$

X_1=Working mothers, X_2= Non working mothers

Decomposition by population subgroup. (Data Gunj Baksh Town)

- The entire population is divided into two subgroup X_1 and X_2, then the overall M_0 is the weighted sum of M_0 in each subgroup

$$M_0 = (n_1/n) M_1 (X_1; z) + (n_2/n) M_2(X_2; z)$$

$$(82/164)0.13 + (82/164)0.16$$

$$M_0 = 0.15$$

$$X_1 = Working\ mothers, X_2 = Non\ working\ mothers$$

The contribution of each group to overall poverty can be computed the following formula.

Contribution of Working Mothers of Data Gunj Baksh Town to MPI

Contribution of Working Mothers to

$$MPI = \frac{(n_1/n) M_1}{M_0} *100$$

$$\frac{(82/164)0.13}{0.15} * 100$$

43%

Contribution of Working Mothers of Data Gunj Baksh Town to MPI

Contribution of Non Working Mothers to MPI = $\frac{(n_2/n) M_2}{M_0} *100$

$$\frac{(\frac{82}{164})0.16}{0.15} * 100$$

53%

Contribution of Working Mothers of Allama Iqbal Town to MPI

Contribution of Working Mothers to

$$MPI = \frac{(n_1/n) M_1}{M_0} *100$$

$$\frac{(\frac{82}{164})0.06}{0.05} * 100$$

60%

Contribution of Working Mothers of Allama Iqbal Town to MPI

Contribution of Non Working Mothers to MPI = $\frac{(n_2/n) M_2}{M_0}$ *100*

$$\frac{(\frac{82}{164})0.07}{0.05} * 100$$

70%

Above analysis shows the contribution of both working and non working mothers to overall poverty of both Towns. Non working mothers are more poor and deprived as compared to working mothers and their contribution to overall poverty is higher than working mothers in Data Gunj Baksh Town and Allama Iqbal Town.

CONCLUSION.

The study was aimed to examine the maternal employment in perspective of poverty and study supported a strong negative relationship between them.

The study was conducted considering the Alkaire – Foster Methodology and found the deprivation rate of household of different twelve indicators of poverty. Household in which mothers are employed, they are not deprived in many indicator especially expenditure of good school, disease and disability, five year of schooling and less malnutrition. Working mothers participate for the well being of their children and poverty alleviation than non working mothers.

Study calculated that the intensity of poverty of working mothers in both towns is lower than the non working mother. This clearly indicates that maternal employment is the source of tackling poverty and brings the positive change in the society. The incidence of poverty is high for those working mothers who are daily wages worker and lowest among those who has own business. This analysis shows that mothers prefer the secure job and proper flow of income which has direct implication for poverty status that is why they prefer the own business so they are less poor. They can run their home with business in proper manners.

The main factor that non working women are crippled in poverty is the high dependence ratio which has adversely impacted their income so the research shows that women especially married women participates in the physical activities to run their house and control over income and economic resources. Analysis indicates that more income and ability to buy for children. Most of the women identified having more income as a primary benefit of work for them, their children, and their families.

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