

Chapter VII

CONTROL OVER PHYSICAL MOBILITY, REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS, AND DECISION MAKING

Physical Mobility

The existence of restrictions on women's physical mobility is one of the major reflections of women's status in society. These restrictions arise in the form of various tradition and customs in patriarchal society. Restrictions arise from various sources -- whether within home, norms prevalent in society, law and order problem, social and religious tensions etc. The non-conforming social norms and situation further reinforces the sense of insecurity within women and instil fears within other members in her households.

Table 1 shows distribution of reasons to visit in other places by purpose of visits. Marketing/shopping is the reason mentioned by respondents in two-fifth of cases. It is followed by visit to family. In old survey reasons to visit outside is available in two parts -- to other villages and to town. Major occurrence in both visit to other villages and town are visit to family and health related. Work/business is the second most important reason in visit to other villages whereas in case of visit to town shopping becomes the second most important.

Across castes in present survey, visit for work/business is almost negligible for forward castes of Bhumihar and Brahmin whereas in old survey for Brahmin caste it was also of negligible importance. For backward caste I, Muslim and S.C communities' reasons to visit for work/business was comparatively higher in both surveys.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Reasons to Visit to Other Places

Caste	Work/ Business	Visit to family	other recreation	market/ shopping	Total
Brahmin	1.40	38.17	7.10	53.33	100.00
Bhumihar	1.64	42.55	11.36	44.44	100.00
Backward I	19.39	30.94	14.82	34.86	100.00
Yadav	21.43	40.48	7.94	30.16	100.00
Koiri	21.38	35.98	8.96	33.67	100.00
Kurmi	27.38	22.62	11.90	38.10	100.00
OBC II	16.57	31.80	11.98	39.64	100.00
SC	27.15	25.70	13.80	33.36	100.00
Muslim	17.08	25.84	13.30	43.78	100.00
Total	17.00	31.62	11.85	39.53	100.00

Table 1ap: Percentage Distribution of Reasons for Visit to Other Villages

	Reasons for Visit in Other Villages							Total
	Work/business	Marketing	Shopping	Health-related	Visits to Family	Other Recreational	Others	
Caste								
Brahmin			3.64	18.18	63.64	9.09	5.45	100.00
Bhumihar	13.95	2.33	4.65	30.23	44.19	4.65		100.00
Backwrd I	20.83	1.39	33.33	16.67	27.78			100.00
Yadav	20.83	12.50	20.83	12.50	33.33			100.00
Koiri	26.09			17.39	52.17		4.35	100.00
Kurmi	11.76		17.65	23.53	47.06			100.00
OBC II	8.33	5.56	19.44	8.33	58.33			100.00
S.C.	34.78	2.17	15.22	18.48	28.26	1.09		100.00
Muslim	23.53	2.94	29.41	17.65	26.47			100.00
Total	19.40	2.52	17.13	18.14	39.80	2.02	1.01	100.00

Table 1bp: Percentage Distribution of Reasons for Visit to Towns

	Reasons for Visit to Other Towns							Total
	Work/business	Marketing	Shopping	Health-related	Visits to Family	Other Recreational	Others	
Caste								
Brahmin	2.13			59.57	19.15	8.51	10.64	100.00
Bhumihar	2.33	2.33	11.63	39.53	25.58	11.63	6.98	100.00
Backwrd I	4.17	6.25	18.75	56.25	10.42	4.17		100.00
Yadav		7.69	53.85	30.77		7.69		100.00
Koiri		6.25		62.50	25.00	6.25		100.00
Kurmi	6.25		31.25	43.75	12.50		6.25	100.00
OBC II			37.04	33.33	18.52	11.11		100.00
S.C.	9.62	9.62	19.23	36.54	17.31	5.77	1.92	100.00
Muslim	8.33	4.17	33.33	41.67	4.17	8.33		100.00
Total	4.18	4.18	19.16	45.64	16.03	7.32	3.48	100.00

Women face major restriction of physical mobility during the period of their menstruation. There have been several kinds of social and customary binding upon the women to visit different places during this period. Table 2 and 3 present restriction on mobility to different places during menstruation within home and outside home across. Within home restriction is limited to only kitchen and worship places with two-third respondents mentioning it. Restriction on women during this period outside home to outside work, social function and neighbours house is reported by more than nine-tenth of all respondents. From table 3 it is evident that during this period the movements of women out-side home is almost completely restricted. There is not much variation across castes regarding these restrictions. It seems these restrictions are governed more or less by common social tradition in rural Bihar.

Table 2: Restriction on Mobility during Menstruation within Home

Caste	No restriction	Only certain places	Only kitchen & worship places	Total
Brahmin	7.64	21.02	71.34	100.00
Bhumihar	19.54	14.94	65.52	100.00
Backward I	17.14	25.71	57.14	100.00
Yadav	7.14	14.29	78.57	100.00
Koiri	11.76	19.61	68.63	100.00
Kurmi	23.08	15.38	61.54	100.00
OBC II	10.77	13.85	75.38	100.00
SC	21.11	17.78	61.11	100.00
Muslim	11.76	23.53	64.71	100.00
Total	14.90	19.66	65.45	100.00

Table 3: Restriction on Movement during Menstruation outside Home

Caste	Outside work	Place of worship	Social function	Neighbour's house
Brahmin	82.80	1.35	87.25	94.63
Bhumihar	88.51		98.82	96.47
Backward I	92.86	3.82	91.34	92.97
Yadav	71.43		95.00	100.00
Koiri	96.08		95.92	93.88
Kurmi	88.46		100.00	100.00
OBC II	92.31		88.14	89.83
SC	93.33	3.49	97.69	97.09
Muslim	95.35	3.61	95.18	98.80
Total	90.12	2.06	93.63	95.45

One major problem women face because of their physical mobility out-side home is their physical insecurity. Although the problems related to physical security is more common among all women, there is some degree of variations in the feelings of women from different castes. This insecurity ranges from abusive comments to sexual harassment. Very few women understand themselves safe from these types of insecurity. Table 4 presents distribution of sense of physical security/insecurity among respondents outside home. Only two-fifth of all women feels secured in going out whereas one-third of women feels secure on after certain age. People's comments and possibility of misbehaviour by males together is the cause of insecurity among one-fourth of respondents. Castewise Brahmin and Backward caste I women feel most insecure in going out. On the other hand most of the women from Kurmi and Yadav feel themselves largely secured. Across districts, women from Madhubani have high sense of insecurity resulting from misbehaviour by males and peoples comments.

Table 4: Distribution of Sense of Physical Security among Women Outside Home

Caste	Yes	After certain age	No, misbehaviour by males	No, people comment	Total
Brahmin	20.51	48.08	21.15	10.26	100.00
Bhumihar	49.43	19.54	13.79	17.24	100.00
Backward I	28.57	40.71	17.14	13.57	100.00
Yadav	78.57	7.14	10.71	3.57	100.00
Koiri	52.00	28.00	6.00	14.00	100.00
Kurmi	61.54	19.23		19.23	100.00
OBC II	33.85	43.08	12.31	10.77	100.00
SC	45.20	30.51	15.25	9.04	100.00
Muslim	43.53	29.41	9.41	17.65	100.00
District					
Gaya	42.00	29.00	13.00	16.00	100.00
Gopalganj	48.00	26.67	12.00	13.33	100.00
Madhubani	40.27	9.29	20.80	29.65	100.00
Nalanda	45.92	37.76	12.24	4.08	100.00
Purnia	16.02	65.53	16.50	1.94	100.00
Rohtas	65.14	32.11	2.75		100.00
Total	39.07	34.03	14.50	12.41	100.00

As far as the insecurity resulting from religion and caste tension is concerned, Women from lower castes such as OBC I, and SC, and Muslims feel more insecure. Table 5 gives sense of insecurity arising out of religion and caste tensions.

Table 5: Incidence of Insecurity arising out of Religion and Caste Tension

Caste	Yes	No	Total
Brahmin	7.10	92.90	100.00
Bhumihar	3.49	96.51	100.00
Backward I	22.14	77.86	100.00
Yadav	7.14	92.86	100.00
Koiri	21.57	78.43	100.00
Kurmi	3.85	96.15	100.00
OBC II	16.92	83.08	100.00
SC	39.77	60.23	100.00
Muslim	26.19	73.81	100.00
District			
Gaya	18.18	81.82	100.00
Gopalganj	20.00	80.00	100.00
Madhubani	37.78	62.22	100.00
Nalanda	28.57	71.43	100.00
Purnia	2.44	97.56	100.00
Rohtas	10.09	89.91	100.00
Total	19.98	80.02	100.00

Sense of insecurity arising out of caste and religion tension is comparatively less -- nearly one-fifth of all women feels insecure. But, feeling of insecurity on these grounds is far

higher in S.C. and Muslim community and far lower among forward caste and dominant backward castes like Yadav and Kurmi. Districtwise respondents from Madhubani and Nalanda districts feel relatively more insecure on these grounds.

Control over Reproductive Functions

Women's awareness and practice of family planning and other birth control methods assumes importance in the context of gender relations and also poverty. An important aspect of women's empowerment can be seen through their control over reproductive functions. In practical terms it would mean awareness of family planning methods and control over their use and fertility.

Table 6 deals with awareness of family planning method among women over districts and castes. AS far as awareness regarding family planning methods nearly 88 per cent of respondents are aware of family planning method. This shows a substantial increase in the proportion of women aware over the years. In the 1982 survey this percentage was approximately 70 per cent. Among different Madhubani remains at the lowest rank with hardly any increase in awareness since old survey. Rohtas ranks top now from lowest rank in old survey. Castewise forward castes and Kurmi caste occupies highest positions regarding awareness in present survey from lowest awareness level in old survey. In contrast, Yadav, highest ranked in awareness in old survey, holds lowest position in present survey in spite of increase in their awareness level.

Table 6: Whether Aware of Any Family Planning Method

District	Aware of any FP Methods		
	Yes	No	Total
Gaya	86.27	13.73	100.00
Gopalganj	92.11	7.89	100.00
Madhubani	74.45	25.55	100.00
Nalanda	90.91	9.09	100.00
Purnia	95.65	4.35	100.00
Rohtas	97.25	2.75	100.00
Total	87.93	12.07	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	91.72	8.28	100.00
Bhumihar	90.80	9.20	100.00
Backward I	90.00	10.00	100.00
Yadav	67.86	32.14	100.00
Koiri	84.31	15.69	100.00
Kurmi	96.15	3.85	100.00
OBC II	89.23	10.77	100.00
SC	88.33	11.67	100.00
Muslim	79.07	20.93	100.00
Total	87.93	12.07	100.00

Table 6p: Whether Aware of Any Family Planning Method

District	Aware of any FP Methods			Total
Gaya	28.85	71.15		100.00
Gopalganj	19.51	80.49		100.00
Madhubani	25.86	73.28	0.86	100.00
Nalanda	21.43	78.57		100.00
Purnea	27.78	72.22		100.00
Rohtas	35.71	64.29		100.00
Total	26.76	72.99	0.24	100.00
Caste				
Brahmin	12.70	87.30		100.00
Bhumihar	13.95	86.05		100.00
Backwrd I	36.23	63.77		100.00
Yadav	41.67	54.17	4.17	100.00
Koiri	22.73	77.27		100.00
Kurmi	11.11	88.89		100.00
OBC II	27.78	72.22		100.00
S.C.	31.52	68.48		100.00
Muslim	34.88	65.12		100.00
Total	26.76	72.99	0.24	100.00

Distribution of most commonly heard family planning method (see table 7p) in old survey was female sterilisation with use of pill occupying a distant second position. Other methods were of negligible proportion. In present survey (see table 7) as well, the order remains the same but use of pill is relatively closer to female sterilisation in awareness level. Caste and districtwise not much variation is observed.

Table 7: Family Planning Method Most Commonly Heard

District	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Female Sterilisation	Condom	Male sterilisation	Others	Total
Gaya	27.17	1.09	69.57		2.17		100.00
Gopalganj	41.67	2.78	55.56				100.00
Madhubani	23.43	1.14	71.43	0.57	2.29	1.14	100.00
Nalanda	42.39	1.09	55.43	1.09			100.00
Purnia	41.29	2.49	50.25	1.00	4.98		100.00
Rohtas	66.36		33.64				100.00
Caste							
Brahmin	39.46	2.72	52.38	1.36	3.40	0.68	100.00
Bhumihar	32.91	2.53	62.03		1.27	1.27	100.00
Backward I	34.88		62.02		3.10		100.00
Yadav	45.45		54.55				100.00
Koiri	40.00		60.00				100.00
Kurmi	48.00		52.00				100.00
OBC II	35.59	5.08	55.93		3.39		100.00
SC	40.37	0.62	56.52	0.62	1.86		100.00
Muslim	47.22	1.39	48.61	1.39	1.39		100.00
Total	39.11	1.49	56.43	0.54	2.17	0.27	100.00

Table 7p: Family Planning Method Most Commonly Heard

Caste	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Condom	Female Sterilisation	Male Sterilisation	Rhythm	Abstinence	Total
Brahmin	18.18		5.45	76.36				100.00
Bhumihar	18.92	2.70	8.11	67.57			2.70	100.00
Backwrd I	20.45			79.55				100.00
Yadav	7.69			92.31				100.00
Koiri	29.41	11.76		58.82				100.00
Kurmi	12.50			87.50				100.00
OBC II	15.38		7.69	73.08	3.85			100.00
S.C.	15.87		6.35	76.19		1.59		100.00
Muslim	10.71			78.57	10.71			100.00
District								
Gaya	16.22	8.11	8.11	59.46	2.70	2.70	2.70	100.00
Gopalganj	15.15		6.06	78.79				100.00
Madhubani	11.76		2.35	85.88				100.00
Nalanda	22.73		6.82	70.45				100.00
Purnea	21.54		3.08	70.77	4.62			100.00
Rohtas	16.67			83.33				100.00
Total	17.00	1.00	4.00	76.00	1.33	0.33	0.33	100.00

Family planning method ever used is presented in table 8. Ever used family planning method shows that one-fourth of respondents have ever used family planning. However, it is a substantial rise from one-eighth from old survey. Districtwise, Purnea continues to occupy the top slot. But, inter-district disparities in ever used of family planning method has come down since old survey --- geographical spread has become more uniform now. Castewise Muslim continues to languish at the bottom. But S.C. and backward caste I show substantial rise from low level in old survey. However, use of family planning method is very high among Brahmin -- nearly half of the respondents are adopting it.

Table 9 shows method ever used by respondents across districts and castes. In present survey, 85 percent of method ever used is female sterilisation and 8 percent is use of pill. Condom and male sterilisation use occur equally only in 3 percent of cases. So, the onus of family planning almost wholly lies on female. In contrast, in old survey only half of the method used was female sterilisation. Over one-third of all family planning method used were male sterilisation and another one-tenth family planning use were

condom. It shows drastic reduction of male responsibility in family planning method ever used.

Table 8: Family planning method ever used

District	Yes	No	Total
Gaya	18.63	81.37	100.00
Gopalganj	23.68	76.32	100.00
Madhubani	23.01	76.99	100.00
Nalanda	12.12	87.88	100.00
Purnia	40.10	59.90	100.00
Rohtas	20.18	79.82	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	46.50	53.50	100.00
Bhumihar	22.99	77.01	100.00
Backward I	30.71	69.29	100.00
Yadav	14.29	85.71	100.00
Koiri	19.61	80.39	100.00
Kurmi	23.08	76.92	100.00
OBC II	16.92	83.08	100.00
SC	17.88	82.12	100.00
Muslim	8.14	91.86	100.00
Total	25.15	74.85	100.00

Table 8p: Family planning method ever used

Caste	No	Yes	Total
Brahmin	78.18	21.82	100.00
Bhumihar	72.97	27.03	100.00
Backwrdr I	86.36	13.64	100.00
Yadav	100.00		100.00
Koiri	100.00		100.00
Kurmi	81.25	18.75	100.00
OBC II	88.46	11.54	100.00
S.C.	93.65	6.35	100.00
Muslim	89.29	10.71	100.00
DISTRICT			
Gaya	78.38	21.62	100.00
Gopalganj	96.97	3.03	100.00
Madhubani	83.53	16.47	100.00
Nalanda	93.18	6.82	100.00
Purnea	80.00	20.00	100.00
Rohtas	94.44	5.56	100.00
Total	86.33	13.67	100.00

Districtwise in old survey, there was interesting contrast. In Gopalganj it was cent percent female sterilisation and in Rohtas it was accounted fully by condom use and male sterilisation. In present survey no such extreme contrast is observed. Castewise Yadav, OBC II and Muslim women bear the whole responsibility of family planning method is

present survey. But in old survey, Bhumihar and Muslim men bore the main responsibility of family planning method.

Table 9: Method ever used across district and caste

District	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Female Sterilisation	Condom	Male sterilisation	Total
Gaya	5.56		88.89	5.56		100.00
Gopalganj	22.22		72.22	5.56		100.00
Madhubani	1.92		92.31		5.77	100.00
Nalanda			70.00	30.00		100.00
Purnia	11.11	1.23	85.19		2.47	100.00
Rohtas	9.09		81.82	4.55	4.55	100.00
Caste						
Brahmin	8.22		83.56	2.74	5.48	100.00
Bhumihar			95.00	5.00		100.00
Backward I			95.24	2.38	2.38	100.00
Yadav			100.00			100.00
Koiri	10.00		80.00		10.00	100.00
Kurmi	25.00		50.00	25.00		100.00
OBC II	36.36	9.09	54.55			100.00
SC	12.50		84.38	3.13		100.00
Muslim	16.67		83.33			100.00
Total	8.46	0.50	85.07	2.99	2.99	100.00

Method Ever Used in Old Survey

Caste	Condom (Nirodh)	Female Sterilisation	Male Sterilisation	Rhythm	Abstinence	Total
Brahmin	8.33	66.67	25.00			100.00
Bhumihar	20.00	10.00	60.00		10.00	100.00
Backwrdr I		83.33	16.67			100.00
Kurmi	33.33	66.67				100.00
OBC II		66.67	33.33			100.00
S.C.		50.00	25.00	25.00		100.00
Muslim		33.33	66.67			100.00
District						
Gaya	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50	12.50	100.00
Gopalganj		100.00				100.00
Madhubani		42.86	57.14			100.00
Nalanda	33.33	66.67				100.00
Purnea		76.92	23.08			100.00
Rohtas	50.00		50.00			100.00
Total	9.76	51.22	34.15	2.44	2.44	100.00

Women's Role in Decision-making

An important aspect that demonstrates gender dimension in decision-making is in social and economic spheres. Decision making covers several areas -- at household level, in

political sphere, scope for women in taking loans in difficult period and their decision on either handing over their income or spent according to their choice.

Decision-making in Family Affairs

Decision-making in family affairs is related to decision-making in household day-to-day expenditures, children's education and marriages, scope of taking loans in period of needs that ensure welfare of the family. One of the important aspects related to decision-making is on dowry.

Table 1 presents distribution of persons taking decision on purchasing vegetables. In two-fifth of all cases respondents decide and in one-fifth of cases both respondent and husband decide. Across castes, among Yadav, Koiri and S.C. husbands decide in more than one-third of cases. But the task of purchasing vegetables mostly lie in others' hand (see table 2). In more than half of the case husbands of respondent do the purchase. Only nearly one-sixth of cases, women themselves purchase vegetables. Thus it negates, to a great extent, women's decision on purchasing vegetables. However, respondents from backward caste I, S.C. and Muslim communities purchase their day-to-day vegetables needs directly by themselves. Thus they have better control over decision-making in this count.

Table 1: Who Takes Decision on Purchasing Vegetables

Caste	Self	Self & Husband	Husband	In-laws	Other	Total
Brahmin	29.03	29.68	30.32	7.10	3.87	100.00
Bhumihar	58.62	5.75	24.14	3.45	8.05	100.00
Backward I	43.88	20.86	20.86	10.79	3.60	100.00
Yadav	35.71	3.57	39.29	3.57	17.86	100.00
Koiri	37.25	19.61	37.25	3.92	1.96	100.00
Kurmi	34.62	11.54	23.08	7.69	23.08	100.00
OBC II	43.08	26.15	26.15	3.08	1.54	100.00
SC	39.11	12.29	39.66	5.03	3.91	100.00
Muslim	38.82	27.06	22.35	5.88	5.88	100.00
Total	40.00	19.14	29.45	6.13	5.28	100.00

Table 2: Who Purchases Vegetables

Caste	Self	Husband	Self & Husband	Others	Total
Brahmin	5.19	61.69	3.25	29.87	100.00
Bhumihar	8.14	52.33	1.16	38.37	100.00
Backward I	23.74	47.48	7.19	21.58	100.00
Yadav	14.29	42.86	3.57	39.29	100.00
Koiri	9.80	66.67	3.92	19.61	100.00
Kurmi	3.85	42.31	3.85	50.00	100.00
OBC II	18.46	53.85	6.15	21.54	100.00
SC	21.79	62.01	2.79	13.41	100.00
Muslim	23.81	52.38	2.38	21.43	100.00
Total	15.89	55.79	3.82	24.51	100.00

Regarding decision on boys and girl child's education (see table 3 and 4), nearly half of the respondents have stated that husbands decide it. Not much difference in decision-making is found between boy and girl child's education. Across caste only Yadav and OBC II castes respondents seem to have relatively greater say. The power to decide by forward caste women is the least.

Not much dissimilar situation is observed in case of boy and girl child's marriage. However, in case of children marriage husband and respondent jointly decide in three-fifth of cases. Castewise, apart from forward caste women, even backward caste I and S.C. women has least say on their own in deciding the marriage of their children. These are also almost uniformly applicable in place of both boy and girl child marriage (see tables 3 and 4).

Table 3: Decision on Girl Child Education

Caste	Self	Self & Husband	Husband	in-laws	Others	Total
Brahmin	6.67	37.14	50.48	4.76	0.95	100.00
Bhumihar	8.57	34.29	52.86	2.86	1.43	100.00
Backward I	11.84	32.89	51.32	3.95		100.00
Yadav	35.29	29.41	35.29	0.00		100.00
Koiri	17.14	31.43	45.71	5.71		100.00
Kurmi	11.76	35.29	47.06	5.88		100.00
OBC II	23.40	34.04	40.43	2.13		100.00
SC	13.45	31.09	51.26	4.20		100.00
Muslim	18.87	45.28	32.08	3.77		100.00
Total	13.54	34.69	47.50	3.90	0.37	100.00

Table 4: Decision on Boy Child Education

Caste	Self	Self & Husband	Husband	In-laws	Others	Total
Brahmin	6.67	42.50	45.83	5.00		100.00
Bhumihar	8.33	33.33	52.78	2.78	2.78	100.00
Backward I	10.11	39.33	48.31	2.25		100.00
Yadav	30.00	35.00	35.00	0.00		100.00
Koiri	15.00	32.50	47.50	5.00		100.00
Kurmi	15.79	31.58	47.37	5.26		100.00
OBC II	25.00	37.50	37.50	0.00		100.00
SC	12.12	30.30	53.03	3.79	0.76	100.00
Muslim	18.64	45.76	32.20	3.39		100.00
Total	12.85	36.89	46.41	3.34	0.50	100.00

Table 5: Decision on Girl Child's Marriage

Caste	Self	Self & Husband	Husband	In-laws	Others	Total
Brahmin	4.55	60.23	28.41	5.68	1.14	100.00
Bhumihar	9.84	57.38	29.51	3.28		100.00
Backward I	8.11	66.22	21.62	4.05		100.00
Yadav	17.65	52.94	23.53	5.88		100.00
Koiri	11.54	57.69	26.92	3.85		100.00
Kurmi		41.67	58.33	0.00		100.00
OBC II	18.18	57.58	21.21	3.03		100.00
SC	8.85	61.95	24.78	4.42		100.00
Muslim	11.11	64.44	22.22	2.22		100.00
Total	9.17	60.55	26.01	4.05	0.21	100.00

Table 6: Decision on Boy Child's Marriage

Caste	Boy Child Marriage Decision					Total
	Self	Self & Husband	Husband	In-laws	Others	
Brahmin	4.44	58.89	30.00	6.67		100.00
Bhumihar	8.06	53.23	35.48	3.23		100.00
Backward I	9.09	64.94	23.38	2.60		100.00
Yadav		46.67	26.67	6.67	6.67	100.00
Koiri	27.59	44.83	24.14	3.45		100.00
Kurmi	7.69	46.15	46.15	0.00		100.00
OBC II	18.42	63.16	18.42	0.00		100.00
SC	8.26	59.63	26.61	4.59	0.92	100.00
Muslim	10.87	69.57	17.39	2.17		100.00
Total	10.02	59.08	26.72	3.76	0.21	100.00

One of the important aspects is related to decision-making on dowry. The dowry paid is better recorded than dowry received. In present survey half of the respondents admit to have given dowry whereas only 2 percent of admit to have received dowry. The phenomenon of dowry paid as a whole has marginally gone up since last survey. This

social evil which was much widespread among forward castes and well-to-do backward castes has now spread much faster among S.C. and Yadav castes (see table 7).

Table 7: Dowry Paid and received across Caste

Caste	Paid(%)	Received(%)
Brahmin	66.88	3.18
Bhumihar	56.32	11.49
Backward I	47.86	2.14
Yadav	60.71	
Koiri	49.02	3.92
Kurmi	57.69	
OBC II	64.62	
SC	33.89	1.11
Muslim	38.37	
Total	50.49	2.68

Table 7p: Dowry Paid across Caste

Caste	Paid(%)
Brahmin	69.35
Bhumihar	63.64
Backwrdr I	44.93
Yadav	41.67
Koiri	54.55
Kurmi	61.11
OBC II	58.33
S.C.	25.00
Muslim	36.11
Total	47.52

Table 8 and 9 give distribution of dowry paid in cash and kind across castes in both old and present surveys. At lower range (up to Rs. 1,000 in old survey and up to Rs. 5,000 in present survey) relatively more respondents have paid dowry in kind than in cash. But at higher level of dowry, cash payments are more prevalent in respondents household than that of kind. In old survey, high range of dowry paid was recorded almost wholly by forward and well-to-do backward castes. But in present survey, occurrence of high level of dowry paid by backward caste I and Yadav castes are also observed. The tentacles of social evil is not only spread to castes at lower level of caste hierarchy but also their magnitude among them in some cases is really at high level as well.

Table 8: Dowry Paid across Caste in Cash

Caste	Dowry paid in cash					Total
	<1000	1001-5000	5001-15000	15001-30000	30000+	
Brahmin	31.25	36.46	16.67	11.46	4.17	100.00
Bhumihar	42.59	31.48	14.81	3.70	7.41	100.00
Backward I	63.49	15.87	14.29	4.76	1.59	100.00
Yadav	42.86	42.86	7.14	7.14		100.00
Koiri	36.36	50.00	9.09		4.55	100.00
Kurmi	26.67	40.00	13.33		20.00	100.00
OBC II	41.67	47.22	11.11			100.00
SC	62.75	31.37	5.88			100.00
Muslim	61.54	26.92	11.54			100.00
Total	46.15	33.16	12.73	4.51	3.45	100.00

Table 8p: Dowry Paid across Caste in Cash

Caste	Dowry in Cash				Total
	1-100	100-1,000	1,000-5,000	5,000 & above	
Brahmin	10.34	31.03	37.93	20.69	100.00
Bhumihar	10.00	35.00	55.00		100.00
Backwrd I	53.85	46.15			100.00
Yadav	33.33	66.67			100.00
Koiri	20.00	70.00	10.00		100.00
Kurmi		66.67	33.33		100.00
OBC II	30.00	60.00	10.00		100.00
S.C.	84.62	15.38			100.00
Muslim	33.33	33.33	33.33		100.00
Total	27.43	42.48	24.78	5.31	100.00

Table 9: Dowry Paid across Caste in Kind

Caste	Kind					Total
	<1000	1001-5000	5001-15000	15001-30000	30000+	
Brahmin	38.46	41.76	12.09	5.49	2.20	100.00
Bhumihar	40.82	46.94	6.12	6.12		100.00
Backward I	65.08	30.16	3.17	1.59		100.00
Yadav	53.85	46.15				100.00
Koiri	50.00	45.45	4.55			100.00
Kurmi	35.29	58.82	5.88			100.00
OBC II	68.42	26.32	5.26			100.00
SC	65.31	32.65			2.04	100.00
Muslim	58.62	31.03	6.90	3.45		100.00
Total	52.56	38.01	5.93	2.70	0.81	100.00

Here we will limit ourselves in examining the prevalence of informal credit market in the sense of ability of women to take loans on their own from other women in case of need.

Table 10 gives the distribution across castes whether women take loan from other women. It shows that half of respondents admitted to have taken loan. Castewise, it is

relatively less prevalent among forward caste and backward caste I women. Age-groupwise relatively younger women have taken loans.

Table 9p: Dowry Paid across Caste in Kind

Caste	Dowry in Kind				Total
	1-100	100-1,000	1,000-5,000	5,000 & above	
Brahmin	36.36	40.91	22.73		100.00
Bhumihar	27.27	45.45	27.27		100.00
Backward I	80.95	9.52	9.52		100.00
Yadav	50.00	25.00	25.00		100.00
Koiri	10.00	70.00	20.00		100.00
Kurmi		100.00			100.00
OBC II	40.00	50.00	10.00		100.00
S.C.	73.33	26.67			100.00
Muslim	28.57	42.86		28.57	100.00
Total	45.71	39.05	13.33	1.90	100.00

Women's Access to Outside Credit

Table 11 gives conditions on which loan is taken. Women from poorer backward caste I, S.C. and Muslim communities have taken loan on interest in more than two-third of cases whereas prosperous Kurmi community women manage loan at no interest in three-fourth of cases. Age-groupwise elderly women are better placed as higher proportion of them manage to get loans at no interest rates.

Table10 : Whether Taken Loan from Other Women

Caste	Yes	No
Brahmin	44.81	55.19
Bhumihar	47.67	52.33
Backward I	38.85	61.15
Yadav	50.00	50.00
Koiri	52.94	47.06
Kurmi	69.23	30.77
OBC II	61.54	38.46
SC	53.07	46.93
Muslim	55.95	44.05
Age		
15-49	51.17	48.83
49+	45.09	54.91
Total	49.88	50.12

Table 11: Conditions on Loan Taken

Caste	On interest	No Interest	Others	Total
Brahmin	64.29	35.71		100.00
Bhumihar	56.10	43.90		100.00
Backward I	70.37	29.63		100.00
Yadav	50.00	50.00		100.00
Koiri	55.56	44.44		100.00
Kurmi	23.53	76.47		100.00
OBC II	66.67	30.77	2.56	100.00
SC	72.92	27.08		100.00
Muslim	72.34	27.66		100.00
Age				
15-49	67.48	32.21	0.31	100.00
49+	53.16	46.84		100.00
Total	64.69	35.06	0.25	100.00

Women's Access to Political Rights

Table 12 presents whether women voted in last election in present and old survey. There seems to be perceptible improvement at least in the execution of fundamental political right by women. In old survey, one-fourth of all respondents did not vote. In contrast, in present survey it is virtually universal voting. Districtwise in old survey, over seven-tenth of all respondents from Gaya did not vote. In present survey it is more than 99 percent.

Table 12: Voting pattern of women

Caste	No	Yes	Total
Brahmin	1.91	98.09	100.00
Bhumihar		100.00	100.00
Backward I		100.00	100.00
Yadav		100.00	100.00
Koiri		100.00	100.00
Kurmi		100.00	100.00
OBC II	1.54	98.46	100.00
SC	0.56	99.44	100.00
Muslim	2.33	97.67	100.00
Age			
15-49	0.93	99.07	100.00
49+	0.56	99.44	100.00
District			
Gaya	0.98	99.02	100.00
Gopalganj	1.32	98.68	100.00
Madhubani	0.44	99.56	100.00
Nalanda		100.00	100.00
Purnia	1.93	98.07	100.00
Rohtas		100.00	100.00
Total	0.85	99.15	100.00

Table 12p: Voting Patterns of Women

	Women Voting in Last Election			Total
	No	Yes, Some of Them	Yes, All of Them	
Caste				
Brahmin	12.99	53.25	33.77	100.00
Bhumihar	44.83	34.48	20.69	100.00
Backwrd I	34.34	39.39	26.26	100.00
Yadav	16.67	46.67	36.67	100.00
Koiri	33.33	40.74	25.93	100.00
Kurmi	11.54	61.54	26.92	100.00
OBC II	25.00	41.67	33.33	100.00
S.C.	31.09	51.26	17.65	100.00
Muslim	21.05	54.39	24.56	100.00
Age Group				
15-25	46.25	37.50	16.25	100.00
25-35	32.41	48.15	19.44	100.00
35-45	28.32	46.02	25.66	100.00
District				
Gaya	72.46	20.29	7.25	100.00
Gopalganj	19.30	50.88	29.82	100.00
Madhubani	19.86	49.32	30.82	100.00
Nalanda	43.37	45.78	10.84	100.00
Purnea	12.28	57.89	29.82	100.00
Rohtas	10.96	46.58	42.47	100.00
Total	27.31	46.68	26.01	100.00

However, franchising is one thing but decision about whom to vote in practice is of paramount importance. Table 13 presents distribution about who decides about respondents' voting. Only half of the respondents decide whom to vote. Rest vote according to largely dictum of husbands. Castewise only more than half of the respondents from Bhumihar, Kurmi and Muslim women decides by themselves. Age-groupwise, younger women relatively decide more. Districtwise only majority of respondents from only Gaya and Madhubani decides on their own. In exercising effective political rights, rural Bihar women have to traverse a long distance.

Table 13: Who Decides Whom to Vote

Caste	Self	Husband	Head of the family	Political worker	Leader of community	Total
Brahmin	48.08	33.33	5.77	5.13	7.69	100
Bhumihar	71.26	16.09	1.15	3.45	8.05	100
Backward I	56.43	17.14	5.71	10.00	10.71	100
Yadav	39.29	28.57		17.86	14.29	100
Koiri	37.25	37.25	7.84	7.84	9.80	100
Kurmi	50.00	34.62		15.38		100
OBC II	33.33	26.98	1.59	12.70	25.40	100
SC	47.46	22.60	2.26	11.30	16.38	100
Muslim	51.16	15.12	5.81	13.95	13.95	100
Age						
15-49	51.25	23.51	4.70	8.93	11.60	100
49+	46.02	26.14	1.14	11.93	14.77	100
District						
Gaya	72.28	11.88	0.99	3.96	10.89	100
Gopalganj	32.43	32.43	2.70	24.32	8.11	100
Madhubani	66.08	10.13	1.76	11.01	11.01	100
Nalanda	49.49	30.30	1.01	2.02	17.17	100
Purnia	42.93	23.90	7.80	9.76	15.61	100
Rohtas	22.22	53.70	7.41	8.33	8.33	100
Total	50.12	24.08	3.93	9.58	12.29	100

Decision on Handing over Income

In the poverty and employment chapter two major aspects of women's economic activities have been covered. First, work participation rate of women and last, occupational structure of employed women. It has been observed that main work participation rate of women is around 15 percent. But, taking subsidiary status of work, it goes up dramatically to around 60 percent. From occupational structure of main worker it can be seen that around 40 percent of women main workers are in self-employed category largely in family farms. If we take subsidiary status it would go up even substantially. It raises question regarding whether they manage to get part of the fruit of their labour in agriculture/harvesting/other work of wages.

Table 14 shows the proportion of women receiving income out of their economic activities. As a whole, nearly two-third of the working women admits to have received some income. Across castes, it varies substantially from as low as one-fifth in case of Bhumihar women to about four-fifth in case of S.C. women. Women of forward castes (Brahmin and Bhumihar) get much less than that of backward castes and S.C. caste counterparts. Age-groupwise, proportionally younger women rather than older women receive income from their economic activity.

Table 14: Income Received on Hand

Caste	Yes	No	Total
Brahmin	55.63	44.37	100.00
Bhumihar	20.00	80.00	100.00
Backward I	66.67	33.33	100.00
Yadav	64.00	36.00	100.00
Koiri	61.22	38.78	100.00
Kurmi	60.00	40.00	100.00
OBC II	71.67	28.33	100.00
SC	78.95	21.05	100.00
Muslim	65.06	34.94	100.00
Age			
15-49	64.53	35.47	100.00
49+	52.26	47.74	100.00
Total	62.04	37.96	100.00

Table 15 shows proportion of working women either keeping income on hand or handing it to other family members. More than two-third of women keep their earning in their own hand and those who hand over their earnings mainly give it to husbands (over one-fourth). Castewise, half of Yadav women hand over their income to their husbands. Age-groupwise, not much variation is observed.

Table 15: Earnings Handed Over

Caste	Husband	Father in Law	Mother in law	Other male relatives	other female relatives	Self	Total
Brahmin	22.22					77.78	100.00
Bhumihar	28.57					71.43	100.00
Backward I	25.40	3.17	3.17			68.25	100.00
Yadav	50.00					50.00	100.00
Koiri	44.00	4.00	4.00			48.00	100.00
Kurmi		10.00				90.00	100.00
OBC II	33.33					66.67	100.00
SC	25.00	2.42	3.23	0.81	1.61	66.94	100.00
Muslim	12.90					87.10	100.00
Age							
15-49	25.00	2.54	2.54	0.36	0.72	68.84	100.00
49+	28.57					71.43	100.00
Total	25.54	2.15	2.15	0.31	0.62	69.23	100.00

Table 16 shows proportion of women's earning spent on household expenditure. More than nine-tenth of working women spent almost all of their earnings on household expenditure. Very small proportion of women (little more than one percent) spends less than half of their income on household expenditure.

As a whole, the picture that emerges is that two-third of women get part of their income in their own hand, out of which two-third keep it with them. Those who keep in their hand, nine-tenth of them spent almost whole of it for household expenditure leaving hardly anything to spend on their own.

Table 16: Proportion of Own Income Spend on Household Expenditure

Caste	All	Almost all	Three fourth	Around Half	Less than Half	Nothing	Total
Brahmin	49.23	38.46	4.62	3.08	1.54	3.08	100.00
Bhumihar	53.85	15.38	7.69	23.08			100.00
Backward I	79.31	12.64		8.05			100.00
Yadav	86.67		6.67	6.67			100.00
Koiri	80.00	6.67	3.33	6.67		3.33	100.00
Kurmi	62.50	25.00	6.25	6.25			100.00
OBC II	82.50	12.50		2.50	2.50		100.00
SC	90.98	3.76	0.75	4.51			100.00
Muslim	77.55	18.37		2.04		2.04	100.00
Age							
15-49	79.13	12.47	1.63	5.42	0.54	0.81	100.00
49+	69.62	21.52	2.53	5.06		1.27	100.00
Total	77.46	14.06	1.79	5.36	0.45	0.89	100.00