

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BHAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110002

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF SENDING THE
FINAL REPORT OF WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT

A. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

DR. KALPANA DEOKAR
34/671, NILGIRI, SAMATA NAGAR,
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2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION:

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PARANJAPE B SCHEME, ROAD NO. 1,
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3. UGC APPROVAL NO. AND DATE:

23/157/05, 9th NOVEMBER 2005

4. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:

3rd FEBRUARY 2006

5. TENURE OF THE PROJECT:

THREE YEARS

6. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED:

Rs. 50000/-

7. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED:

Rs. 37,500/-

8. FINAL EXPENDITURE:

RS. 37,500/-

9. TITLE OF THE PROJECT:

SINGLE WOMEN PARENTS IN MUMBAI:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

10. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECTS:

1. To find the socio-economic background and position of single woman parent.
2. To study the socio-economic, emotional and psychological problems faced by single woman parent.
3. To study problems of single woman parent face in family and social interaction.
4. To study and suggest the measure within the present socio-cultural frame work in order to improve the condition and status of single woman parents.

11. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED: YES

12. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT:

- This project has provided factual evidence to support the hypothesis that status of Single woman parent in our society is not encouraging.
- The causes of becoming single woman are voluntary or circumstantial and involuntary. Whether the decision to remain single is voluntary or involuntary these women are generally looked down upon, in spite of them living with their children.
- Socially, though 60% of single female parents are willing to intermingle, their acceptance and treatment is often differentiated and downgraded.
- This project has proved that social, psychological, emotional acceptance of single female parents in a metro and generally assumed forward minded city like Mumbai is discouraging.
- With this we can infer that the situation in other areas could be similar or even worse.

13. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS: (IN 500 WORDS)

Family is still male headed where female subordination is normalized. Each member of the family is expected to fit into predetermined role, status and rights are tied up with this role. The sample of 100 single woman parents was recruited from different parts of Mumbai.

Some important statistical findings from the study are:

- Single woman parents where husband is not residing with wife are 70 (70%). 55% single woman parents belonged to age group of 31-40 years.
- 22% were post-graduate and 34% single woman parents were graduate.
- 46% single woman parents were found doing service and jobs in private companies.
- 44% single woman parents have good relationship with their children
- 60% are interested in participating socio-religious functions

The causes of becoming single woman are voluntary or circumstantial and involuntary. Whether the decision to remain single is voluntary or involuntary these women are generally looked down upon, in spite of they are living with their children. The absence of marriage among the unmarried and that of a husband head among the married makes them extremely vulnerable to problem. They are neglected, humiliated and harassed. In case of widows, it is not self-imposed singleness, having lost of their husband they are regarded as inauspicious and sinful woman. The divorce, deserted and separated women, whether imposed or voluntary, are also regarded with suspicion. Even unmarried women who might chosen single life, her singleness, professional life often seen with suspicion. Unmarried single women also face hostility.

Whatever the causes and category of singleness, whether they are imposed or circumstantial the problems they face are almost similar, with variation only in intensity and not in kind.

The general problems faced by single female parents are summarized as follows:

- Data reveals that economically independent single woman parents face economic problem to a lesser degree than those women who are totally dependent.
- Widow women are treated with sympathy but they are not accorded a high status.
- Divorcées, separated women are still look down upon and widows are regarded as inauspicious. Married woman whose husband is away from her is also a target of discussion.

Being a single parent does not make you less lovable. It just means that they have more responsibilities than before. Develop confidence so that they can play both the roles just perfectly.

14. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY:

This study highlights the need to practice justified status to female and more important to single female parents. While preaching, claims may sound fancy; ground practical reality seems to far from equanimity.

- There is great need for marital and family counseling. The marriage family bureau should be accessible to all. In these bureau counselors, must be sociologists, Psychiatrists, social worker and Doctors, preferably women.
- Opening 'single women home' where unmarried, widows, divorced, separated women can stay in protected environment. Even single women having children should be taken care of in such organizations. Such organization can be run by government or voluntary organization.
- It is necessary to make them aware of the legal and constitutional rights. Free advice and aid should be made available to them.

General pointers for effective handling of children for single female parents are:

- Being a single woman parent, they will have to work to support their kids. However, make sure that they do not take out their work related frustrations on their children.
- Always be there for their kids when they need them. Spending quality time with them is more important than spending quantity time.
- If woman is divorced from her husband, don't start turning kids against their father.
- If they are a single parent by choice, never ever hide it from kid. Tell him/her about his/her father, but again no bad words please.

Most important part is to change attitude of people towards single woman parents. Single woman, whether childless or having children are considered to be general property and target of discussion. Women should be given respect so they can live with dignity because no society is complete without women.

15. WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT: NO

16. NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECTS (PLEASE ATTACH RE-PRINT):

TWO

- A. ***'Adhunik Kutumb: Stree Pradhan Ekeri Kutumb'*** organized by Akhil Bharatiya Loksahitya ani Samajik Vigyane at Parbhani (Maharashashtra) on 15th & 16th October 2005.
- B. ***'Single Women Parenting: Relationship between Single Mother and Children'***, organized by Patkar College at Goregaon, Mumbai on 7th August 2002 – University level seminar

DR. KALPANA DEOKAR

(PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

v. If project has not been completed, please indicate the approximate time by which it is likely to be completed. A summary of the work done for the period (Annual basis) may please be sent to the commission on separate sheet: **COMPLETED**

vi. If the project has been completed, please enclose a summary of the findings of the study. Two bound copies of the final report of work done may also be sent to the commission:

Some important statistical findings from the study are:

- Single woman parents where husband is not residing with wife are 70 (70%).
- 55% single woman parents belonged to age group of 31-40 years.
- 92% were found to be Hindus, Buddha, Christian and Muslim were 2% respectively and Sikhs and Jain were 1% respectively
- 34% single woman parents were graduate. 22% were post-graduate, 18% single woman parents had done diploma courses, 13% single woman parents had done certificate course, 10% were H.S.C. and 3% were S.S.C
- 46% single woman parents were found doing service and jobs in private companies. 16% single woman parents were doing clerical and house hold jobs. 19% were lecturers, 10% were teachers, 9% were doctors and 10% were have their own business like travel agency, beauty parlor, coaching classes etc
- 22% were post-graduate and 34% single woman parents were graduate.
- 46% single woman parents were found doing service and jobs in private companies.
- 44% single woman parents have good relationship with their children
- 60% are interested in participating socio-religious functions
- 40 single woman parents have two and more two children, 19 single woman parents have daughters, 17 single woman parents have sons, 14 single woman parents have married daughters and 6 single woman parents have married sons

vii. Any other information which would help in evaluation of work done on the project. At the completion of the project, the first report should indicate, such as

(a) Manpower trained: -

(b) Ph. D. awarded: -

(c) Publication of any:

‘Adhunik Kutumb: Stree Pradhan Ekeri Kutumb’ organized by Akhil Bharatiya Loksahitya ani Samajik Vigyane at Parbhani (Maharashashtra) on 15th & 16th October 2005.

‘Single Women Parenting: Relationship between Single Mother and Children’, organized by Patkar College at Goregaon, Mumbai on 7th August 2002 – University level seminar

(d) Other impact: -

DR. KALPANA DEOKAR

SIGNATURE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR