

## CHAPTER 4

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN MAHENDERGARH

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#### 4.1 Introduction

##### 4.1.1 Profile of Study Area

The study covers Mahendergarh district which is located in south part of Haryana. According to the census of 2011, the total population of area is 922,088 in which no. of male is 486,665 and no. of female is 435,423 and the percentage of urban population is 14.41% .In this district there are total five blocks and three sub-blocks. The distribution of population by block-wise and the no. of villages in blocks has been presented in the table given below:

<b>4.1: Block-wise population and No of villages.</b>			
Block name	Sub block	Population in Blocks	No. of Villages
Kanina	Satnali	82,225	59
Mahendergarh	Nizampur	204,370	90
Ateli	Sihma	153,623	77
Narnaul		124,621	67
Nangal Choudhary		158,777	77
Source: District Census Handbook, Haryana, 2011			

##### 4.1. Socio-economic Status of Women

In this chapter, the study analyses the socioeconomic status of women in Mahenderegah with the help of primary survey which fulfill the first objective. To find out the real situation of women at ground level the questionnaire includes different kind of indicators which directly or indirectly effect on their conditions, these indicators define their decision making power, awareness, their productivity, their value and in family, their freedom, their security and safety etc. In the questionnaire, there are 28 questions are included which are the part of above indicators. There are some background information

also collected from respondent which also directly effect on their status, these are like their present age, marriage age, qualification, children they have, head of the family, type of ration card and the type of their family etc. This information helped a lot to get reliable and reasonable result.

## 4.2 Background Information

### 4.2.1 Age Status

Only married women of different age group are the respondent of the present study. Marital status is also a social indicator for understanding the socio-economic status of women. It has been seen that the status of an unmarried female is better than the status of a married women. A girl with her parents has more facility, rights and freedom, but after marriage a lot of expectation has been increased from her. If they are unable to fulfill those expectations, then their stat us starts decline.

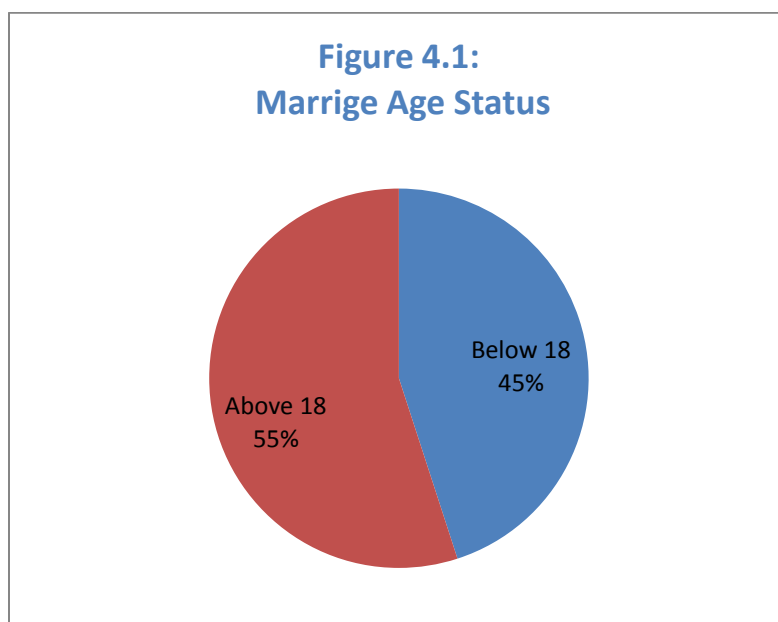
<b>Table 4.2 Age Status of Respondents</b>			
Age group	20-25	25-30	Above 30
Respondents in %	24	24.5	50.5
Source: Field Survey, 2016			

The above table shows that out of 200 respondent, 48 females are from 20-25 age group, 49 from 25-30 age group and 101 are belong from above 30 age group. Minimum age of respondent is 20 years and maximum age is 60 years..But mostly respondents are from 30-40 age groups.

### 4.2.2 Marriage age Status

The marriage age status of female in the study is divided into two parts, one is below 18 year and other is above 18 year. In India 18 year is a slab below which marriage of a girl is a crime. But most of the people don't follow this. They do marriage of their daughter in early age and that girl becomes a sufferer for whole life. The present study provides the data of marriage age of respondents in below table.

Table 4.3 Marriage age Status of Respondents		
Marriage age	Below 18	Above 18
Respondents in %	45	55
Source: Field Survey, 2016		



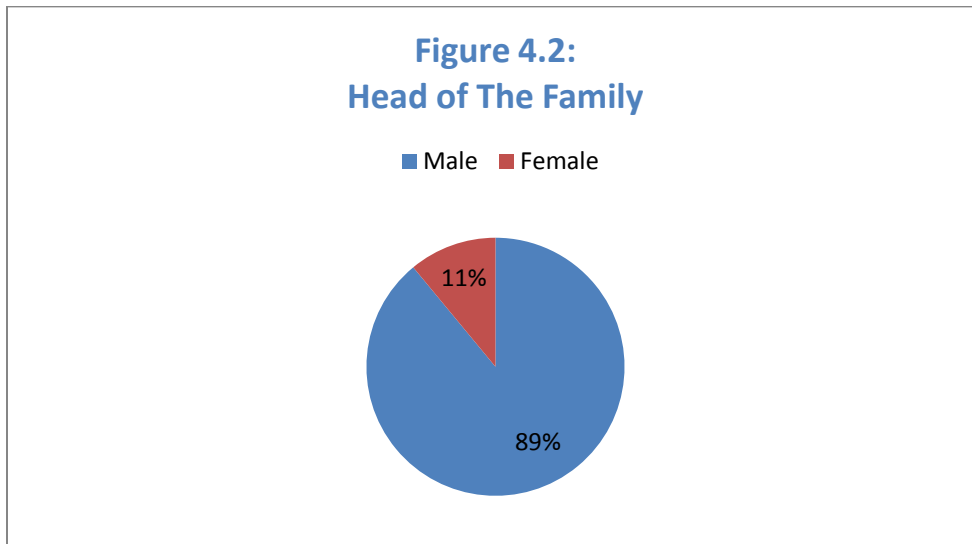
By the above figure, it can be estimated that in 200 women ,90 women got married in the age of 18. This data really presents a very negative picture of female status in this area. In this age a girl could not be so much mature that she can handle the responsibility of marriage. That is why she is not able to understand her rights and bear all type of unfairty. This is the reason behind the low status of women.

### 4.2.3 Head of the Family

In the study, two categories are divided as head of family, Male and Female. Male and female are like the two wheels of a vehicle. A female is more responsible than men, she works from day to night in family, take care of all family members, even works in fields also. The present table gives the result that how many female enjoying them as a head.

Head of the family	Males	Females
Respondents in %	89	11

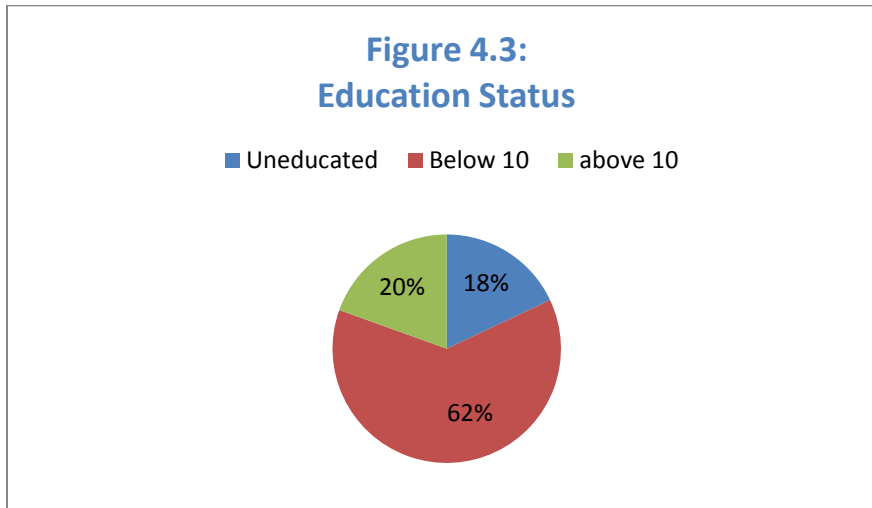
Source: Field survey, 2016



The above figure gives surprising result of head of the family. Only 22 women out of 200 are the head of their family otherwise 178 men are enjoying this status. Always a woman is consider mature and responsible, but when it comes on mastership and power ship, then a man is always at front of her. This data is showing the low status of women in Mahendergarh.

#### 4.2.4 Education Status of Women

In the present study, there are three categories of education status. It is always said that if a woman is educated then they can serve two families in a better way. Education is a medium by which a woman can prove herself and get more respect and value from her family as well as society.

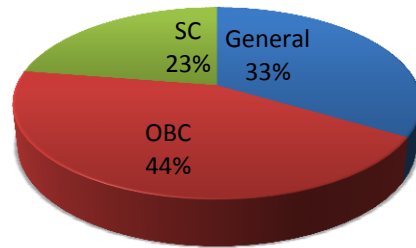


According to figure 3, out of 200 women 36 women are uneducated, 124 are below 10 class and 40 are above 10 class. This result is not showing a good status of women. Not only in age of above 30, infact in 20-25 age group mostly women are below 10 class. In present era, if a person is less educated, he or she is unable to compete with others. Even a 10<sup>th</sup> passed mother cannot teach her own children in 21<sup>st</sup> century. So this is valid reason behind the low status of women at Mahendergarh.

#### 4.2.5 Caste Status of Respondent

The present study includes three main categories which are General, OBC and SC. These are divided on the basis of Haryana Government caste category. Respondent are taken from different caste of these categories.

**Figure 4.4:  
Caste Status**



According to this figure ,there are 33% respondents are from general category, 44% are from OBC category and remaining part23% is from SC category. In our society it is consider that General category is more wealthy and prosperous than OBC and SC category is consider as lower than both of above except exceptional. So this thing also effect on the status of women.

### **4.3 Factors affected on Socio-Economic status of Women**

In the present study there are 28 questions are asked from respondents. These 28 questions are sum up in 7 domains or factors. With the help of these factors, the status of women can be estimated. These factors are given below:

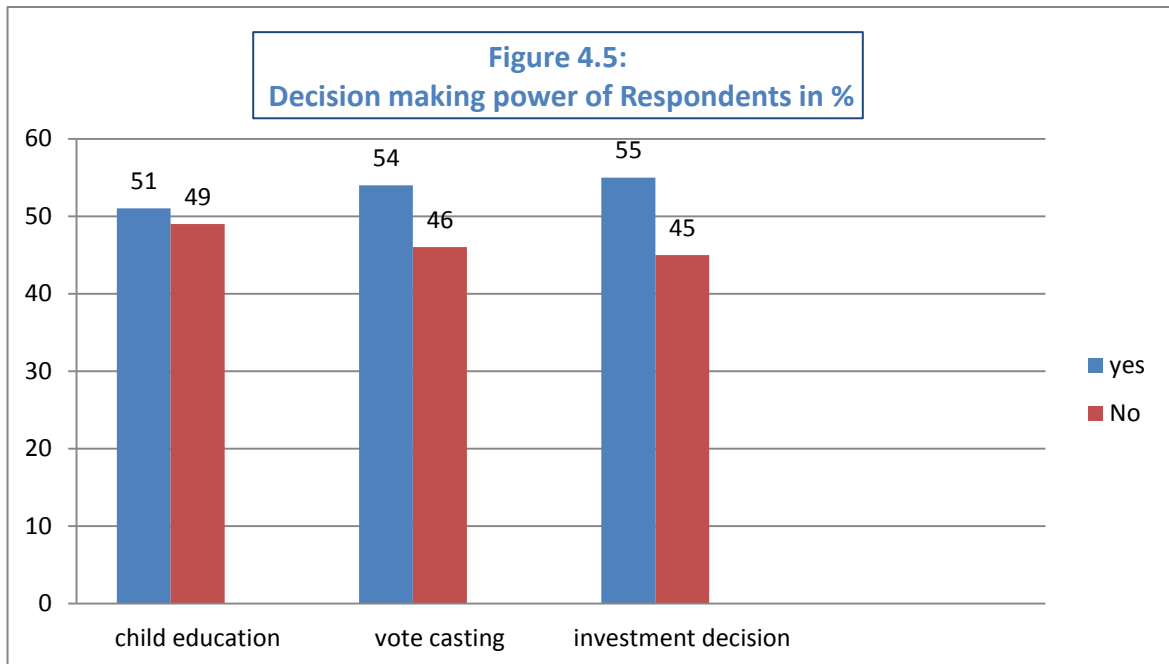
- ✚ Decision making power
- ✚ Awareness
- ✚ Freedom
- ✚ Value in family
- ✚ Openness of thought
- ✚ Female productivity
- ✚ Exploitation

The above six factors has a positive effect on the status of women and the last one factor shows the negative impact on their status. These factors include both type of information social as well as economical.

### 4.3.1 Decision making power

Decision making power of women means how much a woman can take decision in her life and that decision should be right. If a woman is better decision maker, then she can achieve anything. This Factor affect directly on women status. In this study there are three questions or indicators regarding these factors. These are as follows:

- ❖ Decision regarding children education
- ❖ Decision regarding vote casting
- ❖ Decision regarding any investment or expenditure.



In the above figure all three indicators are presented the decision making strength of female. First is related with decision of child education. Education of a child is so important for his or her bright future; and if this decision is taken so lightly then it will affect child's career . According to the study of Mahendergarh district 49% female doesn't not take any step about their children education. Even some females don't know that in which class are their child reading. It represents a low decision making power of women.

Second is related with decision regarding vote casting. India is a democratic country and vote of individual matters a lot. But according to the study only 54% women cast vote with their wish. Remain 46% women waste their voting power. They cast their vote according to the willingness of their family members. So this indicator also not gives a good representation of their decision making power.

Third is related with women decision in economical terms in their family. Out of 200 females 110 are the part of decision regarding any investment. These 110 are only a part of any type of decision, not a decision maker. But other 90 women even don't know any type of investment or economical expenditure. This result shows their low economical status.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Average of Decision making Power status} &= \frac{\text{Positive value of all indicators}}{\text{No of indicators}} \\ &= \frac{51+54+55}{3} \\ &= 50\end{aligned}$$

This result is showing that 50 % women are able to make decisions regarding their family, children and also society.

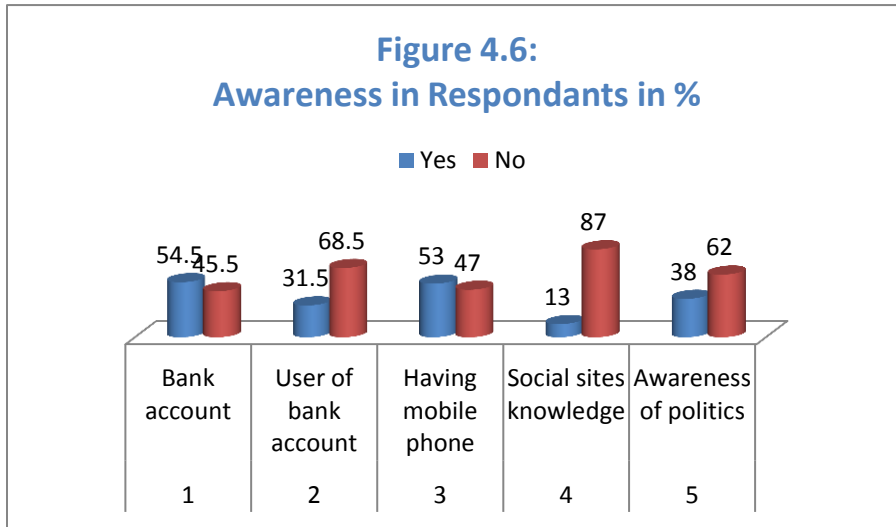
#### **4.3.2 Awareness**

Awareness is a very require factor to measure women status. Awareness means having knowledge or discernment of something. So if more females are aware in our society, then it will be more development in society. Women awareness also reduce crime rate against female. We have taken five indicators under this factor.

- Having bank account
- User of bank account
- Having mobile phone
- Knowledge about social sites
- Awareness about politics



Graphical representation of above indicators:



In the above figure, five indicators are presented.

First bars are showing the Bank account awareness of respondents. In the modern era of technology, it is so important that every person should have their own bank account. Govt. is also introducing new and cheap schemes to make people aware about bank account. Out of 100, 45.5% females still don't have their bank account. This data presents a low awareness status of women.

Second bars are indicating that how many females are users of their bank account. Around 45% of females don't have their accounts in banks, but those females who do have their bank accounts, they also do not use them. Only 31.5% of females use their accounts by themselves. Otherwise, their husbands or other family members use that account. It means females have less knowledge about bank accounts.

Third bars are showing the status of female awareness about mobile phones. In the modern time, mobile phones have become a necessary part of our lives. But according to this study, out of 200 females, 94 females still don't have their personal phones. It shows their lack of awareness.

Fourth bars are showing the awareness of female about social sites. It is also show a surprising result that only 13 % female are aware about the social sites. Not only uneducated and less educated females but also educated women also don't have knowledge about social sites

Fifth bars are indicating the women awareness about politics, it also give a low status of female. Only 38% female have some knowledge about politics. Other 62% are like dump in language of politics.

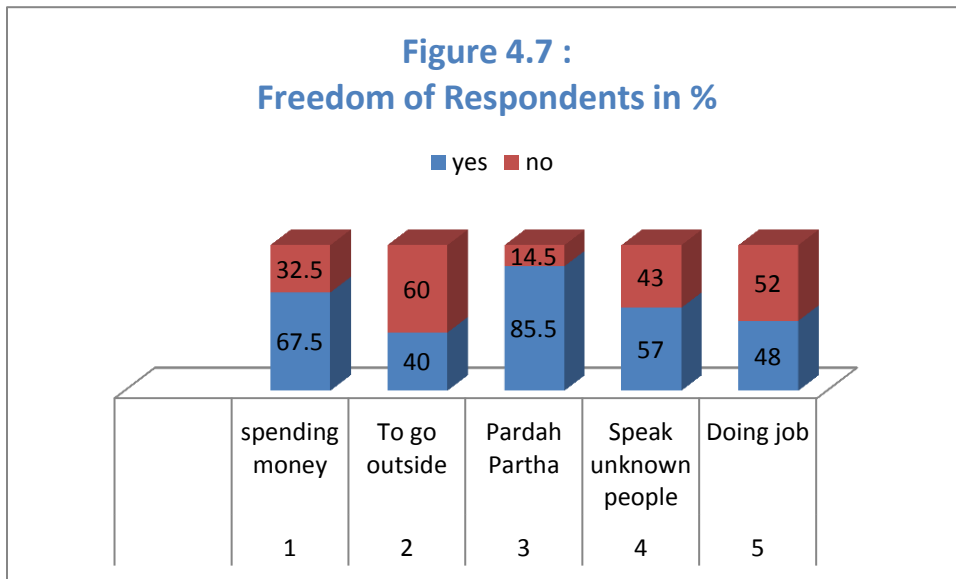
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Average of Female Awareness} &= \frac{54+31.5+53+13+38}{5} \\ &= 38 \end{aligned}$$

The result is showing that only 38% female are aware in mahendergarh district according to this data. This low level directly shows there low status and it also become the reason of their exploitation.

### **4.3.3 Freedom**

Freedom of women is an important factor to define their status. The meaning of freedom is “the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants”. A free women can take decisions of her family. That why both factors are dependent on each other. In India most of people think ‘Freedom is not made for females’. So they keep women under their observation. According to this study freedom include five indicators which are

- Freedom to spending money on herself
- Freedom to go outside without permission
- Freedom from pardah or ghunghat
- Freedom to speak unknown people
- Freedom for doing job.



The above figure is presenting the freedom of women with five indicators,

According to the first bar 67.5 % female are free to spend money and to buy assets for them. Remain 32.5 % female are not free to do the same. These female cannot complete their wishes what they want and they do not oppose it. This makes their freedom status low.

According to second bar 40 % women are free to go outside and 60 % don't have permission to go.

The data of third bar is showing that only 14.5% female are free from the evil of pradah pratha. On the other hand 85.5 % female use 'ghunghat' at home. There has been 69 years passed of freedom of India. But this freedom was only for males, because women are not free. This is really a surprising result regarding female freedom.

Fourth bar represents the data of female freedom to speak unknown people. Out of 200 114 female said that they can talk with unknown persons but other 86 said that it is not allow to then to talk with strangers.

Fifth bar is showing the data regarding the freedom of their job status. A women with job gets more respect, value and status than a women at home. It also enhance her social and

economical status and her decision making power .In this survey 48% female have freedom to join a job. Others are happy at home without this freedom.

$$\text{Average of Freedom Status of Respondents} = \frac{67.5+40+14.5+57+48}{5}$$

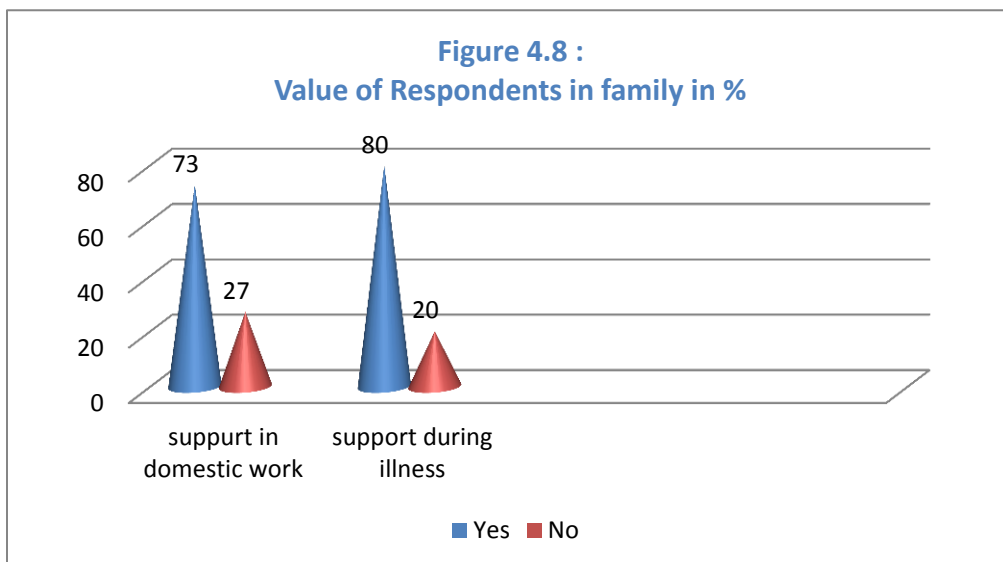
$$= 45.5$$

After dividing this value, the result is that 45.5 % female have freedom in their life. It also represent that women status in Mahendergarh is low in freedom factor.

#### 4.3.4 Value of Women in family

This factor includes the role and place of female in their family. A woman is an important part of a family. There should be a special treatment with her by their family members. But always it is not happens. There are two indicators in it

- Family support in domestic work
- Family support during illness



In the above figure first two bars showing the data related to value of females in family by the support in domestic work. According to this study 73 % female are satisfied with

saying that their family members (husband, mother in law, children etc) do full support when they do any work at home. It shows that their family member do her value. On the other hand 27 % female felt them as unlucky, because no one in family helps them in domestic work.

Second part shows that 80 % female get support of family when they are suffering from any sickness and 20 % women have to do all work during their illness.

$$\text{Average of Value of Respondent in family} = \frac{80+73}{2}$$

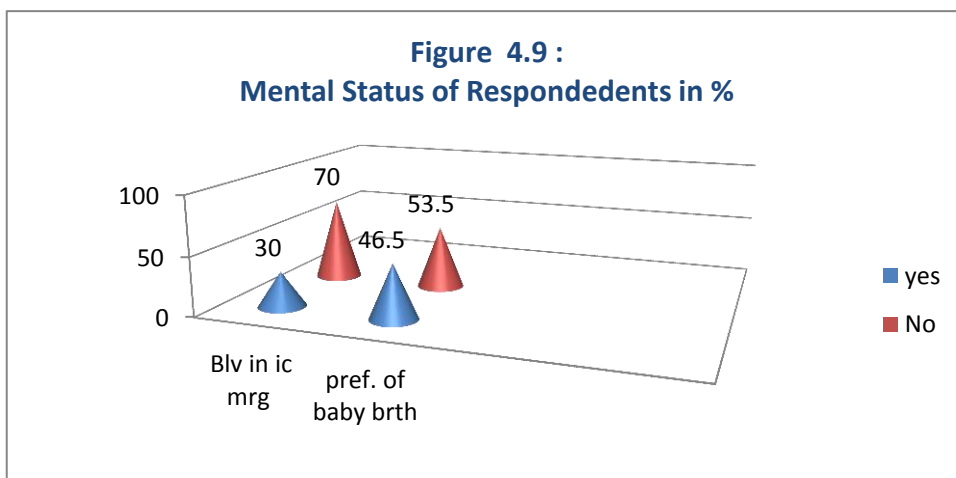
$$= 76.5\%$$

After dividing this value, we get result that overall 76.5% female gets attention, value, cares and support from their family. This value shows a positive status of respondents in Mahendergarh district.

#### 4.3.5. Openness of Thought

This status shows the thinking level of any person. So to measure the socio economic status of female, it is very necessary to know about their mental status. If a female have narrow thinking, it will decline her status in society and vice versa. It includes two indicators.

- Believe in Inter-cast marriage
- Preference Regarding birth of baby



In the above figure, first segment shows the respondent attitude towards inter-caste marriage. Only 30 % respondents gave their positive view regarding inter-cast marriage. But 70 % respondents show a very negative perception on this question. It reflects their low mentality.

Second Part shows the respondent view regarding the preference of a child. In 21<sup>st</sup> century it is consider there is no difference between a girl and boy, but after survey 53.5 % respondents said that they give preference to a baby boy. Even some educated female also gave same response. Other 46.5% respondents female have equality for boy and girl. These female have better mental status than remain 53.5 %.

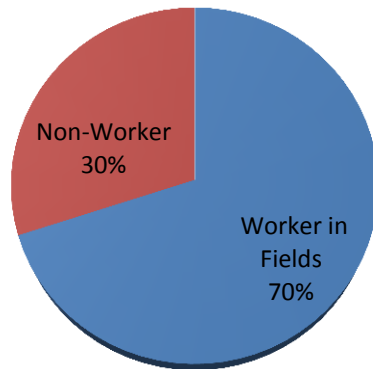
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Average of Openness of thought of Respondents} &= \frac{30+46.5}{2} \\ &= 38.5\% \end{aligned}$$

The above result showing that only 38.5 % respondents have their mental status higher than remain 61.5%.It is a very low status. Due to their cheap and low mentality they cannot upgrade their social status.

#### **4.3.6 Productivity**

Productivity means the state or quality being productive. In rural area of India mostly female work in fields. They work whole day at home with many responsibilities of their home. After this they help their family in agriculture. It shows their high productivity level. This includes only one indicator that is Female participation in field.

**Figure 4.10 :**  
**Productivity of Respondents in %**



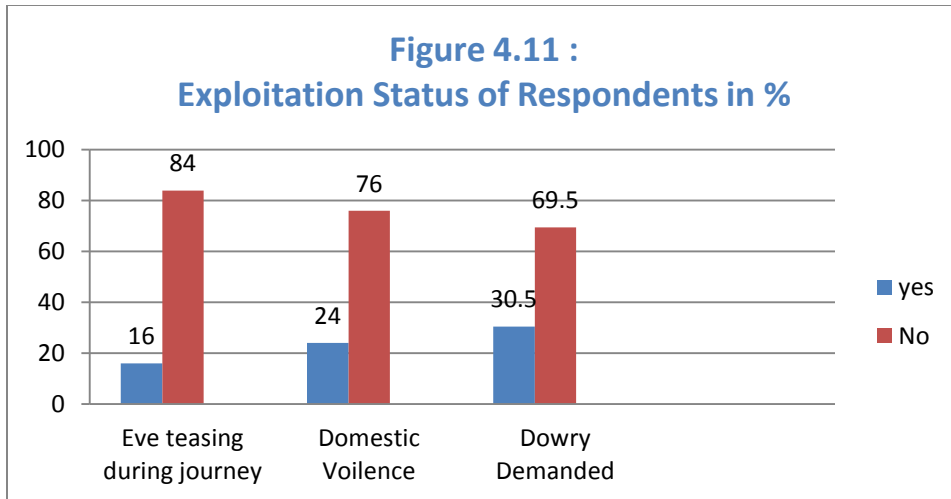
This figure clarify that in all over respondents 140 are productive and working in fields than other 60. It also shows that they are more productive than man. But after doing so much hard work, they don't get any payment and special treatment in family. It makes their status low after being so much productive.

#### **4.3.7 Exploitation Status**

Exploitation status shows that how many female are suffering from different kind of evils spread in society. This factor is negatively effect on women status. As more females are exploited, as their status will decline.

It include three indicators

- ❖ Eve-teasing during journey
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Dowry Demanded



According to the above figure, around 16 % females are exploited by Eve-teasing in Mahendergarh. Other 84% female accepted that they don't feel any fear regarding this evil. It represents a positive symbol of female security. The next evil is of domestic violence against women. Out of 200 respondents 48 said that sometime their husbands and other family member beat them on small mistakes. But other 152 are free from this violence. It also gives a positive status. The third evil is regarding with dowry system.30.5% female are the part of this evil in this area of study.

$$\text{Average of Exploitation Status} = \frac{84+76+69.5}{3}$$

$$= 76.5\%$$

The value of upper average is 76.5%.This value is showing that 76.5 % respondents don't face any evil in Mahendergarh. But 23.5% female daily be a part of this exploitation. This makes their status very low.

It can be concluded by the above analysis that female status in Mahendergarh shows different results in different factors. In decision making power, 50 % female are able to make decisions in their family or society. In Awareness factor, only 38% female are aware about their surroundings,In term of Freedom, 45.5% female are free to live their life according their wish. Next factor is of value in family, this result showing some



better condition, 76.5 % female gets a desirable value in their family. If we talk about female mental status, it is giving a very low value , only 38% female keep their thinking high. Next is related with female productivity, as Haryana is a agricultural dominant state, so most of females work in their fields. It shows their good status in productivity with 70%. But is not a good indicator for enhance their status. Last one is related with female exploitation, Favorable data against exploitation signifies that now the women condition is much better as compared to past, 76.5% females are now in free from this factor.

For the analysis of questionnaire, '1' is assigned for 'no' answer and '2' is assigned for 'yes' answer of respondents. Then all the answer of each respondent summed up. In the end we get total 200 values of all respondents. Maximum value can be 48 and minimum can be 24 numbers. The mean value of total sum is 36. Overall 48 % respondents are above this mean value and 52 % are below this mean value.

#### **4.4 Conclusion**

According to the first objective of the study, the socio-economic status of female in Mahendergarh district is not good by the primary survey. More than half of the females come under the category of low status.