

Research article



Situation of Domestic Workers in Present era and Their Rights in the Light of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Teachings



* Riffat Faheem

Government College Women University, Kutchehry Road
Sialkot, Pakistan

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*Corresponding Author:
Email:
faheemriffat786@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Domestic workers are a vital part of our social life being a status symbol. The matter to ponder over is that domestic employees don't have prescribed rights and there are no rules and regulations about their working hours and wages people try to take more and more advantage out of them and pay the least. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his last address has emphasized a lot about the rights of slaves which are the domestic employees in this era.

Keywords: Domestic Workers, Rights, Wages, Mental Torture, Last Address

Introduction

Three decades from today, if we take a look, it is clear that people were content. There was no sign of inflation at that time, men were earning a living for their family and were carrying the burden of their wives and seven or eight children and were living a good and comfortable life. Men used to earn money by working and women were busy with household chores. There was no race of status. With scientific advances, as machines were invented, people's lives became more comfortable. There was a washing machine, there was a machine for grinding spices and gradually people became more and more comfortable with this facility and women got used to this facility the most. A few years ago people preferred to live in the clean and open environment of the countryside where they enjoyed fresh air and fresh vegetables and fresh milk but over time people turned to cities and said goodbye to agriculture, because here they also had to join the era of development. In such a situation, they came to

the cities from their agricultural background so that they too could earn money and familiarize their children with the environment of cities. There was a growing tendency for women to be educated and to work alongside men. As they could not get financial benefits from working in the house, they leave home to get financial benefits and were employed for the household chores at minimum wage thus both the parties with their own benefit and mutual consent began to grow this trend. The supply of cheap labour has fuelled this trend. Uneducated women from the countryside were forced to work in their homes, because that was what they could easily do, even when they were paid a little for it. It seemed to have overcome many of their frustrations for them. Earlier, they were under the care of their families or family members, but they were satisfied even with the meagre wages that they no longer needed anyone because doing their own housework was considered as useless, because In our country, housework is not considered as a constructive work, although it can be seen that women are playing the most important role in building a society. Having children, cooking for them, washing their clothes, taking care of their hygiene, providing them with comfort, taking care of their illness, all the work done to run a person's life in a society. The work that a woman does is still not given any importance to the work done in her house or in other words, this work of women is invaluable and priceless at the same time. There are many women whose husbands are not able to earn enough to meet the basic needs of their children, so they have to go out of the house to help them and help others with household chores. They also work in the homes of, so that they can make a living. Some women's husbands, being sick or intoxicated, are not able to do any work to support the household expenses. Some have to leave home to earn because they are widowed. Home is not a well-established place of work, such as a university, school, college, or office, so there is no concept of rules and regulations and the rights to a regular job in the household. And the demand for rights also becomes difficult. One of the main reasons for women to work in this field is that women who have neither the wealth of knowledge nor any special capability or capital to do any work to ease their difficult situation. Another reason why rural and uneducated women make housework their profession because they can do it well is that men in disadvantaged areas do not like their women to go out. Even there are famines but both of them are worried about saving their honour, but when the women help them by bringing some money in the house. They easily use this money and don't feel shy. Similarly, men do not like women working with men in factories, so they only allow them to work at home, because there women deal with them. As far as the salaries of the employees are concerned. Most of the employees were not satisfied with their wages. They are paid according to the work or whether the house is small or large. Initially, they agree

to work at low wages for the sake of employment, but if the wages are not increased over time, they get into trouble, especially when there is an event at the employee's home. Or if guests come and have to do a lot of work, then it is unsatisfactory for them to work in the hereafter. When they talk about increasing their salary, they are given a clear answer or they are told that if it does not suit her, then give up. According to the International Labor Organization, there are approximately 53 million domestic workers in the world, and more than 85% of them are women. Every woman in the world who works and gets paid, every thirteenth is female housemaid [1].

The trend of violence against domestic workers can be gauged from the fact that it seems to be circulating in newspapers, electronic media and social media on a daily basis. Many of them report on sexual violence. At the same time considering domestic service as only women's domain were some of the explanations given for not taking this service as other occupations that required proper professional training [2].

Domestic workers are sexually blackmailed. And they are exploited by taking advantage of their financial constraints and sometimes they are subjected to physical beatings and threatened to not react against the offender. What we read and hear are just a few of the things that, for some reason, come to the fore. Many times more news than them do not get through the four walls and employees spend their whole lives in silence and oppression to keep the illusion of both their job and honor, because they know that if they raise their voice, society will suppress their voice and will not employ them in the future, which is the only way for them to keep their soul and body working. It is not uncommon for domestic workers to be chained and there is hardly a home where it is not customary to scold and abuse employees on a daily basis but it is generally believed that reprimanding these people is the right thing to do. Nor are these people revelators at work, and there are a few sentences that everyone considers it his birthright to speak on employees, for example:

How many times do you have to say this?

Why don't you understand this once?

Hearing such words surely hurts the soul of a human being and also the faith of the employees. Hearing such phrases on a daily basis destroys the confidence of these people. The result can be sickness or suicidal attempt. The owner thinks that good job can be taken from the employee in this way. As far as the food and drink of the employees at home is concerned, it is heartbreaking to think that these people are given two meals in the meal which all the people leave after the meal. If you look at their clothes; their clothes do not deserve to be called good clothes. It is a natural thing to get ill in rags which neither

even cover the body nor escape out of the harsh weather and in the case of such a disease, they fall prey to such a rebuke that humanity would be ashamed to think about it. Apart from medicine and comfort, things like making excuses to get rid of them from work are also heard. Nowadays women as well as young boys and girls are employed in the household, as their demand for compensation is low and their poor parents who are unable to meet even the basic necessities of life. For extra income, they send them away to work in other people's homes away from themselves.

According to Katzman: "The highly personalised nature of the servant's relationship with her employer and the low level of specialisation in domestic roles are both anomalous in a modern industrial society moving towards specialised and impersonal work relationships [5]"

There they are tasked with cleaning the house, using hot utensils in the kitchen and washing the bathroom with chemicals such as acid which can be dangerous for the health and safety and development of children of this age. Such children are often found caring for their wives outside shopping plazas with their kids. Chang's book critically examines the impact of welfare and immigration laws on not only domestic workers but also other women in low paid jobs such as nurses, janitors etc in California State [7]. Begums themselves enjoy a variety of food in hotels, but these children stand outside and look at the world with longing eyes, carrying shopping bags. They may be wondering if they will ever be able to enjoy these colors of life in this way. These children are taken to work for 16 to 18 hours and since they are brought from remote areas, they can't even think of going anywhere and in any case they have to live in this prison. And the time they have to run after butterflies, see the colors of the rainbow, play with toys and jump, they are staring blankly at the walls and serving the people. These are the days to go to their school, to be happy to see the colorful pictures in the books, to learn the words and draw the inverted straight lines on the copies and make the shapes of the words, but for a few coins, their rights to read, play and jump are taken away and their practical life is pushed into the gloomy darkness of ignorance and cosmopolitanism. And when they get angry, these delicate hands, shoulders and arms are either stained with hot ironing or sexually assaulted.

All of these things are broadcast every day, we get depressed for a while after reading them and in a few moments we get lost in the hustle and bustle of life like a green parrot gets lost in the green leaves of the throne and sadly, we never tried to figure out what these employees were up to. If they are forced to work at home, is this financial compulsion their own if it is? Or is there some other force behind it? If another force is working behind this, isn't this our test? If this is our test, are we taking steps to understand this test and pass it? Is it not our duty as Muslims to consider their condition? Does Islam

encourage us to just keep quiet after watching or listening this kind of things? It is narrated by Prophet Muhammad (SAWW);

“The Muslim is not a Muslim, he is not oppressed and he is not a Muslim. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, do not oppress him and do not allow him to be oppressed. Whoever fulfills the need of his brother, Allah will meet his need, and whoever relieves the distress of another, Allah will remove one of the calamities of his resurrection, and whoever hides his faults on the Day of Resurrection. It will hide its flaws [3] ”.

The news of harassed employees is spread for a day or two to boost business, cases are registered in the courts and after a few months a case is taken up and it becomes a thing of the past and in the courts. Some more files are placed on top of these cases and due to lack of proper follow up, these employees neither get justice and nor even get a job. And on the strength of wealth, the cruel masters are released without any punishment and seek to ruin the life of an employee. Take a look at some of the newspapers and magazines to cover the growing trend of violence against domestic workers.

Tayyaba Violence Case: February



Tayyaba, an innocent girl, was only ten years old and was hired by ignorant parents in a judge's house in Islamabad for a few thousand rupees. The judge's wife inflicted heavy blows on the students. When a neighbor told the Islamabad police that the pains of Tayyaba rising from the house could not be heard, the law came into force. Violence and physical violence against domestic workers is visible, but there is a double standard from which no employee is safe. Mental and psychological violence is one hundred percent. Women in Yellow House Employees usually leave their children in their homes and go to work and all the time mentally cannot get out of the care of their children and remain anxious and many times these children are so young that they cannot even spend a few hours without the mother, but the mothers are not allowed to take them to work at all and the mother leaves them at home with an older sibling or goes to work or to her old mother-in-law who is not even able to take care of herself. And they need someone to take care of them at all times. Similarly, many times women are pregnant and are forced to work, although in this condition they need special food and rest, but their masters do not take care of this and they have to do whatever they have to do under normal circumstances. It has been observed many times that women are very old but they are forced to work due to the absence of any earning person in their house, even though they have these days of rest. At this age they need good food and care but they have to do all kinds of work without taking care of anything, such as cleaning, washing clothes and taking care of children and so on. During the empirical research on women domestic workers in Pakistan it was noticed that employers in Pakistan had similar expectations of loyalty, deference and respect from their domestic workers [6].

All of these behaviors are also violent, because they also cause them mental anguish and affect their health; the health of the employees is already in a very bad condition, because their salaries are very low. And no country in the world has yet set a minimum wage for domestic workers and it can be extremely difficult for them to maintain a soul-body relationship with their meager salary. Besides, they should pay attention to their health and if they fall prey to a loved one like diabetes, blood pressure etc. Then in all these situations, pulling the car of life becomes extremely painful for them.

On the day of last pilgrimage, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) commanded the people to hold fast to the Book and Sunnah. One's property cannot be declared halal on others without being considered halal. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) clearly emphasized the importance of fear of Allah and said that no person should be considered superior to another on the basis of race or ethnicity. The door to the Almighty is only due to piety. Therefore, the fear of God and good deeds are the cause of virtue and virtue in the sight of God. On the Day of Resurrection no one will be able to help anyone.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) further told that those who fabricate innovations will be taken away from me by the angels and I will not be given a respite for their intercession. In this sermon, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) explicitly declared only a person to be a Muslim whose hands and tongue did not harm other Muslims and whose honor, wealth and lives were not in danger. In this sermon where other aspects of life are mentioned, Nabi Akram addressed all the members of the Ummah. He did not forget the people of the lower class, and especially gave them the knowledge to take care of the subordinates. He further urged them to abstain from enmity and to avoid major sins and to listen to the major sins and to keep the speed of the riders at bay and forbade the Muslims from being persecuted. He explained the signs of Hour and one of them He said that the rich will be educated and the rich will not be respected, only the name of Islam will prevail. Only the letters of the Qur'an will remain, that is, only the campaign of the world of recitation will come to an end.

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