

**A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN WORKERS FACE UNDER THE PM POSHAN SCHEME
IN ERANAD TALUK**

Mufeeda O

BA Economics, Sullamussalam Science College, Areekode.

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”

Michelle Obama

Abstract.

Poverty, malnutrition, and lack of education have always been a matter of national concern. As a solution to these problems, the government of India has implemented a scheme called PM POSHAN Scheme. It provide hot cooked meal to children and pre-school to primary and upper primary classes (1-8) in government, government -aided and local body schools in India and provide employment that preparing, serving, cleaning food. Most of the cooks are women who belong to the back ward section of the society. The main purpose of this study was to know problems faced by women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad taluk, Malappuram, Kerala, for the purpose of present study 30 samples are collected. snowball sampling technique was used for the collection of data primary data are collected through interview and questionnaire. Statistical technique like correlation is also used to make the study more qualitative. The result of the study indicates that Most of the respondents are not satisfied with the income from this job and they have not other source of income. majority of respondents want to be financially stable they are facing problems like workload, health issues, low wage etc. in this area. Another result of the study shows that correlation between monthly income and expenditure is positive

INTRODUCTION

I. Introduction

Poverty, malnutrition, and lack of education have always been a matter of national concern. As a solution to these problems, the government of India has implemented a scheme called Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme. It is implemented by the ministry of education. This scheme provide hot cooked meal to children of pre-school to primary and upper primary classes in government, government -aided and local body schools in India. This scheme provides at least one meal a day. PM POSHAN Scheme launched in 1995 in India. It is earlier known as 'Mid Day Meal Scheme '. Its main objectives are improving the nutritional status of the children and to attend school more regularly, help them to concentrate on class room activities and encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged section. The central government has implemented various public schemes for the upliftment of the people. One crore scheme worker across the country is part of the central government's various public schemes in the field of health and education. Scheme workers play every important role in ensuring basic health and nutrition to the vast majority of people in the country. PM POSHAN Scheme provides employment to many women. Most of the cooks employed in government, aided schools for preparing, serving and cleaning food in this scheme are women who belong to backward sections of society. This scheme appointing widows, below poverty line and vulnerable and marginalized people. According to the central government 25 lakhs cooks across the country, 40% of them are scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes. About 30 lakh cook-cum- helpers, 90% of whom are women. The expenditure under the PM POSHAN Scheme is in the ratio of 60:40 with the central paying rupees 600 out of the monthly honorarium rupees 1000 as the center and the state participate So far the women workers under the PM POSHAN Scheme have not been recognized as workers. They are getting very low wages and work 5-6 hours a day. They get wage only for 10 months in a year. A cook would be burdened to cook for 150-200 students. Smoke from cooking large quantities of food lead to health problems such as eye, caught, tuberculosis, etc. But they not get any social security. Therefore, to improve their socio-economic status, they should get minimum wage, insurance, pension, social security, health benefits and maternity leave etc. The study on the topic of "Problems of women workers face Under the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk". Eranad is a taluk in Malappuram district. Women workers under the PM POSHAN Scheme are faced many problems and challenges like economic, social, and health, etc.

II. Significant of the study

The PM POSHAN Scheme provides employment to a large number of women who belong to backward sections of the society such as widows, Dalits, below poverty line, vulnerable and marginalized people. In this field the women workers are faced many problems like economic, social and health etc. This scheme is aim to increase class attendance, improve socialization among castes, address malnutrition and empower women through employment. The present study is an attempt to understand the socio-economic current status of women workers under the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk. This study focuses on improving the current status of women workers under this scheme as well as fulfilling their needs. This study concentrate to rise their socio-economic condition by earning more income from PM POSHAN Scheme. They should get minimum wages and social security including pension, health insurance, maternity leave, and medical benefit etc. The area of the study is Eranad Taluk in Malappuram district in Kerala. The women workers of this scheme are faced many problems like Personal, working condition, financial and health, etc. Cooking large quantities of food causes serious health problems. They are not provide any social security and health security.

III. Objectives and Methodology of the Study

- To study current the socio-economic conditions of women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk.
- To study problems of women workers face under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk.
- To know if they are satisfied in this work or not.

The study conducted in Eranad Taluk in Malappuram. The main sources of information for this study is based on data collection. Data collection both primary and secondary in nature.

Primary data: It have been directly collect from women workers under the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk, through a snow ball method and structured questionnaire. Questions like open ended, close ended and multiple choice type have been used for the purpose of the data collection. Questionnaire is tool used for the study of socio-economic conditions of women workers in the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk.

Secondary data: It have been collected from various books, journals, reports, articles, internet, etc. Questionnaire is tool used for the study of socio-economic conditions of women workers in the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad Taluk.

Statistics tools: correlation, Graphical methods like pie and bar diagrams, etc.

IV. Review of the literature

The study is about to examine the problems of women workers face under PM POSHAN Scheme. Women cooks face many problems while preparing food under pm poshnsn scheme. In the chapter an attempt has been made to review some important studies which are relevant to present study.as the data about the employees working under pm poshan scheme is limited, in the chapter focuses more on the pm poshan scheme. Number of studies are conducted by researchers and experts in the field of "MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME (PM POSHAN SCHEME)". So as brief literature review of some important studies is presented here.

Anima Rani Si and Naresh Kumar Sharma (2008) " An empirical study of the Mid-Day Meal Program in Khurda, Orissa" the study explained that the mid-day meal Programme was initiated as a means of achieving universal primary education of satisfactory quality for all schoolchildren below the age of 14 by increasing enrolment, improving attendance and retention, and simultaneously improving nutritional Status. This paper attempts to investigate some of these aspects based on primary data collected from Khurda district of Orissa. Data was collected from schools as well as from a sample of households of schoolchildren. The investigation includes a study of the organisational structure of the Programme and also examines the cooked meals and dry ration variants.

Rachana Bhoite and Umalyer (2011) "Operational research on mid-day meal program and it outcome on growth of school children in rural" the study explained the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) program has been launched by the government of India with objective to improve nutritional status of school children. 1503 students from 4 schools were enrolled in the study. They find out that prevalence of underweight ranged from 71.3% according to CDC 2000 standards while it was 67.8% according to WHO 2007 standard.

The prevalence of stunting was almost 33% signifying long standing chronic malnutrition. MDM consumption ranged from 52.8% in one school to 63.6% in other school. MDM consumption was maximum in December (66.6%) and January (61.7%).

Alka Mohan Chutani (2012) "School lunch program in India: Background, objectives and components" he analyses that the school lunch program (SLP) is the largest food and nutrition provide program. The SLP in India earlier known as national program for nutrition support to primary education and then mid-day meal scheme. It initially started in 1960, to overcome the problems of malnutrition and illiteracy. The paper also reviews that this scheme mandatory to provide a mid-day meal to all primary and upper primary school children in the government and government aided schools. It has consistently increase enrolment in school in India. The main objective of the mid- day meal scheme is to promote well-being and health among children.

Ritesh Dwivedi (2013) "Mid-day meal: Scope of improvement" he explained that the national program of nutritional support to primary education (NP-NSPE) a federally funded programme was first implemented in 2408 blocks across the nation on August 15,1995. Currently the NP-NSPE is the country's largest feeding program, feeding about 9.50 lakh schools and about 12 crore students. It aims to address main problems those hunger and education. It's objectives are improving nutritional status of children, encouraging poor children, and providing nutritional support to children during summer vacations. It provides employment for more than 26 lakh cook-cum-helpers for preparation and serving of school meals.

S Karande and NJ Gogtay (2014) "Impact of the mid-day meal scheme in India" they examined that mid meal scheme for school children is not a new thing in India. In 1925, the British administration started a mid-day meal scheme for disadvantaged children in Madras Municipal corporation. In 1962, the state government of Tamil Nadu implemented a MDMS and in 1984, the scheme was implemented in the state of Gujarat. Later in 1995, the government of India introduced the MDMS as a national program for all primary school children (classes 1-8).

M Yadukumar and SS Patil (2014) "Role of mid-day meal programme in improving the quality of education" they explained in this article that mid-day meal scheme is a multifaceted program of the government of India, it seeks to address issues of food security, malnutrition, and access to education. It provides free lunch on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government and government aided school in India. It's main objectives were improving nutritional status of children, encouraging poor.

SR Shrivastava and Jagadeesh (2014) "The Mid Day Meal Scheme: A holistic initiative to augment the nutritional and educational status of the children" they explained that according to a 2012 report by the World Health Organization, out of the 6.5 million deaths worldwide in the age of five, around 2.4 million were from India alone. In 1995, the mid-day meal scheme was launched in India as a solution to malnutrition among children. It feeds about 120 million children. It is one of the country's national flagships feeding scheme launched to increase the nutritional and educational status of the poor children. The sustainability of the scheme depends on the political power, community participation, and monetary of the program children, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities, thereby increasing the enrolment, retention, and attendance rates.

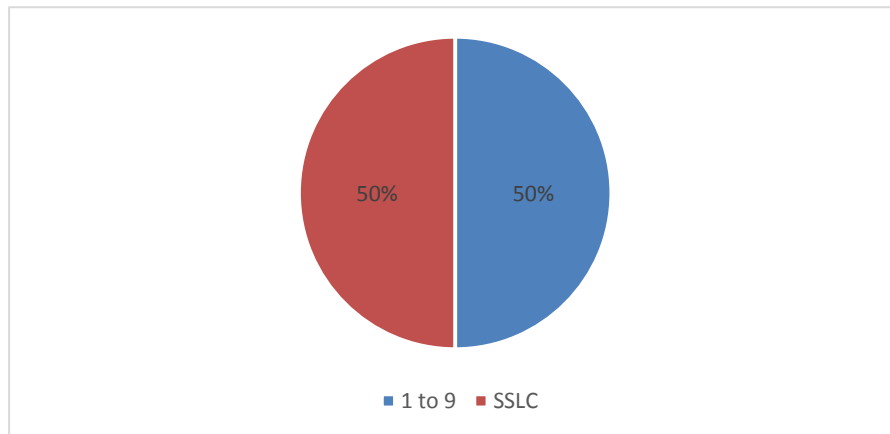
Geeta Menezes (2014) "MID-DAY MEALS: WHAT, WHY, AND HOW" The study explained that issues in implementation of the scheme. This study attempt to evaluate the program with specific reference to Mumbai's civ schools and highlight the longstanding issues in the implementation. The study employing both primary and secondary data. It use random sampling method. Results of this study that there is not enough awareness among the beneficiaries about this program. food quality and accountability mechanism are the limitations of this program.

The mid-day meal scheme was launched in India as a solution to malnutrition among children. It provides free lunch on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government and government aided school in India. It aims to increase enrolment, retention, attendance and improving their nutritional status among primary school children. that the scheme has been successful in addressing classroom hunger and rising enrolment rates in the schools. It provides employment for more than 26 lakh cook-cum-helpers for preparation and serving of school meals. They are face many problems like financial, workload, extra time, health issues etc.

V. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The study focusses on Eranad Taluk in Malappuram district in the state of Kerala, India. The study is conducted to know the problems of women workers face under the PM POSHAN Scheme. The data collected from Eranad taluk. 30 samples were taken to make analysis. All the respondents are female. In this chapter we are trying to interpret various data that collected from the women workers followed by the analysis of the data. The analysis is based on different variables from the respondents those who are the working under the PM POSHAN Scheme. The analysis through questionnaire, is presented in the way of table and diagram. The variable used for the analysis are age, religion, educational status, income, expenditure, and problems, no.of children, category wise classification, joined year, working time, satisfaction of income and job, motivated factor, challenges, etc. The result has been interpreted in table and figure. A statistical tool that correlation is use to understand the relationship between two variables.

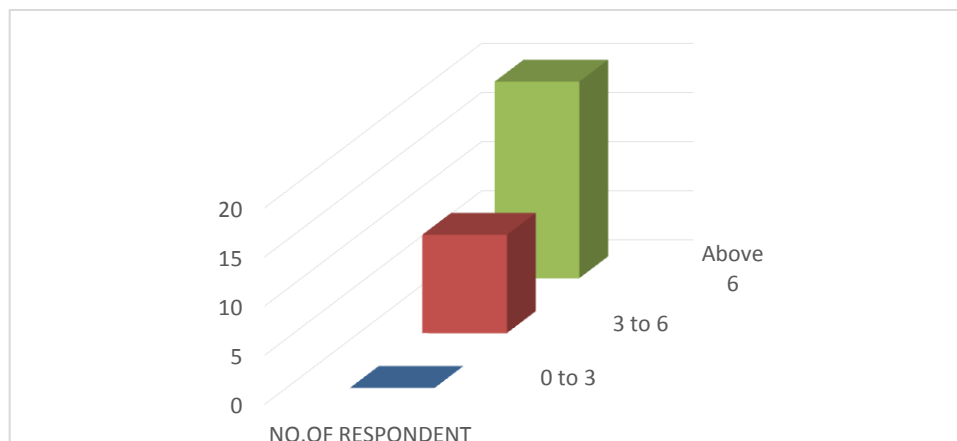
Figure V.1: Education status of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Eranad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above diagram show that the education qualification of respondents. 50% of the respondents are educated in between 1-9 and 50% of the respondents are qualified in SSLC. So, from the above interpretation we can assume that the respondents are SSLC and below SSLC and they are not high qualified.

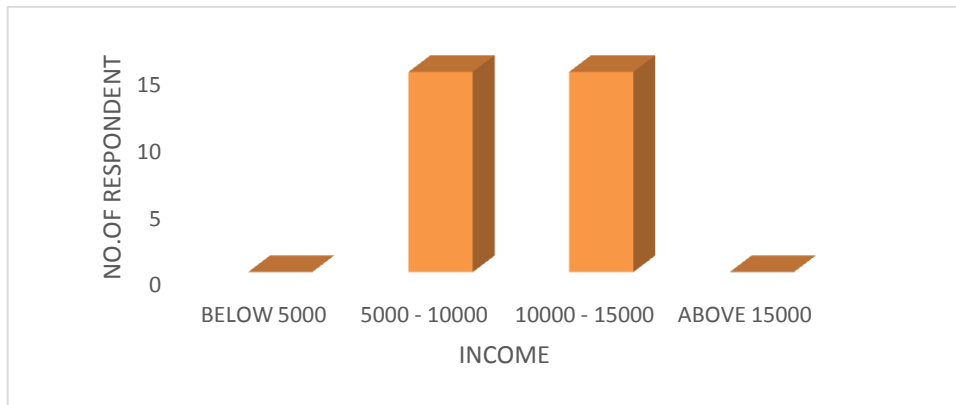
Figure V.2: Working time of the respondent



Source: Primary data are collected from Eranad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show that the working time of the respondents. 33% of the respondents are working 3 to 6 hours. 67% of the respondents are working above 6 hours. There are no a respondent is working 0-3 hours. We can assume that most of the respondents are working above 6 hours.

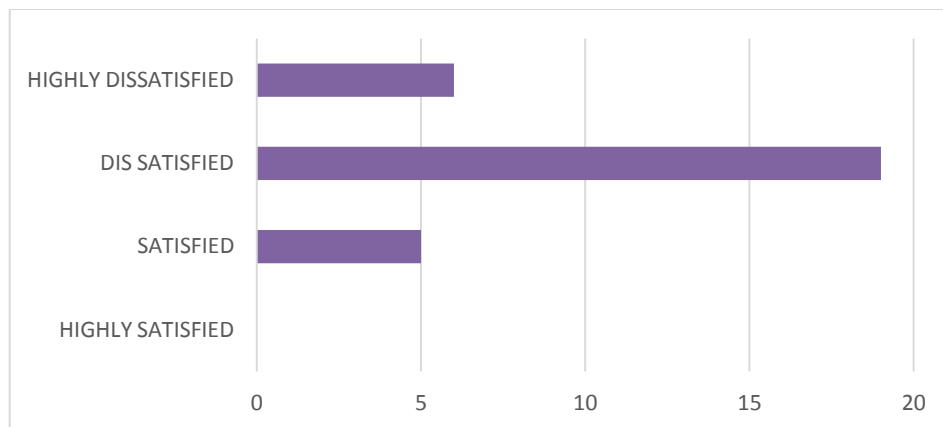
Figure V.3: Monthly income of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show that monthly income of respondents. 50% of respondents are earning monthly income in between 5000-10000 and 50% of respondents are earning monthly income in between 10000-15000. There is no a respondent get income below 5000 and above 150000. So, from the above interpretation we can assume that monthly income of the respondents are 7500 -13500.

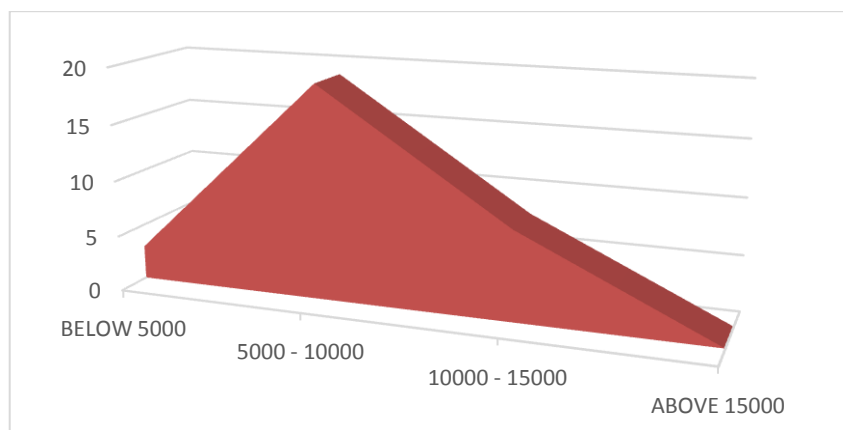
Figure V.4: Satisfaction of income of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show that satisfaction of income of respondents. 17% of the respondents are satisfied with their income, 63% of them are dissatisfied, and 20% of them are highly dissatisfied. Above interpretation we can assume that most of the respondents are dissatisfied in their income. There is not a respondent that is highly satisfied.

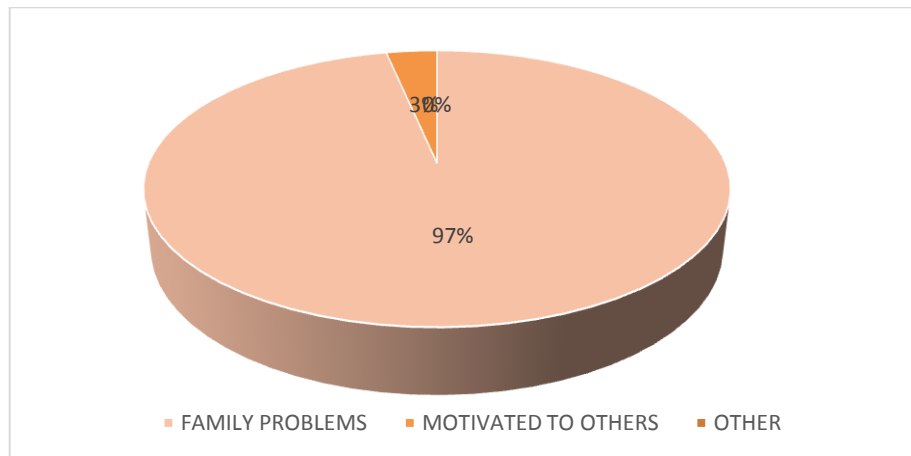
Figure V.5: Monthly expenditure of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show that monthly expenditure of respondents. 10% of the respondent's expenditure is below 5000, 63% of their expenditure is in between 5000-10000, and 27% of their expenditure is in between 10000-15000. Above interpretation we can assume that most of the respondent's expenditure is in between 5000-10000 and there is no respondent that above 15000.

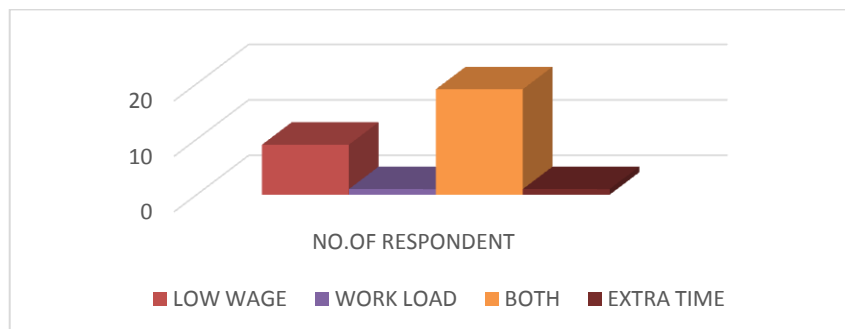
Figure V.6: motivated factor of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show the factors that motivated the respondents to work. 97% of respondents are motivated to work because of family problems. Only 3% came because of the motivation of others. Above interpretation, we can assume that family problems are the driving force behind most of the respondents to work.

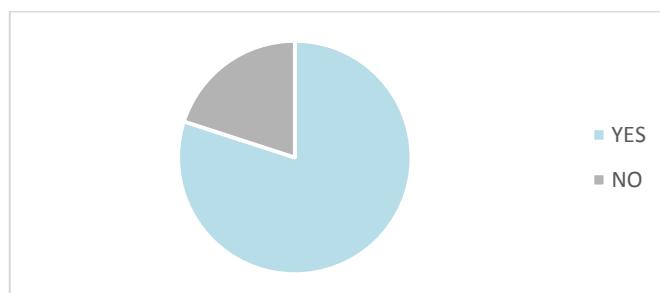
Figure V.7: Challenges of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show challenges that face the respondents in the field of work. 30% of respondents are face challenges that low wage, 3% of them are challenging by workload, and 63% of them face both challenges, and 3% of them are face extra time. We can assume that majority of the respondents are face low wage and work load.

Figure V.8: Insurance of the respondents



Source: Primary data are collected from Ernad taluk on 6/1/2023

In the above table and diagram show that insurance status of respondents.80% of respondents have health insurance and 20% of the respondents do not have health insurance. From the above interpretation ,we can assume that majority of the respondents have health insurance.

Correlation

Correlation is a statistical tool which studies the relationship between two variables. Simple linear correlation is a measure of the degree to which two variables vary together. Correlation quantifies the strength of the linear relationship between a pair of variables. Here, I choose two variables, monthly income and expenditure, to calculate correlation.

Correlation between monthly income and expenditure

SL. NO	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
1	7500	2500
2	7500	2500
3	7500	2500
4	7500	7500
5	7500	7500
6	7500	7500
7	7500	7500
8	7500	7500
9	7500	7500
10	7500	7500
11	7500	7500
12	7500	7500
13	7500	7500
14	7500	7500
15	7500	7500
16	12500	7500
17	12500	7500
18	12500	7500
19	12500	7500
20	12500	7500
21	12500	7500
22	12500	7500
23	12500	12500
24	12500	12500
25	12500	12500
26	12500	12500
27	12500	12500
28	12500	12500
29	12500	12500
30	12500	12500

Here, we go the result, the correlation between these two variables monthly income and expenditure is 0.629858. It shows that there is a highly positive relation between monthly income and expenditure.

VI Findings and Conclusion

VI.1 Findings

The present study is conducted to know that problems of women workers under the PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranadu Taluk. For the collection of data, 30 samples are selected from different schools in Eranadu Taluk. The important variables used for data collection were age status, religion, education, income, expenditure, etc. I reached into some findings, from the collected data.

- Most of the respondents are coming under the age group of 40-50 (50%).
- All the respondents are women.
- The education qualification of the respondents that 50% are in between 1-9 and 50% are SSLC.
- Marital status of respondents shown that majority of them are married.

- Most of the respondents have 0-3 children.
- The largest number of respondents are belongs to below poverty line (67%).
- In religion status of respondents mostly belong to Islam (57%) than Hindu.
- Most of the respondents are started the work is in between 2014-2024 (40%).
- The greatest number of the respondents are working above 6 hours (67%).
- Most of the respondents are making the food in between 60-90 kilograms (37%).
- In monthly income of the respondents, 50% of them earn in between 5000-10000 and 50% of them earn in between 10000-15000.
- Majority of the respondents are dissatisfied in their income and job (63%).
- Most of the respondents' s expenditure is in between 5000-10000 (63%) and there is no a respondent that above 15000.
- Majority of the respondents are motivated to work that cause of the family problems (97%).
- Most of the respondents are face challenges that low wage and workload (63%).
- Majority of the respondents have health insurance (80%).
- The monthly income and monthly expenditure of the respondent's are positively (0.629858) correlated.

VI.2 Suggestions

As per the suggestions received from the women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme, when data collected from Eranad taluk. It given following:

- In this study most of the respondents are not satisfied with their income from this job. So the government should increase their wage and provide deserved wage for them.
- The government should tries to convert the daily wage to salary.
- The government should introduce law one cook for every 250 children to reduce the workload of women workers.
- The government should schedule the working hours of women workers properly and should pay for each extra time.
- The government should introduce other benefits like pension in addition to wage for women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme.
- Provision should be made for the storage of food items.
- All basic facilities food cooking should be provided in kitchen.

VI.3: Conclusion

The project entitled as "Problems of women workers face under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad taluk". It is a study that tries to understand various problems faced by women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad taluk. PM POSHAN Scheme is provide hot cooked meal to children in 1st to 8th classes. It is provides employment to many women for preparing, serving and cleaning food who belong to backward sections of society and below poverty line. They are facing a number of problems in the areas like financial, personal and social, etc. For the purpose of the study 30 samples collected from women workers under PM POSHAN Scheme in Eranad taluk and analyses each of them. Snow ball sampling technique was used for the collection of data. Primary data collected through questionnaire and interview schedule. Statistical techniques like correlation between monthly income and monthly expenditure are used in the study.

there is a positive relation between monthly income and expenditure. This study reveals that majority of the respondents want to be financially stable. Most of them are not satisfied with income from this job and they have not other income source. All the respondents are women and spending their income for self and family. Most of them were in the age group of 40-50. Education qualification of the respondents that SSLC and below SSLC and belong the Islam religion. Majority of them are working above six hours. All the respondents have facing problems that low wages and workload. They have not get any other benefits like pension. All the respondents are want continue this job and they have bank account and union. Every one has worked in only one institution and organization do not change. Management and teachers of the school are treating vey good to respondents.

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