

Abilities to Perform Household Work: The Experience of Women with Locomotor Impairments

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Abstract—Domestic work is an essential part of most married women's lives all over the world, regardless of whether they are engaged in paid employment or not. In the context of India, training for housework for most women begins at a much younger age in order to prepare them for their adult roles of being a wife and a mother. While existing studies have shown the negative effects of domestic work on the physical and mental health of women, these studies have homogenized the category of women to be able-bodied. This paper focuses on the difficulties faced by nine ever married women with different locomotor impairments in performing their household work. The study is a part of my M. Phil dissertation and was carried out in Delhi NCR between October-December, 2013. The paper highlights that women with mild to moderate impairments are not exempted from strenuous household work, but in spite of this, such work is important for their mental well-being. It was also found that inability to perform domestic work is a cause of mental distress for women with severe impairments. The analytical framework of intersectionality paradigm is used in order to understand the varied experiences of the women.

Keywords: Domestic Chores, Women, Locomotor Impairments.