

THE PARTICIPATION OF PROFESSIONAL INDIAN WOMEN IN NEGOTIATING DECISION-MAKING POWER IN FAMILY

YUVASHINI A/P SALVAMANI

SULTAN IDRIS EDUCATION UNIVERSITY

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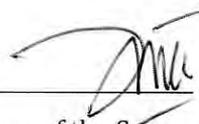
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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on the aspects of marriage, career choice and domestic chores. Fifteen Indian women, who work in different professional sectors and live in Kuala Lumpur and the Selangor area, were selected as respondents for this study. A qualitative approach using one to one in-depth interview method was used to gather the primary data. Coding method was used to categorize the information into relevant themes and the data presented using thematic analysis. The findings highlighted that majority of the professional Indian women have more freedom and authority to make decision in the family. Love marriages becoming popular and higher acceptance for inter-caste and mix marriages in Indian society. Moreover, professional Indian women have the freedom to choose their own career and they preferred to remain in employment after marriage in order to be independent and for financial security. Negotiation of decision-making power enables them to obtain equality in doing domestic chores with husbands. Furthermore, women's bargaining power increases due to their education, employment and financial independence which contribute to their well-being and practice of equality in the family. However, there are few women who have less power to select life partner and career field due to the traditional practice in their family. The findings of this study highlighted the transformation of the perception and the traditional practices as well as acceptance of decision-making power among professional Indian women in the family from the traditional patriarchal ideology. However, some of the traditional practices are still remained. The research findings could also become reference for future studies and policy makers to formulate policies related to rights, role and socio-economic development of Indian women in Malaysia.

PENYERTAAN WANITA PROFESIONAL INDIA DALAM PERUNDINGAN KUASA MEMBUAT KEPUTUSAN DALAM KELUARGA

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk meneroka penyertaan wanita profesional India dalam perundingan kuasa membuat keputusan dalam keluarga berkaitan aspek perkahwinan, pilihan kerjaya dan urusan rumahtangga. Responden kajian ini terdiri daripada lima belas wanita India yang bekerja dalam sektor profesional dan menetap di Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif melalui kaedah temu bual secara bersemuka untuk mendapatkan data primer. Kaedah pengkodan digunakan untuk mengkategorikan maklumat yang diperolehi kepada tema yang relevan dan dapatan kajian dipersembahkan melalui analisis tema. Hasil kajian menunjukkan kebanyakan wanita profesional India mempunyai banyak kebebasan dan autoriti untuk membuat keputusan dalam keluarga. Dari aspek perkahwinan, penerimaan masyarakat India yang melibatkan wanita profesional India tentang perkahwinan atas dasar cinta menjadi semakin popular dan perkahwinan berlainan kasta serta perkahwinan campur pula semakin meningkat. Wanita profesional India bebas untuk memilih kerjaya yang diminati dan membuat keputusan untuk kekal bekerja selepas berkahwin atas alasan ingin hidup berdikari dan mempunyai jaminan dari segi kewangan. Perundingan kuasa membuat keputusan yang diperolehi menyebabkan mereka juga mendapat kesamarataan dalam melakukan urusan rumahtangga bersama suami. Seterusnya, taraf pendidikan, kerjaya yang dimiliki dan kebebasan kewangan telah menyumbang kepada peningkatan penglibatan wanita profesional India dalam perundingan kuasa membuat keputusan dan kesejahteraan hidup mereka. Namun, kajian ini juga mendapati terdapat wanita profesional India yang mempunyai kuasa terhadap untuk membuat keputusan dalam pemilihan suami dan bidang kerjaya yang disukai kerana keluarga mereka masih mempraktikkan amalan tradisional. Dapatan kajian ini menyumbang kepada transformasi persepsi dan amalan tradisional serta penerimaan kuasa membuat keputusan terhadap wanita India dalam keluarga daripada ideologi tradisional patriaki. Namun begitu, masih ada amalan tradisi yang dikekalkan. Kajian ini juga boleh menjadi sumber rujukan kepada kajian akan datang dan pembuat dasar untuk menggubal polisi berkaitan hak, peranan dan pembangunan sosio-ekonomi wanita India di Malaysia.

CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ABSTRAK	v
CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
APPENDIX LIST	xvi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 The Background of the Study	1
1.3 Problem Statement	5
1.4 Research Objectives	10
1.5 Research Questions	11
1.6 Significance of the Study	11
1.7 Theoretical Framework	12
1.8 Limitation of Study	17
1.9 Definitions	18

1.10	The Thesis Structure	18
1.11	Conclusion	19

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Introduction	21
2.2	Indian Women in Malaysia: Education and Employment	21
2.3	Participation of Women in Decision-Making Power in Family: A Global Perspective	24
2.4	Family, Marriage and Gender in Indian Society	31
2.5	Married Women and Career Progress	33
2.6	Women's Multiple Roles	36
2.7	The Decision-Making Power of Working Women	38
2.8	Factors that Contribute to Increase in Decision-Making Power of Women	41
2.9	Conclusion	43

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	44
3.2	Qualitative Research Using Semi-Structured Interview	44
3.3	The Location of the Study	46
3.4	Sample Population	48
3.5	Interview Process	52
3.5.1	Designing the Themes and Interview Questions	52
3.5.2	Conducting Face-to-Face Interviews	53
3.5.3	My Position as a Researcher of Being an Insider and an Outsider	58

3.5.4	Dealing with Ethical Consideration and Issues	60
3.6	Data Analysis and Writing Up	62
3.7	Steps of Collecting Data	67
3.8	Conclusion	67

CHAPTER 4 FREEDOM IN CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER

4.1	Introduction	68
4.2	Role of Parents in Women's Marriage	68
4.3	Acceptance of Love Marriage	72
4.4	Women's Freedom to Make Decision in Marriage	73
4.4.1	Increased Freedom to Select Future Husband	73
4.4.2	Freedom Limited by Family Background and Caste System	75
4.5	Factors that Influence the Decision-Making in Choosing Future Husband	77
4.6	The Existence of Challenges Before Marriage	78
4.6.1	Parents' Acceptance Smoothen Women's Marriage	78
4.6.2	Differences of Religion/Sub-Ethnic/Caste Contribute to Obstacles Before Marriage	79
4.7	Comparison of Mother and Daughter Experiences in Marriage	82
4.7.1	Different Form of Arranged Marriage	82
4.7.2	Difference in Love Marriage Pattern	84
4.8	Conclusion	85

CHAPTER 5 OPTION OF BEING A CAREER WOMAN AND HAVING A FAMILY

5.1	Introduction	86
-----	--------------	----

5.2	Factors that Influenced Women to Decide Career Choice	86
5.2.1	Ambition and Passion	87
5.2.2	Career Field Based on Available Vacancy	88
5.2.3	Decision Made by Parents or Elder Male Siblings	88
5.2.4	Job Suitability and Security	89
5.2.5	Job Flexibility	90
5.2.6	Personal Development	91
5.3	Challenges in Dealing with Multiple Roles	91
5.3.1	Stressful and Feel Pressured	92
5.3.2	Misunderstandings in Family	93
5.3.3	No Personal Time	94
5.3.4	Priority Difficulties	96
5.4	Coping Strategies to Manage Family Responsibilities	97
5.4.1	Support from Husband or Parents	97
5.4.2	Time Management and Organizing Schedule	99
5.4.3	Division of Work	100
5.4.4	Childcare Arrangements	101
5.5	Coping Strategies to Manage Work Responsibilities	103
5.5.1	Time Management and Proper Planning	103
5.5.2	Full Concentration during Working Hours	104
5.5.3	Flexibility in Working Hours	105
5.5.4	Settle Work after Kids Slept	106
5.5.5	Job Sharing at Workplace	107

5.6	Impact on Career after Marriage	107
5.6.1	Career Progress Slows Down	108
5.6.2	Difficulties to Switch to Different Working Place/Career Field	109
5.6.3	Career Development with Support from Husband	111
5.7	Decision to Pursue Higher Education after Marriage	112
5.7.1	Possibilities to Continue with Family's Support	113
5.7.2	Inspiration for Children or Self-Upgrade	114
5.7.3	Husband is Supportive for Women's Decision to Pursue Higher Education	116
5.7.4	Discontinued Studies Halfway	116
5.8	Decision to be Career Women after Marriage	117
5.8.1	Independence and Financial Security/Economic Situation	118
5.8.2	Power to Make Decision	119
5.8.3	Exposure to Outside World	120
5.8.4	Role Model for Children and to Create Self-Identity	121
5.8.5	Passion and Ambitious	122
5.9	Conclusion	123

CHAPTER 6 BARGAINING DOMESTIC CHORES

6.1	Introduction	124
6.2	Participation of Men in Domestic Work at Home	124
6.2.1	Most Husbands Provide Equal Contribution	125
6.2.2	Few Husbands Provide Less Assistance	126
6.2.3	Hire Maid to Manage Domestic Work	129

6.3	Perception on Traditional Gendered Division of Labour	130
6.3.1	Women Not Supportive Towards Traditional Gender Ideology	130
6.3.2	Women Practice Equality in Domestic Chores	132
6.3.3	Women Train Their Sons to do Housework	133
6.4	Impact on Women's Freedom after Marriage	136
6.4.1	Women Practice Informing for Basic/Simple Aspects	136
6.4.2	Differences in Practice for Men and Women	137
6.5	The Participation of Women in the Decision-Making in Household Matters	140
6.6	Comparison of Women with their Mothers in Managing Domestic Affairs	145
6.6.1	Mother was Full-Time Housewife	145
6.6.2	Mother was Handling Housework Alone	146
6.6.3	Mother Practiced Gender Bias Attitude Towards the Children	147
6.7	Conclusion	148

CHAPTER 7 WOMEN NEGOTIATING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING POWER IN THE FAMILY AND ITS IMPACT ON THEIR WELL-BEING

7.1	Introduction	150
7.2	Factors Influenced Women's Negotiation	150
7.2.1	Characteristics and Personality	150
7.2.2	Education and Employment	152
7.2.3	Type of Family or Family Upbringing	153
7.2.4	Role of Husband and Parents	155

7.3	Impact of Decision-Making Power on Women's Quality of Life	158
7.3.1	Women Feel Honoured and Respected	158
7.3.2	Importance of Recognizing Decision-Making Power of Women	160
7.4	Conclusion	161

CHAPTER 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1	The Overall Findings	163
8.2	Contribution of Research	171
8.2.1	Enriching the Literature on Decision-Making Power of Professional Indian Women	171
8.2.2	The Relevance of Patriarchy System is Diminished	172
8.2.3	Contributes to Empowerment of Indian Women	172
8.2.4	Practical Recommendation for the Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/Indian Associations	173
8.3	Limitations and Recommendation for Future Studies	174

REFERENCES	176
-------------------	-----

APPENDIX	195
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LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
3.1	Married Respondents by Age, Educational Level, Occupation and Number of Children	51
3.2	In-Depth Interviews Coding Sample	65

LIST OF FIGURES

No. Figures		Page
1.1	The Theoretical Framework	16
3.1	Locations of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor	46
3.2	Finding interviewees: Link between the researcher and the participant	52
3.3	Steps of Collecting Data	67

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

UPSI Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

APPENDIX LIST

- A Instrument Validation Form 1
- B Instrument Validation Form 2
- C Student Verification Letter to Conduct Research
- D Consent Form



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This study is about the participation of professional Malaysian Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on three aspects which are marriage (selection of future husband), career choice and domestic chores. The study explores the factors that may influence the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family and the power they had that might influence on their well-being. This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem statement as well as describes its research questions and objectives. This chapter also presents the significance of this study and followed by the explanation of the theoretical framework that will be used as guideline in the study. Next, it also presents the limitations of the study, the definition of primary terms, thesis structure and the conclusion of this chapter.

1.2 The Background of the Study

The role and status of women in Malaysia have undergone a tremendous change since Malaysia gained independence in 1957. Women are significant contributors to the country's socio-economic development. Over the years, the participation of women has increased abundantly in the economic sector and they consist of about half of the





total population. The rate of female labour force participation has increased from 45.9% in 2005 to 55.6% in 2015 (Labour Force Survey Report, 2019). The increased opportunities to gain education, entering into work force and changes in social-cultural environment has made Malaysian women to have progressed and participated effectively in all aspects of the development of the country (Ministry of Women and Family Development, 2003).

Nowadays, Malaysian women are projecting a positive and assertive image as they are involved in various occupations and decision-making positions in both public and private sectors. In 2011, female labour force participation according to race as follows; Malays (46.5%), Chinese (49.9%), other Bumiputera (43.7%) and Indians (43.4%). This shows that Indian women participation in the labour force was the lowest compared to their counterparts (Labour Force Survey Report, 2011). Even though the occupational segregation by gender is reducing but it still exists in some occupations. For instance, most of the women in the professional career are in the teaching and nursing line. In addition, although women have shown their leadership abilities in the workplace, community and organizations throughout the years, but they still remain quite far behind the men in terms of participation in decision-making in the family (Ministry of Women and Family Development, 2003).

Many decisions that affect the well-being of individuals are made within families or households. Women frequently face a lot of challenges in their efforts to acquire a level of authority that will enable independent decision-making. This is because they need to overcome family opposition and they have to deal with social constraints. Independent women in highly patriarchal societies like the Indian society are often subject to strong patriarchal controls which make them unable to fully





implement their preferences in ways that benefit their family (Desai and Johnson, 2005).

In Hinduism, women's role was stated in the Hindu law books such as the Dharma-Sastras whereby women play an important role in family to raise her children and teach them with traditional practices and customs. In marriage life, a woman must be sincerely devoted to her husband and she has to take care of the household duties and involve in religious rituals. The participation of Indian women in the family has certain limitations because men have more freedom and authority compared to the women (Pathak, 2019). Although Hindu tradition recognizes the importance of primary role of women as wives and mothers but it does not mean women do not have freedom to choose their paths for own self-development so that they can be treated with respect and honour in both their traditional and non-traditional roles (Rambachan, 2015).

Generally, Indian women are not able to exercise full autonomy because the presence of expectations due to culture norms that requires them to obey the role of a traditional woman so that it will not bring any embarrassment to the family. Thus, it is noted that the roles of family members are also influenced by cultural factors and therefore patriarchy have become part of the practice among Indian society which gives more advantage and control to men (Haldar, 2020).

Since men have a dominated position in Indian society, his superior status lead to control over women in the family which is also supported by religious, traditional and ideologies beliefs. So, this practice causes unequal decision-making power in the family between men and women (Batliwala, 1995). This shows that Indian women





have limited freedom according to the tradition which can be seen through the stages of women's life. At young age, a woman are under the control and protection of her father, after married she is under the protection of her husband whereby she acts as his partner, advisor and helper. Moreover, after having children, she nurtures and shapes her children's destiny (Pathak, 2019; Haldar, 2020).

The common practice of men being the primary breadwinner of the family and women confined in domestic work have been changed because women are taking up professional roles outside their homes. Thus, it has been helpful for Indian women to realize their capabilities and potential, to have a broader view of the outside world as well as able to find new path in their lives (Chouhan, Choudhary and Swarnakar, 2016).



Study shows that women have less autonomy in terms of decision-making



power and freedom of movement due to family patterns and gender tradition in South Asian countries (Mason, 1997). Women's decision-making power is often associated with a number of factors such as educational level, occupation, income, gender-based inequalities and patriarchy culture among the societies (Sultana, 2011). Moreover, studies have shown that there are differences in the aspect of women's decision-making power in the family according to ethnic and cultural groups (Yusof, 2015).

Besides that, there are some changes in the traditional Indian family system that give more importance to men due to educational level and financial independence which contributes to the changes of women's status and role in the family. This is because education attainment gives more awareness to an individual woman to come out of the traditional belief system and they begin to have realization about their rights





and decision-making ability. Therefore, this scenario has changed the perception regarding the role of men and women in the family as well as outside of home. Thus, transformation can be seen in the decision-making process in the family that used to give priority to men as the only person involved in the decision-making (Sarmah, 2015).

In addition, previous studies have shown that participation of women in the process of decision-making within the family are increasing and they are making decision equally with the men including decisions in many aspects (Titus, Sengupta and Madan, 2017). Therefore, this research purposes to study about the participation of professional Indian women in decision-making power in the family on the aspects of marriage (selection of life partner), career choice and domestic chores.



1.3 Problem Statement

Women play an important role in the welfare of the family in a developing country like Malaysia. The participation of women in the decision-making power has been noticed as one of the main factors that might influence on the well-being of the family (Safilios, 1983; Kim, Gutter and Spangler, 2017). The research on decision-making in the family has been largely focused on spouses because they are known as the important and relevant decision-making unit in a family (Kaur and Singh, 2006). Therefore, the active participation of women at all levels of decision-making is important so that can achieve equality and peace in the family.

In most of the third world countries, women's decision-making power is limited to gender perspectives and cultural settings. Similarly, patriarchal society exists in Malaysia where men hold traditional belief system, so the husbands are the





main breadwinners and decision-maker in a family. Although women are the household head in most of the families but they are rarely acknowledged as “co-providers” and decision-maker to the family economic well-being (Sultana, 2011).

Patriarchy in Indian society recognized men as the important person in the family and this contributes to his dominance and authority to control over women. Thus, men are known as main decision-maker in Indian families. This phenomenon became norm among the society due to several factors like negligence, expectancy and resources. Negligence happens at different levels of the society and not much opposition to the socio-cultural practice cause the typical mentality to sustain in the society and not giving equal rights and freedom for women as men (Tupe, 2014). Expectancy encourages patriarchy system to continue because women have been taught to behave in a particular way that will be accepted by the society. These cause women to have low self-confidence to live her life independently and always depend on men. The expectation of role that should played by women ranged from multiples aspects like role as a daughter, role as a wife, role as a daughter-in-law and role as a mother (Chowdhury and Patnaik, 2013).

Therefore, the patriarchy system has forced women to confine themselves in these roles that largely focused on household work, raising the children and taking care of husband and family elders. This gender roles expectation influenced the status of women in the family and thus affects their decision-making participation (Kapadia-Kundu, Khale, Upadhaye and Chavan, 2007). The next one is resources which can be divided into several aspects like economic status, educational level, occupation and earnings. Gender-biased stratification has caused unequal opportunities for women in those resources compared to men (Ramu, 2003). The participation of women in the





resources mentioned are very important factor that can enable women to be independent and explore the outside world based on her passion.

Moreover, most of the studies give importance to gender attitudes and norms that influence on women reproductive and family planning issues. Generally, in Indian societies men always play the dominant roles in decisions regarding family matters. Following this, Indian women usually expect their husbands to be the main decision-maker especially when making any important family decisions. In the patriarchal Indian societies, male superiority is accepted as part of the natural order of things. Thus, Indian women's gender ideology causes them to accept male authority in decision-making power within the family (Das Gupta et al., 2000). Therefore, gender issue is a serious concern in the process of family decision-making among Indians.



However, the pattern of Indian women's participation in the decision-making power in Malaysia has changed because the number of women entering the labor force is increasing. Although this belief is gradually breaking down with increased education and cultural globalization, husbands are still viewed as the main decision-maker in the family in some parts of this country. A study revealed that there are similarities between the Indian couples in India and Malaysia in the aspect of more power for the husbands to make decisions in the family compared to the authority that a woman have to participate in the decision-making (Ghuman, Lee and Smith, 2006).

A few studies argued that women with higher educational level, in good profession and strong economic resources have increased power in terms of decision-making in the family (Sarada Devi and Rayalu, 2003; Kumar and Negi, 2009; Sultana,





2011). This statement is also supported by Dasgupta (2016) who found the relationship between income and controlling of household's assets. The study showed that ownership of household assets and income is a power that determined household bargaining power of women. The study stated that income would strengthen women's bargaining power which influence in the family decision.

In addition, previous study states that education and financial independence of a woman increase the ability of decision-making compared to uneducated women. This is because education attainment helps to shape their way of thinking, behaviour and communication skills in an effective way to make decision (Nawaz, Ramzan, Muhammad, Bhatti and Nadeem, 2017). Furthermore, economic independence enhances the exposure of Indian working women which enable them to decide more rationally (Namdeo, 2017). Thus, it can be highlighted that education and economic independence are two important indicators that can increase the participation women in the decision-making process.

On the other hand, even though Indian women with higher educational attainment, working in professional sectors and good economic status have an increased power in terms of decision-making in the family, men still have dominant position to make the final decision in the family. This is because women themselves still expect their husband to make decision in the family due to influence of culture and religion (Das Gupta, et al., 2000).

Moreover, I want to explore decision-making power of professional Indian women in family based on personal interest. Based on my own experience, although I am a degree holder, teaching in a private university and have a stable economic status,





but I still expect my father to make the final decision in any important aspects in life. The same situation is happening among my relatives' and friends' families. This is mainly due to culture and practice of Indian family since a girl born until she becomes an adult.

As the saying goes, "You can take an Indian out of India but not the India out of the Indian". The caste system which originated from India is being applied in Malaysia. Based on my own experiences, I have seen certain Indian people who will not eat or drink water in low caste friends' homes. Caste system here is most evident when it comes to Indian matrimony. My sister was running a matrimony business which helps Indian men and women to find their soul mate. Unfortunately, she faced a big problem to match the couples because of the caste practice. Most of the Indian families are rejecting a male or female candidate from a lower caste although they have higher education level, in good job and have a high pay. Thus, it can be noted that caste system also can influence the decision-making power of Indian women in the family.

However, the tradition of patriarchy is changing in Malaysia because women are observed for negotiating with the patriarchal social norms in the society with their education and employment status in order to gain opportunities and right in the family. Moreover, women are rethinking the gender context of their lives and starting to accept equal division of labour at home. This bargaining with patriarchy definitely not an easy task for women because they need to challenge the norm in the society but it is necessary for them to create a position in the family. Besides, women need to negotiate with the common beliefs and practices in the society to create a space for





them in family so that it can contribute to a more equitable gender relations (Azmawati, Endut, Mohd Hashim, Selamat and Ying, 2017).

Therefore, this study will be able to explore how far an individual Indian woman working in professional sector with higher educational level and good economic status have authority to make decision and voice out regarding three important aspects in life which are marriage, career and domestic sphere within the family. Furthermore, in the Malaysian context, there are very less studies about the decision-making power of Indian women in the family. So, this study will be able to reveal the current scenario and practices in the Indian families in terms of decision-making when a woman has higher education, good profession and financial independence. In addition, the findings will be able to contribute to the current patriarchy practice and the changes that have occurred in Indian society and how professional Indian women bargain with patriarchy in order to participate in family decision-making. Based on the discussions above, the study poses four specific objectives as explained below:

1.4 Research Objectives

- To examine the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on the aspect of marriage (selection of life partner).
- To examine the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on the aspect of career choice.
- To examine the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on the aspect of domestic chores.



- To explore the factors that may influence the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family of the three aspects and the impact on their well-being.

1.5 Research Questions

To achieve these objectives, the research seeks to answer these questions:

- Are professional Indian women given an opportunity to participate in the decision-making power in the family?
- Are professional Indian women making an independent decision on the aspects of marriage (selection of life partner), career choice and domestic chores?
- What are the challenges they faced in making decision in regards to select life partner, to choose career and to make decision in domestic chores?
- What are the factors that influence on the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family?
- Does the decision-making power they have impact on their well-being?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The equal participation of women as men in the decision-making power in a family is very important to ensure the well-being of the family and a woman's well-being. At the same time, the right of women to be a decision-maker on the aspects of their decision regarding marriage (selection of life partner), career choice and domestic chores are also important so that they can be successful in their profession and lead a happy life. For this study, it will be able to examine the experiences of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family on the aspects of their



decision to select life partner, to choose career and to make decisions related to domestic chores.

Moreover, this study may also able to find out factors that influenced the professional Indian women's decision-making power and the impacts of decision-making power on their well-being. Therefore, this study is important particularly in helping the policy makers to enact any policy that may enhance the decision-making power among Indian women in Malaysia. Relevant steps can also be taken for the socio-economic development of the Indian family. Furthermore, this study will provide findings that can contribute to the literature on future studies related to gender, family and Indian women in Malaysia.

In addition, this study can help to reveal the current scenario of decision-making power of Indian women in their families and how far their educational level, occupational status and financial independence are helping them to participate equally in the decision-making. The findings from this study will able to motivate and encourages the future generation of Indian women to focus on the important indicators that can help to upgrade their position in the society which can contribute to the positive empowerment of women.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of patriarchy is an important concept in this study of participation of Indian women in decision-making power since patriarchy exists in all countries (Khurana, 2018). Bennett (2006) defines patriarchy as “a familial-social, ideological, political system in which men by force, direct pressure, or through ritual, tradition, law and language, customs, etiquette, education and the division of labor,





determine what part women shall or shall not play and in which the female is everywhere subsumed under the male”. Indian society is recognized as traditional patriarchal society that can be observed in the life cycle of an Indian woman. Indian women used to obey to their father’s decision when they are young and unmarried and then she has to follow her husband’s decision after married. Indian women are known as dependent entity in the family and her primary role is to nurture the children and take care of household duties (Rawat, 2014). However, changes have been observed when women start to challenge and bargain with the patriarchal practice in the society when they received higher education and have financial independence. These factors are changing the social phenomenon of the Indian society as women are negotiating to take part in the decision-making power in the family (Rao and Sankara, 2013).



Gender ideology can be classified as a set of beliefs system regarding the roles of men and women that considered as qualities of masculinity and femininity (Deaux, 1987; Khanam, 2003). This ideology creates an identification of a person through his masculine or her feminine characteristics that have become a norm. This ideology has been absorbed into the culture of society and it is being practiced through the socialization process that cause formation of „male gender roles“ and „female gender roles“ (Shichman and Cooper, 1984). Gender roles initiate expectations towards the characteristics of masculinity and femininity that are initiated and that have included in the socio-cultural values in a society (D’Acunto, Malmendier and Weber, 2020).

Moreover, the orientation of gender role is seen as ranging on a continuum from traditional gender role belief in which the roles of men and women are expected to be different and to a focus on non-traditional gender role belief categorised by role sharing between men and women (Aminah, 2005). It was fact that for a long-time





man were the one who worked to earn money for his family while the women were responsible only to do household chores and take care of the children at home (Abbott, Wallace & Tyler, 2005). However, this phenomenon has changed since women's participation in the labour force has increased all around the world. This scenario further contributed to the rise of dual-earner family and has become the norm in many societies (Davidson & Burke, 2004; Duxbury, Lyons and Higgins, 2007).

Manser and Brown (1980) presented a framework called bargaining approach which argues that the decision made in a household and the distribution of household resources are done through internal bargaining process by the family members. This theory explained that individual family members use their "bargaining power" which influenced by several aspects like their income, occupational status and educational level to negotiate between their partners to make decisions in the family (Pollak, 2005). There are many factors that influence a person's bargaining power regarding decision-making power in family but economic factor has been recognized as one of the important roles in this bargaining power balance (Friedberg and Webb, 2006).

Besides, it can also be noted that the bargaining power can be influenced by several factors including the social norm in the society (Agarwal, 1997). Thus, those traditional practices can become an obstacle in the bargaining power of women and stick to the ideology of men as main breadwinners and women as dependent. Therefore, the gender norms might be a constraint for women and limit their participation in the decision-making process. However, negotiation can be made to change the perspective of social norms and it can contribute to changes in the bargaining process. This is because women's decision-making power can be influenced by her contributions to the household finance and it can be considered as





one of the crucial factors in the bargaining process within the family. Moreover, women's earnings outside the house are an influential factor compared to their other contribution in terms of time and doing domestic chores. The bargaining power of women can also depend on their individual bargaining skills and the method they adopted during the negotiation. Thus, women's education and economic status have a positive influence which enables them to develop the skills for their bargaining power to take part in the decision-making process (Agarwal, 1997; Friedberg and Webb, 2006).

Decision-making power of women in the family has been looked upon as one of the important factors that can affect on well-being of the family (Safilios, 1983; Beatty and Lee, 2002). Research on decision-making in family has been largely focused on spouses, who have been considered as the relevant decision-making unit in a family (Kaur and Singh, 2006). Harcar, Spillan and Kucukemiroglu (2005) also defined family decision-making as the process of making decision which involves two or more family members directly or indirectly.

The participation of women in decision-making process is important for the welfare and well-being of the family but sometimes women are not consulted when men make decision regarding the family matters. However, the transformation in the traditional family system and the changing perspectives of women's role as well as the involvement of women inside and outside of the house enable women to take part actively in the decision-making (Chadda and Deb, 2013). Therefore, it can noted that Indian women with higher educational qualification and in professional occupation cause them to have greater exposure which leads them to voice out their wishes in the aspects of marriage, career and domestic chores (Rao and Sankara, 2013).



Therefore, this study explored professional Indian women's participation in decision-making power in family by bargaining with patriarchy and the women's coping mechanism as well as the factors that enable them to overcome patriarchal and gender role demand to gain more power to voice out their decision. In addition, the findings will reveal the changes that have occurred in the patriarchal system and division of labour at home in Indian families when women are using their bargaining power to negotiate in order to have equal participation in family decision-making.

Using this theoretical framework, it will guide me to investigate this study, which aims to examine the participation of professional Indian women in the decision-making power in the family.

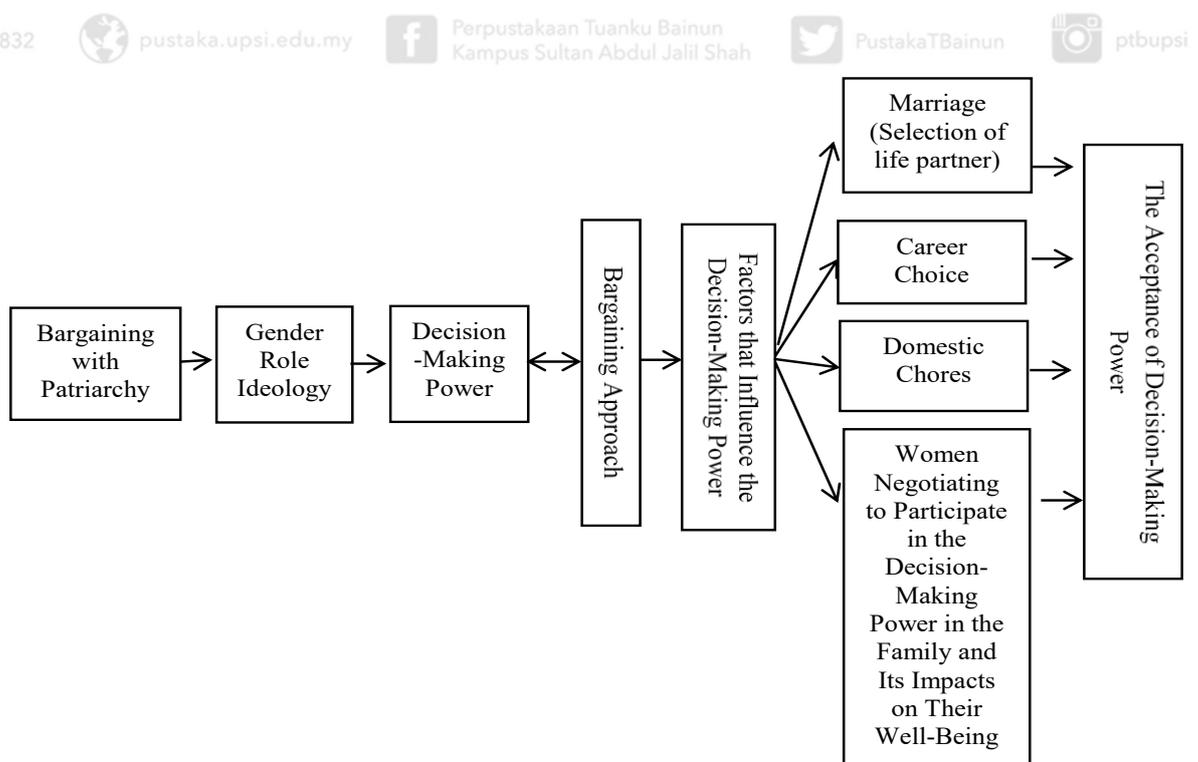


Figure 1.1. The Theoretical Framework



1.8 Limitation of Study

This study focuses on the participation of professional Indian women in decision-making power in family on the aspects of their decision to select life partner, to make career choice and to make decisions in domestic chores. This study has several limitations. The first limitation is only married Indian women are the respondents in this study. Following that, the criteria of the respondents are married Indian women who are between 25-40 years old, have children, hold any higher educational qualifications and working in the professional sectors. The second limitation is that this study only involves a small number of respondents, which are fifteen. This is because small number of samples increase the reliability and validity of the data collected because researchers will have repeated contacts and more involvement with the respondents (Dreher, 1994).



The third limitation of the study is that this study only carried out in two states in Malaysia which is Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. I choose Selangor because it is a state with highest number of populations consists of about 5.46 million than the other states in Malaysia. There are about 679,130 Indians in state of Selangor from the total population there. The fast development of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur as the capital of the country provide a lot of opportunities for those living there in different fields like economics, education, employment, business and others. (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2010; Cassey, 2019). However, the findings from this study cannot be generalized to all Malaysian Indian women.



1.9 Definitions

Professional

Professional means a person who is competent, skilled and knowledgeable in a particular activity to perform their specific role within that profession (Postema, 1980). In this study, the researcher will focus on the participation of professional Indian women in decision-making power in family.

Working Women

Working women are who earns a salary, wages or other income through regular employment (Folbre 1988). In this study, the researcher will focus on the decision-making power of working Indian women.

Decision-making

Decision-making refers to the process of making choices among possible alternatives (Furby and Beyth-Marom, 1992). In this study, the researcher will focus on the participation of professional Indian women in decision-making power in their family.

Family

A family can be referred as people who stay together in a group and they have close relationships and will form generations based on kinship (Cheal, 1988). In this study, the researcher will focus on the participation of professional Indian women in decision-making power in their family.

1.10 The Thesis Structure

There are total of eight chapters in this study.

Chapter one discusses about the background of the topic and the problem that is going to be studied. Furthermore, the objectives, the significance and the limitation of the study are stated in this chapter. Besides that, the definition of the key words about this study and the theoretical framework are also provided in chapter one.

Chapter two will provide the overview of the participation of women in decision-making power in family. The concept and theories related to decision-making power of professional Indian working women will be discussed in this chapter. Moreover, this chapter will also discuss about the previous studies that were done about the topic that is going to be researched.

Chapter three will provide the methodology that used in this study. Selection of the respondents, and the methods used for gathering the data will be discussed in this chapter. Moreover, the interview process and the steps involved in analyzing the data including transcription, translation and coding will be explained in this chapter.

Chapter four, five, six and seven will discuss the findings of the study using the data gathered through the in-depth interview that in relation to the objectives of the study. The data obtained through the interview will be presented according to the themes.

Chapter eight will present the conclusions. It will discuss the contributions, limitations of the study and recommendations for future research.

1.11 Conclusion

This chapter has identified and explained the research context. I have presented a brief overview of this study and the problem statement in related to the reasons why I want to conduct this study regarding the position and participation of Indian women in



decision-making process on the aspects that influence the well-being of women. Moreover, the objectives of the study that stated give a direction and focus to the research to get the relevant data. I also explained the theoretical framework which is important as well as a guideline to be used in exploring and understanding the topics about decision-making power of Indian women in family in Malaysia.

