

WOMEN AND WORK: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Domestic work is predominantly a female occupation. Before discussing the topic on women and domestic work I want to explain the term domestic work. The work that servants do includes cleaning (dusting, sweeping and mopping), scrubbing utensils, making beds, washing clothes, going to the market, shopping for food, cooking which includes grinding spices, chopping vegetables and sometimes serving meals, filling water buckets etc. I have done a survey work on women domestic workers of Kolkata to understand the real social and economic condition of the women domestic workers in present society. In this article I have portrayed the working condition of the domestic workers whom I have interviewed. Sucharita Halder, one of my respondents stated her daily routine. "I wake up at 7 am in the morning. I am a little slow but I am very neat and clean. I have to fetch water from a little distance. After that I have to prepare bread, make tea. Next I make rice. There is no limit in household work. I take my breakfast at 9:30 or 10 am in the morning. After finishing my everyday work I take my bath and have my lunch. After that I take rest. Generally I take my meal at 3 or 3:30 pm in the afternoon. I am habituated with all these. In the afternoon I take rest but I cannot sleep because I always think. I go to sleep at around 11 pm at night."

KEYWORDS: Work, Employers, Families, Money, Phuchka, Exploitation.