1.1. INTRODUCTION

History of any society is a standing proof for the fact that households have played a vital role in the economic activity of early stages of development by making villages self-sufficient. But traditional price theory in Economics has not recognised households as economic unit rather they have treated individuals and firms as basic economic units. Sen(1984)\(^1\) has rightly observed that in the standard theory of prices and equilibrium individuals and firms are visible but definitely no families.

It is only in mid 1960's that the households or families have found entry into economic analysis through the writings of Economists of Chicago and the interest in

economic activity taking place outside market has gained attention thereafter. The views expressed by Mincer (1960)\(^2\), Becker (1962)\(^3\) and Lancaster (1966)\(^4\) and others regarding utility function, marriage, divorce, fertility etc. have been clubbed together and christened as "New Home Economics" as they have given importance to households. This new approach has challenged the conception of household by traditional theory of value as mere consumption unit. The sociological variables also find place in economic analysis of household issues. This study tries to highlight some household economic and non-economic issues which bear economic implications in a tradition bound developing society.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Household is a basic social unit and it is considered as an institution based on kinship. From the point of view


of society, the function of a household is to preserve humanity for the persistence of society. From the point of view of culture, its function is to preserve the cultural norms and heritage. From the point of view of Economics, its function had been till 1960s - to buy and consume market supplied goods and services and to sell labour. Since 1960s this has changed. The function of the household is to buy market goods and produce at home, goods and services for direct consumption by household members. For this purpose time available to members is also utilised. The household is generally defined as an unit wherein the members living together share a common kitchen. In India, the same definition is given for a family which is based on kinship relation. Therefore, both terms are interchangeable.

In India, the process of producing goods and services at home for final consumption of the members of the household is wholly entrusted to women. Her economic contribution is no less significant than man's. Traditionally, they form an organic component of the working force of a country. In hunter-gatherer society they gathered fruits and vegetables; in pastoral society they reared cattle and marketed the products of cattle farming; in agricultural society they assisted men in family farms.
and in household enterprises. It is with the advent of Industrial Revolution, that is, when production shifted from household firms to factories, women were relegated to the background.

Industrial Revolution and automation were not gender specific but yet women were generally not permitted to operate machines and work in factories. As a result, factory production became male dominated and women became male dependent. The situation has not changed substantially in the developing countries. The non-economic norms of society fortify the secondary position of women. Women have been deprived of food, education, medical treatment and movement outside home. This resulted in social evils such as child marriage, sati, rape etc. Their contribution in their houses in terms of processing of food, storing grains, child caring and rearing and preserving ecological cleanliness have not been given due weightage because of male bias in attitude to jobs. Hence women's contribution remains invisible and they are considered as 'doing-nothing-beings'.

The awakening among women about their subordinate position blossomed with the dawn of the twentieth century. The doors of outside world were opened to them by the
First World War when men were replaced by women as the former were drafted to war front. Women started acquiring education, skill and training. The feminist movement gathered momentum and the ideology of equality spread. Laws to protect women were enacted. Women of all social classes were drawn into labour force. Hence women's entry into gainful employment is a natural development in western countries.

In India, the situation is different. The fight for gender equality was started and patronised by benevolent men like Raja Rammohun Roy, Mahatma Gandhi in the north and Periyar E.V. Ramasami, poets Bharathidasan and Bharathiyar in Tamil Nadu. This spirit underlies the Constitution of India. Art.14 of the Constitution ensures equality before law and Art:15 prohibits discrimination against sex, religion, race or place of birth etc. Art 15(c) empowers the states to make special provision for women and children.

India, since Independence has been experiencing changes in all dimensions - social, political and economic - due to implementation of five year plans and legislative measures. One such a change is the improvement in demographic quality due to spread of education especially among women. The industrial development and consequent development of tertiary sector have opened up more employment opportunities
for women in service sector. Planned efforts, Constitutional assurance and legislative measures have succeeded to a certain extent in destroying the traditional division of labour between sexes and in bringing about a competitive relationship between individuals as units of labour in an attempt to acquire a job. As a result for all jobs women and men are competing with one another, appear for competitive exams and attend interviews.

All working women do not constitute a single homogeneous group. Similarly each occupation has got its own contribution to society and therefore each occupation varies in degree in changing the socio-economic position of women. Policing is generally viewed as suitable for men. Entry of women into police force, therefore has been a 'favoured entry' - entry favoured by the government. As women in police force have a new role assigned to them, they are taken up as the subjects of the study.

Women's employment outside home is a change in the modern society. This change causes pleasure and pain to women themselves and to their households as household management has been entrusted to women in India. The pleasure is in the form of increased income of the household and resultant high standard of living. This is shared by
all members of the household. But the pain in the form of conflict in playing the dual roles falls heavily on women who do not head the household due to patriarchal social setup. Women's employment is approved because it lessens financial burden and raises standard of living. At the same time economic independence of women and disruption in home running are resented by all household members. Therefore, according to Nishol (1975) working woman has to either make personal gratification or curb her finer emotions.

Though women have become new breadwinners their traditional role of household caretaker has not been taken away from them. They try to integrate these two roles. Performance of these two roles results in problems to them. The problems become more acute when working hours are not fixed. Though by entering into police service, women have equal footing with men in areas till recently have been considered as non-feminine, their dual role creates problem because their working hours are not certain.

Therefore while analysing the pleasure of women's employment outside home in terms of improvement of their

levels of living and economic freedom, the problems in terms of role conflict and time apportionment are analysed in this study.

There is no study in Tamil Nadu so far dealing with the economic issues of women in police force.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study analyses the economic and non-economic issues of households of working women in police force of Tamil Nadu. The economic issues analysed are the reasons behind selection of job, levels of living of police women’s households, dependency ratio and expenditure pattern of households. The non-economic issues analysed are position of respondents in household decision making, the allocation pattern of time of respondents and the influence of household characteristics on these issues and the problem of role conflict and the influence of household characteristics on this non-economic issue. These non-economic issues have a bearing on the economic dimensions of the household.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the study is to highlight the
issues of households of working women by giving an economic treatment. For the purpose of analysis, this objective is split into specific objectives such as (1) to analyse the socio-economic background of the selected police women and to identify the reasons responsible for getting into their profession.

(2) to assess the levels of living of working women's households and the relative contributions made by the police women to their household economy.

(3) to assess the power of respondents in household decision making.

(4) to analyse the pattern of time allocation by police women and to find out the value of time devoted to household work.

(5) to identify the problem of respondents in discharging dual roles and the factors influencing it.

1.5 HYPOTHESES

The objectives are analysed with the help of the following hypotheses.

(1) Economic reason rather than non-economic factor influences job motivation.

(2) The levels of living of police women's households are influenced by their contribution to household income.
(3) The relative contribution made by police women to their household income and their decision making power are positively associated.

(4) Time spent by police women and other working women on household work is generally associated with their educational attainment and household characteristics such as household size, household economic condition expressed in terms of possession of kitchen equipment and presence of infant children.

(5) The role conflict faced by respondents is associated with socio-economic characteristics of households such as educational level of respondents, household size, possession of kitchen equipments and help from family members.

1.6 REFERENCE PERIOD

Information on household income and expenditure relate to Feb.'93 and March 93. The data on time allocation pertain to the week before the day of interview.

1.7 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Social scientists have observed that role of women in a nation is the most important one and no nation can afford to
ignore it. Vandanakumari (1989)\(^6\) feels that if a nation is to develop, it is essential that the basic standard of living of the people is elevated. This cannot be achieved unless women who constitute half of the nation's development is taken care of and women have adequate opportunities to be active participants in the development and become agents of change and beneficiaries at the same time.

Women's studies so far taken up, have concentrated on factors influencing labour force participation, socio-economic conditions, female migration, sex discrimination, effect of Government measures like Integrated Rural Development Programme on women, the decision making power, role conflict level etc. in isolation (not as a part of study of household economics) taking into account teachers, nurses, plantation workers, textile workers, agricultural workers, receptionists, telephone operators, married-unmarried women, working-non working women etc. This study conforms to the view of Snyder (1979)\(^7\) that the development of non-sexist career designed to


encourage women to explore careers open primarily to men, continues to be a part of women's studies. This also conforms to the general notion that the objective of women studies is to remove women's invisibility, highlight specific problems, reduce inequality and identify the powerlessness of women.

The household's economic conditions necessitate women to take up paid employment outside home. This results in some pains and pleasures. The household issues and women's issues have mutual influence on each other. This point is brought to the limelight by this study and thus it makes a plea for the synthesis of approaches to household issues and women's issues. As pointed out by Gittinger et al. (1990) a woman is the principal provider of care for household members. They do most of the work for the household to function. By analysing the influence of household characteristics on women's role, this study throws light on issues which need thorough change. Moreover, a study on police women would be important for police administration and for those who want to enter into new occupations.

This study has its relevance today, in view of the opening up of All Women Police Station at Madras in April 1992 by the Government of Tamil Nadu and its decision to open the same in each district Head-quarters and also in view of recruitment of women for defence services. Educated working women in India constitute a potential psychological, social, political and economic force. As such her economic-psycho-social impact particularly that of her attitude upon her household and the impact of her household on her position are of social interest which warrant comprehensive examination.

1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This is a micro study and therefore conclusions drawn can not be universal. It is not without the recall bias of the respondents. The value (or) scores assigned in scaling techniques are only arbitrary based on logical reasoning.

1.9. DESIGN OF THE STUDY

I Chapter - Introduction
This chapter explains the objectives, hypotheses, importance and limitations of the study and it also gives the chapter scheme.
II Chapter - Review of Literature
This chapter reviews the literature on police women and on the concepts analysed.

III Chapter - Concepts and Methodology
The data source, method of data collection and concepts analysed are dealt with in this chapter.

IV Chapter - Evolution of Police Force and Women Police Wings
In this chapter a general historical account on police force is given and the evolution of women police wings is also explained.

V Chapter - Profile of the Study Area.
This chapter gives the details about the area of study namely Tamil Nadu.

VI Chapter - Analysis of Socio-economic Background of Police Women
This chapter gives an account of the socio-economic background of respondents selected.
VII Chapter - Analysis of Household Economics of Police Women
The economic issues of police women’s households such as levels of living, economic dependency and expenditure pattern are analysed in this chapter.

VIII Chapter - Analysis of Household Decision Making, Time use Pattern and Role conflict
The role of police women in household decision making, time apportionment and role conflict they face are analysed in this chapter.

IX Chapter - Findings and conclusion
The findings of the study are summarised and conclusions are drawn in this chapter.

Annexure I - Reflections about Police Women.
Annexure II - Case studies
Appendix - Questionnaire
Bibliography.