CHAPTER II

THE STUDY

The Indian economy has witnessed a rapid growth in its business particularly after the commencement of the planned development in the country. As a corollary to this, the agriculture and rural economy has undergone a transformation from traditional lines of operations to commercial lines of operation. The educated and the elite in rural areas have migrated to urban centres searching for jobs and profitable business outlets where as the agricultural labourers and uneducated members of the rural India have been migrating to over populated urban centres and settling there mostly as workers in unorganised,industry or business. These immigrant masses causing a further drain on the urban unorganised labourers who are already in worse conditions of employment. In addition, the souring prices and increase in the family size compelled the female members to seek employment to compensate the rising cost of living of the family. Most of the female members of these families easily secured the job of house maid compared to other jobs even in unorganised sector.
Those people who migrated from rural centres and settled as employees in organised industry, business, Government departments etc., in urban centres are departed from their families. In view of this separation from the joint family, intensive adoption of family planning by this section and consequent absence of assistance by the children to the housewives, increasing burden on housewives in attending to the multifarious activities like looking after education, health and development of the children, increasing complexities in urban centres particularly in getting necessary articles and provisions, changing habits, tastes, preferences and fashions of the family members in all respects and their consequent effect on the responsibilities of the housewives compelled them to depend on the assistance of outsiders. Added to this the increasing career orientation of women and their active role in different jobs, occupations and social organisation compelled them to depend heavily on Servant maids. These factors plus engaging the Servant maid as a status symbol by some of the housewives contributed to the galloping demand for servant maids. In view of this increase in demand for engaging servant maids, most of the downtrodden section of the unorganised sector of the urban area and migrated rural labourers have been getting employment as housemaids or servants.
DOMESTIC SERVICE

Domestic Service is one among the earliest of occupations and in a pre-industrial setting, it is the most universal. In modern times domestic service often serves as a mirror of the socio-economic conditions in that society. It stands as a statement on its cultural ethos, its economic state and the position of women in that society.

Domestic service is a common issue both in India and abroad. It has its stark aspect. It has been documented that in Columbia and South American cities draw their domestic servants from the countryside and hold them in virtual bondage. The Philippines are engaged in a "warm body export", including women as domestics, to over one hundred countries of the World with active co-operation between Government Agencies and Travel Agents. There are 25,000 au pair foreign domestic workers in Britain; Employment agencies thrive on the needs of the house hold worker and the employer. Two out of three Latin American women who emigrate to find work end up as domestic workers and maids. The region has the World's highest percentage of house hold employees. Thousands leave Ecuador, Colombia and Panama each year to find domestic jobs in Venezuela. Scattered documentation testifies that in the US poor, illegal, aliens work as domestics; Cambodian refugees, and natives of
the West Indies and Mexico serve as live in maids; missionaries and diplomats return home with live-in domestics. Historically speaking, after the demise of feudalism in Europe, domestic service became the chief occupation of the poorest elements among free labourers. In London in the eighteen forties a large portion of the destitute women and prostitutes were domestic servants.

Thus the term domestic servant is not new, the elite of earlier centuries too enjoyed the free services of slaves. The Kings, Jagirdars, Money-lenders and Businessmen all had a claim of the free services of forced and bonded labour. After Independence, the practice of slavery was abolished. But the master instinct of man did not die; and today it is reflected in the form of domestic servants, which bears stigma of slavery. Today neo-rich regard domestic servants as a status symbol and working women as a helping hand. It has resulted in their mushrooming growth especially in urban centres. In India as a whole, there were 396, 383 females engaged in domestic service in 1981 of which 302, 397 or 76.3 per cent were in urban areas.
NEED FOR THE STUDY

The relationship between the House wife and Servant maid was said to be cordial when the house wives were in a position to pay most part of the remuneration in kind, when the prices were low and when the living standards of the most of the people were below the poverty line. But this situation has changed owing to raising prices and payment of wages mostly in the form of money. Further shifting of some workers from unorganised sector to organised sector and consequent rise in their wage lead to a greater amount of dissatisfaction among the servant maids. Similarly, the house wives have also been dissatisfied with the servant maids because of several reasons. It was the cumulative impact on the family members of the House wife and Servant maid, on their work behaviour and on their behaviour in different spheres.

In view of this background, an attempt is made to study the relationship between House wives and Domestic Servants, to enquire into their socio-economic conditions, their problems, reasons for it and therefore to suggest measures for the creation and maintenance of congenial relations between House wives and Servant maids. This would be of immense value to maintain harmonious employment relations among several sections of the unorganised sector.
We confine our analysis to Anantapur town, an economically backward area, where the migrants from the neighbouring villages are constantly increasing due to drought and famine and are invariably engaged in domestic service. This town is a district head-quarter with number of Government Offices and also is centre for Higher Education. People are constantly migrating to the area due to their educational necessities and consequent result is the need for more servants.

METHODOLOGY

Domestic Servants are the people irrespective of age and sex, employed for the discharge of domestic work, on payment in kind and cash. In the present sample (or study), all the domestic servants constituted females only. So the term "Servant maid" is used for the analysis. The servant maids in all the residential areas were identified and a list is prepared. From this list one hundred and ten Servant maids were selected on stratified random sample basis (age, community, education, place of domicile, number of family members, occupation and income group as criteria). One hundred and ten House wives with whom the sample servants work were also selected on stratified random sample basis.
The socio-economic background of House wives and the experiences regarding their relationship with the Servant maids were ascertained by means of a questionnaire. Similarly, socio-economic background, employment, working conditions of Servant maids and their relationship with the House wives were collected with the help of a separate schedule and interview technique, opinions, information and data thus supplied by each group were verified. The respondents were interviewed in confidence to procure the unbiased opinions and information from the two parties.

OBJECTIVES

In this dissertation, we aim at bringing into lime light the relation between House wives and Servant maids and their problems; so as to awaken the policy makers, planners, legal luminaries, administrators to check their gloomy state.

The main objectives of the present study are given below:

1) To examine the socio-economic background of House wives and Servant maids.

2) To study the employment and working conditions of servant maids.
3) To identify the problems of the Servant maids and also to know the interactional issues between House wives and Servant maids.

Also we suggest some remedial measures to improve the conditions of domestic servants, which might attract the attention of policy makers, administrators, different service organizations, to probe into the situation and implement a few of these measures and to create new avenues for the upliftment of domestic servants.

TOOLS OF ANALYSIS

The collected data was processed and analysed. The edited and coded data were analysed by means of frequency tables. Most of the variables were subjected to simple statistical tools such as averages and percentages.

NATURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PRESENT WORK

The presentation of the dissertation begins with a comprehensive coverage of nature of unorganised labour, its role in economy, women in unorganised sector, and a review of literature on the unorganised labour and domestic servants.
Chapter II deals with methodology of the study where in a brief sketch about the problem, the need for the study, the objectives, data base, sampling, data collection and analysis procedure is given. Chapter III is devoted to describe the socio-economic background of both House wives and the Servant maids. Chapter IV presents the employment and working conditions of Servant maids. Relations and problems of servant maids are included in the Chapter V. The last chapter highlights the summary and conclusions with suggestions. A selected bibliography is also provided at the end.
References
