



# Financial Issues Faced By Single Professional Women In Urban India

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## Abstract

This study investigates the financial challenges faced by 180 single professional women aged 40 to 60 years in Udaipur City. It explores various aspects such as income inadequacy, economic security, and dependency on family, workplace discrimination, property rights, and qualifications. Using primary data and statistical analysis, this article highlights age-wise variations and provides insights to inform policy and societal reforms aimed at economic empowerment.

## Introduction

Single professional women in India, particularly in urban regions, encounter distinct financial challenges due to the interplay of gender norms, professional barriers, and socio-economic dependencies. While increased education and employment opportunities have empowered many, patriarchal structures, income disparity, and lack of familial support often exacerbate financial struggles. This paper aims to explore these issues systematically, grounded in empirical data and supported by existing literature.

## Review of Literature

Batar (2022) emphasized that urban single women struggle economically due to limited income and social expectations. Gupta (2022) noted that dependence on family members for basic needs remains prevalent, especially among younger single women. Nussbaum (2000) highlighted the persistent inequality in access to property rights for women globally. Kundu (2018) and Kumari (2014) both observed that women's qualifications significantly impact their job quality and income level, a trend consistent across developing economies.

## Objectives of the Study

- To identify key financial issues faced by single professional women.
- To analyze variations in financial challenges across age groups.

## Research Methodology

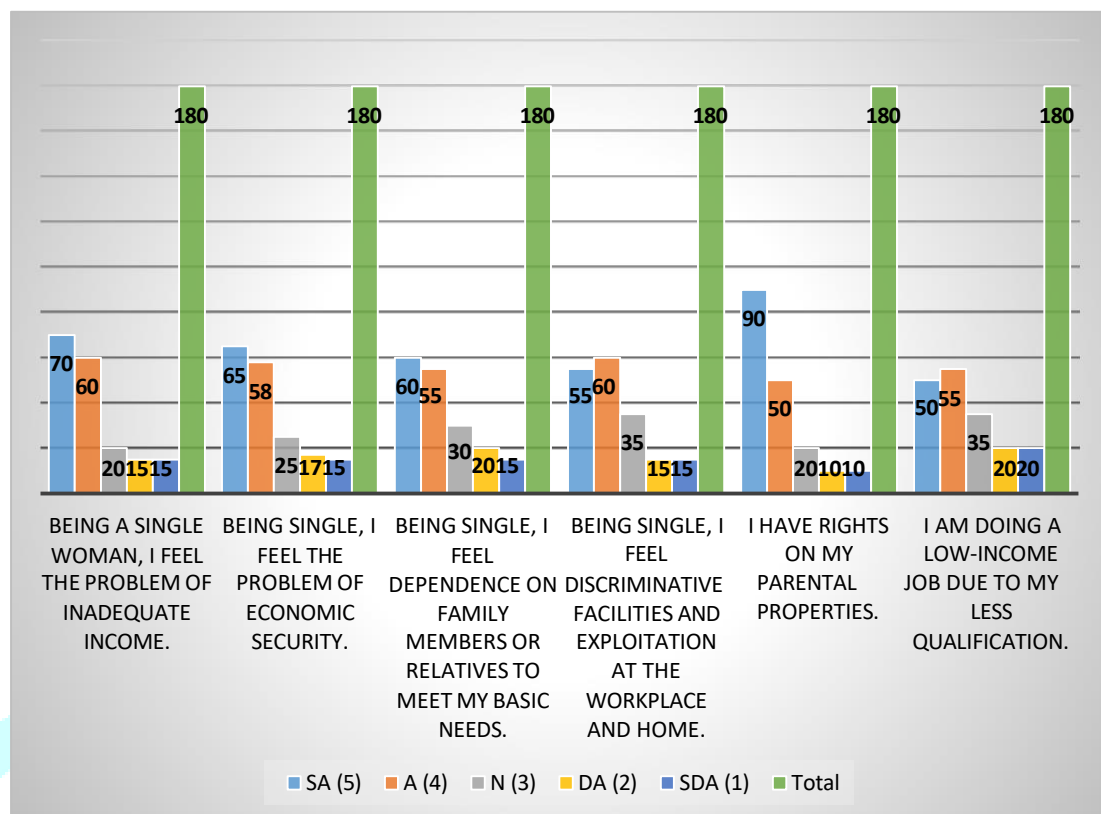
The study used a descriptive survey design. A structured questionnaire using a 5-point Likert scale was administered to 180 single professional women aged between 40–60 years in Udaipur City. Stratified random sampling was used, and SPSS software was employed for data analysis, including descriptive statistics and ANOVA.

## Data Analysis and Interpretation

Tables present the analysis of financial issues across parameters like income, security, dependency, and qualifications. Findings reveal economic insecurity and low income are major concerns regardless of age group, while property rights and perceived barriers due to qualification varied significantly by age.

**Table 1- Financial issues**

S. No	Financial Issues	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	DA (2)	SDA (1)	Total
1	Being a single woman, I feel the problem of inadequate income.	70	60	20	15	15	180
2	Being single, I feel the problem of economic security.	65	58	25	17	15	180
3	Being single, I feel dependence on family members or relatives to meet my basic needs.	60	55	30	20	15	180
4	Being single, I feel discriminative facilities and exploitation at the workplace and home.	55	60	35	15	15	180
5	I have rights on my parental properties.	90	50	20	10	10	180
6	I am doing a low-income job due to my less qualification.	50	55	35	20	20	180

**Graph 1- Frequency graph of Financial issues**

The financial issues faced by single professional women in Udaipur City, as reflected in Table 1 and Graph 1, highlight the significant challenges they encounter. The issue of inadequate income is perceived as the most pressing financial challenge, with 70 women strongly agreeing (SA) and 60 agreeing (A) with the statement. This aligns with findings by Batar (2022), who pointed out that single women often experience economic struggles due to limited income, especially in urban settings. Similarly, the concern about economic security is also a major issue, with 65 women strongly agreeing and 58 agreeing. This concern has been echoed by Custodio and Siy (2017), who discussed how single women's financial insecurity is exacerbated by the absence of a stable familial or spousal income.

Furthermore, the dependence on family members or relatives to meet basic needs is another prominent issue, with 60 women strongly agreeing and 55 agreeing. This reliance on external support is consistent with the findings of Gupta (2022), who noted that single women often face dependency on family for financial stability, reflecting a broader societal expectation for women to remain supported by their families. Discriminatory practices and exploitation at the workplace and at home were reported by 55 women as strongly agreeing and 60 as agreeing, highlighting a pervasive issue of gender-based economic discrimination. This corresponds with the work of Blumberg and Dwarki (1980), who examined how women's economic opportunities are often curtailed by societal and workplace biases.

Interestingly, the right to parental properties was affirmed by 90 women, with a significant number (50) agreeing that they have rights to such assets, yet only a small proportion expressed disagreement. This reflects the ongoing struggle for women's property rights in patriarchal societies, a topic discussed by Nussbaum (2000), who argued that women's access to property and resources remains restricted in many parts of the world. Lastly, a substantial portion (50 women strongly agreeing, 55 agreeing) reported doing low-income jobs due to lower qualifications, a situation which mirrors the broader societal trend where women, particularly in urban areas, are often confined to lower-paying jobs unless they possess high qualifications or social capital (Kumari, 2014; Das, 2000).

Thus, the financial challenges identified in this study are consistent with global research on the struggles of single professional women, who must navigate a complex interplay of economic insecurity, workplace discrimination, familial dependence, and limited career opportunities. Coping with these challenges often requires resilience and support systems, both personal and professional, to address the inequities faced by these women (Anderson, 1992; Lewis & Borders, 1995).

To find the significant relationship among various age groups of women regarding perceptions of Financial issues faced by them in Udaipur city, with respect to family and societal factors following hypothesis is framed;

H<sub>02</sub>: "There is no statistically significant difference among various age groups of women regarding perceptions of **Financial** issues faced by them in Udaipur city, with respect to family and societal factors."

H<sub>A2</sub>: "There is a statistically significant difference among various age groups of women regarding perceptions of **Financial** issues faced by them in Udaipur city, with respect to family and societal factors."

**Table 2- Descriptive table of Age groups and Financial issues faced by challenges of single Professional women**

S. No.	Parameters	Age Groups	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
8	Being a single woman, I feel the problem of inadequate income	40-45	60	1.43	0.5
		45-50	60	1.47	0.503
		50-55	60	1.47	0.503
		Total	180	1.46	0.499
9	Being single, I feel the problem of economic security	40-45	60	1.53	0.503
		45-50	60	1.5	0.504
		50-55	60	1.6	0.588
		Total	180	1.54	0.532
10	Being single, I feel dependence on family	40-45	60	1.73	0.733
		45-50	60	1.48	0.504

	members or relatives to meet their basic needs	50-55	60	1.7	0.766
		Total	180	1.64	0.683
11	Being single, I feel discriminative facilities and exploitation at the work-place and home.	40-45	60	1.75	0.773
		45-50	60	1.67	0.795
		50-55	60	1.62	0.691
		Total	180	1.68	0.752
12	I have rights on my parental properties.	40-45	60	3.32	0.725
		45-50	60	3.33	0.629
		50-55	60	3.87	0.747
		Total	180	3.51	0.744
13	I am doing a low-income job due to your less qualification.	40-45	60	1.6	0.669
		45-50	60	1.57	0.593
		50-55	60	2.02	0.77
		Total	180	1.73	0.708

Table 2 displays the financial issues faced by single professional women in Udaipur City across three age groups. Regarding the problem of inadequate income, the mean scores are relatively consistent across all age groups, with values ranging from 1.43 to

1.47. The total mean score is 1.46, suggesting that the issue of inadequate income is a concern for women in all age groups. This finding is in line with the work of Ali (2011), who found that economic challenges related to income were commonly reported by women in similar professional settings.

When it comes to economic security, the mean scores increase slightly with age, with the 50-55 age group showing the highest mean score of 1.60. The total mean score of

1.54 indicates that economic security is a significant issue for these women. This is consistent with the findings of Fong and Amatea (1992), who highlighted that economic insecurity often becomes more pronounced for women as they grow older, particularly when they face challenges related to financial independence.

The dependence on family members or relatives to meet basic needs is most pronounced in the 40-45 age group, which has the highest mean score of 1.73. The total mean score of 1.64 reflects the general trend of moderate dependence on family. This aligns with findings by Gupta (2022), who noted that single women, particularly those in the earlier stages of adulthood, often find themselves more reliant on family support to meet their financial needs.

For the issue of discriminatory facilities and exploitation at the workplace and home, the mean scores show that the 40-45 age group experiences the highest level of discrimination, with a mean score of 1.75. The total mean score of 1.68 indicates that discrimination remains a notable issue for all age groups, although slightly less so in the older groups. This mirrors the concerns discussed by Blumberg and Dwarki (1980), who argued

that women frequently face both overt and subtle forms of discrimination, particularly in professional environments.

In terms of rights to parental properties, the mean scores increase as women age, with the 50-55 age group reporting the highest score of 3.87. The total mean score of 3.51 suggests that, while many women feel they have rights to their parental properties, this perception is stronger in older women. Nussbaum (2000) discussed how women's access to inheritance rights often varies with age and legal reforms, and this data supports the notion that older women may have more autonomy in claiming their rightful property.

Therefore, the issue of doing low-income jobs due to lower qualifications shows a marked difference between age groups. The 50-55 age group reports the highest mean score of 2.02, reflecting that older women feel more constrained by their qualifications in terms of income. The total mean score of 1.73 further suggests that the perception of being underqualified for higher-paying jobs is a significant concern for single professional women. This is consistent with the findings of Kundu (2018), who noted that women's career advancement often faces barriers related to their qualifications, particularly in mid-to-later adulthood.

**Table 3- ANOVA table of Age groups and Financial issues**

S. No.	Parameters		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
8	Being a single woman, I feel the problem of inadequate income	Between Groups	.044	2	.022	.088	.916
		Within Groups	44.600	177	.252		
		Total	44.644	179			
9	Being single, I feel the problem of economic security	Between Groups	.311	2	.156	.547	.580
		Within Groups	50.333	177	.284		
		Total	50.644	179			
10	Being single, I feel dependence on family members or relatives to meet their basic needs	Between Groups	2.211	2	1.106	2.406	.093
		Within Groups	81.317	177	.459		
		Total	83.528	179			
11	Being single, I feel	Between Groups	.544	2	.272	.478	.621



	discriminative facilities and exploitation at the work-place and home.	Within Groups	100.767	177	.569		
		Total	101.311	179			
12	I have rights on my parental properties.	Between Groups	11.744	2	5.872	11.913	.000
		Within Groups	87.250	177	.493		
		Total	98.994	179			
13	I am doing a low-income job due to your less qualification.	Between Groups	7.544	2	3.772	8.131	.000
		Within Groups	82.117	177	.464		
		Total	89.661	179			

Table 3 displays the ANOVA results for the financial issues faced by single professional women across different age groups. For the issue of inadequate income, the F value is 0.088 with a p-value of 0.916, which is not statistically significant. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the perceptions of inadequate income across different age groups. This finding is supported by the work of Amjad and Afreen (2018), who observed that income-related issues were similarly experienced by women, regardless of their age.

Regarding economic security, the F value is 0.547 with a p-value of 0.580, showing that there are no significant differences in how the women perceive their economic security across age groups. This result resonates with the findings of Batar (2022), who emphasized that economic security is a prevalent concern for women in urban areas, without marked variation between age groups.

For the issue of dependence on family members or relatives to meet basic needs, the F value is 2.406 with a p-value of 0.093, which is close to being statistically significant. However, the result is not definitive enough to conclude that the level of dependence varies significantly by age group. This trend aligns with the findings of Kundu (2018), who noted that younger single women tend to rely more on family support, though the differences across age groups were not always statistically significant.

The issue of discriminatory facilities and exploitation at the workplace and home has an F value of 0.478 and a p-value of 0.621, which is not statistically significant. This suggests that the experience of discrimination and exploitation is similar across the different age groups. This is in agreement with the research of Shahrak

et al. (2022), who found that workplace discrimination remains a persistent challenge for women of all ages.

For the issue of rights to parental properties, the F value is 11.913 with a p-value of 0.000, which is highly significant. This indicates a statistically significant difference across age groups, with older women perceiving a stronger entitlement to parental property. This finding aligns with Gandhi et al. (2016), who highlighted that older single women often experience a greater recognition of their rights to inheritance and property.

The aspect of low-income jobs due to lower qualifications has an F value of 8.131 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating a significant difference among age groups. Older women are more likely to report that their lower qualifications limit their income opportunities. This result supports the findings of Whitmarsh et al. (2007), who noted that the educational qualifications of women significantly impact their earning potential, especially in mid-to-later adulthood.

The ANOVA results show that while most financial issues do not exhibit statistically significant differences across age groups, the issues of rights to parental properties and low-income jobs due to qualifications demonstrate significant age-related differences, highlighting the evolving financial challenges faced by women as they age.

## Discussion

The study's findings affirm earlier research: financial insecurity, despite growing employment among single women, is influenced by entrenched societal and professional biases. Rights to parental property emerge more salient among older women, reflecting shifting norms and awareness. Discrimination at workplaces, though widely reported, showed minimal age-based variance, suggesting a systemic issue across generations.

## Recommendations

- Implementation of gender-neutral property rights enforcement.
- Skill development programs for mid-career women.
- Financial literacy drives tailored to single women professionals.
- Workplace reforms and grievance redressal mechanisms against exploitation.
- Legal aid and counselling services for inheritance and job security issues.

## Conclusion

Single professional women continue to face multi-layered financial challenges exacerbated by socio-cultural pressures, gender-based biases, and economic instability. Policy attention, organizational reforms, and societal support are essential to empower this demographic group towards equitable financial well-being.



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