

Financial, Emotional, and Physical Support Dynamics for Left-Behind Wives: A Comparative Analysis of Parental Roles in Male-Migrated Families

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Abstract

This study investigated the role of parental and parental-in-law support for left-behind women in male-migrated families in India. The study specifically examined the financial, emotional,

and physical support provided by both parents and parents-in-law, and how these forms of support influence the overall well-being of left-behind women in male migrated families. The study used a descriptive research design with a sample of 417, all of whom are wives of male migrants. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire, and the findings indicate a significant role of both parents and parents-in-law in various forms of support. Parents primarily focus on financial assistance related to children's welfare, while parents-in-law offer considerable emotional and physical support, especially in areas of healthcare and household management. The results underscore the importance of both tangible and emotional forms of support, with physical support having a more significant influence on financial aid.

Keywords: Left-behind women, male migration, parental support, emotional support, physical support, financial support, familial dynamics, India.

Introduction

The male migration has transformed households and communities across developing nations, particularly in regions where traditional gender roles remain deeply entrenched. With men migrating abroad in search of better economic opportunities, women are often left behind to manage the household, children, and, in many cases, the family's economic affairs (Dannecker, 2005). The lives of these women are profoundly affected by this demographic change, which also greatly influences their decision-making autonomy, positions inside the family, and social status (Singh, 2018). While male migration can provide women more freedom and responsibility, it also brings challenges that might intensify their vulnerability, social isolation, economic dependence and psychological stress.

Studies show that women, especially those who handle remittances from abroad, acquire more control over household expenses (Hadi, 2001). Increased status in the home and increased influence over daily decisions can follow from this newly acquired control for women. Nonetheless, several elements affect women's degree of autonomy: the length of male travel, remittance patterns, and general cultural standards. Sometimes women may momentarily acquire decision-making authority, but upon the return of the male migrant this autonomy may be limited or inverted (Asis et al., 2004). Women's financial choices could still be under

observation or influence of extended family members even in cases of male absence, therefore restricting their degree of autonomy (Rao, 2012).

While some women gain autonomy, they also face significant burdens in the absence of their male relatives. The responsibilities of household management, agricultural labor, or running family businesses can weigh heavily on women (De Haas & Van Rooij, 2010). In many cases, they must simultaneously fulfill traditional gender roles, such as caregiving, while stepping into roles previously held by men, resulting in role overload. This added workload often leads to physical and emotional strain, as women navigate increased expectations both within the household and in the broader community. Moreover, these shifts often occur in socio-cultural contexts that resist changes in gender norms, further complicating women's roles. Patriarchal structures may continue to impose restrictions on women's autonomy, even as they take on additional responsibilities. Women are also vulnerable to social isolation and stigmatization, particularly in more conservative communities where the absence of male protection may expose them to exploitation or moral judgment (Rahman, 2009).

Research shows that the impact of male migration on women is far from uniform, with outcomes varying depending on the socio-economic and cultural contexts of their communities. On one hand, studies have demonstrated that women left behind often gain more autonomy in decision-making, particularly in financial and household matters. For instance, they may assume control over remittances sent by their migrant husbands or make key decisions regarding their children's education and healthcare (Desai & Banerji, 2008). This shift can empower women, giving them a greater sense of agency and responsibility within the family unit. However, this newfound autonomy often comes at a cost. The dual burden of managing household responsibilities and stepping into roles traditionally held by men can result in role overload, increased stress, and emotional strain (De Haas & Van Rooij, 2010). Moreover, patriarchal norms in many societies restrict the extent to which women can fully capitalize on their expanded roles.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the diverse roles that parents and parents-in-law play in supporting left-behind women in male-migrated families, focusing on financial, emotional, and physical dimensions of support. The study seeks to evaluate how these support systems function within family structures and how they influence the well-being of the women who remain behind when male family members migrate for work. Furthermore, the research aims

to understand the interplay of various support forms and their respective impacts on the lives of these women, particularly in terms of financial assistance and caregiving.

Review of Literature

According to the study by (Matz & Mbaye, 2023) on the relationship between male migration and the autonomy of left-behind women in Ethiopia suggests that male migration can enhance opportunities for women to gain autonomy like self-determination, decision making power and the ability to protest one's interest in traditional societies. Household structure significantly impacts the autonomy and duty of left-behind women, with those not living in joint families enjoying greater autonomy and bearing higher responsibility (Desai & Banerji, 2008). An investigation into male labor migration from the Dehradun district highlighted the social resilience of left-behind wives. The study found that these women often develop coping mechanisms and social networks to manage the challenges posed by their husbands' absence (Cagliani et al., 2023)

A study conducted by (Shattuck et al., 2019) amongst the Nepali married left-behind women living with their in-laws examined variables such as reproductive health services, fertility awareness, and decision-making power. The findings revealed that these women scored lower on the fertility awareness index, were less likely to engage in discussions about pregnancy planning with their spouses, and were less likely to describe their relationships positively. Another review among Mexican population shed light on impact of male migration on sexual and reproductive health issues especially leads increase in HIV ratio (Fernández-Sánchez et al., 2021).

A study on the impact of male migration in rural Bangladesh found that the absence of the primary male figure empowered left-behind women to some extent, particularly in terms of asset ownership. However, despite this increased ownership, there was no significant improvement in their decision-making authority regarding the productive use of these resources. The study also noted that these women experienced reduced domestic abuse from other household members in the absence of their husbands (Fakir & Abedin, 2021). A study utilizing data from the Indian Human Development Survey (2004–2005 and 2011–2012) found that left-behind wives reported lower self-rated health compared to wives of non-migrants. This

negative health impact was partly attributed to low remittances and increased responsibilities, such as animal care and financial management. Interestingly, for women in nuclear families, increased autonomy associated with their husbands' migration partially mitigated these negative health effects (Lei & Desai, 2021)

Another study examines the experiences of women in Nepal left behind by transnational male migrants. It highlights both positive impacts, such as increased decision-making authority and participation in social and political activities, and challenges like increased domestic workloads and emotional strain. The research proposes a Women Empowerment Index to compare households and underscores the nuanced outcomes of male migration (Koirala, 2023). The left-behind women take on the role of household heads, managing responsibilities such as their children's education and economic matters. However, the patriarchal authority largely remains with their in-laws (Kaur, 2018) .

Other research highlighted about how male migration enhances female autonomy, particularly in decision-making and self-determination by using data from Ethiopia. The study also addresses the role of remittances in improving the economic and social positioning of these women while highlighting the methodological importance of addressing endogeneity in such research (Matz & Mbaye, 2017). A study assessing the food security implications of male out-migration for rural households headed by women found that the absence of men can lead to both challenges and opportunities. While remittances may improve financial stability, the increased workload on women can impact household food security (Choithani, 2020).

Research focusing on Tamil Nadu examined the challenges faced by left-behind wives in parenting during their husbands' international migration. The study highlighted the increased responsibilities and decision-making burdens on these women, affecting family dynamics and child-rearing practices (Arokkiaraj Heller, 2024). Research based on the India Human Development Survey 2005 examined the impact of husbands' migration on women's autonomy and labor force participation. The findings suggest that household structure is a key mediating factor. Women not residing in extended families experienced both higher levels of responsibility and greater autonomy, while those in extended households did not encounter these demands or benefits (Desai & Banerji, 2008).

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the financial support provided to left-behind women by parents and parents-in-law.
2. To assess the emotional support offered by parents and parents-in-law.
3. To evaluate the physical support rendered by parents and parents-in-law for the left over women's in male migrated family.
4. To compare the overall relationship with parents and parents-in-law in terms of financial, emotional, and physical support provided to left-behind wives.
5. To examine the influence of physical and emotional support on the financial support rendered by parents and parents-in-law to wives in male-migrated families.

Methodology

The study employed a descriptive research design, which aims to provide an accurate representation of the characteristics, behaviours and opinions of the left behind women in India. 45 wives of male migrants participated to check the validity and reliability of the questionnaire. The Cronbach's alpha values lie between 0.79 and 0.90 ensures the strong validity and reliability of questionnaire. Subject experts confirmed the content validity and minor word modifications were done for the clarity. The final survey instrument consists of 47 questions, grouped into three sections: 11 demographic questions were included in first section to understand the background of the respondents, while the second section comprises 14 questions to measure the extent of decision-making power the left behind wives possess and 22 questions in the third section delve into the familial support.

A convenience sampling method was used to select the participants. This non-probability sampling technique was chosen because of its ease of access to participants. To overcome the bias, researchers ensured diversity in the demographics. The structured questionnaire was distributed among 462 potential samples and 428 responses were received. After a thorough data cleaning process 417 valid responses were utilized for this study.

Analysis and Interpretation

The Table 1 presents a percentage analysis of the demographic profile of respondents from families affected by male migration. The data highlights the distribution of participants across various categories, including age, education, employment, income, and place of residence, offering insights into their socio-economic background.

Table No. 1: Percentage Analysis – Demographic Profile

		Frequency	Percent
Age group	< 20 years	12	2.9
	21 – 30 years	210	50.4
	31 – 40 years	88	21.1
	41 – 50 years	79	18.9
	51 – 60 years	12	2.9
	> 60 years	16	3.8
	Total	417	100.0
Education	Schooling	27	6.5
	UG / Diploma	297	71.2
	PG and above	93	22.3
	Total	417	100.0
Employment	Govt. organization	5	1.2
	Homemaker	40	9.6
	Private organization	215	51.6
	Retired	41	9.8
	Self-employed	37	8.9
	Student	40	9.6
	Unemployed	39	9.4
	Total	417	100.0
Annual Income	< Rs. 1 L Rs.	174	41.7
	1 Lakh – 2.5 Lakhs Rs.	52	12.5
	2.5 – 5.0 Lakhs Rs.	56	13.4
	5.0 – 10.0 Lakhs Rs.	94	22.5
	10.0 – 15.0 Lakhs Rs.	41	9.8
	Total	417	100.0
Place of residence	Rural	42	10.1
	Semi-urban	39	9.4
	Urban	336	80.6
	Total	417	100.0

Source: (Primary data)

The age distribution reveals that a significant majority (50.4%) of respondents fall within the 21–30 years age group, followed by 21.1% in the 31–40 years range. This indicates that the sample predominantly includes young and middle-aged individuals, potentially in their most active roles in family and societal responsibilities.

In terms of education, a substantial proportion (71.2%) hold undergraduate or diploma-level qualifications, while 22.3% have postgraduate education or above. Only a small fraction (6.5%) have schooling as their highest level of education, highlighting a relatively educated sample base.

Employment data shows that the majority of respondents (51.6%) work in private organizations, reflecting the prevalence of private-sector jobs among the sampled population. Homemakers, students, and retirees form smaller but notable segments, at 9.6% each, with a minor representation from government employees (1.2%). Self-employment and unemployment categories account for 8.9% and 9.4%, respectively.

Regarding annual income, the largest segment (41.7%) earns less than ₹1 lakh annually, indicating financial constraints for a significant portion of the population. However, 22.5% earn ₹5–10 lakh, suggesting some economic diversity within the sample.

Finally, the place of residence analysis reveals that a vast majority (80.6%) of respondents live in urban areas, while rural (10.1%) and semi-urban (9.4%) areas are comparatively underrepresented. This urban-centric sample may reflect the socio-economic dynamics typically associated with migration patterns.

The Table 2 displays the results of a paired sample test conducted to compare the financial support provided by parents and parents-in-law to left-behind women in families affected by male migration. The analysis focuses on three domains: children's treatment, own treatment, and household purchases.

Table No. 2: Paired Sample Test – Financial Support

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Children's treatment	2.2254	417	.99616	.04878
	Children's treatment	2.9209	417	.98838	.04840
Pair 2	Own treatment	2.8921	417	1.02157	.05003
	Own treatment	2.3981	417	.95565	.04680
Pair 3	Household purchases	2.9640	417	.93857	.04596
	Household purchases	2.4269	417	.97322	.04766
Paired Samples Test					
		Paired Differences		t	df

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				Sig. (2-tailed)
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Children's treatment: Parents in law - Children's treatment: Parents	-.69544	1.20528	.05902	-.81146	-.57942	-11.783	416	.000
Pair 2	Own treatment: Parents in law - Own treatment: Parents	.49400	.50056	.02451	.44582	.54219	20.153	416	.000
Pair 3	Household purchases: Parents in law - Household purchases: Parents	.53717	.49922	.02445	.48912	.58522	21.973	416	.000

Source: (Primary data)

The results reveal significant differences in the financial support rendered by parents and parents-in-law across all three domains. For children's treatment, parents are reported to provide more frequent support (mean = 2.22) compared to parents-in-law (mean = 2.92). The paired sample test confirms this difference as statistically significant ($t = -11.783$, $p < 0.001$), with parents being consistently more reliable in this aspect.

In contrast, for own treatment, parents-in-law provide more frequent support (mean = 2.89) than parents (mean = 2.40). This difference is also significant ($t = 20.153$, $p < 0.001$), indicating a notable preference or obligation among parents-in-law to assist with personal health needs.

For household purchases, parents-in-law again emerge as more frequent contributors (mean = 2.96) compared to parents (mean = 2.43). The statistical test corroborates this finding with a highly significant t-value of 21.973 ($p < 0.001$).

The Table 3 presents the results of a paired sample test analyzing the differences in emotional support provided by parents and parents-in-law to left-behind women. The analysis covers four aspects of emotional support: spending time, helping in decision-making, sharing worries, and sharing happiness.

Table No. 3: Paired Sample Test – Emotional Support

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Spending time	2.7986	417	.99648	.04880
	Spending time	2.2854	417	.97201	.04760
Pair 2	Helping in decision making	2.7650	417	1.00595	.04926

		Helping in decision making	2.2470	417	.93485		.04578		
Pair 3		Sharing worries	2.8345	417	.99950		.04895		
		Sharing worries	2.2398	417	.94056		.04606		
Pair 4		Sharing Happiness	2.7506	417	1.00964		.04944		
		Sharing Happiness	2.2398	417	.94056		.04606		
Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Spending time : Parents in law - Spending time: Parents	.51319	.50043	.02451	.46502	.56136	20.941	416	.000
Pair 2	Helping in decision making: Parents in law - Helping in decision making: Parents	.51799	.50028	.02450	.46983	.56614	21.143	416	.000
Pair 3	Sharing worries: Parents in law - Sharing worries: Parents	.59472	.49154	.02407	.54741	.64204	24.708	416	.000
Pair 4	Sharing Happiness: Parents in law - Sharing Happiness: Parents	.51079	.50048	.02451	.46261	.55897	20.841	416	.000

Source: (Primary data)

The findings indicate that parents-in-law generally provide more frequent emotional support compared to parents across all four dimensions. For spending time, parents-in-law show a higher mean score (2.80) than parents (2.29), with a statistically significant difference ($t = 20.941$, $p < 0.001$). This suggests that parents-in-law are more present or involved in spending time with the left-behind women.

For helping in decision-making, parents-in-law again demonstrate a higher mean (2.77) compared to parents (2.25). The paired sample test confirms this difference is significant ($t = 21.143$, $p < 0.001$), highlighting their role in supporting critical family decisions.

Regarding sharing worries, parents-in-law have a mean of 2.83, which is notably higher than the mean of 2.24 for parents. This difference, with a significant t-value of 24.708 ($p < 0.001$), underscores the stronger emotional connection or responsibility felt by parents-in-law in addressing concerns.

Finally, for sharing happiness, parents-in-law also take the lead with a mean score of 2.75 compared to parents' mean of 2.24. This significant difference ($t = 20.841$, $p < 0.001$) suggests that parents-in-law actively participate in sharing joyous moments with the women.

The Table 4 provides a comparative analysis of physical support offered by parents and parents-in-law to left-behind women, focusing on four activities: taking children to the clinic, accompanying to the clinic, doing household purchases, and going to the bank or post office.

Table No. 4: Paired Sample Test – Physical Support

Paired Samples Statistics									
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean				
Pair 1	Taking children to clinic	2.8561	417	.99924	.04893				
	Taking children to clinic	2.3429	417	.96820	.04741				
Pair 2	Accompanying you to the clinic	2.8921	417	.97090	.04755				
	Accompanying you to the clinic	2.2470	417	.94253	.04616				
Pair 3	Doing household purchases	2.8993	417	1.00452	.04919				
	Doing household purchases	2.3333	417	.98384	.04818				
Pair 4	Going to bank / post office	2.3429	417	.96820	.04741				
	Going to bank / post Office	2.2854	417	.97940	.04796				
Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Taking children to clinic: Parents in law - Taking children to clinic: Parents	.51319	.50043	.02451	.46502	.56136	20.941	416	.000
Pair 2	Accompanying you to the clinic: Parents in law - Accompanying you to the clinic: Parents	.64508	.47906	.02346	.59897	.69120	27.497	416	.000
Pair 3	Doing household purchases: Parents in law - Doing household purchases: Parents	.56595	.49623	.02430	.51818	.61371	23.290	416	.000
Pair 4	Going to bank / post office: Parents in law - Going to bank / post Office: Parents	.05755	.31248	.01530	.02748	.08763	3.761	416	.000

Source: (Primary data)

The results reveal that parents-in-law generally provide more frequent physical support compared to parents across most activities. For taking children to the clinic, the mean score for parents-in-law (2.86) is significantly higher than that for parents (2.34). This difference is

statistically significant ($t = 20.941$, $p < 0.001$), indicating greater involvement of parents-in-law in children's healthcare needs.

In terms of accompanying to the clinic, parents-in-law show a higher mean (2.89) compared to parents (2.25). This substantial difference ($t = 27.497$, $p < 0.001$) suggests that parents-in-law are more likely to assist women in managing their personal health-related appointments.

Regarding household purchases, the mean score for parents-in-law (2.90) is significantly higher than for parents (2.33). The paired sample test confirms this difference is significant ($t = 23.290$, $p < 0.001$), emphasizing the active participation of parents-in-law in managing household requirements.

For going to the bank or post office, the difference between parents-in-law (2.34) and parents (2.28) is minimal but statistically significant ($t = 3.761$, $p < 0.001$). This indicates that while both groups contribute to this activity, parents-in-law may provide slightly more frequent support.

The Table 5 presents the correlation analysis of financial, emotional, and physical support provided by parents-in-law in comparison to parents, highlighting the strength and direction of relationships between these variables.

Table No. 5: Correlation Analysis – Financial, Emotional and Physical Support of Parents in Law against Parents

Correlations			
		Financial support from parents- in- law	Financial support from parents
Financial support from parents- in- law	Pearson Correlation	1	.878**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	417	417
Financial support from parents	Pearson Correlation	.878**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	417	417
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			
Correlations			
		Emotional support from Parents-in-law	Emotional support from Parents
Emotional support from Parents-in-law	Pearson Correlation	1	.888**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	417	417
	Pearson Correlation	.888**	1

Emotional support from Parents	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	417	417
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			
Correlations			
		Physical support from parents – in – law	Physical support from parents
Physical support from parents – in – law	Pearson Correlation	1	.939**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	417	417
Physical support from parents	Pearson Correlation	.939**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	417	417
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

Source: (Primary data)

The correlation results reveal strong positive relationships between the support provided by parents and parents-in-law across all three dimensions. For financial support, the Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.878 ($p < 0.001$), indicating a significant and strong positive relationship. This suggests that when financial support from one group increases, it is likely mirrored by the other group, reflecting a complementary dynamic.

For emotional support, the Pearson correlation coefficient is even higher at 0.888 ($p < 0.001$), demonstrating a strong and significant positive association. This indicates that parents and parents-in-law play mutually supportive roles in providing emotional assistance, such as sharing happiness or helping with decision-making.

The strongest correlation is observed in physical support, with a Pearson coefficient of 0.939 ($p < 0.001$). This nearly perfect positive correlation implies a high level of alignment between the physical support offered by parents and parents-in-law, particularly in tasks like accompanying to clinics or managing household chores.

The Table 6 displays the correlation analysis between financial, emotional, and physical support provided separately by parents-in-law and parents, highlighting the interrelationships among these types of support.

Table No. 6: Correlation Analysis – Financial, Emotional and Physical Support of Parents in Law and Parents

Correlations

		Financial support from parents- in- law	Emotional support from Parents-in- law	Physical support from parents – in – law
Financial support from parents- in- law	Pearson Correlation	1	.893**	.906**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000
	N	417	417	417
Emotional support from Parents-in- law	Pearson Correlation	.893**	1	.975**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000
	N	417	417	417
Physical support from parents – in – law	Pearson Correlation	.906**	.975**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	
	N	417	417	417
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				
Correlations - Emotional				
		Financial support from parents	Emotional support from Parents	Physical support from parents
Financial support from parents	Pearson Correlation	1	.950**	.967**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000
	N	417	417	417
Emotional support from Parents	Pearson Correlation	.950**	1	.989**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		0.000
	N	417	417	417
Physical support from parents	Pearson Correlation	.967**	.989**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	0.000	
	N	417	417	417
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				

Source: (Primary data)

The results indicate significant and strong positive correlations among financial, emotional, and physical support provided by parents-in-law. The financial support from parents-in-law is strongly correlated with emotional support ($r = 0.893$, $p < 0.001$) and physical support ($r = 0.906$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that financial assistance is closely tied to other forms of caregiving. The exceptionally high correlation between emotional and physical support ($r = 0.975$, $p < 0.001$) highlights the intertwined nature of these dimensions, indicating that emotional support is often accompanied by tangible, physical assistance.

Similarly, for parents, the correlations among the three support dimensions are even stronger. Financial support is highly correlated with emotional support ($r = 0.950$, $p < 0.001$) and physical support ($r = 0.967$, $p < 0.001$), reflecting a holistic caregiving approach. The near-perfect correlation between emotional and physical support ($r = 0.989$, $p < 0.001$) underscores that emotional involvement is almost always accompanied by physical acts of support.

The Table 7 presents the regression analysis results evaluating the influence of emotional and physical support on financial support provided by parents-in-law, along with model summary statistics, ANOVA, and coefficients.

Table No. 7: Regression Analysis - Influence of physical and emotional support on the financial support – Parents in Law

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.907 ^a	.823	.822	.33858		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Physical support from parents – in – law , Emotional support from Parents-in-law						
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	221.121	2	110.561	964.446	.000 ^b
	Residual	47.460	414	.115		
	Total	268.581	416			
a. Dependent Variable: Financial support from parents- in- law						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Physical support from parents – in – law , Emotional support from Parents-in-law						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.601	.050		11.895	.000
	Emotional support from Parents-in-law	.145	.075	.180	1.947	.052
	Physical support from parents – in – law	.614	.078	.731	7.914	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Financial support from parents- in- law						

Source: (Primary data)

The model summary indicates a strong relationship between the predictors (emotional and physical support) and financial support, with an R-Square value of 0.823, suggesting that 82.3% of the variance in financial support is explained by the predictors. The high Adjusted R-Square (0.822) further validates the model's reliability.

The ANOVA results show a statistically significant regression model ($F = 964.446$, $p < 0.001$), confirming that the predictors collectively have a significant influence on financial support.

Examining the coefficients, the constant value of 0.601 represents the baseline financial support when both predictors are zero. Among the predictors, physical support demonstrates a substantial and significant positive influence ($B = 0.614$, $Beta = 0.731$, $t = 7.914$, $p < 0.001$), making it the strongest predictor of financial support. Emotional support, though weaker, also shows a positive relationship ($B = 0.145$, $Beta = 0.180$, $t = 1.947$, $p = 0.052$), albeit marginally significant.

The Table 8 illustrates the regression analysis results exploring the influence of physical and emotional support on financial support provided by parents, including model performance metrics, ANOVA, and coefficients.

Table No. 8: Regression Analysis - Influence of physical and emotional support on the financial support – Parents

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.907 ^a	.823	.822	.33858		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Physical support from parents – in – law , Emotional support from Parents-in-law						
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	221.121	2	110.561	964.446	.000 ^b
	Residual	47.460	414	.115		
	Total	268.581	416			
a. Dependent Variable: Financial support from parents- in- law						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Physical support from parents – in – law , Emotional support from Parents-in-law						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.601	.050		11.895	.000
	Emotional support from Parents-in-law	.145	.075	.180	1.947	.052
	Physical support from parents – in – law	.614	.078	.731	7.914	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Financial support from parents- in- law						

Source: (Primary data)

The model summary reveals a strong relationship between the predictors (emotional and physical support) and financial support, with an R-Square value of 0.823, indicating that 82.3% of the variability in financial support is explained by emotional and physical support. The high Adjusted R-Square (0.822) confirms the robustness of the model.

The ANOVA results show that the regression model is highly significant ($F = 964.446$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that the combined effects of emotional and physical support significantly predict financial support.

Among the predictors, physical support has the most substantial impact on financial support, with a significant positive coefficient ($B = 0.614$, $Beta = 0.731$, $t = 7.914$, $p < 0.001$). This implies that a unit increase in physical support leads to a notable increase in financial support. Emotional support, while positively associated, demonstrates a weaker influence ($B = 0.145$, $Beta = 0.180$, $t = 1.947$, $p = 0.052$), nearing the threshold of significance.

Findings

The demographic analysis indicates that the sample is mostly young (50.4% aged 21–30 years) and educated, with 71.2% holding under-graduate or diploma educational qualifications and 22.3% having postgraduate degrees or higher. They are found to be primarily employed in the private sector (51.6%), with smaller segments of homemakers, students, retirees, and self-employed individuals. Financially, 41.7% earn income less than ₹1 lakh annually, indicating economic constraints, while 22.5% gets income between ₹5–10 lakh, reflecting some diversity. Urban residents dominate the sample (80.6%), with rural and semi-urban areas accounting for a smaller proportion (10.1% and 9.4%, respectively).

According to the data, there is a clear pattern of financial support, with parents playing a bigger part in the welfare of their children and parents-in-law playing a larger role in household expenses and personal health. These differences highlight that the support systems are in meeting different financial requirements. The most influence in the social and emotional well-being of women in male-migrated families, the results show that parents-in-law often offer greater than regular emotional support in different forms. The results suggest the interaction among the members of joint families especially. The results indicated that the importance

parents-in-law play in offering physical support, mostly for housekeeping and healthcare-related tasks. The findings shows that depends on the left-behind women in the male migrated families are on their parents-in-law for daily responsibilities.

The results also indicated that there is a signifianct degree of coordination and consistency in the assistance given by parents and parents-in-law, therefore underlining their joint commitment to the well-being of left-behind women. The shared efforts have provided a guaranteed well-being and care, the study indicated that all kinds of supports; financial, emotional, and physical—are highly linked with both parents and parents-in-law. The findings imply that those who succeed in one dimension of support are probably going to be quite helpful in other spheres as well.

The results show that whilst emotional support, although helpful, is less important in determining financial assistance from parents-in-law, physical support has a signifianct influence. This also implies that, rather than emotional considerations, physical, practical support could motivate financial aid. The results highlight how important physical support is for determining parental financial assistance; emotional support, while helpful, has a somewhat small impact. This implies that a major motivator of financial aid within family dynamics is pragmatic, physical support.

Discussion

The study's results indicates how support systems changed over time in large families, especially in homes where men have migrated. The demographic analysis shows that the group is mostly young, educated, working in the private sector, and living in cities. People in this group are likely to be actively balancing family and social responsibilities while depending on family support networks.

The different kinds of support that parents and parents-in-law give show that they play similar roles in meeting different needs. The study indicates that, parents are very important when it comes to giving financial security, which may come from a sense of ongoing duty to their children. On the other hand, parents-in-law play a big role in health and the running of the

house hold activities, showing that both parent and parent-in-law has a part to play in making sure that women who are left behind are healthy in every way.

The study also shows importance parents-in-law are for giving mental support and how they help women improve their social and emotional stability. This result is especially important for male-migrated families, where the lack of husbands makes it more difficult for the wives to care for their children. The fact that left-behind women depend on their parents-in-law for mental and physical support shows how important they are to their daily lives and health.

The data show that there is a significant relationship between financial, emotional, and physical support in both parents and parent-in-law support to women's in male migrated families. This finding indicates that families who are significant at giving one kind of support are likely to also be providing help in other areas. This illustrates how complex caregiving is. This kind of planning shows how important strong family ties are for getting through tough times, especially in cities where support systems are often stretched thin.

Furthermore, the regression analysis shows how important physical support is in getting monetary benefit from both parents and parents-in-law. The practical side of family support is brought out by this result, which suggests that real contributions, like helping with healthcare and housework, can lead to financial support. Even though emotional support is still important, it doesn't seem to have much of an influence on financial support. The difference between these two types of care shows that caregiving can be used to determine income support.

Implication

The study's results point out a few important areas where policy changes can help support family arrangements, especially when it comes to moving and caring for others. Because parents and parents-in-law play such an important part in providing financial, emotional, and physical support, policies should be made to strengthen these family ties and make sure that caregiving is more balanced and lasts longer. First, policies that support joint family networks could be very helpful in meeting the caring needs of women who have been left behind. According to the results, parents-in-law are very important for giving physical and mental support, especially when male migrated family members. Policymakers could think about

making programs that encourage teamwork between generations, like giving money or training to people who care for others to families where the males are migrated. Parents and parents-in-law could get the tools they need from these programs to provide better care, and their important role in the family's well-being would be recognised.

The study also stresses how important it is to improvise family support programs that focus on financial stability. Many people in the group depend on money from both their parents and their parents-in-law. To help families, policymakers could work to teach people more about money and give them specific help. For example, government programs could offer tax breaks or assistance to families who help carers or help people who depend a lot on extended family members financially. These policies would make families' lives easier by making sure they have enough money.

The study also indicated that men and women care for others in different ways. For example, women depend on their parent-in-laws more for mental and physical support. To fix this imbalance, lawmakers could create programs that encourage sharing caregiving duties, which would lower the expectations that are put on women based on their gender. Families could share caregiving tasks more fairly if they had paid family leave, subsidised health care, and services for child or elder care. Not only would this make things easier for in-laws' parents, but it would also help women better balance work and home duties.

It is important to make sure there are enough social and medical services, since physical help with medical care and housework has become an important part of family support. Policies that make healthcare services available to everyone in the family, even parents-in-law, would ease the burden on the women who are left behind and make the family unit healthy and stronger. Also, social safety nets that protect weak families and make sure they have access to resources like healthcare, housing, and education would make the role of parents and parents-in-law in caring for families even stronger

Conclusion

The findings of this study indicates that both parents and parents-in-law provide essential support to left-behind women, but their roles differ significantly. Parents typically focus on the financial well-being of children, while parents-in-law provide more frequent emotional and physical support, particularly in healthcare and household management. The study highlights

the interconnected nature of these support systems, with physical support playing a particularly influential role in shaping financial aid from parents-in-law. This highlights the need for further recognition of the vital role that extended family members, particularly parents-in-law, play in sustaining the well-being of left-behind women in the context of male migration. The study contributes valuable insights into family dynamics in migrant households and offers recommendations for policies that enhance support mechanisms for left-behind families, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

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