

**PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND RISK-TAKING PROPENSITY AMONG  
WORKING AND NON-WORKING WOMEN****Fabil Vargheese, Dr. Kattamanchi Subramanyam**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This research paper explores the relationship between psychological factors and risk-taking propensity among working and non-working women. The study aims to investigate how various psychological factors, such as self-efficacy, locus of control, and risk perception, influence women's propensity to engage in risk-taking behavior. Additionally, the research aims to identify potential differences in risk-taking propensity between working and non-working women and explore the underlying reasons for such variations. The findings of this study can contribute to a better understanding of the psychological aspects that influence women's decision-making processes and shed light on the potential impact of employment status on risk-taking behavior.*

**Keywords:** - Psychological, Working, Non-working, Risk, Women.**I. INTRODUCTION**

The study of risk-taking propensity and its underlying psychological factors has garnered significant attention in the field of psychology and behavioral economics. Risk-taking behavior plays a crucial role in various aspects of individuals' lives, including career choices, financial decisions, and overall well-being. While research on risk-taking behavior has been extensive, there remains a need to examine how psychological factors influence risk-taking propensity among specific demographic groups, such as women.

This research paper focuses specifically on working and non-working women and aims to investigate the psychological factors that influence their risk-taking propensity. The decision to focus on women is motivated by the growing recognition of gender disparities in various aspects of life, including decision-making and risk-taking behavior. Exploring the psychological factors that contribute to risk-taking among women can provide valuable insights into understanding their decision-making processes and potentially inform interventions aimed at promoting positive outcomes for women in different domains.

Historically, women have been underrepresented in positions of power and leadership, which has been attributed, in part, to a more cautious approach to risk-taking compared to men. However, as societal norms and expectations have evolved, more women have entered the workforce and taken on leadership roles. This shift prompts the need to examine how psychological factors may influence risk-taking propensity differently between working and non-working women.

Understanding the psychological factors associated with risk-taking among women is essential for several reasons. First, it can contribute to a better understanding of gender differences in decision-making processes. By identifying specific psychological factors that influence risk-taking propensity among women, we can gain insights into the underlying mechanisms driving their decision-making behavior.

Second, it can shed light on potential variations in risk-taking behavior between working and non-working women. Employment status can significantly impact an individual's experiences, responsibilities, and exposure to different risk environments. Exploring the differences in risk-taking propensity between these two groups may reveal valuable insights into the role of work-related factors in shaping decision-making behavior.

Lastly, understanding the psychological factors associated with risk-taking among women can have practical implications for organizations, policymakers, and individuals. Organizations can benefit from understanding the motivational factors that drive risk-taking behavior among women, particularly in the context of leadership and career advancement. Policymakers can use these insights to design interventions and programs that promote equal opportunities and empower women to take calculated risks. Additionally, individuals can benefit from self-awareness regarding their own risk-taking propensity and how psychological factors may influence their decision-making.

## **II. PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AMONG WORKING AND NON-WORKING WOMEN**

Psychological factors play a crucial role in shaping individuals' behaviors, decisions, and overall well-being. This section explores some of the key psychological factors that may influence working and non-working women in the context of risk-taking propensity.

### **1. Self-Efficacy:**

Self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in their ability to successfully execute tasks and achieve desired outcomes. It plays a significant role in determining one's willingness to take risks. Women with higher levels of self-efficacy are more likely to perceive themselves as capable of handling challenges and are therefore more inclined to engage in risk-taking behavior. Working women may have higher levels of self-efficacy due to their exposure to a wider range of tasks, responsibilities, and opportunities for skill development compared to non-working women.

### **2. Locus of Control:**

Locus of control refers to an individual's belief in the extent to which they have control over the events and outcomes in their lives. It can be categorized as internal (belief in personal control) or external (belief in external factors or luck). Women with an internal locus of control are more likely to perceive themselves as having control over their choices and are more likely to engage in risk-taking behavior. Working women may exhibit a higher internal locus of

control due to their active participation in decision-making processes and the perceived control they have over their careers and professional lives.

### **3. Risk Perception:**

Risk perception refers to the subjective evaluation of the potential risks and benefits associated with a particular course of action. It is influenced by various factors such as personal experiences, cultural norms, and social influences. Women's risk perception may be influenced by societal expectations, gender roles, and personal experiences, which can vary between working and non-working women. Working women may have a more pragmatic approach to risk assessment, considering the potential rewards and professional advancement opportunities associated with taking risks. Non-working women, on the other hand, may exhibit a more cautious approach to risk-taking, focusing on the potential negative consequences and prioritizing stability and security.

It is important to note that these psychological factors are not mutually exclusive and can interact with each other in complex ways. Moreover, individual differences within working and non-working women can lead to variations in the manifestation of these psychological factors and subsequent risk-taking propensity.

Understanding the psychological factors among working and non-working women can provide valuable insights into their decision-making processes, risk-taking behaviors, and overall empowerment. By examining these factors, policymakers, organizations, and individuals can design interventions, policies, and personal development strategies that support women in making informed decisions, taking calculated risks, and achieving their goals.

## **III. RISK-TAKING PROPENSITY AMONG WORKING AND NON-WORKING WOMEN**

Risk-taking propensity refers to an individual's inclination or willingness to engage in activities or make decisions that involve a certain level of uncertainty, potential loss, or deviation from the status quo. This section explores the differences in risk-taking propensity between working and non-working women, highlighting potential factors that contribute to variations in their risk-taking behaviors.

### **1. Financial Risks:**

Working women often have greater exposure to financial risks due to their involvement in income generation, career advancement, and investment decisions. They may be more comfortable taking calculated financial risks, such as investing in stocks or starting a business, as they perceive potential rewards and financial independence. Non-working women, who may rely on others for financial support, may exhibit a more conservative approach to financial risks, prioritizing stability and security.

## **2. Career Risks:**

Working women, especially those in leadership positions or seeking career advancement, may be more willing to take career-related risks. This could include pursuing challenging assignments, seeking promotions, or changing jobs to explore better opportunities. They perceive the potential benefits of risk-taking, such as professional growth and increased job satisfaction. Non-working women, who may prioritize other aspects of their lives such as family responsibilities, may exhibit a lower propensity for career risks and focus on maintaining stability in their current situation.

## **3. Personal Risks:**

Working women often have more exposure to personal risks related to their professional roles. This could involve public speaking, networking, or taking on leadership responsibilities that require them to step out of their comfort zones. Their active engagement in the workforce may foster a higher tolerance for personal risks and a greater willingness to overcome challenges. Non-working women, who may have limited exposure to such professional demands, may exhibit a lower propensity for personal risks and prioritize personal comfort and security.

## **4. Social Risks:**

Women's risk-taking propensity can also be influenced by social factors and cultural norms. Working women, particularly those in progressive work environments, may be exposed to a culture that encourages innovation, creativity, and calculated risk-taking. This can foster a higher propensity for social risks, such as expressing dissenting opinions or challenging traditional norms. Non-working women, who may be more influenced by societal expectations and traditional gender roles, may exhibit a lower propensity for social risks to maintain conformity and social acceptance.

## **5. Psychological Factors:**

As discussed in the previous section, psychological factors such as self-efficacy, locus of control, and risk perception can significantly impact risk-taking propensity. Working women, who often experience personal growth, skill development, and empowerment through their professional experiences, may exhibit higher levels of self-efficacy, internal locus of control, and a more favorable risk perception. Non-working women, who may have limited exposure to such opportunities, may exhibit lower levels of these psychological factors and, consequently, a lower propensity for risk-taking.

It is important to note that these generalizations may not apply to all working and non-working women, as individual differences, personal values, and cultural contexts can influence risk-taking propensity. Nevertheless, exploring the variations in risk-taking behaviors between these two groups can provide valuable insights into the impact of employment status on women's decision-making processes and their overall empowerment.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this research paper has explored the psychological factors and risk-taking propensity among working and non-working women. The findings highlight the importance of understanding the psychological aspects that influence women's decision-making processes and shed light on potential differences in risk-taking behavior between the two groups.

The examination of psychological factors revealed that self-efficacy, locus of control, and risk perception play significant roles in shaping risk-taking propensity among women. Working women, due to their exposure to a range of tasks, responsibilities, and opportunities for skill development, may exhibit higher levels of self-efficacy, an internal locus of control, and a more favorable risk perception. In contrast, non-working women may display lower levels of these psychological factors, leading to a more cautious approach to risk-taking.

Moreover, variations in risk-taking propensity between working and non-working women were identified in different domains. Working women may demonstrate a higher propensity for financial and career risks, driven by their involvement in income generation, career advancement, and exposure to professional demands. Non-working women, on the other hand, may exhibit a more conservative approach to financial and career risks, prioritizing stability and security.

These findings have significant implications for organizations, policymakers, and individuals. Organizations can leverage the understanding of the psychological factors influencing risk-taking propensity to foster a supportive and empowering environment for women, encouraging them to take calculated risks and pursue career advancement. Policymakers can design interventions and programs that promote equal opportunities for women and address barriers to risk-taking behavior. Additionally, individuals can benefit from self-awareness regarding their own risk-taking propensity and the psychological factors that influence their decision-making.

However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this research. The study focused on broad generalizations and may not capture the diverse experiences and perspectives of all working and non-working women. Future research could employ more nuanced approaches, including longitudinal studies and qualitative methods, to further explore the complex relationship between psychological factors and risk-taking propensity among women.

In conclusion, this research contributes to a better understanding of the psychological factors that influence risk-taking propensity among working and non-working women. By recognizing and addressing these factors, we can empower women to make informed decisions, embrace calculated risks, and achieve their goals in various domains of life.

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