

ABSTRACT

Spinsterhood is a term used for unmarried women who have crossed the usual age of marriage. A Spinster is not only a single woman but refers to a woman who has not a human pair bond and considered as a social stigma. The study has attempted to focus on economic lives of never married women in the age group of 30 and above. The data of the study is based on the experiences and reflections of the economic lives of 250 spinsters living in Lahore through snowball sampling technique. The results are backed by economic theories and reveal that consumerism is common in our ritual based society, when income of spinsters increases they exceed their expenditures, their savings are less and lack of ownership of assets accelerate their economic hardships. Economically Inactive spinsters face more economic pressure, more socially marginalized and more psychologically disturbed. According to Life-Cycle theory of Consumption higher age group (above 45) spinsters either economically active or Inactive, consume less and save more. The study also unveils the causes of spinsterhood in our society that include contagious spread of higher education attainment, individualism, women empowerment and imitation of western modernization. Economic independence of women have also greatly reduced the desire of marriage.

KEY WORDS: *Spinster, Spinsterhood, Economic Life, Social and Psychological Welfare.*