

ABSTRACT

There have been some changes in the distribution of employment by gender in Malaysia. Women have found their labour in high demand at a time when it is becoming increasingly acceptable for women to work in paid employment. This paper deals with the socioeconomic status of Malaysian Women. It provides a recent trend analysis of the female labour force participation, the areas where female labour force is concentrated at present, gender differential in wages and the various forces behind the work patterns of women in Malaysia. The findings showed some changes in the detailed occupational structure, involving women and men's labour force into different industry and different occupational categories. The secondary and primary data clearly shows that the factors, which influenced the changes in employment structure, are then changing structure of the economy, level of formal education received and the attitude of the society. Finally this paper stresses that female labour force participation should not merely seen as a consequences of development, rather it should be seen as a cause of development. The women's contribution is most vital to the making of better tomorrow in Malaysia.

“The work of a women is like a vein of water flowing underground, secretly making the ground greener”.