

A STUDY ON THE SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN LABOURERS IN THE UNORGANIZED SECTOR IN TRICHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION

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ABSTRACT

Most of the women start their life in the unorganized sector. Even if they lose their financial support in the family they have to find a source of living in the society which again makes them enter into the unorganized sector. These women have to work long hours in the poor working conditions of the unorganized sector and also work in the house, raising their children and domestic chores without any help from the male gender. Women find a biggest source of employment opportunities in the unorganized sector. Most of the women work for fewer wages because of illiteracy, poverty, ignorance and less or no skills. Unorganized sector provides opportunities to generate employment and earn money to socially backward women in the city. The women labourers from in and around the city engage themselves in this sector for the generation of income. Though the unorganised sector provides low income to the women labourers, it is being the source for the living of the women labourers. The research has been undertaken to learn the socio economic status of women labourers in the unorganized sector

KEYWORDS: *Unorganized Sector, Illiteracy, Poverty, Ignorance*

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

Female gender still been brought up under the control of household atmosphere, without the thought of rights and freedom and individuality. They are being tamed and taught to adjust with the male gender in all parts of their life. So they work as helpers to their mother in the household chores then work as servant maids after their marriage to their in-laws of the family and their husband. Once they bring up the children to the level of school going, the financial demand from them starts. So they can't be at home anymore looking after the household and children but go for a job. So according to their skills and literacy they find themselves landing in the organized or unorganized sector for their earning. Not everybody is fully equipped to join the organized sector to have decent living. Most of the women start their life in the unorganized sector. Even if they lose their financial support in the family they have to find a source of living in the society which again makes them enter into the unorganized sector. These women have to work long hours in the poor working conditions of the unorganized sector and also work in the house, raising their children and domestic chores without any help from the male gender.

Women find a biggest source of employment opportunities in the unorganized sector. Most of the women work for fewer wages because of illiteracy, poverty, ignorance and less or no skills. Most of the women of the unorganised

sector work as helpers in educational institutions, hospitals, hotels, tobacco industries, factories, offices, super markets, shops etc. They also work as street vendors, construction workers, maids in households, maids in hotels and canteen, cleaners and sweepers in the institutions, etc.

Economically Under privileged Women settle themselves in the work places nearby their residence and favourable to their living situations. They work long hours compared to men force.

The great population explosion in India which has provided a big source of human resource to country has invited the high level of women population to the unorganized sector where women who were not exposed to literacy and knowledge get their shelter for their livelihood. As the supply for labour force is abundant, the wages availability is very cheap or less for the labourers especially for women. Women also work as micro entrepreneurs or individual street vendors to earn for their survival.

Women in poverty began engaging themselves in the informal sector for their income and employment as construction workers, flower vendors, vegetable vendors, cooking street food, and working as sales girls in the super markets and malls, working as domestic workers, construction workers, sweepers, cleaners, etc.

The organized sector of employment may provide only 20% to economic development of the country but women in unorganized sector provide more than 40% to the economic development of the country by satisfying the needs of day to day activities of the country's population.

Domestic workers, construction workers, cleaning and sweeping labourers several others are a part of the non institutionalized unorganized sector. Workers of the unorganised sector have lower job security and a poorer chance of growth as they survive in the disguised unemployment.

National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) Government of India has defined 'unorganized sector' as the sector which "consists of all unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals. The International Labour Organization says that women represent 30 % of the labour force. According to the information provided by the office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, As per Census 2011, 8.5 million are in household Industry and 43.7 million are classified as other workers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know about the socio economic status of women involved in the labour activities in Trichirappalli city corporation
- To identify the factors which influence the willingness of the women for labour activities in Trichirappalli city corporation
- To list out various obstacles faced by women as labourers
- To understand the government policies in protection of women labourers
- To suggest measures aimed in ameliorating the conditions of women labourers

Hypothesis

- **H0:** There is no significant association between the age of the women labourers and problems faced by them
- **H2:** There is a significant association between needs of the women labourers and their marital status.

Significance of the Study

Today life of women is continuously challenged. There are many literate and illiterate women who are facing the problems of insufficient earning of income due to several factors, literally find very difficult to come up from the situation and they also lack support from their families. Status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over past few years. Illiterate and poor women have to enter into unorganized sector to mitigate their problems and generate a source of income for their families. Unorganized sector provides scope for poor women to sustain their life.

Unorganized sector provides opportunities to generate employment and earn money to socially backward women in the city. The women labourers from in and around the city engage themselves in this sector for the generation of income. Though the unorganised sector provides low income to the women labourers, it is being the source for the living of the women labourers. The research has been undertaken to learn the socio economic status of women labourers in the unorganized sector.

Scope of the Study

Festivals, functions, traditions and customs of the different religions and the high population have created an uncontrollable demand for labour of unorganized sector. The globalisation and the internet era have made all the organized sector activities function for whole year for twenty four hours. The organized sector demands the assistance of unorganized sector labour for micro activities. There is a constant demand for the women labourers all over the country as they work for long hours patiently without demanding more wages. Women labourers are accepted by all the work sources as they are the immediate human resource. Unorganized sector provides lively hood and source of income to high percentage of women. This study is limited to women labourers found in Trichirappalli city corporation although women labourers are available in all the areas of the district and the state. The study tries to understand the socio economic status of women in unorganized sector by focusing on their problems and why they have entered into the field.

Statement of the Problem

Women without proper literacy and knowledge work in the unorganized sector as labourers to satisfy their financial needs and reduce their family problems. They work in a unsecure male dominated society where they are paid gender discriminated wages for their labour. The study learns the socio economic status of women labourers in the unorganized sector like domestic services, cleaning, sweeping work in the institutions, hospitals, hotels etc, private and small constructions, servers and housekeeping in hotels and canteens, etc.

METHODOLOGY

For the study domestic labourers, construction labourers, cleaning and sweeping labourers, workers from canteen and hotels and workers of private hospitals and private institutions were taken as respondents.

The primary data has been collected directly from the respondents with the help of questionnaires by conducting direct interview and observation.

Secondary data been gathered from various websites related to women employees in the unorganized sector and through journals etc., to understand the various concepts related to the study.

Deliberate effort been made to identify and interview women workers. A pre test was conducted using 20 respondents to prepare the questionnaire keeping in line with the objectives of the study.

Limitations

- The study is restricted to the views of the women labourers.
- The study was carried out only with 200 women workers.
- The study was carried out only at trichirappalli City Corporation.
- The study was carried out with workers in the construction sites, shopping malls, domestic servants in the households, workers in institutions, hospitals, educational institutions, canteens hotels etc as cleaners, sweepers, cooking assistants, cooks, gardeners etc in the Trichirappalli city corporation only.
- The information given by respondents based on their opinion during the time of the study may not be generalized to the other areas of the state.

Profile of the Study Area

Tiruchirappalli City Corporation comes under Tiruchirappalli Metropolitan Region. The population of the city is estimated to be 1.636 million. The civic administration of the city is divided into four zones - Abhishekapuram, Ariyamangalam, Golden Rock and Srirangam.

Tiruchirappalli also called Trichy is a major tier II city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the administrative headquarters of Tiruchirappalli District. Trichy is the fourth largest city as well as the fourth largest urban agglomeration in the state. Tiruchirappalli is completely surrounded by agricultural fields. Densely populated industrial and residential areas have recently been built in the northern part of the city, and the southern edge also has residential areas. The older part of Tiruchirappalli, within the Rockfort, is unplanned and congested while the adjoining newer sections are better executed. Many of the old houses in Srirangam were constructed according to the shilpa sastras, the canonical texts of Hindu temple architecture.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

- Arti (2014), unorganized sector comprises of major part of Indian Economy. In unorganized sector, those enterprises and employments are involved which are unregistered under any legal provision. More than 90% man power contributes in unorganized sector globally. In, Indian scenario, 86% of human resource is employed in unorganized sector. 91% of women workers in unorganized sector are rendering their services. This study focuses on presenting real picture of current conditions of women workers in India who are involved in different kinds of unorganized occupations. This paper throws light on their role, nature of work, living standards and their problems which they are facing frequently in unorganized sector. This paper outlines the acts and schemes by Indian government framed for empowerment of women economically and to prevent them from exploitation.
- Vandana dave (2012) the present study was carried out with women construction workers, agriculture labourers and domestic helpers working in the unorganized sector. An attempt has been made in the paper to understand the socioeconomic condition of women laborers, nature of their work, their working conditions, wage pattern, wage discrimination and other difficulties faced by them at their work place. Multistage stratified random sampling technique was applied to collect data from 350 women laborers from urban and rural areas of 3 districts of Haryana: Panipat, Kaithal and Kurukshetra. Findings show that majority of the migrant women were engaged in

the construction industry and were only employed in unskilled and low paying jobs as coolies, labourers and helpers. Women were exploited to a greater degree as they were paid less compared to men for similar nature of work and hours spent on work. The conditions of work in the unorganized sector were unsatisfactory and the problems confronted by them were acute. And that their illiteracy, poverty and indebtedness forced them to work for lower wages and under unjust conditions.

- Kumar, (2013). Gender-based discrimination is a universal phenomenon. Women comprise half of the world's population and perform two thirds of the work, but earn only a third of the total income and own less than a tenth of the resources. The most discriminated people in the world are usually the ones who lack economic power (Saksena2004). Construction Industry is the largest employer in the world and in India. More than 31 million people work in the construction industry, second only to agricultural Industry. More than 35 per cent of construction workers are women and they get poor remuneration and are discriminated in the payment of wages (ILO, 2001a). When men construction workers have promotional opportunities, women have no opportunities to acquire skills and become masons or supervisors. They need to be empowered to grow in their profession. This study is an effort to identify gender discrimination among construction workers and identify the means of empowering women construction workers with special reference to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Kalpana devi and Kiran (2013), Construction industry provides job opportunity to large number of skilled as well as unskilled workforce. The workforces employed in the industry have to face several difficulties at the work place. Several issues related to health, job stress, and injuries at work place are the major concern of the research among researchers. The present study is review of past research work related to the women work force employed in construction industry in India. The major focus of the study is to identify the key factors related to the status of female worker in the industry. Women work as unskilled labour and face several other difficulties in comparison to males. Sexual harassment, gender biasness, wage discrimination are the major factor due to which the working environment becomes difficult for them in the industry and women's are remains at same level of skill even after working few number of years.
- Azadeh Barati et al. India is a traditional country and there is diversity in religions, culture and customs. Role of the women in India mostly is household and limited to domestic issues. In some cases women can find employment as nurses, doctors, teachers the caring and nurturing sectors. But even if well qualified women engineers or managers or geologists are available, preference will be given to a male of equal qualification. The present study investigated to identify the factors preventing women employees from aspiring for higher post and challenges & problems faced by women workers. Further the study try to explain the real condition of Indian working women and also make an effort to clear main problems of working women.

FINDINGS

- Maximum [40%] of the respondents belong to the age group of 36years to 45 years.
- 34% of the respondents belong to the educational category of below eighth standard
- Majority – 48 % of the respondents are married.
- 58 percent of the respondents live in joint family

- 48% of the respondents earn between Rs.8000 to Rs. 10,000
- Out of the total respondents, 38.5 percent respondents had financial needs.
- Maximum [28.5%] entered into the unorganized sector labour due to poverty.
- 70 percent of the respondents are capable of satisfying the basic needs of their family, 44 percent of the respondents are capable of solving their health issues. 38 percent of the respondents felt they had freedom to care for themselves.
- 58 percent of the respondents felt that they were able involve in the decisions regarding their children's needs.
- 46 percent of the respondents were capable of demanding their daughter's education.
- 53 percent of the respondents are capable of bringing the basic development in their houses.
- 64 percent of the respondents agreed that they are capable of being aware of the surrounding activities.
- Only 29 percent of the respondents agreed that they are capable of reducing the male domination
- 39 percent of the respondents agreed that they could recognize their rights
- 45 percent of the respondents agreed that they get exposed to the outside world
- Majority [21%]of the respondents had depression due to unorganized labour
- 74 percent of the respondents agreed that they faced lot of restriction for working
- 67 percent of the respondents agreed that they had dual duties
- 70 percent of the respondents agreed that they had limited freedom
- 51 percent of the respondents agreed that they had poor income
- 61 percent of the respondents agreed that had health problems
- 49 percent of the respondents agreed that they family problems due to their jobs
- 56 percent of the respondents agreed that they gave less personal care
- 44 percent of the respondents agreed that they did not get proper hygiene in their jobs
- 53 percent of the respondents agreed that they had fewer facilities
- 22 percent of the respondents agreed that they had financial shortage as their social problem.

Hypothesis Testing:

- **H₀**: there is no significant association between the age of the respondents and their needs.
- **H₁**: there is a significant association between the age of the respondents and their needs.

Statistical Test:

- Chi-square test is used to test the hypothesis

- Chi-square value is 10.34377412

Degrees of Freedom: 16

P value- 0.84807, $P > 0.05$, there is no significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis, there is a significant association between the age and the need of the respondents is accepted.

- **H₀**: there is no significant association between the age of the respondents and their reasons to choose the type of labour work
- **H₁**: there is a significant association between the age of the respondents and their reasons to choose the type of labour work

Statistical Test: One way ANOVA test is used to test the hypothesis

Table 1

Source	SS	Df	MS	
Between-treatments	577.1429	4	144.2857	F = 18.98496
Within-treatments	228	30	7.6	
Total	805.1429	34		

The f-ratio value is 18.98496. The P value is $<.0001$.

$P < .05$ the research hypothesis is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected.

There is a significant association between the age of the respondents and their reasons to choose the type of labour work

SUGGESTIONS

The social networks to the up-lift women must come forward to organize programmes to orient women to look after themselves by providing personal care and follow health care mechanism.

All the non institutionalised unorganized sector must cared by the government to provide the rights to women labourers.

CONCLUSIONS

The Government of India- Ministry of Labour and Employment has contributed protective measures for women workers by framing various sections in labour laws in the aspects of security, safety, health, restriction of working hours, welfare provision etc. Also provisions have been made for equal remuneration to men and women workers.

Sexual Harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act also been enacted by the Government of India to provide security to women in the workplace.

The government has provided lot provisions in favour of women workers. But the provisions are applicable to organized sector workers and the institutionalized unorganized sector workers and not for the non-institutionalized unorganized sector women workers. According to the National Commission on Self- Employed women, the women labourers doing domestic service, sweeping, cleaning, gardening, cooking etc are in the disorganized and unregulated sector.

These types of women labourers do not get enough protection and benefits through labour laws.

Though women face lot of restriction for working from their family and husband, they still perform dual duties. They try to earn income from the unorganized sector as labourers though the income is less. Without proper working conditions and hygiene, they encounter health issues and psychological issues as would not care for their personal health. Normally women labourers in unorganized sector will not bother to give importance to food and diet. The traditions and customs of their religion will make them skip the meals and turn them unhealthy.

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