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A Study on Home Based Women Workers in Tiruppur District

Economics

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

In the conventional society, women's role is naturally limited to the fully occupied with her duties as a mother and homemaker. Many factors like urbanization, technical progress, women's education and so on have profoundly changed the traditional conditions, even in a developing country like India. The women's role at home has changed and become lighter due to technical progress. The participation of women in the economic development and progress can be categorized into four segments namely, employment in unorganized sector, employment in organized sector, self-employment and entrepreneurs. Female work participation not only increases family income but also brings economic independence among women in households. Home based work includes the persons working in unorganized sector irrespective of whether self-employed or in piece rate employment where their location of work being home at low income and at outside the social security net. Home based work is becoming an important part of the economic transformation process. Its growth is significantly linked to the globalization of industry and the continuous search for cheaper labors and more efficient means of production. As a workforce, home-based workers have remained largely invisible. The working and living conditions of home-based worker is perhaps the most vulnerable. Due to invisibility of their work, the contribution of home-based workers to the economy is ignored, and they are deprived of social benefits and workers' rights. The paper attempts to examine the economic and working conditions of the home-based women workers in Tiruppur district. It conclude that efforts are needed to redefine and realign the home-based women workers.

Introduction

Home based work includes the persons working in unorganized sector irrespective of whether self-employed or in piece rate employment where their location of work being home at low income and at outside the social security net. Home based work is becoming an important part of the economic transformation process. Its growth is significantly linked to the globalization of industry and the continuous search for cheaper labour and more efficient means of production. In terms of numbers, about 23% of the non-agricultural workers are home-based. Among these home-based workers, nearly 38% undertook production under some form of production from an outside agency. An overwhelming 57% of the workforces of home-based workers are women. In India, amongst the self-employed home-based workers in the non-agricultural sector, 67% were women. Bulk of these worker producers live and work in 'on-the margin' survival conditions and do a variety of jobs for industry and trade, ranging from sewing garments, assembling electronic components to simple jobs of sorting, packaging and labeling goods. As a workforce, home-based workers have remained largely invisible. The working and living conditions of home-based worker is perhaps the most vulnerable. As Compared to other sections of the informal sector like street vendors and manual labourers, home-based workers often earn much less. This is despite the fact that many home-based workers, particularly those in sectors like crafts and weaving may be very skilled. Due to the invisibility of their work, the contribution of home-based workers to the economy is ignored, and they are deprived of social benefits and workers' rights. Typically, home-based workers are dispersed, illiterate, un-represented and invisible both in the national data or programme.

Definition of home based work

The Ministry of Labour, Government of India has adopted a broader definition and identified the basic criteria to define home-based workers for the purpose of the national policy framework as:

Persons working in the unorganized sector irrespective of whether self-employed or in piece rate employment, Location of work being home, Low income, Outside the social security net.

Statement of the Problem

Due to lack of professional quality, educational & soft skills for quality production home based women workers operate mostly outside the formal economy and are exposed to various serious problems. Since home-based work is one of the neglected sectors of informal economy from the national economy, there is a severe lack of data and information on this subject Therefore the present study furnish necessary information about different aspects of home based workers so as to enable the concerned authorities of government of Tamil Nadu to initiate the process of the formulation of appropriate policies for the secure livelihood of home based women workers.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the economic condition of women working at home.
2. To find out the working condition of Home Based Women Workers.
3.To offer suitable suggestions to im
prove economic and working condition of Home Based Women Workers.

Methodology

As there is a lack of data on number of home based women workers in Tiruppur district out of 13 blocks in Tiruppur districts, Gandhi Nagar block was selected randomly and 75 home based women workers were interviewed in this block. An interview schedule to elicit information on home based workers was administered among the households those who are involved in garment works. The data so collected was analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools like percentage and Chi-Square Test.

Review of Literature

Chandrakumarmangalam and Arun Kumar (2015), Most of the home-based women workers are suffering from the social limitations on their physical mobility. Thus, their attempts to bypass their disadvantages characterize the organization of the home-based women workers. Home-based workers are complements or substitutes for the factor system. So, a good networking is essential between home-based women workers and the job provider as well as fellow employees.

SyedMahnaz Hassan, AzlindaAzman (2014), Illiteracy has badly affected the status of women home-based workers. The situation has become worst for home-based women workers due to social exclusion, lack of mobility and gender discrimination. In some societies, cultural practices also pay an important role in the development of home-based work.

ShaliniSinha (2013), Home-Based workers typically earn very little, particularly the home workers who are paid on a piece rate and who are often dependent on middlemen for work and wages. For women home-based workers, accessing markets is a major challenge. They do not able to reach these new and expanding markets because they remain isolated, dispersed and have restriction on mobility. Women home-based workers work long hours, often in cramped and unhealthy posture, with poor lighting and unhygienic work conditions.

Bajaj (1999), In Asia, Particularly in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the education profiles of home based workers, predominantly that of women, remains low.

Jhabvala and Tate (1996), In addition to lack of space, many of the homes lack adequate lighting or other facilities. They are also vulnerable to fire, theft and both natural and civil disturbances. As many of the workers have no title to their homes, they may also find themselves literally "out on the street".

Findings and Analysis

During the study of women home based workers, it was observed that they were working in very poor conditions; they were earning low wages, having no legal and social protection. The major themes that emerged from the study is presented in the following.

Table 1
Socio-Economic Profile of the Home-based women workers in Tiruppur District

Age		
Age Group(in years)	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
15-25	25	33
25-40	30	40
40 & above	20	27
Total	**75**	**100**
Marital Status		
Marital Status	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Married	60	80
Unmarried	13	17
Widow	2	3
Total	**75**	**100**
Income per Month		
Mode of Payment		

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 show that the Home Based Women Workers age ranges between 15 to 40 & above. The respondents were in the ages of 15 to 25 is 33% and in the ages of 25 to 40 is 40 % and 27 % of women from the age group of 40 & above. Majority of the women some 60 out of 75 were interviewed, working in the sector is married and works so as to augment the family income. While unmarried women working for the purposes of (i) supplementing the family income and (ii) Earning livelihood for themselves don't want to place any burden on others and just for that, it was their family obligation to help so they have to do the same. A major Proportion of the respondents (80%) were married two of them were widows and 13 of them were unmarried. Wages of their earning for very hard work they get very low wages. They earn only Rs.1, 000 – 4,000 rupees per month. The table shows that 35 (47%) women earn Rs.4,000 – 6,000 rupees per month, 27% (20) percentage of the respondents earn below Rs. 2,000, 15 (20%) women earn Rs.2,000-4,000 per month and six percentage of the respondents earn above Rs.6,000.

Table 2
Working Conditions of Home Based Women Workers

Working Hours		
Working Hours	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
4 to 5	20	27
6 to 8	45	60
9 to 12	10	13
Total	**75**	**100**
Nature of Work		
Work	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Permanent	40	53
Seasonal	20	27
Temporary	15	20
Total	**75**	**100**

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 represents the working hours of the women respondents that the majority of 45 (60%) women were work from 6 to 8 hours, 27% (20) percentage of respondents work 4 to 5 hours and 10 (13%) women respondents were work from 9 to 12 hours. Nature of the work explains the majority of women workers 53 percentage of the respondents work permanently, 27 percentage of women workers work seasonally and 20 percentage of respondents work temporarily.

CHI- SQUARE TEST

Chi-Square Test was administered to check the satisfaction of home based women workers is in dependent of the working hours.

Hypothesis of the Study

1. Ho – There is no association between the satisfaction and working hours of the respondents.
2. Ho1 – There is some association between the satisfaction and the working hours of the respondents.

The result of the test is summarized in Table 3.
Table 3

Result of Chi-Square Test	
χ^2	10.405
$\chi^2 \alpha = 0.05$ d.f = 4	9.49
Decision	Reject Ho

Now the calculated value value is 10.405 and degree of freedom is 4. Tabulated value at 1% and 5% of level of significance is 13.277 and 9.488 respectively. Since the calculated value is higher than the tabulated value, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Hence there is no association between satisfaction level and working hours of home based women workers. The null hypothesis of independence is rejected which exemplifies that the satisfaction of the home based women workers is dependent on the hours engaged in garment work.

Conclusion

Home based work is becoming an important part of the economic transformation process. It growth is essential for the economic development. But in the research home-based work is neglected and not a homogenous informal economic activity. It differs in terms of regional location, nature of work undertaken and the socio-economic changes, working

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conditions of women were encountered. Further efforts are needed to redefine & realign the home-based women workers to take them into a powerful section of society.

Suggestions

Based on the survey results and findings, the Researcher would like to offer the following suggestions.

- Implementation of minimum wages (same work same wage) for home-based women workers and regularization of their work. There is also a need to increase their wages according to the inflation rate.
- Registration of Home-Based Women Workers as "workers" and expansion of social security coverage like EOBI and other safety nets to include them as workers of formal labor sectors.
- Signing of ILO Convention or Home Work Convention and formulation of a national policy for home-based workers.
- Schools for girls and women must be put up and opened and their education in the area must be promoted. There is also a need to open skills training centers for women where they can learn various skills and how to increase their income. It helps them to improve economic and working conditions of home based women workers.

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