RESEARCH PAPER
Impact Factor : 3.919
H.R.M
Index Copernicus Ic Value: 74.50
Volume : 6 | Issue : 4 | Special Issue April-2016 | ISSN - 2249-555X
India's Labour Legislation and its Employment Relation for the Next Decade



THE WOMEN STREET VENDORS' CONTRIBUTION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR FAMILIES

KEYWORDS
Women street vendors, maintenance

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ABSTRACT *The women street vendors are found everywhere in our country and elsewhere. This research explores the contribution made by them for the maintenance of their families. The researcher was able to meet 61 such street vendors in and around the Tank (Teppakulam) nearer to Rockfort and the Church in Chahiram Bus Stand, Tiruchirappalli City. The researcher applied Simple Random Sampling method in order to collect primary data from the respondents. This study revealed that their wages varied from Rs.2000 to Rs.6000 and their age group was 20 to 60 and between the age group 31-40 was found to be more. The women are in general unmarried. Though they are street vendors, they were contributing to their families and the society.*

INTRODUCTION:

"Empowered women are a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their value systems lead to the development of a good family, good society and ultimately good nation"

-Dr.A.P.J.ABDULKALAM

Space for a 'street vendor' in the city is highly congested. Street as a public space gets defined as legal-illegal, mainstream-periphery, and beautiful-ugly and so on. It shows how streetscapes are shaped through the interplay of politics, planning and the local political economy. In urban planning, public space has historically been described as an "open space", meaning the streets, parks and recreation areas, plazas and other publicly owned and managed outdoor spaces, as opposed to the private domain of housing and works. However, recent evaluation of the forms of urban settlement and the growing number and verity of semi-public spaces managed by private-public or entirely private partnership questions this nation inherited from a legal perspective. Somehow today, public space needs to be understood as being different form the public domain of the state and its sub-division. Rather, it needs to be understood as a space accessible to the public. In terms of law, it is perhaps closer to the older concept of the "common", although we have to recognize that today, at least in the Western world, every bit of land is regulated by laws of property making it difficult to consider anything as common without encountering an entitled owner and manager (Blackmar2006).

According to the ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, street vendors in India more than 10 million (1 Croce) and Delhi had the second biggest number of something like 2, 00,000 street vendors. Most of them were immigrant or without job workers, who on an average worked for 10-12 hours a day and remained impoverished. They work below conditions of economic and social insecurity. Unorganized sector has been growing in urban areas and now a day accounts for 91.5 per cent of the workforce.

Women street vendors most of us occupy in public place are called street or bus stand or market outside areas. It is a more number of people here and there wandering places. Its most scattered category, which includes women engaged in selling different products like broomsticks, cane basket, utensils, petty cosmetics, bangles, vegetables and running road site tea stalls, mess etc, Nearly 40% of total vendors are women and 30% these women are the sole earning members in their families. Many of these women workers are doing these activities primarily, because of their situation to earn money and growth of their economic status. Their earning is necessary for sheer survival.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

(Dunlop and Velkoff-1999) Indian society has got a significant role in the increasing number of women workers in the informal economy. There are regional, religions, social and economic groups which are independent of each other. Indian society is hierarchical with everyone ranked according to their caste, class, wealth and power. In addition to that, much of women's economic activities like working on farms, weaving and home based work etc. are not accounted in the statistics. In addition to that, women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores. As a result of the cultural and other restrictions more and more women involved informal work than in the formal work, where the jobs are unlinked and low-paying with little benefits.(N.Andal-2002) Women in the workforce earning wages or a salary are a part of a modern phenomenon, on that developed at the same time as the growth of paid employment for men; yet women have been challenged by inequality in the workforce. (Sankaran Kamala and Roopa Madhav2011)The life of unorganized sector workers is very tough. Social workers and educationists have been for a long time concerned more with women empowerment and have contributed a great deal in focusing attention of the people to the importance of several factors which should be taken care of in helping women to develop fully. The supremacy of male is reflected in all the acts in the family but women's autonomy is essential to rectify this imbalance and attain gender equality. The workers in an unorganized sector have legal protection in terms of job security, wages or working conditions. In 2005 the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) commissioned a study titled 'Understanding the Levels of Women's Empowerment in the Work Place' revealed that women constitute only 6% of total workforce in corporate houses. The percentage of women in leading managerial positions is abysmally low. Only 7% labour force is in the organized sector and 93% work in unorganized or informal sec-

Volume : 6 | Issue : 4 | Special Issue April-2016 | ISSN - 2249-555X

tor. The reason for the employment of women in such large numbers in the informal sector is women's weaker bargaining power, low skilled labour, generally lower wages than men and lack of unionization. The precise efforts of women's participation in wage work on the family-based household have received little detailed attention until recently. This is particularly the case in the urban context of many developing countries where female labour force participation. Despite the existence of various constitutional and legal provisions safeguarding women's employment a large number of women workers, particularly in the unorganized sector suffer from various disadvantages relating to their working lives as well as home. The coverage of labour laws has not benefits these women workers in many crucial area, especially health, maternal and social security. A striking feature of most unorganized sector employment is that workers are employed largely through unorganized contractors and subcontractors.

RESEARCH METHODOLODY:

Objective of the study:

- To analyze the daily wages of the women street vendors.
- To know their contribution for their family maintaince.

Hypothesis

- There is a significant relationship between wage of the respondents and their family management.
- There is a significant difference between marital status and the working environment.

Area of the study:

The researcher's area of study covers around the Tank (Teppakulam) nearer to the Rockfort and the Church in Chathiram Bus Stand area of Tiruchirapalli city.

Research design:

The research design used in this research study is descriptive.

Sample method:

The researcher adopted simple random sampling method. The women street vendors are found in the morning and evening. So the research chose those timings and went for meeting them and started collecting information.

Universe of the Study:

The universe is found more in number. But the researcher was able to meet 61 respondents at random and collect data from them. It is to be noted that as it is a mini-project, the researcher could limit to only 61 respondents.

Data collection:

The primary data was collected through the interview schedule. Secondary data was collected from many other sources like Websites, Journals and Books.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPERTATION:

Table.1: Distribution of respondents by monthly wage

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1000-2000	3	4.9	4.9
	2001-4000	22	36.1	36.1
	4001-6000	33	54.1	54.1
	6001-8000	3	4.9	4.9
	Total	61	100.0	100.0

The above table shows that 54.1 per cent of the respondents earn Rs.4001-6000 and these who earn Rs.2001-4000 form 36.1 per cent. Those who earn Rs.1000-2000 and Rs.6001-8000 come to 4.9% respectively.

Thus it is calculated that those who earn Rs. 4001-6000 in found more because they are involved in selling mostly fruits and flowers.

Table 2: Dstribution of respondents by age

Age	Frequency	percent	valid percent
valid 20-30	12	19.7	19.7
31-40	22	36.1	36.1
41-50	18	29.5	29.5
51-60	9	14.8	14.8
Total	61	100	100

This table above illustrates that 19.7 per cent of the respondents come under the age group of 20-30 and another 36.1 per cent of the respondents fall under the age group of 31-40 and 18 per cent age of the respondents come under the age group of 41-50 and remaining 14.8 per cent age of the respondents come under the age of 51-60.

Most of the respondents 36.1 percent belong to the age group of 31-40 respectively. Thus it is inferred that is the age group in which they are maintaining their families.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by Martial status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Married	17	27.9	27.9
	Unmarried	38	62.3	62.3
	Widow	6	9.8	9.8
	Total	61	100.0	100.0

The above table shows that 62.3 per cent of the respondents are unmarried women and 27.9 per cent of the respondents are married women and only 9.8 per cent of the respondents are windows.

Therefore it inferred that a considerable portion of the respondents are unmarried because of the family responsibility and poverty.

Hypotheses: The following hypotheses would validate the research

Hypothesis.1

H1: There is a significant relationship between satisfactory level of the wages of the respondents and their family management.

Ho: There is no significant relationship between satisfactory level of the wages of the respondents and their family management

Volume : 6 | Issue : 4 | Special Issue April-2016 | ISSN - 2249-555X

Table.4. Satisfactory level over the wages

Monthly wage	very Satisfaction	Satisfaction	Neutral	Dissatisfaction	Very dissatisfaction	Total
1000-2000	0	0	0	1	2	3
2001-4000	0	8	0	5	9	22
4001-6000	0	5	3	12	13	33
6001-8000	1	2	0	0	0	3
Total	1	15	3	18	24	61

Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Asymp.sig.(2.sided)
Pearson Chi-square	30.744	12	.002
Likelihood Ratio	20.608	12	.056
Linear by linear association	1.905	1	.168
N of valid cases	61		

Finding: The above table shows calculated value (0.02) of chi-square is which less than the table value (0.05). Therefore the research hypothesis (H1) is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected (Ho). Therefore we can conclude that there is a significance relationship between wage of the respondents and their family management of unorganized sector. It is signifies that the respondents mostly earn from 2000-6000. Though this wage is low, the respondents were able to maintain their families.

Hypothesis 2

H2: There is a significant difference between marital status of the respondents and working environment.

Ho: There is no significant difference between marital status of the respondents and working environment.

Table.5

Marital status	N	Mean	Std . Deviation
Neutral	10	1.80	.422
Dissatisfaction	30	2.03	.490
Very Dissatisfaction	21	1.52	.680
Total	61	1.82	.592

ANOVA

Marital Status	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig
Between Groups	3.212	2	1.606	5.231	.008
Within Groups	17.805	58	.307		
Total	21.016	61			

Finding: The above table shows the calculated value (0.08) which is greater than the table value (0.05). Therefore the Null hypothesis (Ho) is accepted and research hypothesis is rejected (H2). Therefore we can conclude that there is no significance difference between marital status of the respondents and working environment of unorganized sector women street vendors.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- +54.1 per cent of the respondents earn Rs.4001-6000 followed by 36.1 per cent earn Rs.2001-4000. The remaining for Rs.1000-2000 and Rs.6001-8000 come to 4.9 per cent respectively (Table 1).
- It is noticed that 36.1 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of 41-50 and then 31-40. (Table 2).
- 62.3 per cent of the respondents are unmarried women street vendors. The next group 27.9 per cent the respondents are married women and only 9.8 per cent of the respondents are windows (Table.3).

CONCLUSION:

This mini research revealed the Women Street vendors' earning in general varied from Rs.2000 to Rs.6000 which is comparatively lower, yet they are able to maintain their families. Regarding the age group; the respondents were falling between 20 to 60 and between the age group 31-40 was found to be more. The women were in general unmarried and there were married too. Though they were street vendors, they were contributing to their families and the society. Women street vendors earn money not only for their survival of their families but also for the education of their children and household activities of daily life.

RECOMMENDATION:

- The introduction of plans, schemes, policies for women in unorganized sector would improve their condition.
- The corporation could give a provision on their selling places with hygienic condition.

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Volume : 6 | Issue : 4 | Special Issue April-2016 | ISSN - 2249-555X

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