



PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF FEMALE LABOUR IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR OF CHITTOOR DISTRICT AP

Economics

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ABSTRACT

This topic introduces the study as a whole. It states and formulates the research problem, describes methodology and lays out the organization of the research study. Almost 400 million people (more than 85 percent of the working population in India) work in unorganized sector and of these at least 120 million are women. Women working in the informal sector are not included in the official statistics and their work is undocumented and considered as disguised wage work, unskilled, low paying and does not provide benefits to the worker. India was one of the first countries in the world to give women the right to vote. The Indian constitution is one of the most progressive in the world and guarantees equal rights for men and women. Despite the advances women have made in many societies, women's concerns are still given second priority almost everywhere. They continue to face discrimination and marginalization both subtle and blatant and do not share equally in the fruits of development. Their contribution is not given due credit. Women workers in unorganized sector lag behind the males in terms of level and quality of employment. In the recent years there is seen an increase in number of women in India, working outside the family to get more income for the family. In India women workers constitute only one third of the total workforce in India. The unorganized sector in India has been hitherto a neglected segment. However, the passing of the Unorganized Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2008 can be hailed as a milestone in the economic history of the nation. National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector had recommended setting up of a financial institution – national fund for unorganized sector called- NAFUS like NABARD so that loans can be made available to the unorganized sector at a comparatively lesser interest rates and more conveniently. The country needs to have a more generous policy towards them as they are contributing magnificently to the overall growth of the nation. Domestic workers as a part of unorganized work force in India remain the most exploited ones even after all these decades of the Independence in 1947. Many evidences indicate that over a period of time domestic work has become more feminized. It is reported that that 78% of domestic helpers in 12 cities were female (Pereira 1984) and there was an increase of 21.3% in the number of female workers in the Union Territory of Delhi from 1971 to 1981 (Dighe and Choudhury 1988).

KEYWORDS

Review Of The Literature

Lutz (2005) in most of Europe, domestic workers have been disappearing since the beginning of the 20th century, and particularly after World War II. Deshingkar et al. (2006) child migration from Purnia, Madhubani and Sitamarhi 45 districts in Bihar to towns in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for work in “dhabas” has been on the increase over the last 10 years. These are mainly children from SC families and they migrate for 8-9 months a year. They are paid Rs.500-1500 a month with food. Often the payment is given directly to the parents as an advance and the child repays the debt. Shah (2006) Shah's research on migration to brick-kilns from Jharkhand shows that migration gives young men and women the opportunity to pursue amorous relationships away from social restrictions in the village. Samal (2006) Research on seasonal migration conducted under the Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project in two villages in Mahabubnagar district and two villages in Ananthapur found that most households did not save much but some did accumulate wealth and one of the major factors leading to the accumulation of assets was the repetition of migration to the same destination. Long-term migration to places like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore enabled migrant households to accumulate because of the relatively higher wages and absence of middlemen. Migrants were predominantly from the lower social strata of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Backward Classes (BCs) (95 per cent). They were mainly illiterate, landless laborers and marginal farmers. In her study, Mitra (1998) emphasizes the share and contributions of state-level workers in informal employment and the interdependence of employment in the organized sector to gauge the extent of industrialization and rapid urbanization.

Unni & Rani (1999) have found in their study that formal jobs are declining in India. They insisted on the need for structural adjustment of employment. Increasingly, the labour force is being absorbed into the informal sector. They also opined that the growth of small operative sectors, sub-contracting, and the promotion of export-focused enterprises has started driving the growth of the informal sector in India in an exponential manner. According to the survey conducted in Ahmedabad in 1998-99, an enormous section of the informal sector is self-employed. Their operative cost is termed to be very low due to the lower capital outflow. They also found that women contribute more to informal economic activity and generate income and employment opportunities in the city.

Unni's (2000) study revealed that in 1997-98, Ahmedabad city absorbed almost 1.5 million people and generated substantial income of U.S. \$1253 million as per the study mentioned by Self Employed Women's Association. Balakrishnan (2002) argues in her study that many export-based firms are mainly engaged in informal forms of enterprise and production. In the informal sector, production and output costs for these firms are relatively low as their labour costs are very low. In their study on women, Bai & Joseph (2009) emphasize that women over occupy informal employment in India. It shows that significant feminization of the labour force has taken place in rural areas and urban areas. The study reported that in many cases, the informal sector women workers are working in terrible conditions. This was evident in many enterprises in the informal sector such as garment-making industries, export industries, retail stores, and domestic work.

Kathuria et al. (2010) found that the informal sector has proliferated in recent decades in both developing and developed nations. It has grown widely after the crisis in the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s. The contribution of the income and employment generation from the unorganized sector to the nation has increased over time.

Mishra (2010) conducted her study on women informal sector workers and found that the informal sector's women are poorly paid and face unsafe working and living conditions. Her study mainly focused on the non-manufacturing informal sector enterprises such as service and service-oriented sectors.

In their work on home-based workers, Sudarshan & Sinha (2011) reported that social protection for the women home-based workers in the unorganized sector, exists only on paper, it has not yet been implemented. According to them, labour laws must be so framed so as to protect and encourage women workers. Their findings also indicate the poverty and vulnerability of women workers in the focus area.

Mehta (2012) opined that the unorganized sector plays a vital role in the economy in the labour market in many countries, especially in developing countries like India. He defined informal labour as individuals involved in casual work, ignorant of the labour market, illiterate and carrying out small scale operations.

Dar Javaid Ahmad (2014) in his paper on "Socio-Economic Conditions of Female

Domestic Workers in Punjab: A Case Study of Sangrur District" The paper is based on empirical work which examines the economic conditions of female domestic workers employed in households. The survey has been conducted in the urban areas of the Sangrur district of Punjab state. The study has found that the economic conditions of the female domestic workers are quite vulnerable.

Sudarshan et al. (2007) study notes that in Madhya Pradesh, the women workers' home-based household revenue was 30.9 percent. The beedi (cigarette) workers made a significant contribution, in rural Tamil Nadu the income from beedi workers recorded as 46 percent and in urban Tamil Nadu it was 71 percent.

Patel et al. (2017), in their study, found that women workers are most vulnerable due to their employment in the informal sector. They belonged to the marginalized sections of society, where legal, political, and economic conditions are critical. Moreover, women could not demand their fundamental rights, such as equal wages, social security measures, and regular payments for their work. The study also found that the number of people in the informal sector has increased considerably. Women workers were characterized as weak, illiterate, and socially backward.

Mazumdar (2018) has written a working paper on home-based work has found that it is largely gender specific. She has suggested that the government be involved in the home-based workers' issues and consider their poor economic conditions. She has also emphasized that women home-based workers are invisible to society.

Sivasubramanian K.¹, Pushpa A.², Raju V.³, Madhu Dhruva Kumar (2020) Study seeks to analyse the socio-economic and health status of women workers in the informal sector in Chennai, India. Informal employment consists of various kinds of micro-enterprises offering commodities and services and home-based work.

Need Of The Study

People who are engaged in unorganized work are facing serious problems including poverty, health hazard, family problems, poor housing facilities, insufficient nutritious food, unhygienic environment, illiteracy, physical stress and debts etc., only very few studies are conducted on unorganized women workers who are facing many problems at work. Hence, the researcher is keen to learn about the problems of unorganized women workers. The findings of the study are useful to identify the problems faced by the unorganized women workers which will help the Government and NGOs work for the development of this section of the workers.

Statement Of The Problem

The problems of the female workers in the unorganized sector in particular deserve special emphasis because of their marginalized position within the class of workers. The double burden of work is even more arduous when they have to perform a reproductive role at home front as well as long hours to obtain a subsistence wage at the center of employment. A reproductive role of women is less visible and less recognized by the society. They engage in multiple livelihood activities to fulfil their productive and reproductive role. A woman is associated with her house and is expected to look after domestic chores and her typical roles are those of a housewife and a mother. Lack of education, ignorance and poverty compel the women from this class to accept whatever unskilled job is available on whatever wage the employer wishes to pay.

The unorganized sectors are facing many problems such as unemployment, low wages, and irregular payment of wages, non-availability of social security and welfare facilities, and exploitative working conditions. The unorganized female workers are facing several problems, such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, sickness, low wages and irregular payment of wages. Their socio-economic and health conditions are really terrible. This study is an attempt to assess the work related problems faced by unorganized female workers in Chittoor district.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To examine the socio-economic status of female labourers in the

unorganized sector in Chittoor district.

2. To explore the nature, employment, income, saving and living conditions of unorganized female labourers.
3. To analyze the social and economic impact of female employment in unorganized sector of the society.
4. To bring out the problems and prospects of female workers in unorganized sector.
5. To suggest measures for upliftment of living conditions of female labourers in unorganized sector.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference among female workers of unorganized sector with regard to the working conditions in the industry.
2. There is no significant difference in Employment, income and savings of female workers in unorganized sector.
3. There is no significant difference among female workers with regard to benefits of job.

Sampling Design

The present study is based on both secondary and primary data available through different sources, drawn inferences and conclusions.

Primary Data

Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh has been purposively selected for the study. The multi staged random sampling method was adopted in the selection of sample of unorganized women workers in the study. District is the first stage of sampling. In the second stage revenue divisions are selected. There are three revenue divisions namely, Madanapalli, Tirupati and Chittoor. There are 31 mandals in Madanapalli division, 15 mandals in Tirupati division and 20 mandals in Chittoor division. Owing to the time constraints, of the 66 mandals in the district, one Rural mandal and one Urban mandal from each of the three revenue divisions in the mandal and one Urban mandal from each of the three revenue divisions in the district were selected in the third stage of sampling on the basis of existence of higher percentage of women unorganized workers.

Secondary Data

The principal sources of secondary data are: publications of Govt. of India and various reports published by Andhra Pradesh. District statistical reports and district gazettes, various journals, Weeklies, publications of the Government of India, Economic Survey, Human Development Report (UNDP), Census Report, various books on unorganized female labour and websites.

Data Analysis And Interpretation

The primary and secondary data collected from different sources have been tabulated and interpreted meaningfully. The data has been analyzed with Chi-Square test, t-test, ANOVA using Software Package for Social Sciences and various inferences and conclusions have been drawn from the data. The information is represented in graphical method also.

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