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A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN WORKERS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR WITH REFERENCES TO CHENNAI CITY

Dr. R. SURESH BABU ASST. PROFESSOR IN COMMERCE SIR THEAGARAYA COLLEGE CHENNAI

ABSTRACT

When Women move forward, a family moves, the village moves and the nation moves. Employment gives economic status to women. Economic status gives way to social status and thereby empowerment. Women workers engaged in the unorganized sector do not come under the benefits of several laws such as the Minimum Wages Act or the Factories Act. They were also not covered by statutory welfare measures such as maternity benefits, provident fund, gratuity, leaves etc., like workers in the organized sector.

KEYWORDS

Chennai, women empowerment, women employment, women workers.

INTRODUCTION

large number of women are working in the unorganized sector and very often they are exploited on various terms. The study also analyses the role of social movements, targeting women, in improving the bargaining power of women workers. Though the topic has been touched by a number of scholars and academicians, the studies on social movements for women with a right-based approach is limited. The study is important as more and more women are entering the informal sector work force to support their families and trade unions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Illustrative categorize of unorganized labour for the research purpose are

- 1. Casual labour
- 2. Labour employed in small scale industry
- 3. Beedi and cigar workers
- 4. Sweepers and scavengers
- 5. Employees in shops and commercial establishments
- 6. Workers in tanneries

ACTS AND PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Government of India has formulated some act and programs for women workers in unorganized sector-

1. Domestic workers and social security Act, 2010: Women and child are more vulnerable exploitation so government has formulated this act for providing them better working conditions including registration.

2. Unorganized sector workers Act 2008: The workers felicitation center (WFC) is responsible for implementing the act. Under this act, various schemes are

- a) Janani Suraksha Yojna
- b) National Family Benefit Scheme
- c) Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojna

3. Cooperative intervention: Cooperative provides employment and opportunities provided to women worker for earning income. Corporative tries to make balance in individual need and communing needs by empowering them.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This Review analyses the views and main findings of different authors on the economic conditions of unorganized laborers. The study of related literature implies locating, reading and evaluating reports of casual observation and opinions that are related to the individual's planned research work. Further, the concepts used in the present study have been discussed.

Punekar, Deodhar and Sankaran (2004) in their book, Labor Welfare, Trade Unionism and Industrial Relations" stated that labor welfare is anything done for the comfort and improvement, intellectual and social - well-being of the employees over and above the wages paid which is not a necessity of the industry.

Deshkal society (2004) observed that contractors are in the domination position. The untimely payment of wages remain is a big challenge for labourers. Variety of issues like unregulated working hours, unhygienic working environment, lack of social security is the major concerns for the unorganized labourers.

Anthony P. D'souza (2013) focused the status and contribution of unorganized sector focused more on the challenges and problems faced by the youth in selecting job as self-employment. It is found that larger number of workers was getting their livelihood from this sector and entrepreneur plays a vital role in bringing up unorganized sector at the better position in the country.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Majority of women in the unorganized sector work for low and highly unequal wages compared to male counterparts, the unorganized sectors as it is, characterized by no clear cut relationship between the employee and employee as most of the employees are contractors, casuals, migrants and home based. Because of this character of employees, the safeguard of the right of employees, social security protection, labour laws are not applicable in the unorganized sector. Thus the workers in the unorganized sector in general are outside the purview of protective labour laws and trade union organizations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

An attempt is made to understand the root causes of the exploring issues of women workers and role of social movements in unorganized in Tamilnadu in general and Chennai district in particular.

The broad objectives are as follows:

- 1. To profile the socio, economic condition of unorganized women workers in Chennai.
- 2. To find out the level of women workers in the unorganized sectors
- 3. To find out the various causes of women workers in the unorganized sectors.
- 4. To suggest the possible remedial measures for the women workers working in Unorganized sectors
- 5. To evaluate the economic empowerment of women workers.

STUDY AREA

Chennai as a city had its origins in the colonial past – the East India Company days. Chennai is the Capital of Tamilnadu and one of the oldest Municipal Corporations and fourth largest Metropolitan City in India. In the 20th Century with industrialization and especially after independence, the city has outgrown the limits into the border areas of the erstwhile Chegalpattu District which has been bifurcated to Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur Districts. Recognizing the expansion of the Metropolis, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority was created to monitor and aid development. Chennai Metropolitan Area comprises the city of Chennai, 16 Municipalities, 20 Town Panchayats and 214 village Panchayats in 10 Panchayat Unions. The extent of CMA is 1189 sq.km.

The city has a large migrant population with laborers living in slums and pavements. There are number of studies of the conditions of migrant workers living in slums and pavements. This study is focused on the new migrants, namely, the interstate migrant workers who according to Trade Union representatives, 'are swelling in numbers during this decade'. Chennai is divided into four broad regions: North, South, Central and West. North Chennai is primarily an industrial area, while Central Chennai is the commercial heart of the city. South Chennai and West Chennai, previously mostly residential, are fast becoming commercial, home to a growing number of IT firms, financial companies and call centers.

AREA OF THE STUDY

In this study an effort had been taken to examine the problems and prospects of women workers in unorganized sectors in Chennai city towards the 18 specific locations based on residential, commercial areas and socio-economic conditions.

ZONE LOCATION SELECTED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Central Chennai	Chennai Central, Parrys, Egmore, Nungambakkam, Mount Road, Anna Square, T Nagar, Tambaram
South Chennai	Besant Nagar, Guindy, Koymabedu, Mylapore, Thiruvanmiyur
North Chennai	Red Hills, Royapuram, Thondiarpet
West Chennai	Anna Nagar, Vadapalani

METHODOLOGY

The study was based on a random and a convenient sampling method with a sample size of 400 women workers in unorganized sector. The outcome of the study is based on both the primary data and the secondary data. A questionnaire was prepared to gather the primary data. The secondary data was prepared by incorporating valuable suggestions and methods suggested by various articles, journals, books, referring the women workers in unorganized sectors. Women workers in various unorganized sectors were randomly contacted and interviewed

SOURCES OF THE DATA

The methodology adopted for the present project is based both on primary and secondary data. The primary will be collected from the women street vendors, Casual labors in small scale industry, sweepers and scavengers, employee in shops and workers in tanneries. A pilot and survey study will be conducted in the Chennai city towards 18 specific locations. The study is both descriptive and analytical. The secondary data have been collected from the books, journals, published and unpublished materials and also from websites. While conducting the survey, various tools such as observation, In-depth survey, questionnaires, and focused interviews will be used. The following schedules may be designed keeping in mind the aims and objectives of the study.

TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS

The gathered information will be put into statistical treatment. Since the information is ungrouped, first, they will be grouped according to its nature and importance by using classification technique. Diagrams and graphs will be drawn wherever it is necessary. The conventional statistical tools such as percentage analysis, Garret Ranking, correlation, and chi-square test will be used to make the data more meaningful.

FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

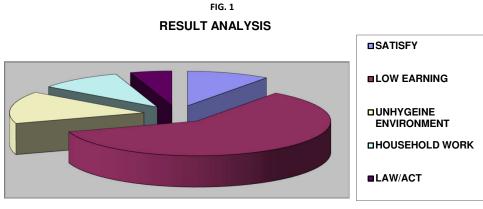
The study has been analyzed through tables, percentage, Garrett ranking techniques and factor analysis. There are some other aspects influences the women workers in unorganized sectors.

S.NO	SOURCES	GARRETT MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	HEALTH	68.54	1
2	RIGHTS	45.24	V
3	EDUCATION	39.58	VIII
4	RESPONSIBILITY	55.3	П
5	CLEANLINESS	50.32	IV
6	STANDARD OF LIVING	41.32	VII
7	MEDICAL FACILITIE	45.12	VI
8	ENVIRONMENT	51.7	Ш

TABLE 1 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS TOWARDS WOMEN WORKERS

2. PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENT

Total respondent	400
SATISFY	10%
LOW EARNING	60%
UNHYGEINE ENVIRONMENT	15%
HOUSEHOLD WORK	10%
LAW/ACT	5%



Source: Primary Data

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chennai city has a sufficient number of women workers working in unorganized sector. During their work, they face a lot of problems, they are exploited, are unaware about their rights. To have a fairly representative sampling, 400 women workers were randomly selected from Chennai city working at different places from the close study, the following factors were analyzed

- About 30% of the respondent indicates that it can be easily estimated that the women working in unorganized sector are living a life far below from satisfaction.
- Out of 400 sampling 60% of the respondent indicated that the low earning cannot meet with their daily needs.
- 45% of the respondent indicates that, they do marry, bear children, and get old but under these phases of life, they live the same life. They live under unhygienic environment which results dangerous diseases. They work more than men as they have to play a dual role working both in and outside the home. They have no medical facilities even at the critical moment of giving to their children's.
- 30% of respondent say that only a few of them are assisted by other members of family in household work otherwise they have to work solely.
- 65% of the respondent, say that No doubt, there are laws to protect women and prevent exploitation but these laws (the Interstate Migrant Workmen Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act, 1979, The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961), but these legislations are not practically and strictly implement. It is the need of the hour that government and NGOs must come forward to improve the lot of these women. The Trade Union and Voluntary Organizations can play a vital role in making them conscious of cleanliness, health, education and above all their rights and this can be done only with the joint efforts of the government, NGOs and common people. Much remains to be done for the betterment of these beautiful creations of God.
- To arrange discussions, lectures and debates on relevant social issues
- To publish periodicals, journals, books, pamphlets etc. related to research and other activities/issues
- To help existing smaller groups of domestic workers to form their union
- To help them form their own self help Groups
- To help them to form their union
- To help them from their union so that they are protected from unscrupulous municipal authorities and policemen who collect money from them
- To register them and distribute the endorsed identity cards so that they can do their work without any hindrance
- To help them enhance and upgrade their livelihood

CONCLUSION

The informal sector workers in Chennai city face a number of issues in particular. They are particular as most of the workers in Chennai are migrants from other parts of the country. Their social and educational background also contributes to their miserable conditions. The research would map out the diversity and complexity of issues related to women's access to services, entitlements, financial resources within the specific sub-sector. The selection of policies/schemes should include but not be limited to employment, social protection maternity entitlements. Workers in the unorganized sector in general are outside the purview of protective labour laws and trade union organizations. More so, Chennai City is one of the districts having significant number of unorganised women workers. In view of the constraint of time and cost, a limited region, i.e. Chennai City has been chosen as the focus area of the study.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Secondary review and assessment of relevant laws and policies that impact unorganized women workers in a given sub-sector, to identify gaps in formulation and implementation.
- Budget analysis of related interventions/schemes from a gender lens to assess trends in allocations and expenditure at the national level as well as in the selected state.
- Conduct mapping of socio-economic status of women workers in select districts in one state.
- Undertake field based research through groups/collectives of women workers in select districts to map/document issues related to nature of work/ working conditions, others risk and vulnerabilities related to their access to services, financial resources and entitlements including case studies

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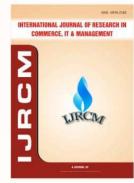
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