
LIVING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN LABOURERS WORKING IN UNORGANISED SECTOR WITH REFERENCE TO MATCH INDUSTRY

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Abstract

In developing countries like India, women's participation in the organized sector it's only about 15.0 per cent through in some of the developed countries a ratio as high as 72 to 80 per cent is reported. However, their participation in unorganized and informal sectors are quite considerable in these countries. Prabha rai made a study on the unorganized labor force in India to evaluate the living conditions of these employed in various industries, trades and services both in rural and urban areas. It shows that now industries and crafts like embroidery industry, beedi industry, manufacturing units and the match industry units developed without having been brought within the purview of the laws. Now the time has come to take steps at the level of individuals. States and international level to protect the human rights of women labourers of unorganized sector in India.

Keywords: *Unorganized sector, women labourers, living conditions, match industry, economic development, economic status, informal sector.*

Introduction

The economic status of women plays a keen role in determining her social status as well as her physiological relationship with other. It is found that nearly 85 per cent of the female population in the country workers. The women workers constitute only 13 percentage of the total population. At the same time it is also a fact that the primary sector alone provides works to 82 per cent of the female workers and about 51 percentage women workers work as agricultural labourer, which is an indication of their low economy status in the community. As for female participation in secondary activities; one may find their contribution in various activities especially in the household industries. Thus their participation in the non house hold industries is not at all significance. Besides, the overall literacy percentage among female is only 18-50, which is again on inhabiting factor limiting their economic opportunity.

In India women workers constitute about one – fifth of the total work force in the overall economic activity. Out of these very few are employed in organized sector. In spite of the mandatory legislative protective provision, the extent of their exploitation exists not only in the unorganized sector but in the organized sector also. Due to in adequate implementation of protective legislative provisions concerning women

workers, there still remains a yawning gap between these provisions and the facilities actually available to them. Some instances have occurred, where women workers were deprived of the benefits and amenities like equal remuneration vis-à-vis their male counterparts, maternity benefits, child care service and the like. Several factors are responsible for their plight, like weak bargaining power, indifferent attitude of the employers and non-awareness of the rights available as per the legislative provision. Although the Government is seized of the situation, yet it continues to remain a problem area due to non-availability of reliable statistical data and other information pertaining to working and living conditions of women workers.

However, their participation in unorganized and informal sectors is quite considerable in developing countries. Now the modern women like their sisters in the ancient societies are not subjected to various socio-economic sufferings. In the new era, more and more women are unwilling to accept the subordinate passive and restricted role. They not only want to liberate themselves from this man-dominated world in which they have been discriminated and so incompatible with human dignity. With the help and welfare of the family and of society they want to create a better world for all to live in.

Poverty is a major obstacle to the achievement of sustainable development is the condition in which many women throughout the developing world live. The number of poor women continues to grow both in absolute terms and in relation to poor men. According to one estimate poverty has increased by 47 per cent among rural women over the past 30 years, compared with 30 per cent among rural men. This trend reflects the fact that rural women often lack access to resources and is a reminder that much of their work is unpaid labour directed towards the support of survival of families. Working as much as 16 hours a day, rural women can kill the time and energy to pursue cash earning jobs or to develop new skills. Prabha Rai made a study on the unorganized labour force in India to evaluate the living conditions of these employed in various industries, trades and services both in rural and urban areas. It shows that now industries and crafts like embroidery industry, beedi industry manufacturing units and the match industry units developed without having been brought within the purview of the laws. Now the time has come to take steps at the level of individuals, states and international level to protect the human rights of women labourers of unorganized sector in India.

Methodology

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected directly from the women labourers of the match industry through a well set pre-tested interview schedule in the study area. The data were collected from both the employees of the match work units and match works in the study area.

The secondary data were obtained from various reports connected with the match industry and the Director of Foreign Trade and from the Government of India's official web sites.

Sampling Method

In virudhunagar district sattur town has been chosen as a study area because in sattur town there are highest concentrations of match industries in Tamilnadu. The 100 sample match industries have been selected for conducting research by using simple random sampling technique. For each unit, 5 women labourers have been randomly taken as a sample. Hence the total numbers of sample were 500.

Statistical Tools

The researcher has used the following statistical tools.

- Chi-square test.
- Percentage Analysis

Data Analysis and Discussion

This place is devoted to analyze and discuss the primary data collected from the various women respondents in the study chosen for the present study area. Today, economic independence is considered to be the prime basis for improving the status and living condition of women in India. It is generally agreed that availability of credit to women would result in reducing their dependency, enhancing their social and economic activities as well as empowering them to assert more in the household decisions.

In India women cannot be viewed as a homogenous group as the society is stratified on the basis of class, caste and religion.

It has been observed that the position of women and their demand for bank credit remain tied to class, caste and religions affiliation. In order to grasp the nature of these causal relationships , it is imperative to understand the living conditions of women labourer's in match industries .This work attempts to analyze the major living conditions variables of the present section has been classified under the heads namely;

- Living condition of the women labourers.
- Family characteristics of the respondents.
- Relationship between family characteristics and income of the respondents.

Relationship between Income of the Women Labourers and their Family Characteristics

In this section, an attempt has been made to examine the relationship between the income of the respondents and their family characteristic namely family size, family income and spouse's income.

In order to examine the relationship, chi-square test was used. It is calculated by adopting the following formula

$$\text{Chi square} = \sum \left(\frac{(O-E)^2}{E} \right)$$

With (r-1) (e-1) degrees of freedom where
where,

o- Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

$$E = \frac{\text{Row total} \times \text{Column total}}{\text{Grand total}}$$

C= number of column in a contingency fall

R=number of rows contingency

Women as daughters, wife's, mothers and grandmothers have their own family responsibilities. If there are more number of members in the family, Women take up an occupation either to enhance the family income or to satisfy their own personal ambition. A two way table is prepared to test the relationship between the income of the respondents and their family size. Table 1.1 exhibits the income of the respondents and their family size.

Table 1.1 Relation between Family Size and Monthly Income of the Women Labourers

S No	Family size	Below Rs.750	Rs.750-1000	Rs.1000 & above	Total
1	Below 3	136 (38.20)	22 (24.72)	10 (18.18)	168 (33.60)
2	3-5	203 (57.02)	61 (68.54)	41 (74.55)	305 (61.00)
3	5 and above	17(4.78)	6 (6.74)	4 (7.27)	27 (5.40)
	Total	356 (100.00)	89 (100.00)	55 (100.00)	500 (100.00)

Source: Computer from primary data.

Figures in brackets denotes percentage to total.

Table-1.1 Observed that 356 women labourers in match industries had the monthly income of below Rs750 and 136[38.20per cent] of them fall under the family size below 3. The remaining 203 [57.02per cent]of them fall the category between 3-5and 17 [4.78per cent] of them fall under the family size 5 and above. In the case of the respondents whose monthly income is above Rs 1000 out of 55 respondents 10[18.18per cent] of them fall under the family size below 3, 41[74.55per cent] of them have family size between 3to 5 and 4[7.27per cent] of them fall under the family size 5 and above.

In order to find out whether there is any correlation between the family size and income of respondents chi-square test has been applied .The result of the chi-square test are presented below.

Calculated value of chi-square =11.8176

Table value at 5per cent level =9.488

Degree of freedom =4

As the calculated value of chi-square is refer than the value at 5per cent level of significance, there is a relationship between income of the respondents and there family size in the study area.

Summary of Findings

The main findings of the study are summarized below.

- Majority of the respondents (35.20 per cent) belong to the age group of below 25 years followed by 25-30 years (32.40 per cent)
- Regarding the educational Status majority of the respondents (72.80 per cent) is educated up to primary level.
- Nearly five percent of the selected respondents (4.60 per cent) were illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents (90.20 per cent) were married.
- Most of the respondents (50.60 per cent) have taken up the job in order to increase their family income
- Most of the respondents (71.20 per cent) were earning the average monthly of below rs.750
- Regarding the religion most of the respondents (82.40 per cent) were from the Hindu religion and (80.80 per cent) were from the backward /most backward communities
- The (61 per cent) of the respondents are having 3-5 family members and (60.20per cent) of the respondents were living in a joint family system.
- The [43.02 per cent] parents/spouses average monthly income were below Rs.1000 and the [54.40per cent] family were having average monthly incomes are between Rs. 2000-2500
- The chi-square results revealed that the family size, family income and Spouses income have influenced the income of the respondents.

Conclusion

Match industry plays a vital role in providing employment opportunities to the women workers. Women workers have all along been an integral part of the labour force, engaged in the match industry in India. A majority of the match industry labourers are women workers, as they comprise a significant portion of the cheap labour force. The present study is an attempt to study the life style of women labourers in the match industry. The findings of the present study will be highly useful to the labourers, chambers of match association employer of the match industry in particular to improve the quality of the life of women labourers in the match industry.

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