

Work Profile of Women Workers Engaged in Unorganized Sector of Nagercoil

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Abstract:

The study was conducted in Nagercoil area the respondents were randomly selected from selected area. A sample of 50 women was selected randomly according to the availability of workers in unorganized sector. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Work profile of the women workers was studied in terms of their type of job, work related characteristics, union membership and availability of facilities. Maximum number of workers are migrant labour Highest workers was involved in the agriculture work. On the other hand, a very few numbers of women were involved in construction work and petty trades. Majority of them received their own wages at workplace and they were working for maximum days, that is, more than 26 days in a month. Most of the respondents are going for the job due to the economic necessity. Health check-ups and crèche facility for their children were not provided to them at the workplace. None of them were issued any job cards from their employer/contractor.

Keywords: Facilities at Workplace, Nature of Work, Reasons of Joining the Job, Women Workforce.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indian society has got a significant role in the increasing number of women workers in the unorganized sector. The majority of economically active women in India are engaged in the agriculture and non- agricultural labor force in the unorganized sector including all those women that is, rag-picker, construction workers, home-based workers, domestic workers or helpers, street vendors or seller, casual or temporary workers who work without any legal or social protection (Gothoskar 2003). As per the latest estimation of a sub-committee of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), the contribution of unorganized sector to GDP is about 50 percent (NCEUS 2008). Around 28 million workers work in the rural sector and an estimated six crores are in urban areas. On an average, unorganized sector workers do not earn more than Rs 30-50 per day. Some may appear to earn more but the work is often seasonal and the total earnings amount to roughly the same after long hours of work. This is particularly the case for self employed persons such as vendors, rag pickers, and petty traders, who make their services available from the early hours of the morning to late at night, in all types of hostile working conditions (Moghe 2007). In fact 97 percent of the enterprises employ less than five workers who do not come under applicability limits of major labour laws. Exploitation of the workers is common and the majority of them with high unemployment are forced to work with no other alternative but as a means of survival. Hence the present study was an attempt to analyze the work profile of the rural and urban women workers engaged in unorganized sector.

Objectives

1. To study the type of job women workers involved in.
2. To study their work-related characteristics.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the area of Nagercoil. The respondents were randomly selected from selected area. A sample of 50 women was selected randomly according to the availability of women workers in unorganized sector. Data for the study was collected by interviewing the women workers such as the type and nature of job, monthly income, distance of place of work from their home, mode of conveyance, work experience, facility of crèche. The collected data were analyzed by using frequency of percentages, correlation test.

III. RESULTS

Keeping in view the present study, the results have been reported under the following subheadings:

1. Type of Job

A look at the Table 1 indicates that domestic work was the type of work in which majority of the women workers were involved to earn their livelihood followed by the agriculture.

Data in Table 1 reveals that 42.00 percent of women respondents were involved in agriculture work followed by garment stitching with 28.00 percent. Almost 12.00 percentages of respondents were indulged in construction work and

domestic work, whereas, 6.00 per cent and were doing the petty trades work. Lowest percentage of women was recorded in construction work and petty trades.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to the involvement in different types of job (n=50)

Type of job	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Construction	6	12
Domestic	6	12
Garments stitching	14	28
Petty trader	3	6
Agriculture	21	42
Total	50	100

2. Work Related Characteristics

2.1 Basic Work Characteristics

Data in Table 2 indicates that 54.00 percent of the respondents started their work in the age between 24-36 years. About 84.00 per cent of the respondents did not receive any training.

Data in Table 2 reveals that about 46.00 per cent of the respondents had worked for 10 - 20 years followed by 16.00 percent of those who worked for less than one year to ten years.

Majority (92.00 per cent) of the respondents did not have any change in their employment since they were working whereas only 8.00 percent of respondents were shifted from other work to their present nature of job (Table 2).

Overall, 88.00 per cent of respondents worked the time, that is, morning and evening, while, about 8.00 per cent had been working only in the morning hours.

About 92.00 per cent of the respondents reported that they received their own wages for the work, while husband had the power of receiving the wages of 8.00 per cent of the respondents.

Majority (78.00 per cent) of the rural and urban respondents lived at a distance of less than 5 kms and few at a distance of above 5 km from the workplace.

Further, majority of the respondents, that is, 80.00 per cent came by walking to the workplace. However, 12.00 per cent rural and 6.00 per cent of respondents used auto rickshaw and private bus while coming to workplace.

2.2 Working Hours and Working Days

Table 3 shows that around 46.00 per cent of respondents were doing work for 8-10 hours per day whereas about 28.00 per cent of respondents were doing work for 12-14 hours per day. 18.00 percent of the respondents spent below 8 hours for their work, and only 8.00 percent of the respondents were doing work for 10 – 12 hours per day.

Table 3 shows that 46.00 percent of workers are doing work from 24-26 days per month, 16.00 percent of workers are doing work from 26-28 days per month, 12.00 percent workers are doing work from 22-24 days per month, and 26.00 percent of workers are work below 22 days per month.

2.3 Monthly Income and Mode of Payment

Table 4 shows that 32.00 per cent of workers earned monthly income between 2500-3000. Twenty eight percent of workers were earning below Rs. 2500 per month and also 28.00 per cent of workers earned between Rs. 3000-3500 per month. Only twelve percent of workers had income between Rs. Above 3500 per month.

Data in the Table 4 reveals that almost all the respondents, that is, 99.50 percent received the payment in cash and none of them was paid in cheque mode.

2.4 Reasons for Joining the Job

A look at the Table 5 shows that majority of the respondents (72.00 percent) stated that economic necessity as reason for joining their job while 8.00 percent and 20.00 percent worked due to inflation (rising prices of consumable goods) and family pressure respectively.

2.5 Availability of facilities at workplace

Table 6 reveals that almost same percentage, that is, 74.00 per cent of the respondents are got one to two days leave without any cut in the pay leave from their work in case of illness, accident and emergency. None of the sectors was provided any job cards by their employers/ contractors in unorganized sector. A critical look at the Table 6 shows that 24.00 per cent of the respondents stated that they got money from the employers in emergency or if need arises. And only 2.00 percent of are received bonus/gifts either casually or on occasion from their employers.

Table 6 explained that about 36.00 per cent of the respondents were given food at the workplace and 58.00 per cent were not given anything to eat interim their work. About 6.00 per cent of respondents reported that they did not get the time to feed their child at the workplace. It was interesting to know that 100.00 percent of respondents reported that crèche facility was not provided to them by any of the employer. The finding was supported that there was no crèche facility for children of women workers at workplace. It was found in the Table 6 that 100.00 per cent of respondents reported that no health checkup facility was provided by employers at the workplace.

Table 7 Show the relationship between the types of job and income of the women workers by using the correlation

X is considered as types of job

Y is considered as income earned by the women workers

Type of job: X	Income earned by the workers: Y
6	14

6	16
14	14
3	4
21	2
50	50

Here the 'r' value is 0.97, so we conclude that there is a positive correlation between the types of job and the income earned by the women workers.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to provide them crèche facility to take care for their children while at work and to create awareness among women workers regarding importance and benefits of job cards during any mishappening at workplace. They should be made aware regarding various benefits of trade unions.

V. CONCLUSION

All the women workers reported that there was no crèche facility for their children at workplace. Job cards were not issued to women workers by either contractor/ employers. None of the respondent was member of any union due to lack of their knowledge. This study clearly find out are conform that depend upon the types of job only the salary is providing to the workers.

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