



SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

It is estimated that less than 12 percent of the work force in India belongs to the organised sector, leaving more than 90 percent well over 447 million people in a labour force, all most 500 million in the unorganised sector. The scenario among women has been changing as the organised sector is shrinking and unable to provide employment opportunities to growing population; unorganised sector has an important role to play. The study is mainly focus on the socio economic conditions of the women in the unorganised sector in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Unorganised sector, Economic conditions, Employment opportunities

INTRODUCTION

Women workers in India have always been active contributors to the national income. Their contributions, however, have rarely been acknowledged, thus far. An important characteristic of the Indian female workforce is that most of it is employed in the unorganised or the informal sector, currently estimated to be 78.4 percent of the total women workers. The percentage goes up to 80.7 percent, if women working in the urban areas are also included.

Women are not recognised as workers and even though they put in long hours of work and the returns are very low. They have limited access to tools and equipment, innovations in communications and technology almost completely bypass them. They face multiple entry barriers into the main stream markets; use of social protection is restricted.

It is well known that the women all over the world are part and parcel of the labour market. But it is also true that women everywhere are excluded from crucial economic activities. For example, in the agriculture sector

in India, women are employed in production, processing and preservation of agriculture products, but are not much active in plugging. In both rural and urban areas they are engaged in work which sometimes has either no exchange value or very low exchange value. The inferior status and poor facilities offered to them vis. a vis. males accentuates further their poor economic conditions and pushes them into the unorganised sector. Some times because of restrictions put against them they are enable to enter into unorganised sector. In unorganised sector they are employed as domestic servants, sweepers, construction workers, brick line workers, agro industries workers and self employed workers in knitting, sewing and weaving etc. Due to certain economic compulsions these women are pushed to low productivity jobs.

The time women's spend on paid and unpaid work is typically greater than the time men's spend in the labour market. Unpaid family work is rarely recorded in official statistics. It manifests itself only indirectly in the labour market in the form of gender differences in labour force participation rates, sector of employment, hours of work, and wage level.

On the whole, labour force participation rates for women are lower than those for men. However, these differences are often exaggerated because the definition of the participation rate fails to capture many aspects of women's work, particularly time spent on child bearing and other household tasks. Men are usually in the labour force throughout the prime working years (age 20-60), and their participation rates are typically more than 90 percent in virtually every country. Female participation rates vary widely across countries. In 1990, for every 10 men in the labour force there were two women in the Middle East and North Africa, three in south Asia, 6 in sub Saharan Africa, and seven in south East Asia (United Nations 1991). Worldwide, 41 percent of women age of 15 years or more are in the labour force, but in developing countries the corresponding figure is 31 percent. These numbers are deceptive, however, because they don't take into account, the agriculture work that women do in developing countries of the world.

CATEGORIES OF WORKERS IN THE UNORGAISED SECTOR

The biggest problem with the unorganised sector in India is that there is no precise information about the total number of the workers what to say of women engaged in this sector and also their respective ratios in various diversified occupations. The report of the National Commission on Enterprises in the unorganised sector highlights the existence and qualification of unorganised or informal workers, defined as those who do not have employed security, work security and social security. This universe of unorganised workers constitutes 92 percent of the total work force. Whatever data is available, there is no precise and authentic information about the total number of women workers engaged in unorganised sector, still an estimate is drawn on the basis of available information. It includes casual day labourer workers, domestic workers, undeclared workers, part time and temporary workers without secured contracts, workers benefits or social protection. Home based workers and street vendors are two of the largest sub groups of the unorganised work force, with home based workers the more numerous, but street vendors the more visible of the two taken together they represent an estimated 10 to 25 percent of the non agricultural work force in developing countries and over 5 percent of the total work force in developed countries.

On the basis of previous researches and other reports, following categories of women workers in the unorganised sector have been identified.

1. **Construction Labour:** women labour have to work always as unskilled labour carrying construction material on their heads to the construction site, while the skilled or semi skilled work is done by men.
2. **Domestic Servants:** this category of employment mainly to women especially young girls, in 1997-1998, there were some 1.68 million female domestic servants, while the number of male servants was only 0.62 million, the household workers include part time and full time servants.
3. **Garment Workers:** These women work with some big drapers, boutiques and stores, too same bias is evident that the women work as helpers to male tailors.
4. **Vendors:** This is the most scattered category it includes women engaged in selling different types of commodities like cane baskets, utensils, petty cosmetics, bangles, vegetable/fruits, fish and those running road side tea stalls etc. nearly 40 percent of total vendors are women and 30 percent of these women are the sole earning member in their families.
5. **Sales Girls:** These workers are further divided into two categories. First one is those moving from door to door and place to place, other those working in shops etc.

OBJECTIVES

To study the socio economic conditions of the sample respondents of Prakasam district.

METHODOLOGY

Profile of the study area

Prakasam district is the one of the district of Andhra Pradesh. Its head quarters at Ongole with a population of 3397448 as per census 2011. Out of the total population males are 1714764 and females 1682684 as per the 2011 census, 4.02 percent of state population lives in the district. It has 56 mandals, 4 divisions and 1081 village panchayats, 12 urban towns. Out of these 12 urban towns data has collected from 240 unorganised women workers from above said categories.

Data collection and tools of analysis

The data collected from primary sources, a simple interview schedule was used for collecting data from 240 respondents by simple random sampling method. Percentages and Chi- square test were used to study the socio economic conditions of the respondents.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**Table 1: Age composition of the respondents**

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
20-30	77	32.08
30-40	96	40
40-50	40	16.66
50-60	27	11.25
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the age compositions of respondents, 32.08 percent of respondents belong to the age group of 20-30 years, 40 percent of respondents belong to 30-40 years, remaining are 40-60 years age group. It reveals that maximum number of respondents is in the age group of 30-40 years.

Table 2: Family type of the respondents

Family Type	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	173	72.08
Joint	67	27.92
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

Table 2 shows that family type of respondents, 72.08 percent belong to nucleus family, 27.92 percent belong to joint family. It shows that the maximum number of families is nucleus families in the urban area, due several reasons and causes.

Table 3: Family size of the respondents

Family size	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1-4	82	34.16
4-8	91	37.91
8-12	52	21.66
Above 12	15	6.25
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

Table 3 shows that size of family respondents, 37.91 percent are 4-8 members of family, 34.16 percent of respondents are 1-4 members of the family. The remaining are 8-12 and above 12 members respectively.

Table 4: Educational level of the respondents

Educational level	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterates	61	25.42
Primary	71	29.58
Secondary	84	35
Intermediate	24	10
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

The above table shows that educational level of respondents, 35 percent have secondary education, 29.58 percent have primary education, and 25.42 percent are illiterates, only 10 percent are intermediate qualification. It is observed that the maximum number of unorganised women have secondary level of education.

Table 5: Earnings per month of the respondents

Earnings (Rs)	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Below 2000	109	45.41
2001-4000	95	39.58
4001-6000	26	10.83
Above 6000	10	4.16
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

Table 5 shows that earnings of respondents per month. 45.41 percent of respondents earn less than Rs 2000 per month, 39.58 percent earn 2000-4000. 10.83 percent respondents earn 4000-6000 per month. A few respondents 4.16 percent earn above 6000 per month. It shows that nearly 50 percent of respondents earn less 2000 per month.

Table 6: Caste category of the respondents

Caste	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
SC	72	30
ST	28	11.66
BC	126	52.5
OC	14	5.83
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

The above table dealt that 52.5 percent of respondents belong to backward class, 30 percent belong to scheduled caste, 11.66 percent belong to scheduled tribes, and only 5.83 percent are other category. It shows that

more than 50 percent of respondents belong to the backward class community; a few members are forward caste community. It should be understood that the forward caste community are not willing to enter in this category; this meant that they prefer always organised and permanent positions.

Table 7: Religious category of the respondents

Category	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Hindu	172	71.66
Muslim	42	17.5
Christian	26	10.83
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

The above table explains that religious category of respondents, nearly 72 percent belongs to Hindus, 17.5 percent belongs to Muslims, and 10.83 percent belongs to Christians.

Table 8: Experience of the respondents

Experience(yrs)	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
0-5	74	30.83
5-10	96	40
10-15	27	11.25
Above 15	43	17.91
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

As per the above table 40 percent of respondents have 5 to 10 years of experience, 30.83 percent have less than 5 years of experience, 11.2 percent respondents have 10 to 15 of experience, 18 percent have above 15 years of experience. It reveals that maximum number of respondents have 5- 10 of experience.

Table 9: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Vegetable/fruit	56	23.33
Fish vendors	48	20
Construction	36	15
Domestic	26	10.83
Garment	36	15
Tailoring	38	15.83
Total	240	100

Source: Primary data

Table 9 shows that occupation of respondents, 23.33 percent belong to vegetable/fruit vendors, 20 percent belong to fish vendors, 15 percent belong to construction workers, 10.83 percent belong to domestic servants, 15 percent belong to garment workers, 15.83 percent belong to tailoring works. It shows that there is no significant difference of number of respondents and their occupation.

Table 10: Age and occupation of the respondents

Age→ occupation↓	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	Total
Vegetable/fruit	22	12	14	8	56
Fish vendors	14	24	6	4	48
Construction	20	4	4	8	36
Domestic	8	13	4	1	26
Garment	12	10	8	6	36
Tailoring	1	33	4	-	38
Total	77	96	40	27	240

Source: Revised primary data

Table 10 shows that age and occupation of respondents. We set up the null hypothesis that age and occupation respondents. In other words null hypothesis is that there is any association between age and occupation of respondents. Since we are presented the data in the form of 6 into 4 contingency table, the d. f is equal to $(6-1)(4-1)=15$

Hypothesis: There is no significant association between age and occupation of respondents.

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o - E)^2}{E} = \chi^2 = 13.8$$

The calculated value of chi square (13.8) is less than table value at 15 d. f at 5% level of significance is 25. Hence the hypothesis is accepted, and concluded that there is no association between age and occupation of respondents.

FINDINGS

- Analysis of data revealed that being unable to find adequate accommodation at affordable carts, the unorganised sector participants were forced to live in slums are on the pavements in the poor environmental conditions.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents reported that they have no access to basic services like water supply, toilet facilities and sanitary arrangements.
- Because of limitations of income the women unorganised sector participants could hardly afford a worthy and revitalising entertainment and recreation.

- Despite the changes taking place due to modernisation, the informal sector participants conduct various social functions and religious ceremonies for which they have to spend a lot.
- It is clear from the analysis the women unorganised sector participants in general have entered their jobs/occupations out of the constraints to supplement their household income or to earn a livelihood for their families.

SUGGETIONS

Based on the above findings a few suggestions are presented below to tackle the problems faced by women participants of the unorganised sector in general and the above said categories of women unorganised sector workers taken up for study.

- The main problems of petty traders such as vegetable/fruit vendors and fish vendors are lack of regular space and adequate finance besides the problem of quick disposal of items as they deal with perishable commodities. In the case of domestic servants the main problems are continuous work without rest. The need of these workers revolves around social insurance issues, raw materials, work sites etc. Hence there is essential agreement that a new law is necessary for them.
- The governmental agencies should strive to enforce the legislations to protect the female construction workers.
- Training programmes may be organised to train them acquire the skills to become “masons”.
- In the case of domestic servants affords should be taken to enact legislation exclusively for the benefit of them.
- Institutional training programs should be arranged to the domestic servants.

CONCLUSION

Women workers have performed their role perfectly even though they face several problems. Lack of education skill, low income of family is the influencing factors for the women folk to enter into the unorganised sectors. Though they have no any social security or access to health care benefits they enter in this sector. It is suggested that more policies and acts are needed for the unorganised sector women workers to improve their conditions.

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