

The socio-Economic condition of women workers in unorganized sectors of Agriculture, street vendors and garments- A study on Kamalapur city in the district of Vijayanagar, Karnataka

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Abstract - The unorganized sector plays a very important part in the Indian economy and the involvement of women in this sector is more than men. In 2018, only 50 % of the Indian population participated in the labour force, 81% of which was employed in the informal sector, also known as the unorganized sector or the shadow economy. Moreover, these workers contribute 62% to the gross domestic product (GDP), and 50% to the national income. But still, women are not provided with the facilities, and they are working and living their life below the satisfaction level. At the workplace, they are exploited, deprived and do not get the status that the men workers enjoy. There are varied natures of problems the women workers are facing now. Their socio cause concerns. In this regard, an attempt has been made to ascertain and examine the socio-economic conditions of women workers engaged in Agriculture, street vending and in garments. The data is collected through a structured questionnaire. Women workers engaged in Agriculture, street vending and garment workers of Kamalapur city are considered as the unit of study. A simple random sampling method has been adopted to analyse the socio-economic profile of the respondents.

Index Terms - Women, socio-economic condition and unorganized sector.

INTRODUCTION

The process of globalization, export-oriented industrialization and relocation of industries from the developed to developing countries lead to an increase in women workers in the unorganized sector. The nature of women's work ranges from wage employment or self-employment, family labour and piece rated work. The unorganized sector has no clear-cut employer-employee relationships and lacks most

forms of social protection. Having no fixed employer, these workers are casual, contractual, migrant, home-based, own-account workers who attempt to earn a living from whatever meagre assets and skills they possess.

National Commission on Labour (1966-69) has defined unorganized labours those who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of common objectives on account of constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments and position of power enjoyed by employers because of nature of the industry.¹ The World Bank in its annual report in 1989 observed that 35 per cent of Indian households below the poverty line were headed by women and in most cases, were exclusively dependent on female income. The report observed that women's contribution is significant in families with low economic status. The poorest families thus depend on women's economic productivity.²

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nowadays more rural and urban women were going for construction works. The reason for such shift in occupation is reduced agricultural activities due to poor rainfall & cost hikes. As the living cost is high to make ends meet women choose alternative jobs. She has to overcome at home, workplace, health problems, family problems, sexual harassment and social issues. These women seem to be under pressure to identify the availability of work, distance to be travelled to a new workplace, insecurity about work and reaching home late in the evening. This influenced the researcher to do

research about such women working in the agriculture field, street vendors and workers in garments. So, the researcher wants to study the problems faced by the said workers in areas of occupation, social, family and personal aspects.

The study objectives are

1. To find out the social-economic conditions of the women workers in the sample area.
2. To study the problems faced by the women working in the agriculture field, street vendors and workers in garments.
3. To offer suggestions to improve the system.

STUDY AREA AND SAMPLE DESIGN

Kamalapura is one of the fastest-growing cities in the Hospet taluka. The town is adjacent to the

international tourism place Hampi and it is very near to Hospet. Here the construction of buildings, apartments, malls, resorts, etc., is at a faster rate. People are engaged in construction work, agriculture, street vendors and workers in garments. As many as 2850 unorganized women are engaged in street vending, garments, agriculture, and involved in building construction in Kamalapura city. Among them, 2018 workers in the agriculture sector, 582 are working in construction work, 188 workers street vendors and 62 are working in garments. For the study of socio-economic problems of these women workers, a sample of 334 from the agriculture sector, 128 from the garment sector and 54 sample respondents are from the garment sector is chosen for the study.

Socio-economic profile of the respondents

Table – 1: Educational level of the Respondents

Details of education	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Illiterate	73	21.86	73	57.03	00	00
Primary	223	66.77	42	32.81	20	37.03
High school	21	6.28	10	7.81	27	50.00
PUC	17	5.09	3	2.34	5	9.26
Degree and above	00	00	00	00	2	3.71
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 1 reveals the educational status of respondents based on various sectors, 21.83 percent 57.03 percent of the sample respondents are illiterate, 66.77 percent, 32.81 percent and 37.03 percent of them have completed their primary education, 50 percent of the garment respondents have completed their high-school education, none of the respondents has completed the degree and above education in agriculture and street vendor sectors. More interestingly 57.03 percent of the

said respondent do the street vending business without any education, they expressed that they are not facing any problem while doing their business. Among the total respondents, the majority of them are educated in the agriculture and garment sectors. The study concludes that the majority of women workers have studied up to SSLC. This may be one of the reasons to become unorganized workers.

Table – 2: Age-wise classification of the Respondents

Age	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
15-25	23	6.88	13	10.16	13	24.07
25-35	120	35.93	30	23.44	11	20.38
35-45	101	30.24	41	32.03	21	38.88
45-55	60	17.96	32	25.00	09	16.67
Above 55	30	8.98	12	9.37	00	00
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 2 shows the age-wise distribution of respondents, Majority of the women sample respondents are in the age group of 25 to 55. 18.35 percent of said respondents who work in agriculture sectors and street vendors are in the age group of above

55 years and none of the respondents in this age group is from garment sectors. Those who work above 55 years age expressed that, it is inevitable for them to meet daily expenditure.

Table – 3: Religion-wisedistributions of the Respondents

Religion	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Hindu	296	88.62	125	97.66	54	100
Muslim	13	3.89	3	2.34	00	00
Others	25	7.49	00	00	00	00
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 3 highlights the religion of the sample respondents. The majority of respondents belong to Hindus. 3.89 percent and 2.34 percent are Muslim communities in the agriculture and street vendor

sectors respectively. 100 percent of the garment workers are from the Hindu category. The table also reveals that the majority of the sample respondents are Hindus.

Table – 4: Caste-wisedistributions of the Respondents

Caste	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
General	13	3.90	12	9.37	10	18.52
OBC	91	27.24	61	47.65	27	50.00
SC	111	33.23	31	24.21	04	7.40
ST	119	35.63	24	18.75	13	24.08
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 4 indicates that the majority of the respondents belong to OBC, SC and ST categories. Among them, 31.79 percent of respondents are from the general category in agriculture sectors, street vendors and

garment workers. The rest of the respondents said they do not have any other alternative work and forced them to opt to work in the unorganised sectors.

Table – 5: Marital status of the Respondents

Marital status	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Married	261	78.14	98	76.56	37	68.52
Unmarried	55	16.46	16	12.5	15	27.78
Widows	18	5.39	9	7.03	2	3.70
Divorced	00	00	5	3.91	00	00
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 5 states that 78.14%, 76.56% and 68.52% of the said respondents in the above sectors respectively are married, only 3.91 percent of the street vendors are divorced. Those who unmarried said that they have not

attained the marriage age and who attained the marriage age still they have not married due to economic problems.

Table – 6: Type of Family of the Respondents

Type of Family	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Nuclear family	302	90.42	112	87.5	48	88.89
Joint family	32	9.58	16	12.5	6	11.11
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 6 shows that more than 89% of respondents are lived with their children and the rest of them lived with their parents and children. It is a known fact that

people prefer to live in a nuclear family than a joint family. The sample respondents are not distinct from it.

Table – 7: Family Size of the Respondents

Family size	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
2-4 members	197	58.98	97	75.78	30	5.56
5-7 members	103	30.84	22	17.19	18	33.33
>7 members	34	10.18	9	7.03	6	11.11
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 7 states that 59.98%,75.18% and 5.56% of the above said sectors respectively live with 2-4 members, only 10.18% in agriculture sector, 7.03% in street vendors and 11.11% of garment workers are live with

more than 7 members in their family The study also reveals that the majority of said respondents live and prefer to live with 2-4 members in the family.

Table – 8: Type of Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Main Occupation	223	66.77	70	54.68	51	94.44
Sub Occupation	111	33.23	58	45.32	03	05.56
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 8 exhibits that out of 334 Agriculture labours 223 are considered as the main occupation, rest said that if they are not getting work in any other sector they prefer this work since farmers pay less. While in the street vendors 54.68% of them considered as their main occupation and 94.44% women workers in

garment sector considered as their main occupation and they say that their job is not much as physical work as in other sector and risk percentage is zero. The study also reveals that the majority of the sample respondents opted for work as their main occupation.

Table – 9: Details of Migration of the Respondents

Migration	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Permanent	234	70.06	91	71.09	54	100
Migrated from neighbouring state	04	1.20	00	00	00	00
Migrated from other districts	62	18.57	00	00	00	00
Migrated from other cities	24	7.20	3	2.34	00	00
Migrated from other villages	10	2.99	34	26.57	00	00
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 9 shows that more than 70% of respondents are residing in their own house, the rest of them are migrated from neighbouring states, from other districts, from other cities and other villages. The study also concludes that 100% of the garment workers are residents and those who migrated,

majority of them are from neighbouring villages, cities and neighbouring districts. Among all the respondents only 1.20% are migrated from other states and expressed that they are having family relations in these areas.

Table – 10: Reason for becoming of unorganised workers

Reason	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Poor	41	12.27	29	22.66	17	31.48
No other sources of Income	71	21.26	31	24.22	11	20.37
No easy of getting the job	89	26.65	07	5.47	16	29.63
Unskilled work	76	22.75	28	21.87	00	00
Friends and Neighbours working	21	6.28	14	10.94	03	5.55
No other good job	36	10.79	19	14.84	07	12.97
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 10 states that due to poor family background sample respondents are forced to become unorganised workers. Above 20% of them in each sector expressed that no easy of getting the job, no other sources of Income. None of the garment workers said that

garment work is unskilled work. The study also makes it clear that the economic problem is one of the major issues and unorganized workers themselves are pushed into various work in the unorganised sectors.

Table – 11: Monthly income of the Respondents

Income	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
< Rs. 5,000	211	63.18	88	68.75	25	46.30
Rs. 5000- Rs. 10,000	92	27.54	15	11.72	15	27.78
> Rs. 10,000	31	9.28	25	19.53	14	25.92
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 11 reveals that the majority of the respondents have a monthly income of less than Rs. 5,000, and Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 and only 9.28% in the agriculture sector, 19.53% in street vendors and 25.92 % of them

have more than Rs. 10,000 monthly incomes. The study makes it very clear that almost all respondents have monthly income up to Rs. 5,000.

Table – 12: Details of Source of debt by the Respondents

Sources of Debt	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
From Bank	30	8.98	38	29.68	2	3.70
Private Agency	243	72.76	57	44.53	9	16.67
No debt	61	18.26	33	25.79	43	79.63
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 12 shows that the majority of the agriculture sector labourers and 44.53% of street vendors are still under the clutches of private agencies and consequences of this may not be known and it is

inevitable for them to obtain short term hand loans with money lenders at a higher rate of interest. Surprisingly, 79.63% of the garment workers manage their daily requirements within their income.

Table – 13: Details of health issues of Respondents

Health Issues	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Breathing	63	18.86	63	18.86	63	18.86
Back /Joint pains	29	8.68	29	8.68	29	8.68
Anaemia	23	6.89	23	6.89	23	6.89
Allergy/Skin diseases	10	3.00	10	3.00	10	3.00
Cough and Fever	133	39.82	133	39.82	133	39.82
Mensuration problem	17	5.09	17	5.09	17	5.09
No Issue	59	17.66	59	17.66	59	17.66
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 13 shows the health issues of the respondents, the majority of respondents in all the sectors have cough and fever problems, 12.24% have Asthma problems, 13.08 respondents have back/joint pains

15.19 of them are not suffering from any disease. From the study, it is clear that more than 74% of the sample respondents are suffering from one or the other deceases.

Table – 14: Problems faced by the Respondents at the workplace

Problems	Agriculture labours	%	Garment workers	%
From owners	05	1.50	02	3.70

Gender discrimination	150	44.91	07	12.96
No equal remuneration for equal job	51	15.26	23	42.60
Sexual Harassment	03	0.90	00	00
Mental pressure	14	4.20	09	16.66
Delay in payment	23	6.89	00	00
No social security	53	15.86	5	9.26
Total	334	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 14 reveals that 44.91% of the agriculture labourers said that they have gender discrimination, 42.60 % of the garment workers said that no equal remuneration for the equal job, 1.50% and 3.70% of the agriculture and garment workers respectively said that they have problem with employers. 15.86% and

9.26 said respondents said that there is no social security in their life. The study makes it clear that the majority of the said respondents are not satisfied with their job and other alternative means to manage, so they bear the injustice caused to them.

Table – 15: Problems faced by the street vendors

Problems	Agriculture labours	%
Money issue	55	42.97
Health issue	25	19.53
Intermediaries	9	7.03
Transportation cost	12	9.38
Police issue	10	7.81
Others	17	13.28
Total	128	100

Source: Field survey

Problems of the agriculture and garment workers may not be the same in the case of street vendors since their job is independent and moderate risk. As table 15 states that 42.97% said that they have short of adequate

money to meet the demands of their business and 19.53% of them have health issues due to hardship i.e., long time standing or sitting at one place, expose to sun carry goods on their head etc. in their business.

Table – 16: Awareness level of the respondents about Government schemes and Labour law

Awareness	Agriculture labours	%	Street vendors	%	Garment workers	%
Yes	199	59.58	57	44.53	22	40.74
No	135	40.42	71	55.47	32	59.26
Total	334	100	128	100	54	100

Source: Field survey

Table 16 highlights that more than 50% of the said respondents said that they are not aware of the government rules and laws relating to them. The study clearly states that the majority of them are illiterates and some of them are literates but they are not interested to know the real benefits of these.

in the society due to illiteracy, the poor economic condition of women workers, the threat of jobs etc., leading women workers are not getting satisfaction in their job and are ready to work more for meager wages. To improve the system, it is not possible only by the authorities. Every stakeholders should understand the problems of women workers. Instead of exploiting, encouraging and motivating them. Government must formulate a universal wage policy for each kind of unorganized work and impose a huge amount of penalties who violate the rule. Many schemes have been launched by the central and state governments, but these are not reaching them,

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM

The constitution of India clearly states that no gender discrimination, equal rights, no discrimination in wages for equal work. But these are all still prevailed

government should come forward and take initiation to reach these guidelines and schemes to every unorganized worker. The proactive approach of Labour officers on unorganized workers is need of the hour.

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