

Problems Of Informal Women Workers In Thiruvattar Block Of Kanyakumari District

**C.M. Jespin Merriba, **Dr.S.Ramola Ponmalar*

**Research Scholar, Reg.No.12287, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam*

***Assistant Professor, Department of commerce, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam.
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012, Tamil Nadu, India*

Abstract

The status of women is changing every time. Once upon a time women were considered too great and goddess and thereafter they treated as slaves. Then the situation of women in the modern world is growing again. Previously they were always dependent on someone but now they are starting to feel confident that they can handle all the situations alone. The main reason for this is the education and employment of women. They feel more confident when they stand on their own, whether in business or work. If the woman goes to work in the family, she carries half the burden on the family. In many families, women have to bear the entire burden, but the woman does not care for their family. Informal workers can be divided in to self-employed and wage workers. Women are more involved in self-employed street vending and home-based work. Here, the women workers have to face lot of problems in their everyday's life. Women are choosing this sector to run their daily life, it helps them to lead their family. But still so many disadvantages are there in their work. Hence, an attempt is made to find the problems of women street vendors and home based workers.

Keyword: Women, Education, Employment, Family, Self-employed, Street vending and Home based work

Introduction

Women poised to take part in the rapidly India expanding economy. They contribute for economic development. The Indian constitution grants women equal rights with men, but strong patriarchal traditions persist, with women's lives shaped by customs that are centuries old. In most Indian families, a daughter is viewed as a liability, and she is conditioned to believe that she is inferior and subordinate to men. Sons are idolized and celebrated. The overwhelming majority of women in rural areas are afflicted by problems of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment. Historically, the sustained the labour of the women has been the pivot of the

village economic system. The status of women and the enactment of the constitutional amendments of 73rd and 74th amendments have added new dimensions to the issue of women's empowerment by making provisions for the compulsory participation of women in local governing bodies and involvement in development activities.

In developing countries such as India, the plight of women in informal work is very low. In India, according to a recent estimate, men informal workers are twice as likely as women informal workers to be non-agricultural wage workers and own account workers (both agricultural and non-agricultural) while women informal workers, compared to male informal workers, are far more likely to be agricultural wage workers and three times more likely to be unpaid family workers in agriculture. The income for a day is only fifty to one hundred rupees. Women workers are victims of economic exploitation, social oppression and political marginalization. Social security is the most important issue for informal women workers. The socio-economic status of women who work in an informal sector is worse. However, the role of women in informal sector is very high.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study is

- To find the Problems of Informal Women Workers at Thiruvattar block in Kanyakumari district.
- To give suggestions to reduce the problems of women informal workers.

METHODOLOGY

In order to get a deeper understanding of the problems of informal women workers field survey was conducted. Random sampling technique is used to select 100 respondents (50 are street vendors and 50 are home based workers) from the total population of 238.

THE SURVEY

The present study is based on primary data and secondary data. The secondary data for the study were collected from books, journals and magazines. The primary data would be concerned mostly with the problems of informal workers. These data would be collected from

Thiruvattar block street vendors and home workers by applying the random sampling method. Random sampling technique was used for selecting the sample of 100 respondents. After the primary data are collected tables were prepared for analytical purpose. The researcher has used Percentage and Weighted Average Technique to analyze the data.

Table 1
Table showing profile and other variables

Sl.No	Category	Particulars	Street vendors		Home workers	
			No of respondents	Percentage	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Age	Below 30	0	0	14	28
		30 – 40	12	24	18	36
		41 – 50	16	32	10	20
		Above 50	22	44	8	16
2	Religion	Hindu	26	52	16	32
		Christian	14	48	34	68
		Muslim	0	0	0	0
3	Category	SC	8	16	0	0
		ST	0	0	0	0
		BC	42	84	50	100
		OC	0	0	0	0

4	Education	Educated	0	0	20	40
		Uneducated	50	100	30	60
5	Experience	Below 1 year	6	12	10	20
		1 – 10 years	12	24	8	16
		11- 20 years	20	40	18	36
		Above 20 years	12	24	14	28
7	Income (per month)	Below Rs.1000	32	64	16	32
		Rs.1000 – Rs.5000	18	36	34	68
		Rs.5000- Rs.10000	0	0	0	0
		Above Rs.10000	0	0	0	0
8	Marital status	Married	38	76	30	60
		Unmarried	0	0	14	28
		Married widow	12	24	6	12
9	Children	1	0	0	8	16
		2	24	48	30	60

		3	14	28	8	16
		Above 3	12	24	4	8
10	Family members	Below 4	20	40	24	48
		4 - 6	24	48	16	32
		Above 6	6	12	10	20

Source: Primary data

The above Table 1 shows that the personal profile of the street vendor and the home workers, out of 50 street vendors 44 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of more than 50 whereas 36 per cent of the home workers are in between the age group of 30-40, 52 per cent of the street vendors are Hindu whereas 68 per cent of the home workers are Christian, majority (84 per cent) of the street vendors' category is Backward Caste but in the case of home workers all are in the category of Backward Caste, 100 per cent of the street vendors are uneducated and majority of the home workers are also uneducated, majority of the street vendors are having the experience of 11 to 20 years and also same in the case of home workers, 64 per cent of the street vendors' income is below Rs.1000 and home workers' income is in between Rs.1000 – Rs. 5000 per month, majority of the respondents are married in both the cases, most of the respondents have 2 children in both the cases and majority 4-6 family members are there in family of street vendors but in home workers majority of the them are having the members of below 4.

Problems faced by the women street vendors in work place

Table 2

Problems faced by the women street vendors in work place - Weighted Mean Table

Particulars	Weighted Mean	Rank
Difficult in obtaining raw materials	2.94	VIII

Getting minimum profit	4.6	I
Stiff competition	3.36	V
Hard physical work	3.3	VII
Reduction in quality of wares because of heat rain and dust	2.66	XI
Hygiene and sanitation	4	II
Drinking water facility	3.86	IV
Requires long working hours	2.48	XII
Low security for goods	3.96	III
Cheating by public	2.86	IX
Irregular employment	3.34	VI
Lack of security	2.76	X
Sexual harassment	2.26	XIII

Source: Computed data

It is clear from Table 2 that, majority of women informal workers faced the problems of getting minimum profit it holds first rank with the score of 4.6 followed by poor hygiene and sanitation holds second rank, low security of goods holds third rank, Drinking water facility holds fourth rank, stiff competition holds fifth rank, irregular employment holds sixth rank, hard physical work holds seventh rank, difficult in obtaining materials holds eighth rank, cheating by public holds ninth rank, lack of security to the respondents in their work place holds tenth rank, Reduction in quality of wares because of heat rain and dust holds eleventh rank, Requires long working hours holds twelfth rank and sexual harassment holds thirteen and final rank.

Other problems of Street vendors

Table 3
Other problems of Street vendors - Weighted Mean Table

Particulars	Weighted Mean	Rank
Disrespect from public	1.82	IX
Health problems	4.02	I
Lack of family support	3.54	IV
Poor risk taking ability	3.44	V
Lack of proper training	3.04	VIII
Excessive tensions and challenges	3.56	III
Lack of knowledge about improving their lifestyle	3.14	VII
Lack of sufficient time to attend family/social functions	3.4	VI
Higher rate of credit transaction	3.74	II

Source: Computed data

It is clear from Table 3 that, majority of women informal workers faced the health problems and it also holds first rank with the score of 4.6 followed by Higher rate of credit transaction holds second rank, Excessive tensions and challenges holds third rank, Lack of family support holds fourth rank, Poor risk taking ability holds fifth rank, Lack of sufficient time to attend family/social functions holds sixth rank, Lack of knowledge about improving their

lifestyle holds seventh rank, Lack of proper training holds eighth rank and Disrespect from public holds ninth rank.

Problems faced by the home based workers in work place

Table 4

Problems faced by the home based workers in work place - Weighted Mean Table

Particulars	Weighted Mean	Rank
Difficult in obtaining raw materials	3.08	VII
Getting minimum profit	3.74	I
Stiff competition	2.58	VIII
Hard physical work	3.6	III
Problems of storage	3.38	V
Requires long working hours	3.62	II
Cheating by public	3.36	VI
Irregular employment	3.42	IV

Source: Computed data

It is clear from Table 4 that, majority of women home workers faced the problems of getting minimum profit it holds first rank with the score of 4.6 followed by Requires long working hours holds second rank, Hard physical work holds third rank, Cheating by public facility holds fourth rank, stiff competition holds fifth rank, Cheating by public holds sixth rank, Difficult in obtaining raw materials holds seventh rank and Stiff competition holds eighth rank,

Other problems of home based workers

Table 5
Other problems of home based workers - Weighted Mean Table

Particulars	Weighted Mean	Rank
Disrespect from public	2.5	IX
Health problems	4.06	I
Lack of family support	3.3	V
Poor risk taking ability	3.34	IV
Lack of proper training	2.72	VIII
Excessive tensions and challenges	3.46	III
Lack of knowledge about improving their lifestyle	2.96	VII
Lack of sufficient time to attend family/social functions	3.22	VI
Higher rate of credit transaction	3.86	II

Source: Computed data

It is clear from Table 5 that, majority of women informal workers faced the health problems and it also holds first rank followed by Higher rate of credit transaction holds second rank, Excessive tensions and challenges holds third rank, Poor risk taking ability holds fourth rank, Lack of family support holds fifth rank, Lack of sufficient time to attend family/social functions holds sixth rank, Lack of knowledge about improving their lifestyle holds seventh rank, Lack of proper training holds eighth rank and Disrespect from public holds ninth rank.

Suggestions

1. Women informal workers especially street vendors are getting low wages. So government has to provide various additional benefits to improve their standard of living.
2. Majority of the respondents were suffering from various health problems due to the bad environment in their work place, so it has to take necessary steps to create hygienic environment.
3. Women informal workers are highly suffered without social security schemes like restroom and drinking water facility. So, providing these facilities in their work place is very necessary to get improvement in their health condition.
4. Most of the informal women workers are not much aware about the benefit given by the government through labour welfare office and some workers were aware about that but the benefit can't reach them. So labour welfare officers take necessary steps to reach the benefit to the workers at the right time.
5. Both the street vendors and home workers have the problem of storage facility. So government or panchayat should build warehouse to keep their goods without damage and also it helps to avoid transportation cost to the street vendors. Most of the home workers are poor and there is no enough space to keep their raw materials without damage. So government must conduct various awareness programme to know about the housing scheme of poor.
6. Another important problem of women workers are higher rate of credit transaction. So government should provide loan without interest and also give lengthy repayment facilities.
7. Government must conduct various training programme to improve their marketing skill and motivate them to create different home based work.

Conclusion

Women workers are suffering from various problems in their day to day life and in their working place. It is so difficult to survive in this world but they should survive for their family. However the government of India plans and implements various schemes to improve the living condition of the women informal workers especially street vendors and home workers, but it is not reach properly to the poor workers. This study analyse the problems of both the street

vendors and the home workers and highlighted the issues. This study may help to look into the problems of women informal workers and took remedial action by the government for the upliftment of informal workers.

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