

Original Research Article

A Study to Find out Problems of Married Women Working in Unorganized Sectors

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ABSTRACT

Background: Women's economic participation can be mentioned in the field of production of goods and services accounted in the national economic statistics. However, female work participation has always been low at 26% compared to 52% of men. The problem is that women has always been at work, only the definitions of work and work plans have never been defined or realistic to include their contribution to the economy and the society. Most of the women are found to be employed in agriculture activities and in the unorganised sector. This sector broadly corresponds to the household sector including private unincorporated enterprises. In rural areas, women work in the sectors of agriculture, plantations, fisheries, and poultry and dairy, in urban areas, they work for manufacturing units of garments and food processing, household related activities and so on.

Methodology: The present study was conducted by department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Major S.D. Singh Medical College, Farrukhabad. It was a cross sectional study among womens working in unorganized sectors of Farrukhabad city. The study was conducted from 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2014. The study population was married working women aged 25-35 years who gave consent and were ready to participate in the study.

Results: Out of total 100 participants 47 belonged to age group 25-30 years and 53 belong to age group 31-35 years. Mean score of overall problem was found to be 34.63 with the SD of 6.52 which included maximum mean score of occupational problem (10.42). The mean score of problem towards family (8.19), health (8.73), social (10.29) and overall (37.31) were found to be more among the study subjects engaged moderate type of work as compare to heavy type of work. The mean scores of the problems towards family (10.75), health (9.75), social (11.88) and overall (42.00) were found to be more among study subjects working equal to and less than 6 hours as compared to study subjects working more than 6 hours.

Keywords: Married working women, unorganized Sector, agriculture, plantations, fisheries, and poultry.

INTRODUCTION

Women's economic participation can be mentioned in the field of production of goods and services accounted in the national economic statistics. However, female work participation has always been low at 26% compared to 52% of men. The problem is that women has always been at work, only

the definitions of work and work plans have never been defined or realistic to include their contribution to the economy and the society. [1] A significant number of women work in the informal sector for long hours, in low wages and without any legal protection against exploitation, 96% of economically active women work in the

sector (Human Development in South Asia, 57). The majority of women are in unorganized sector who are denied social security and other incidental benefits. About 94% of the working women absorbed in unorganised sector who are victims of unemployment as well as under employment. They are being mostly exploited by employers. Mainly because they are migrated from villages, illiterate and belong to the lower status of society.

Most of the women are found to be employed in agriculture activities and in the unorganised sector. The definition of informal sector as adopted by the fifteenth international conference of labour statisticians in 1993, is regarded as a group of household enterprises or unincorporated enterprises owned by households that include informal own account enterprises. This sector broadly corresponds to the household sector including private unincorporated enterprises. The unorganised sector also includes some formal activities on which there is no regular system of data availability. However, contribution of these formal activities in the unorganized sector is quite small. In trade and commerce, the first Indian National commission on Labour (1966-69), defined the 'unorganised sector work force' "those worker who have not been able to organised themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments." On the other hand the unorganised sector refers to those enterprises whose activities and/or collection of data are not regulated under any legal provision or where any regular accounts are not mentioned. [2]

In rural areas, women work in the sectors of agriculture, plantations, fisheries, and poultry and dairy, in urban areas, they work for manufacturing units of garments and food processing, household related activities and so on. According to statistical estimate, 94% of the women are engaged in the unorganized sector, 84% in agriculture and allied occupations. Thus, the largest

avenue of employment for women in India is agriculture. Despite the existence of constitutional provisions and legislation for the protection of women workers, they suffer from various problems. Large number of women in the unorganized sector face many problems such as sex discrimination, low wages, unequal wages, unemployment, under employment, irregular working conditions, exploitations and pressure in the hands of the employer, etc. The package of various labour legislation is of no use for the benefits of these women. [3]

Increased working hours, lack of leaves, child care responsibilities, lack of social security and being a subject to discrimination or exploitation are also involved in married women workers problem engaged in informal sector. So these conditions give birth to anxiety, distress, frustration, social and emotional distress and family conflicts also.

Keeping the above facts, present study was planned with the following objectives-

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of the study subjects.
2. To study the problem of working women in various unorganized sectors.
3. To compare the problems of working women between various socio-economic groups.
4. To study association between problems in certain selective attribute among the working women.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted by department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Major S.D. Singh Medical College, Farrukhabad. It was a cross sectional study among women working in unorganized sectors of Farrukhabad city. The study was conducted from 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2014. The study population was working women of unorganised sector who gave consent and were ready to participate in the study. A multistage systematic sampling technique was used for selection of sample. Farrukhabad city consists of

many unorganized sectors, out of which 5 sectors were selected for the study. These are-

1. Household maid & women working in agriculture.
2. Labourer in brick industries.
3. Shop keepers & Beauty Parlours.
4. Hospitals and other healthcentres.
5. Private unorganized schools & coaching centres

From each sector 20 married women aged 25-35 years were selected for study purpose. Thus 100 married women aged 25-35 years working in unorganized sectors in Farrukhabad were formed the sample for the study. The investigator used questioner schedule for the study. The schedule consisted of-

(1) General Information- This part includes information regarding subjects age, education, occupation, income, type of job, duration of job, religion and

caste, type of family, number of children etc.

(2) Specific Information- This part consisted of information regarding problems of married women engaged in unorganized sectors.

The questioner was filled by the investigator herself during visit to unorganized sector. The collected data was analysed using various statistical tests.

RESULTS

The present study was conducted by the department of obstetrics and gynaecology, Major S.D. Singh, Medical College, Farrukhabad for a period of one year. Ethical clearance was taken from the institutional Ethical committee.

A total of 100 married women aged 25-35 years working in unorganized sectors in Farrukhabad were formed the sample for the study.

Table 1: Distribution of study subjects according to demographic profile

Parameter	Category	Study Subjects	
		Number	Percentage
Age (in Years)	25 - 30	47	47.0
	31 - 35	53	53.0
Education	Illiterate	41	41.0
	Primary	6	6.0
	Junior Highschool	7	7.0
	Highschool	8	8.0
	Intermediate & above	38	38.0
Occupation	Nurse	29	29.0
	Business	15	15.0
	Labour	36	36.0
	Teacher	20	20.0
Type of work	Sedentary	3	3.0
	Moderate	56	56.0
	Heavy	41	41.0
Work Per day (In hours)	0 - 6	24	24.0
	More than 6	76	76.0

Table-1 shows distribution of study subjects according to demographic profile. Out of total 100 participants 47 belonged to age group 25-30 years and 53 belong to age group 31-35 years. 41% subjects were illiterate while 38% were intermediate and above. Majority of the subjects were engaged in labour work (36%) followed by nursing (29%). 56% subjects were engaged in moderate type of work while majority (76%) were working for more than 6 hours.

Table-2 shows distribution problems of married women and their category. Mean

score of overall problem was found to be 34.63 with the SD of 6.52 which included maximum mean score of occupational problem (10.42) followed by social problem (9.43) and minimum of family problem (6.63). The mean score of health problem was 8.15.

All the married women were divided into 3 categories on the basis of the score obtained by them towards problems. Married women who scored less than (mean - SD) come in low category. The score obtained between (mean - SD two mean +

SD) comes in average category and the score obtained more than (mean + SD) comes in high category.

Table 2: Distribution problems of married women and their category

Problems	Statistical Values		Category		
	Mean	SD	Low	Average	High
Family	6.63	3.73	6	75	19
Occupational	10.42	1.92	15	73	12
Health	8.15	2.03	19	68	13
Social	9.43	2.40	22	58	20
Total	34.63	6.52	15	65	20

Regarding all the problem accept family and overall, majority of them were found having the average problems followed by low problems.

Table-3 shows mean scores of various problems among study subjects according to type of work. The mean score of problem towards family (8.19), health (8.73), social (10.29) and overall (37.31) were found to be more among the study subjects engaged moderate type of work as compare to heavy type of work while mean score of occupational problem (10.88) was found to be more among study subjects engaged in heavy type of work. The difference between mean scores of all problems among heavy and moderate workers was statistically significant.

Table 3: Mean scores of various problems among study subjects according to type of work

Problems	Type of Work				Statistical Values	
	Moderate (n = 59)		Heavy (n=41)		z	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Family	8.19	3.99	4.39	1.59	5.787	<0.05
Occupational	10.10	1.89	10.88	1.88	2.034	<0.05
Health	8.73	2.15	7.32	1.51	3.624	<0.05
Social	10.29	2.62	8.20	1.25	4.746	<0.05
Total	37.31	6.80	30.78	3.47	5.658	<0.05

Table 4: Mean scores of various problems among study subjects according to duration of work per day

Problems	Duration of Work Per Day				Statistical Values	
	0 – 6 hours (n = 24)		>6 hours (n=76)		z	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Family	10.75	3.88	5.33	2.55	7.945	<0.05
Occupational	9.63	2.19	10.67	1.76	2.377	<0.05
Health	9.75	2.24	7.64	1.67	4.956	<0.05
Social	11.88	2.30	8.66	1.85	7.803	<0.05
Total	42.00	5.56	32.30	4.86	8.234	<0.05

Table 5: Co-relation between duration of work per day with various problems among study subjects

Parameter	Statistical value				
	Mean	SD	r	z	p
Duration of work per day	9.21	2.63			
Family	6.63	3.73	-0.529	6.171	<0.05
Occupational	10.42	1.92	+0.107	1.065	<0.05
Health	8.15	2.03	-0.414	4.502	<0.05
Social	9.43	2.40	-0.466	5.214	<0.05
Total	34.63	6.52	-0.571	6.885	<0.05

Table-4 shows mean scores of various problems among study subjects according to duration of work per day. The mean scores of the problems towards family (10.75), health (9.75), social (11.88) and overall (42.00) were found to be more among study subjects working equal to and less than 6 hours as compared to study subjects working more than 6 hours while the mean scores of occupational problem (10.67) was found to be more among subjects working more than 6 hours. The difference between mean scores of all

problems among duration of work equal to and less than 6 hours and more than 6 hours was found to be statistically significant.

Table-5 shows co-relation between duration of work per day with various problems among study subjects. Positive and insignificant co-relation was observed between duration of work with occupational problem among the study subjects even at 5% level of significance. While negative and significant co-relations were observed between duration of work with family, social and overall problems among study

subjects ($p < 0.05$) i.e. as the duration of work increases, mean scores of family, health, social and overall problems decreases and vice versa among the study subjects.

DISCUSSION

In the present study a total of 100 married women aged 25-35 years working in unorganized sectors in Farrukhabad were formed the sample for the study. Regarding the type of work of the movement, majority of them (56.0%) were engaged in moderate type of work followed by (41.0%) in heavy work and the minimum (3.0%) in sedentary type of work. Nag P K et.al, [3] revealed that about 48.0% of the women were engaged in moderate type of work. Nearly 41.0% of them were engaged in heavy type of work and 10.0% women were engaged in sedentary type of work. Regarding working hours per day majority of the women (76.0%) were working more than 6 hours and remaining 24.0% were working equal or less than 6 hours. Madura S. reported in their study that 83.0% of the women were working 7-8 hours followed by 17.0% were working 10-11 hours in a day.

Mean scores of overall problem was found to be 34.63 with the SD of 6.52, which included the maximum mean score of occupational problem (10.42) followed by social problem (9.43) and the minimum of family problem (6.63). The mean score of health problem was 8.15 among the married women. Bhowmik S K [4] reported in their study that 65.0% of women worker experienced occupational problems, 15.3% of them faced social problems and 11.0% of the women suffered from serious health problems. Only 9.0% of them faced family problems.

In the present study mean scores of the problems towards family (8.19), health (8.73), social (10.29) and overall (37.31) were found to be more among the married women engaged in moderate type of work as compared to married women engaged in heavy type of work. While mean score of occupational problem (10.88) was found to

be more among the married women engaged in heavy type of work as compared to married women engaged in moderate type of work. Pratap S [5] stated that the women workers engaged in agriculture activities or in labour work, worked in the open heaving no protection from hot sun, the cold and the rain. Chavada V K [6] also found that women who do construction work on road and buildings often carry heavier weight than their bodies can take and keep and carrying heavy load during pregnancy and immediately after child birth, exposing themselves to spinal and menstrual disorders, miscarriages and back problems. In the present study, mean scores of the problems i.e. family (10.75), health (9.75), social (11.88) and overall (42.00) were found to be more among the study subjects working equal to or less than 6 hours as compare to working more than 6 hours and the mean score of occupational problems (10.67) was found to be more among the study subjects working more than 6 hours as compare to working equal to or less than 6 hours. Kusum [7] found that women who worked more than 6 hours faced stress, psycho-fatigue and musculoskeletal disorders. The safety and security factors also play a major role.

In the present study positive and insignificant co-relation were observed between duration of work with occupational problem among the married women even at 5.0% level of significant, while negative and significant co-relation were observed between duration of work with family, social and overall problems among the study subjects ($p < 0.05$) i.e. as the duration of work increases, mean score of family, health, social and overall problem decreases and vice versa among study subjects. Pratap S [5] also found that increased working hours of the women negatively affects quality of their occupational work.

CONCLUSION

In the present study majority of the study subjects were in the age group of 25-35 years and they were working more than 6

hours per day and majority of them were engaged in moderate type of work. Mean scores of problem towards family, health, total and overall accept occupational were found to be more among study subjects who engaged in moderate type of work.

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