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GRT A STUDY RELATED TO PROBLEMS OF WOMEN IN INFORMAL SECTOR

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Abstract:- Women all over the world have a significant contribution to the world economy. They are working with men, however almost all over the world; they are deprived of their rights in informal sector. In India, women are given highest priority in our mythology and society but in actual they are living in a very poor state especially in informal sector which is mainly dominated by men. They have to execute dual responsibility and are having second right over the resources. They lack education, soft skill, socio-economic measures. The study aims to find and suggest the measures which will help the women in informal sector to improve their status.

Keywords: Informal Sector, Social security measures, Employment, Finance.

I.INTRODUCTION :

The informal sector is regarded as a group of household enterprises owned by households and includes-

- a. Informal own account enterprises, which may employ family workers and employees on occasional basis
- b. Enterprise of informal employers which employ one or more employees on continuous basis.

Informal sector consists of regular workers and casual labors, self employed and are normally semi-educated to illiterate. Unorganized sector is engaged in the production of goods and services with the objectives of employment generation and earning livelihood. Informal sector is characterized by home based workers, street vendors, laborers in agriculture etc. one of the constraint in informal sector is lack of availability of reliable statistics on size, distribution, and its contribution to economy. Employment in informal sector can be classified into nine sectors.

Women play an important role in economic development of a country. With globalization the call of the day, more and more women are coming out and engaging themselves into conventional and non- conventional jobs. Informal sector provides maximum employment and contributes to the growth of economy. It's important to study the role of women in informal sector. Government & other agencies should realize the importance of this sector and draft policies accordingly. Women face problems in informal sector which needs to be address. Women and informal sector has to play an important role in development of our country. Around 85% of India's total population is engaged in informal sector. Around 120 million women are engaged in the informal sector in India.

NATURE OF UNORGANIZED SECTOR IS AS FOLLOWS:

- a. Poor working condition
- b. Low wages
- c. Lack of social security measures
- d. Mental, physical harassment
- e. No trade unions
- f. Lack of bargaining power
- g. Scattered population

h.Low literacy level, etc.

Women in unorganized sector are appointed as contract labourers and face discrimination. Wages fixed are lower comparison to male counterpart for the same job. Women workers lack quality employment and are deprived of basic need such as maternity benefit, nutritional food, skill up gradation and so on. They have to execute dual role in home and at work place. They don't have access to education and healthcare facilities. Women easily gets job in this sector as there is very little barriers in terms of education and skill required. It provides source of livelihood and provides supplement income to their family.

Migration of women and issues related to it is another challenge of women in unorganized sector. Status of women in a society is usually measured in terms of the level of education, employment, income, health, socio-cultural impact, role in family and society as a large.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The objective of the present study is to investigate & find the role of informal sector in income & employment generation with special reference to contribution of women. Following are the objective of the study:

- 1.To study the socio-economic conditions of women
- 2.To study the working conditions of women in informal sector
- 3.To study the problems faced by women in informal sector.

II. a. Significance of the study:

Following are the significance of the proposed study-

- 1.To understand the working condition of women in informal sector
- 2.To design policies for up liftment of women empowerment in informal sector.
- 3.Statistics relating to informal sector is not widely available, with the help of the study the statistics will help various government and non government bodies for various policies and programmes.

III.LITERATURE REVIEW:

Over the period of time, role of women in the economy has witnessed sea change. Women are now participating more actively in the economic development. Women are competing with men in almost every field with their skills. However to the other side, there is still lot of work to be done regarding empowering women. Education, health, participation in decision making needs to be increased.

Gaiha and Kulkarni (1998) examined that economic growth is one of the important factor in better standard of living of population; however it is not clear that good economic growth brings social development of population in informal sector.

Bandopadhyay, kumar (2006) have find out the impact of incentives provided to the informal sector, through wage study urban informal sector.

Helen (2008) has argued that government is more concerned with the problems of industry and organized work force, however they have neglected unorganized labour force. Centre, State and NGO's need to play more aggressive role in providing support to informal sector.

P. Mohanraj and D.Arunkumar (2013) have examined that migrant women workers are most vulnerable to various types of exploitation in the society especially of harassment and lack of health facility. Albert Christopher Dhas and Mary Jacqueline

Helen (2008) has argued that government is more concerned with the problems of industry and organized work force, however they have neglected unorganized labour force. Centre, State and NGO's need to play more aggressive role in providing support to informal sector.

IV.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

For the purpose of the above study data will be collected from primary and secondary source.

Newspaper article, research journal, books, e content of new papers will be the secondary source of the data collection.

Field observation, structured questionnaire and informal interview will constitute the primary data.

For the purpose of the study appropriate statistical tools such as average, mean, correlation etc will be used.

IV.a. Sample size:

30 women workers from informal sector will be selected. Sampling is done randomly.

IV.b. Limitation:

The study is conducted within the geographical area of Ambernath and Ulhasnagar city in thane district. Due to limitation of time, sample size is restricted to 30 and modern statistical tools are not used. Study is restricted to the geographical area of city of Ulhasnagar, Ambernath and Kalyan.

IV.c. Hypothesis:

For the purpose of the study following working hypothesis is formulated-

- i. Null hypothesis: Women in informal sector do not have problems.
- ii. Alternate Hypothesis: women in informal sector are not considered equal to their male counterparts in respect of wage, working hours, collective bargaining etc.

V.FINDINGS:

Through structured questionnaire, informal interview and observation, status of women in informal sector through key points such as socio-economic condition, working condition and their problems were collected. The following observations were made:

- a. 90% of women in informal sector were of the opinion that they are asked to work in poor condition, with lack of hygiene and sanitation facility
 - b. 82% of the women revealed that they were under paid as compare to their male counter parts though working hours were same.
 - c. 80% of the women workers expressed their concerns over lack of literacy, strict implementation of labour laws and absence of organized unions has affected their collective bargain.
 - d. Almost majority of the women have said that they are not paid during maternity leave and many time have to lose the job during the same period. They don't have any social security measures and also are deprived of government facility.
 - e. 67% migrant women workers have complained of harassment at work place.
 - f. Majority of the women have complained that they are facing lot of problems in informal sector ranging from finance for self employment to lack of soft skills to get better paid jobs.
- Hence our null hypothesis is rejected.

VI.SUGGESTIONS:

From the above discussion and findings it is clear that women if given a better platform can perform much better. They lack needed support and are open to various limitations and harassment. The following suggestions will help in improving the status in informal sector.

a. Collective bargaining:

Platform for collective bargaining needs to e set up for better wages and good working conditions. Even a city wise committee can be set up of bargaining.

b. Statistics on informal sector:

Proper statistical tools and procedure should be set up so as to enable the authorities and state to frame proper and constructive policies for betterment.

c. Education:

Basic education should be provided to women and society at a large can be sensitized for the same.

d. Concessional finance- women bank:

Recently, government has started the women bank. However, there is need to enlarge the scope and functioning of such banks. Limitations of cooperative society should be removed in such banks.

e. Change in attitude:

Overall change in the attitude is needed. Women should not be treated as second support. They should be treated equally and given an equal chance to perform.

f. Support from society, SMEs etc:

SME's and Society at a large should extend their support to women in starting their own collective programme.

g. Competitive wage payment:

Women should be paid a competent wage as per the work. There should not be discrimination on the basis of gender, age etc.

h. Social security measures:

Government should seriously look for providing social security measures so as to enable them with empowerment.

i. Maternity and health benefit:

Maternity and health facilities should be provided to migrant workers.

j. Aggressive promotion of Self Help Group (SHG):

Scope of SHG should be increased. More and more women should be brought under its umbrella. Even training should provided to them.

k. Empowerment of women through women entrepreneur:

Government should encourage small women entrepreneur by providing them easy finance, providing them with cheaper machinery, land etc.

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