

ROLE OF WOMEN WORKERS IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -AN EMPIRICAL STUDY IN K.R. NAGAR TALUK

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Abstract: Socio-economic development is an indication of prosperity in the society. Amongst many contributors to the socio-economic development the working women in the unorganized sector are recognizable ones. Quantification of contributions to the social development by any agent is not precise, however in economic terms the contributions are precisely measurable. The contributions made by working women in unorganized sectors towards growth indicators- education, attitude, group dynamism, leadership quality, competitive spirit, friendliness, decision making, loyalty, culture are studied through an empirical study in Krishnarajanagar taluk with a sample size of 127. From the same respondents the economic growth indicators are also studied with the input of primary data. The inferences are drawn objectively and this study has proved the hypothesis that 'working women in unorganized sector contribute significantly towards socio-economic development of the community'.

Key Words: Change agent, Informal leadership, Socio-economic development, Unorganized Sector, Working women.

Introduction

Demographic statistics reveal almost equal gender equation at the universal level. The contribution made by fairer sex to the socio-economic development is undermined by the dominant other group over a period of time. The women folk are emerging as competent personalities on par with men folk in the recent past. A true recognition of the calibre of women is yet to be noticed. Women are playing the role of change agents in every sphere of human life. Of late the reports of coming in highlighting women excelling men in astronomy, Sports, entertainment, politics, literature, science and technology. Women are plunging into economic lives in all possible ways. They are supplementing the economic strength of the households and in some cases their contributions form the stem part of economic power of their households. Needless to say that the women are the much-acclaimed social change agents at different levels. The working women are balancing the work life and personal life very efficiently. Concomitantly there is healthy socio-economic structure at the base level. Perhaps the macroeconomic disorders are manifested and manoeuvred mainly by the

perceivable contribution by menfolk.

The working women in unorganized sector have a distinct quality of sustaining social pressures and achieving economic goals. Hardly they succumb to the social pressures and persistently aim at augmenting economic resources. The experiences they learn from some daily routines make them strong and that enables them to nurture their dependents in a path that leads to higher levels of socio-economic hegemony.

In Krishnarajanagar taluk of Mysore district where urban rural population is in the ratio of 1:9, the working women in unorganized sector are mainly engaged as farm labourers, housemaids, workers in commercial establishments and Construction labourers. Working women as farm labourers account for 90% of total of population in this category. Krishnarajanagar taluk has more than 50% of the cultivated area under canal irrigation and farm labourers are put in to service mainly at paddy and sugarcane fields. A Portion of the taluk has semi-arid zone where pulses, ragi, jowar and other cereals are grown. Housemaids are found in Krishnarajanagar town, Hampapura, Bherya, Mirle, Chunchankatte and in other few big villages. The plight of these workers in economic front is not conducive because of low wages, seasonal employment, lack of job security, bad working conditions and absence of labour welfare facilities. In the social arena also, they suffer alienation from the neighbourhood. However, their contribution to the base level socio-economic structure is significantly high.

Statement of the Problem

Quantifying the development in the socio economic arena is herculean task because it involves meticulous calculations involving primary and secondary data. The task is rather difficult as much as social development is concern where empirical evidences shall only be measured, recorded & analyzed. While studying the role of certain factors that contribute the socio economic development the authenticity becomes an intricate issue. The cause and effect relationship cannot be exactly established in the socio economic phenomena because of multiplicity of the factors contributing to the outcomes. When it comes to study of role played by working women in unorganized sector towards socio economic development the problem deepens. Working women in unorganized sector have unique character of sustaining ordeals of work life and personal life. They are rather insensitive in perceiving the problem and expressing the same. Hence the collection of primary data to study the role in socio economic development becomes a daunting task.

Literature Review

Saradamoni (1995)¹ state that women workers are exposed more to the risk of sexual harassment and exploitation.

Breman (1985)² reports Women employees are frequently required to work into the last trimester of pregnancy and to return to work soon after childbirth, putting themselves and their children in grave danger.

Thomas(2012)⁵According to his research, India, like other South Asian countries, has a low female labour force participation rate, which is a clear reflection of women's lack of autonomy in society as a whole, as well as their capability deficiency.

Nadia Ahad, Pratibha J. Mishra(2017)⁴ In this study the researcher concluded that The empowerment of women is the major concern of the present day. The efforts of the government to improve the condition of women workers are praiseworthy but due to corrupt practices of the functionaries, the beneficiaries are not capable to utilize the programmes meant for their betterment.

Manju⁶ the study has revealed that the unorganized sector is larger in rural areas as compared to urban areas. The female participation in this sector is more than male in his study

Srivastava, N. & Srivastava R, (2010)³ According to researcher Cultural restrictions however are changing, and women are freer to participate in the formal economy, though the shortage of jobs throughout the country contributes to low female employment

Significance of the Study

The study is aimed at exploring the socio economic development arising out of the contributions made by working women in unorganized sector with particular reference to Krishnarajanagar taluk. This explorative study has thrown light on concurrent issue consecrated in socio economic fabric in the rural sketch. This is an unique study which adds to the literature on socio economic study.

Research Question

Is there any significant contribution made by working women in unorganized sector to the socio economic development of the community?

Objective of the Study

To study or explore the contributions made by working women in unorganized sector towards socio economic development in Krishnarajanagar taluk.

Hypothesis

H₁:“Working women in unorganized sector contribute significantly towards socio-economic development of the community”.

Scope of the Study

The present study is confined to the taluk of Krishnarajanagar in the revenue of district of Mysore, Karnataka state. Further this study is wholly based on primary data collected from working women of unorganized sector’s respondents during the calendar year 2018.

Methodology

The research is based on both primary and secondary sources of information. Secondary data is obtained from the published & unpublished data including E-resources. The primary data is obtained from administering a pilot tested structured questionnaire to a sample of 127 respondents. Convenient sampling method is adopted while selecting respondents. Enough care is taken to give representation to all same categories of worker & sub regions in the taluk. The data collected are subjected to analysis using SPSS 16.0 package. The tools of analysis are simple frequency, ratio, percentage, standard deviation & chi square test.

Demographic Profile

The following table briefly delineates demographic profile

Table-1: Demographic profile

Sl.No	Particulars	Profile
1	Average age	38 years
2	Average amount of income	24000 p.a.
3	Average size of house holds	5
4	Occupational engagement- Time ratio between domestic duties and outside work	30:70
5	Literacy rate among respondents	58%
6	Literacy rate of children in the households	100%
7	Average distance travel for attending work.	3.2 K.M

Source: Primary data- survey

Perception analysis

For the purpose of studying in the perception of respondents about their role to a socio- economic developments following 12 assertive statements were included in the questionnaire and responses were recorded in 5 points Lickert scale. The ranks are assigned as 1-Strongly agree;2-Agree;3-Notsure;4-Disagree &5-Strongly disagree.

Table-2: List of statements

Sl.No	Statements
1	Emerging in gainful employment outside the domestic front is not affecting the domestic chores
2	The stress mounted in the domestic front makes no effect on work life
3	The disturbances at the work place never intrude in to the domestic life
4	Lessons learnt at work place motivates the refinement of social life at home
5	Public exposure leads to inclining towards getting better education to the children
6	Public exposure entails upbringing children in a disciplined way
7	A personal financial management become an easy task because of outside work exposure
8	Thrift habits are very well inculcated because of exposure to outside work station
9	Investment options are well explored because of experience of outside work station
10	Banking habits are inculcated owing to association with co workers and employers outside
11	Financial discipline is thoughts to fellow members of the households in a significant manner
12	Deviations in socio economic behaviour of family members are dealt amicably

Table-3: Data analysis

Sl.No	Mean	Standard Deviation	Chi-square test
1	1.5198	0.6934	0.000
2	1.5110	0.6050	0.000
3	1.1718	0.5079	0.000
4	1.4185	0.4944	0.014
5	1.4846	0.6675	0.000
6	1.0573	0.2328	0.000
7	1.5154	0.5008	0.042
8	1.7797	0.4153	0.000
9	1.6432	0.6520	0.000
10	1.5815	0.5846	0.000
11	1.3392	0.4744	0.000
12	1.6123	0.5794	0.000

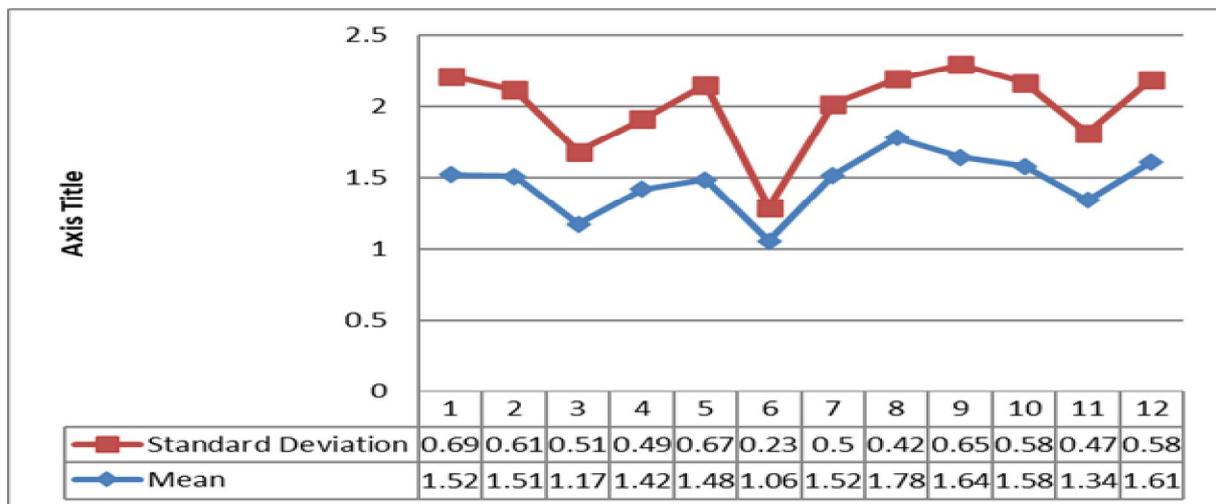
Source: Primary data-Survey

Combined arithmetic mean of 1.4695 with combined standard deviation of 0.5339

Highlights of perception analysis

- 59.5% strongly agree with S1
- 5.7% are neutral to S2.
- 58.1% strongly agree with S3
- 94.3% strongly agree S4
- 48.5% strongly agree S5.
- 78% agree S6
- 9.7% are neutral to answer about S7
- 4.8% are not sure about S8.
- 66.1% strongly agree that S9.
- 4.8% are neutral to answer about S10
- 66.1% SA with S11
- 43.6% SA with S12

Chart-1 Arithmetic mean & standard deviation



Discussion and Hypothesis Testing

A rural woman hailed from middle income, lower middle income and economically weaker section group. Normally take-up gainful empowerments on casual basis extraneous to domestic source. These women play a vital role in social and community next. In the mean time they do contribute to the economic development at micro level and concomitant macro economic development. The role of working women in unorganized sector in rural area in moulding the characters of family members along with their own social reformation is a perceivable outcome in the present society. Hardly the dropouts from school education among the children of their households are noticeable; this signifying the importance lay

down by such women on children education. Besides this they inculcate good habits including financial discipline among the children and other members of their households. Saving investment and banking habits are not uncommon among such women. The study conducted by the researchers in the rural society of Krishnarajanagar taluk through collection of empirical evidences and analysis of data as portrayed in table 3 above has reveal the Combined arithmetic 1.4695 and Standard deviation 0.5339. Further the chi square statistics at 95% accuracy level stand before 0.05 in 12 statements which indicate that the data are consistent. Therefore, the hypothesis **‘working women in unorganized sector contribute significantly towards socio-economic development of the community’**.

Limitations

1. The primary data may be inaccurate. The larger sample would have given more reliable data.
2. The secondary data sources obtained from different sources carry through the inherent defects.

Recommendations

The researchers offer the following recommendations

1. Working women in unorganized sector is suggested to look at economic security trough bargaining with employer.
2. It is advice to working women in unorganised sector to insist on women safety at work station.
3. It is suggested that the employer will provide better working condition and better terms of employment.
4. The policy maker from the government side shall explore the possibilities of setting up of small and medium enterprises that give year long employment they paving way for socio economic development of rural women.

Conclusion

To sum up an empirical study on role played by working women in unorganized sector towards the socio economic development has explored multi dimensional picture of rural society. It is worth noting that majority households of rural working women are well cultured, educated and constantly inching towards higher standard of living. The cases of deviant behaviour of younger members of the households of these working women are very negligible. Finally their contribution towards socio economic development is proved to be significant enough. Yet rural working women are at receiving end in respect of working

conditions, terms of employment and job insecurity. The suggestions given by researchers are worth implementing and given the actions mooted as aspired the rural society emerges as welfare society.

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