

Abstract

India is the oldest civilization and a diverse in terms of religions, culture and customs. Historically, role of the women in India mostly has been household and limited to domestic issues. The status of women in India and particularly in the unorganized sector has been discussed. Women working in unorganized sectors face numerous problems and challenges, which are often remain unaddressed.

The present study aimed to assess problems faced by women home-based and domestic workers. The study tries to explain the personal and professional problems, standard of living and suggestions for improvement condition of women working in home-based and domestic sector. The study was conducted in Vadodara city, covering 300 women workers, 150 women home-based workers and rest 150 women domestic workers. Survey questionnaire was developed separately for both groups, women home-based workers and women domestic workers. The researcher interviewed women workers. The data were entered in spreadsheet and analysed using SPSS. The results showed that most women workers belonged to the economically disadvantaged community and largely live in the urban slums. Socio-economic condition, inadequate family income, lack of other work opportunities compel women to work as home-based and domestic workers. They were compelled to work in the unorganized sector due to poor economic condition. The women workers in the unorganized sectors face numerous difficulties and challenges. First of all, they are not deemed as workers which make their income very less when compared to the earning of the male workers. Second, women workers suffer from irregular employment, often characterized with low wages, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Third, women workers face triple burden. They face a crushing burden of the work at the same time they are have to work for the household and take care of children and elderly. In addition, women are not able to spend quality time for recreation and rest. Fourth, conditions of work and home environment create stress and strain. Fifth, work conditions both at home and workplace are not healthy, and hygienic. Therefore, they face physical health and psychological problems. It is clear that conditions of women working in unorganized sector are not good. The coverage of labour laws has not

benefited these women workers in many areas of wages, working conditions, and social security. Benefits of maternity leave and childcare which are crucial for their mental and physical well-being, are denied due to which they often lose their jobs. There is a need for better legislation and effective implementation of the same. Researchers provide recommendations, at the end, to improve conditions of women workers in unorganized sector.