

Socio Economic condition of Garment women: A study of Ramanagara Garment Industry

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Abstract

Introduction: the garment sector occupies a key position in the economy of Karnataka in terms of its contribution to industrial production employment and exports, in garment exports Karnataka occupies the 2nd position (nationally) interims of value of exports.

Bangalore is known as the garment capital of the country hosting many large garment companies, the only industry generating huge employment for both skilled and unskilled labour. Majorities (94%) of the women workers are engaged in the unorganized sector of the economy, the major problems that effect than spring from the unorganized nature of all industry in this sector. They are outside the reach of most laws that seek to protect the security and working conditions of labor are mostly absent. Where they do exist, they are still in a formative stage and have had little impact on women.

Objective: To examine the level of participation of the women laborer in garment industries. An effort has been made to reveal the socio-economic conditions of garment workers.

Method: Working women in the age group of 20-55 years have interviewed at the work place. And the data was analyzed.

Result: Majorities (100%) of the women are working more than 8 hours per day. 70% of the respondents are working particular work and 30% of them are working different work in the garment.

Conclusion: The women's status is in transition, as her social background and role, status sets are relatively conservative. Employment is given her to economical security.

KEYWORDS: Working women, working conditions at the garment sector, Harassment at the work place

Introduction:

Today more women belonging to middle class families are working in garments factories. Garments factory are one of the export promoting industries in the contemporary India. Total profit from Garment is 16% of total profit from export. In India 40 lakhs people are working in Garment exports, while 10 lakhs women are working in Bangalore alone. Bangalore is one of the leading centers in Garment export .The concept of working women is a recent phenomenon. The advent of industrialization, urbanization, modern education and science and technology in the last five decades has created a favorable

situation for women, especially in urban areas enabling them to take to modern education and employment.

With the advent of industrialization and urbanization the nature and character of work has undergone a radical change. Ex: work is more specialized and skilled. A large number of jobs and occupations have sprung up in the field of teaching, administration and electronics, which could be taken up by both men and women. Besides work in organized sector has relatively become secured and remunerative. As a result there are more favorable conditions for women's employment in modern society.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the present study are as follows;

- ❖ To study the problems associated with the process of women's participation as well as the manner through which working women's lives in the Garment sector are being affected by the process of economic development and social change.
- ❖ To examine the level of participation of the women laborers in Garment industries.
- ❖ An effort has been made to reveal the socio-economic conditions of Garment workers specially women.
- ❖ To observe the general nature of working condition of women in Garment sector and compare their wages with the household expenditure.
- ❖ To assess the decision making capacity of the woman workers both within and outside of the family.
- ❖ To examine the nature of control these women hold over their own earning.

Methodology:

Hundred women of different age group are selected from universe of 280 female workers in a Garment factory of Ramanagara district. Simple random sampling is used for the respondents.

Results of the socio-economic conditions:

- **Age:** 43.3% of the respondents belong to 20-30 years age group. Older people are absent due to demand of heavy work and girls less than 18 are officially not there as it is illegal to employ them before 18 years.
- **Educational status:** About 50% of the respondents had studied up to primary level of education. Only 25% had completed high school, while 16.6% had attended college. It is not surprising that many of them are not attended high school level and college.
- **Family occupations of the Respondents:** 40% of the Respondents husband's are working as Agricultural laborers and 33.3% are working in government services. Due to their financial constraints they have allowed their wives to work outside the family for supplementary income.

- **Marital status:** Marriage is important event in the life of an individual especially of women. 33.3% of the Respondents were married. 30% are unmarried, 26.6% are deserted, 6.6% are widow and 3.2% are divorced.
- **Monthly income:** 48.3% Respondents were earning rupees 3000-4000, while 35.4% of the Respondents earning rupees 2000-3000, 9.6% were earning rupees 4000-5000, only 3.2% are earning more than rupees 5000. Salary is based on their production and expenditure.
- **Housing:** 54.8% are living in rental house, 19.35 are living in lease home, and 12.9% are living in own house. Only 9.6% are living in other houses such as friend's house, relative's houses, and P.G hostels. All the Respondents are suffering from one or the other problems like- violence, abuse, adjustment etc.
- **Decision making in salary spending:** 86.6% of the Respondents decision to spent salary are taken by husband, 6.6% are taken by parents, only 6.6% cases decision taken by her. It shows that she does not Have this decision making power.
- **Saving:** 56.65 of the Respondents are saving their salary in self help groups, 6.6% are saving in bank, and 3.3% are saving in LIC. Remaining 33.3% are saving in other form like- chit's funds etc.
- **Purpose for salary spending:** 16.6% are spending their salary for purchasing cloths and spending for food and health purpose, 19.3% are not spending for anything. 13.3% are spending for others like for family, children and credit.
- **Awareness about labour Association:** 63.3% of the Respondents are having awareness about labour Association; only 36.6% of the Respondents are harassed on the work place by temperament wise.
- **Harassed at workplace:** 60% of the Respondents are harassed at family due to drinking habits of their husband, 30% by poverty and only 105 of the Respondents are harassed for dowry.
- **Work Environment:** 30% of the Respondents are comfortable in their work place as they have good Environment. Majority of the women's were not have comfortable Environment at the work place like- drinking water, toilet etc.
- **Working hours:** 30% of the Respondents are working for 8 hours only. If they work more than 8 hours it is considered as over time, they are paying for over time.
- **Food:** 70% of the Respondents bring their lunch boxes from home, 13.3% are having food in the canteen, and the others eat from the vendors.
- **Health care:** 66.6% of the Respondent's care is taken by husband when the respondent falls ill. 26.65 Of the Respondents care taken by in-laws. While 6.6% of the Respondents are care taken by the parents.

- **Work status:** 70% of the Respondents work is specialized sections like- stitching, tailoring etc. 30% of the Respondents are shunted from one section to the other on the requirement unit.
- **Salary spending:** 73.3% of the Respondents spending their salary for the survival of the family, 16.6% of the Respondents spending their salary for their children's education and health. Only 10.5% are spending their salary for self.

Problems faced by Garment women workers at the work place:

- The Garment workers are not satisfied with their present wages and they expect more.
- The workers often express their grievances for imposing extra work burden by the employers.
- Sometimes have a tendency to deduct wage for even casual absence from work.
- The employers do not permit any extra leave as a result they have to attend work regularly leaving any urgent personal necessity behind.
- Many workers face sexual harassment by their male employers, and verbal sexual harassments by male colleagues.
- Most of the workers being less educated, the awareness to form a union is lacking among them.
- Often nature of work may vary from one day to another or volume of work rises day by day.

Recommendations for Garments women's workers:

- Providing to proper infrastructure facilities for the women.
- Providing minimum wage as fixed by the Government.
- To create better environment in the work place.
- Passing out legislations for the welfare of the women workers.
- To improve to women's economical empowerment through the work participation.

Conclusion:

The Respondents felt that men workers have a poor image of the working women as less punctual efficient social and hard working in comparison with men. The women did not enjoy higher status in the eyes of men staff superiors and colleagues. However the subordinates have sympathy for them. The women could not take active part in social functions arranged by the staff but she did attend marriages and poojas. Finally we can draw the conclusion, as her social background, role and status relatively conservative, employment give her economic security. The working women in Garment sector are relatively better involved in the decision making process. But the final decision rested

with the husband and other elders of the family. The working women in Garment sector do not received much help from her husband in doing domestic workers. In joint families women members are helping her, but most of them are in nuclear family. The traditional division of labor between men and women in the family does not seem to have changed significantly.

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