

Women and Self Employment: Case Study of Gandhinagar city

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Abstract: *The present paper tries to focus on Self-Employment of women, we all aware women are playing dual role as house wife in the family and as working women at the work place in the society. Women issue is very common for developed and undeveloped country; she suffers more in every turn and every mode of the life in the family, society and workplace. However she earn for livelihood of the family, sometimes she is only earner in the family. In this context the study throws light on various Self-Employments of the women in the society of Gandhinagar city.*

Key Words: *Self-Employed, Self-Employment, Women, Unorganized Sector.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The present study tries to emphasize on the various self-employments. Indian women are playing double role since centuries, mostly they were engaged in unorganized sectors employment. Now a day's all the things of livelihood is being costly day by day therefore single income is not enough for family hence sometimes women have to find supplementary source of income for need of livelihood of family, besides women also want to being a self dependent that's why they are working in unorganized and organized sector's employment. further government services does not available for everyone and its chances is very thin for them that's why chunk of women are working in unorganized sectors employment i.e. self-employed as home-based workers, petty traders, or providers of other services and manual labour. mostly they engaged in stitching work, beedi rolling, rag picking, etc., above and beyond women also engaged in domestic work in the family i.e. domestic chrome, child care, clothing etc. sometimes women are facing role conflict in their daily life and tries to manage all these thing but sometimes she hasn't manage all the things and circumstance, at that time most of women bears all the things or sometimes gives fight. Although, women gives economic contribution through occupation however her work contribution is not important and till today women has second status in the family and society.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Studies have been conducted on women issues in the society, some studies have been conducted by researchers, social workers, social scientists, government and NGOs etc., which highlights the women's problem in the society. These studies look into the various problems i.e. socio- economic, occupational, rape, harassment, child labor etc. The present study has referred the books, articles, journals, press release etc., which have reviewed the problems related to women. According to Ela Bhatt there are 93 percent of the labor force were self-employed in unorganized sector and among them 94 percent women labour force. Meager self-employed women have enjoyed few legal protections or worker's rights while majority of women didn't had knowledge or have less awareness about their occupational rights. Mostly they are illiterate or less literate and coming from lower poor socio-economic strata in the society. Sometimes they exploited and harassed by moneylenders, employers, and officials etc. Rag pickers are also working in unorganized sector, routine of rag picker women, start their day begins at the crack of dawn till 9 pm and mid day she was busy in segregation of all recyclable. Than she sells their waste to middlemen, kabariwala, rag picker women could not bargain for price. Sometimes kabariwala exploited her. After selling she went to grocery shop in the evening and buys groceries for the evening meals from cash i.e. flour, rice, salt, onions and few spoon fuels of oil. After she feeds her family and she was not too tired. Thus, this is a daily beats of self employed women. The book, about "women workers in unorganized sector" has findings of different aspects i.e. the socio-economic profile, working condition, women work in unorganized sector. It also tries to understand the problems of unorganized workers. The book also focuses on effectiveness of various welfare legislations. Those women who are working in an unorganized sector have to perform double role in the family i.e. house wife and working woman. Due to their poverty and, illiteracy, many times she became a victim of exploitation and harassment at the work place. Mostly they are not aware of government schemes, welfare programme, social security, maternity benefits, legislation etc. Therefore they don't avail the benefits which are made for them. SEWA has been working for rag pickers since very long time; it's started the paper picker co-operative for the rag pickers. There are four hundred women and children paper pickers on streets, whose work is ordeal. They

belong to lower strata of society. They work from early morning till late evening. They were engaged in rag picking, segregation, and selling for the whole day. Sometimes the middle men and the Kabariwalas exploited them, so the rag pickers got low price from their recyclable material. Then the Kabariwalas make a profiteering business by selling the waste paper. A large number of women feel that they can form a co-operative with the support of SEWA. SEWA contacted the state government to allow the co-operative to collect waste paper directly from the government press, office and institutions. Despite the government resolution, the co-operative still has to face confrontations from the vested interests. The women have not given up. They have bought a place to store their waste at throw away prices. The struggle for self-sufficiency continues along with the confrontation of the vested interests ones and other deterring elements. The co-operative was registered in 1982. (SEWA- 1984)

The book, “Women and Seasonal Labor Migration” (1995) highlighted on migration and problems of women i.e. socio, economic, poverty, cultural, ecological etc. This book asserts that development also means that women's autonomy also as an important factor in policy-making. It calls for a second thought at all levels. The book provides sufficient material on the socio-economic consequences of the eroding family structures from the point of view of female migration. This book may be throws lights on women migrated labour, moreover the level of poverty and the perennial struggle for survival, which force women to move out in search of work either with their families for livelihood. The study emphasizes the status of migrated Women in urban informal sector: a profile of sales persons: The paper has two primary objectives, first to generate a social profile of sales women and second to understand their day-to-day work life and the problems of women. A purposive sample of 50 sales women was drawn to elicit primary data relating to their socio-economic background and their work life. The women sales persons achieve some mobility in their career; their profession related skills could be imparted to them so that at least in future they would be in a position to improve their economic condition. Thus, the study throws flash on women issue through the review of literature and collected data also highlighting on the issues of self-employed respondents, which analyses in the findings of the study. The self employed women account in unorganized sector in this concern the paper also given the concept of unorganized sector.

2.1. Unorganized Sector:

"The unorganized sector consists of all unicorn ported private enterprises owned by individuals or households engaged in the sale and production of goods and services operated on a proprietary or partnership basis and with less than ten total workers." NCEUS (National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector) defined unorganized or informal employment, “workers consist of those working in the unorganized enterprises or households, excluding regular workers in the formal sector without any employment /social security benefits provided by the employers” NCEUS prepared estimates of employment in the unorganized sector. As on January 2005, the total employment (principal and subsidiary) in the Indian economy was 458 million, of which the unorganized sector accounted to 395 million, i.e. 86 percent of the total workers in 2004-05. Unorganized workers constituted 92.4% of the total workforce, accounting to 423 million workers.

Unorganized workers categorized under the following four broad heads namely, in terms of occupation, in terms of nature of employment, in terms of especially distressed categories, and in terms of service categories. Small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural laborers, share croppers, fishermen, those engaged in animal husbandry, in beedi rolling, beedi labeling and beedi packing, and other construction workers, leather workers, weavers, artisans, salt workers, stone quarries workers in saw mills, oil mills etc. agricultural labor, bonded labors, migrant workers, contract and casual laborers come under the second category. Tappers, scavengers, carriers of head loads, drivers of animal driven vehicles, belong to the especially distressed category while midwives, domestic workers, fisherman and women, barbers, vegetable and fruit vendors, newspaper vendors come under the service category Wage workers are persons employed for remuneration among the unorganized workers directly by employers or through agencies or contractors. Wage workers include casual and temporary workers or those employed by household including domestic workers. Wage workers also include regular workers in the unorganized sector. These workers who are operate farm or non-farm enterprises or engage in a profession or trade, either on their own account, individually or with partners, or as home-based workers. Own account workers include unpaid family workers also. Both the categories of workers face different kinds of vulnerabilities or risks and thus are referred to as worker sections of society. They suffer from two types of vulnerabilities- job insecurity or social insecurity or both. Regular workers in the unorganized sector are those working for others and getting in return salary or wages on regular basis. These workers suffer from social insecurity due to sickness or injury or old age and are not entitled to any social security. As against them, temporary, casual or contract workers suffer both from job insecurity as well as social insecurity. Indian economy is dominated by self -Employed workers on the basis of the latest data for 2004-05; self employed workers account for 56.5 percent of the labor force- the single highest group in the categorization of workers followed by casual workers (28.3%) and regular workers (15.2). They fall in two categories those employed in agriculture constituting farmer marginal, small and big work in agriculture on their income from own cultivation and not wage labor. They are included in the unorganized sector and their number

has been estimated to be 166 million in 2004-05 On the other hand, there are quite a large number of Self-Employed in the non-agriculture sector and they were around 92 million in 2004-05. **Self-Employed** workers are grouped into three categories:

- Own account workers: they work on their own using their work for longer hours. This phenomenon is referred to as 'self-exploitation' by Chayanov, a Russian economist.
- Unpaid family workers: these persons don't get any separate remuneration. Their contribution becomes a part of family income
- Employers: i.e. those who hire at least one wage worker, but the total number of hired workers is less than 10, to use the definition provided by the national commission for enterprises in the unorganized sector.

Low income Self-Employed those are closer to or marginally above casual workers i.e. Handloom weavers (mostly women), Chikan workers (mostly women), Street vendors, Food processor, Rickshaw puller, Rag pickers, Beedi rollers (mostly home worker), Agarbatti workers (mostly women), Potter, Bamboo product makers, All workers including self-Employed workers account for about 70 percent. The Share of the self employed is much higher among women in rural area, while in urban area, it is more or less equal for both men and women. The vast multitude 94 percent of women engaged in unorganized sector employment mostly they found as Self-Employed and wage worker. they are characterized by the some factors i.e. low earnings, Seasonal and insecure unemployment, woefully inadequate and non-existent supportive services, Lack of access to credit facilities, Weak bargaining power and, Very few opportunities for personal growth. However huge number of women are getting livelihood from self-employment.

2.2. Statement of the Problem:

Much research work has been done on women and women issues i.e. occupation, education etc. at the national level and international level. After independence many women studies conducted for women issues i.e. female feticide, dowry, sati, rape, harassment etc., although till to day that types of studies continue in India and now days it is increased. Mostly the middle class and general women issues put in the center of the studies. While the present study concern with struggling life of self-employed women, how they are facing problems and how they manage all the things in their life. The study also focuses on the status of self-employed women and has the following objectives.

2.3. Objectives:

- To know the types of self-employments of the women in Gandhinagar.
- To know the problems of the self-employed women and how they maintain balance in dual role in the family and occupation
- To assess their knowledge and perception about government schemes, programme, help etc.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The data relevant for the present study was collected from both the primary and secondary sources. The primary data was obtained by interviewing the respondents while related literature were collected from various libraries i.e. Gujarat university, Gujarat Vidya pith, Sewa library, VNSGU library etc. and collected the information from books, news papers, magazines, generals, reports, census etc. The study was conducted in the capital city of Gandhinagr; randomly hundred samples were selected from various sectors i.e. 2, 3,7,8,13,24, etc. The present study is restricted for only for city of Gandhinagar. observationobservation, interview, interview scheduled, etc. Methods and technique used in the study for data collection.

4. ANALYSIS & FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

4.1. Age:

Table-1
Age of the Respondents

No	Age of the Respondents	Percentage
1	18 to 28	20
2	29 to 39	36
3	40 to 50	24
4	51 to 60	10
5	60+	10
Total		100

The above table clearly shows that 56 percent respondents has been found in the age group of 18 to 39 to 40 years; more respondents found as youngster,more followed 34percent respondents have been found in age group of 29 to 50 years. 10 percent respondents were in age group of 51 to 60 years, another 10 respondents were fund 60+.

4.2. Caste:

**Table-2
Caste of Respondents**

No	Types of Caste	Percentage
1	Open	26
2	Scheduled case	24
3	Scheduled tribes	06
4	OBC	44
Total		100

The table no 2 shows that more 44 percent respondents have been found as OBC., followed 26 percent respondents are coming from the general category. While 24 percent respondents found in scheduled caste.

4.3. Marital Status:

**Table-3
Marital status of the respondents**

No	Marital Status of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	52
2	Unmarried	30
3	Divorce	04
4	Separated	01
5	Single	13
Total		100

Above table shows the information regarding the marital status of the respondents more than half respondents found married, followed by 30 percent respondents found unmarried. While 13 respondents found single and very few respondents found unmarried, widow and separated.

4.4. Education:

**Table -4
Education of Respondents**

No	Education of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	12
3	Primary	10
4	Secondary	15
5	Higher secondary	37
6	Graduate	20
7	Post graduate	06
Total		100

The above figure clearly shows the eye opener findings, overwhelming respondents have been found literate while very few respondents have been found illiterate, among them 10 percent respondents found educated up to primary level and 15 respondents educational status has been found up to metric level. Followed more 52 percent respondents found educated upto secondary and higher secondary school. While 20 respondents found graduate and only six percent respondents got education upto post graduation. Thus the study found that majority of the respondents found as literate.

4.5. Types of House:

The study found that majority of the respondents live in pakka house while only 25 percent respondents those who got livelihood from rag picking and animal husbandry live in Kaccha house. They did not having primary facility i.e. water, electricity, drinking water, bathroom, latrine etc. in their mud hut, earthen oil lamp and kerosene oil lamps were the two main source of light in their house. Most of 60 percent respondents had their own house and while rest of the respondents were lived in rental house. Thus the findings of the study shows that the respondents has a poor socio-economic status in the society and their educational status also highlights how they are facing educational problems in

the society. The study also collected the information pertaining to occupational status of the respondents and regarding same gives the detail of types of occupation of the respondents which is tabulated and presented in below table.

**Table No -6
Types of Self- Employment**

No.	Name of Self-Employment	No
1	Beauty Parlor	25
2	Animal Husbandry (milk selling)	25
3	Rag picking	25
4	tailoring	20
5	caterer	5
Total		100

The above table shows that 25 respondents found as beautician and run beauty parlor in their home. They were provided beauty services to their customer, While 25 respondents earn livelihood from animal husbandry, and they are selling milk. another 25 respondents were engaged in rag picking, they collected newspapers and white paper, glass bottles, plastic bags, bottle tops, bits of broken machinery, iron nails and still fillings, discarded hair, and pieces of wood, iron, pieces plastic, rubber, etc. on the roadside, dustbin, dump of garbage etc. and sell it in the shop of kabariwala and got money. Whereas 20 respondents found tailor, they were doing stitching work, made blouse, petticoat and dress. Very few five respondents found as caterer; they are providing service in marriage ceremony. Thus the respondents engaged in various self employed activities for livelihood of family.

4.6. Income:

**Table-7
Income of the respondents**

No	Income (Yearly)	Percentage
1.	20001-30000	17
2.	30001-40000	16
3.	40001-50000	34
4.	50001-60000	26
5.	60001-1,00,000	07
Total		100

The study found that all respondents found poor or lower middle class and they earned very less in the whole year. As regards the income information of the respondents, 34 percent respondents earned 40000 to 50000 in the year, following 26percent respondents were in the income range of 50000 to 60000. The study found that 36 percent respondents earned only 20000 to 40000 during the whole year. Only 7 respondents earned 60000 to 1, 00,000 in the year. All the respondents didn't get enough wages from their occupation and their income is not enough for livelihood of their family. All the respondents feel financial crises in their life; moreover all the rag pickers respondents live in extreme poverty in the society. All the respondents are suffering from poor economic condition.

4.7. Dual Role:

**Table –8
Maintain the Dual Role**

No	Maintain the Dual Role	Percentage
1	Yes	75
2	No	25
Total		100

The study found that among one hundred respondents majority of 75 percent respondents managed all the things in the family and work place. while asked them how they could sustain balanced in dual role they responded that they woke up early in the morning and finished all the domestic work then start their occupational work mostly home based workers, beautician and tailor respondents could easily balanced in dual role in compare of those respondents who were working outside of the home. besides rag pickers and milk seller respondents also manage their duel role , they also woke up in the early morning and start their work i.e. rag pickers goes for collection of waste at the roadside, dustbin, dump of garbage etc. place for collection of recyclable, afternoon 12 to 1.30 pm they back home and finished their domestic work as well milk seller respondents woke up in the early morning finished their occupational work i.e. making food for animal, shower of animal, clean the place and collected milk then selling to their regular customer, then engaged in domestic work. Thus, these respondents try to maintained balance in their routine work in the family

and occupation work. while very few 25 percent respondents responded that they couldn't able for manage dual role in their life, some of the tailor and beautician respondent and all the caterer respondents were suffering from said problems and all these respondents found as married, mostly they were busy with their occupational work hence not finished their domestic work in the time i.e. cooked the meals, clean the utensil, clothing etc., resulting quarreled with the family members i.e. Mother in law, sister in law, husband etc., sometimes married respondents family members didn't like that respondents were engaged in any occupation but due to lower poor economic condition respondents have to earn for livelihood of the family, among them very few 5 respondents who has a fight nature and they try to gives fight but mostly they were dominated by family members. Besides most of respondents kept silence and bear all these and tries to balance in their dual role in family and work place.

4.8. Awareness about Government Scheme:

Table-9
Awareness about Government Scheme

No	Awareness about Government Scheme	Percentage
1	Yes	30
2	No	70
Total		100

As regards the collected information pertaining to perception about government schemes i.e. unorganized workers social security bill, programme, help, etc. towards the respondents, among one hundred respondents only 30 respondents has knowledge about government schemes i.e. self help group , MANREGA, milk cooperative association, social security bill etc. but they didn't take benefit from the government scheme because they were not having enough information, mostly they were satisfied from their work. Besides majority of respondents didn't have knowledge for government scheme. It's very surprise both the government central and state government launched various schemes, programme, and help for unorganized workers however more of respondents didn't aware and in case those who were having knowledge about government schemes, these respondents did not prefer to take any benefit from the said government, schemes, programme and help.

5. CONCLUSION:

Last the study concludes that the respondents of present study are being representatives of the self-employed women workers and through their issues the study focuses on the problems of the self-employed women. The self-employed women have to face many problems in the family, work place and society i.e. socio-economic, occupational, educational etc. most of self-employed women used to with their routine domestic work and occupational work hence they maintain balances in their dual role besides meager self-employed women don't sustain balance in double role in the family and occupation work. Moreover, state and central both the government launched various schemes, programme, help for women and specially for working women however very few self employed women have knowledge about government schemes, programme etc. but they are not beneficiaries of any schemes. Thus the self-employed women faced many challenges in their life, but keep silent on their face and being a bread earner member in the family and keep up balance in the double role in the society.

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