



Socio-Economic Conditions of Home-Based Women Workers of Meerut: A Case Study

Received : 16-2-2022
Revised : 10-3-2022
Accepted : 29-3-2022

Ruby¹ Dr. Dinesh Kumar²

Plagiarism: 8%

¹Ph. D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India.

²Professor, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India

Keywords: Home-based Women Workers, Unorganized Sector, Socio-economic Status.

Classification-JEL : H1, J01

How to Cite: Ruby & Kumar, Dinesh (2022). Socio-Economic Conditions of Home Based Women Workers of Meerut: A Case Study. *Journal of Commerce and Trade* (H. Agarwal, Ed.) 17 (1), 24-31. doi:10.26703/JCT.v17i1-5

ABSTRACT

One-third of women in India's non-agriculture employment sector are engaged in all kinds of remunerative work from home as a home-based worker. Some of them are working as self-employed workers and some are sub-contractor for an individual employer and intermediary. This paper tries to understand the socio-economic conditions of home-based women workers in unorganized sector engaged in various economic activities like stitching clothes and soccer ball, embroidery on saree and suit and also sticking nag on clothes with 30 sample sizes by using convenient sampling. The area of the study is Kashiram Awasthi Colony, Lohiya Nagar Meerut, District of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh State. This study has focused only home-based women workers in the unorganized. Findings of this study revealed that most of the home-based women workers work with low-paid in the compulsion. Despite irregular hours, low wages and long working hours these home-based women workers remain in their homes only as an invisible and isolated income generating workforce who have little or no access to government policies, programs, legal protection and no credit is given. In order to build strength, unity and resilience government should have to need to invest in more and more co-operative societies to empower these home-based women workers.

1. INTRODUCTION

In unorganized sector, the term 'Home-based worker' mention as the ordinary classification of workers who complete profitable work within their home or in the nearby center. Home based worker worked on a piece rate for an employer, agent, subcontractor and middleman. Some of them work for own their enterprises. In developing countries like India and Vietnam home-based worker are not limited to this but also, they are appeared in develop countries like Ireland and Netherlands. It is evaluated that 100 million of home-based worker are found over in the world and in which more than half of home-based workers are in South Asia, of whom approximately 80% are women.

In developing countries, there are many studies related to home-based manufacturing activities in the area of unorganized sector. Most of the unorganized economic activities not

counted in GNP as in the same case in home-based work also specially in case of own-account home-based worker due to scarcity and low estimation of official data.

2. EMPLOYMENT ASPECT OF HOME-BASED WORK (HBW)

There are three main datum about employment aspect about home-based work:

- HBW is very vital source of employment in various section of the world.
- HBW is an especially significant mode of employment for women who are deprived from economically and socially vitiation.
- HBW include an important portion of the labour force in the basic industries such as textiles and garment industry, leather industry, carpet making and electronics industry and so on.

3. EFFECT OF GLOBALISATION ON HOME-BASED WORKER IN THE UNORGANISED SECTOR

Home-based work is not the latest case. Its ancient rootlet can be detected from rural economy and their occupations. A substantial number of home-based works like mat and basket making, weaving, dairying and so on were handled. In modern years most of workers including home-based workers moved from rural areas to urban areas into an unorganized work.

Financial scope made by liberalization are extremely asymmetrical and the procedure of liberalization and globalization has originated rising disparity between income and employment opportunities. Home-based women workers who have greater access to markets, more skilled and resources and also better links with international level has been able to reap the benefits but the quality of employment still remains and those home-based women workers who do not have the opportunity, are forced to climb the development ladder with low-earnings.

Due to increasing competition and globalization can be seen cost cutting strategies among merchants, suppliers and retailers as well as form of unorganized home-based work which made their employers easy to decrease cost by gaining benefit of low-paid.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Raveendran, Sudarshan and Vanek (2013), studied on self-employed non-agriculture home-based workers belong to the age group 15 and 15 above. The researchers collected data from NSSO report of Employment and Unemployment Survey during the period of 1999-00, 2004-05 and 2011-12. On the basis of NSSO data this study found that there were increasing % share of home-based workers, in 1990 they were 23.3 million home-based workers, in 2004-05 they were 31.0 million and 2011-12 37.4 million population engaged in home-based work activities. They are the vital part of Indian labour force.

Another finding discloses that share of home-based workers specially women has been also increasing significantly as in 1999-2000

increased from 41.1% to 46.1% in 2004-05 and then downfall to 42.8% in 2011-12 due to gradually move from rural area to urban areas and also most important finding is that % share of women home-based workers increasing in Manufacturing industries in 1999-00.

Hassan Syeda Mahnaz (2014), investigated socio-economic and cultural issues of home-based women workers of Punjab province engaging various economic activity like chunri making, stitching soccer, garment and carpet weaving. The data was based on primary data sources.

The researcher distributed four different sector of Punjab province like north, south and central Punjab with 200 sample size, each sector from 50 respondents. Information collected by snowball purposive sampling using with the structured interview schedule. The result of the study computed through SPSS. The study found that disapproval of family and their unwillingness, gender discrimination and restricted mobility are the major reasons to force these women work at home. Secondly women also felt that it is feasible to work at home as they can performed the household chores as well as to look after their children together with the home-based work. Further another finding of the study is that most of the home-based women have health issues due to lack hygiene working condition, malnutrition, poor living condition etc. in the end this study suggested that social work and workers played a very important role to solve the issues and problems and reducing the risk that encountered by these home-based women workers.

Social work can fill the gap between existing welfare services and them surpass to the section where the poor people of home-based women workers are stuffed.

Chen Martha A & Sinha Shalini (2016), analyzed the effect of local government policies and plans for urban home-based workers of seven Asian countries during period of 2011-12 (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand) using purposive random sampling. On the basis of available data, this study found that most of the unorganized

home-based workers were deprived from social protection, sufficient financial facility, statutory possession and confront subsidiary issues specially women, they loaded dual burden as they work their domestic work as well as do home-based work at the same time. In the end this study concluded that government have to take stringent step to remove poverty and inequalities to these home-based workers and also tried to give suitable living conditions and provide resident for those who live in slum areas for their development.

K. et al. (2020) highlighted the socio-economic, occupational health issues, working conditions and government policy for home-based women workers of Chennai, India. The researchers used descriptive research method and took 150 sample size which was based on NSSO 66th round and determined by using bill godden sample size formula. To capture these objectives face to face survey was carry out on the issues of working conditions, socio-economic problems of these home-based women workers. The researchers also used econometric tools like regression and correlation analysis using with gretl econometric software.

The major findings of this is that labour exploitation and discrimination in wages exist among these workers in a very large scale. There is no proper workplace, social security measures, medical aid and as well as no motivating factor available by their contractor or employer to these women workers.

The conclusion of the study is that in order to maintain employment opportunities and remove poverty among in urban women, home based work is great place to make revenue but aforesaid issues and problems are matter of concern which should have removed by the government for the betterment and welfare of these women workers.

5. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present study is to understand the socio-economic conditions of home-based women workers in unorganized sector engaged in various economic activities like stitching clothes and manufacture of soccer ball, embroidery on saree and suit and also

sticking jwels on clothes.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The following methodology is used:

6.1 Data Collection

The present study is based on primary data as well as secondary data. The researcher has gone through primary data with the help of pre- structured personal interview schedule for collecting information regarding socio-economic conditions of home-based women workers engaged in different economic activities in the unorganized sector and secondary data is collected from journals, articles, various government reports etc.

6.2 Research Design

The present study is descriptive in nature and data was tabulated and analysed by using simple percentage method.

6.3 Sample Size

The researcher has used 30 sample sizes of home-based women workers working in the unorganized sector.

6.4 Sample Type and Area

The study is adopted non-probability sampling. In this sampling convenient sampling is used. The area of the study is Kashiram Awas Colony, lohiya nagar Meerut, Disrict of Meerut in Uttarpardesh State.

6.4 Study Period

The period of the study is conducting during February 2022.

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF HOME-BASED WOMEN WORKERS

Socio-economic status presents the combination of social and economic position or class of any individual group of society. Socio-economic status measures the various factors or variable like income, occupation, education that helps to determine of any individual's position or conditions in the society. In this paper the researcher selected some socio-economic variable of the respondents like age, education level, type of family, monthly income and expenditure, number of earning members, availing health facility and so on which determine home-based women worker's conditions or status in the society.

Table 1: Age-wise Classification of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Age)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
15-25	9	30.00
26-35	10	33.33
36-45	10	33.33
46-55	1	3.33
56 & above	0	0.00
TOTAL	30	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 1 exhibits the age group of the 30 home-based women workers and it is clear from the table that the majority of women workers 33.33% belong to the age group 26-35 and 36-45 years and 30.0 % belong to the age group 15-25 and 3.33 % belong to the age group 46-55 years, workers remaining the workers belong to the age group 56 above years have 0.0%.

Table 2: Education-wise Classification of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Education Level)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	13	43.3
Primary	4	13.3
Middle	10	33.33
High School	2	6.7
Above School	1	3.3
TOTAL	30	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

It is evident from table 2 that majority of the respondents 43.3% are illiterate while 13.3% have primary school, 33.3 respondents have

Table 3: Marital Status of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Marital Status)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Unmarried	7	23.3
Married	18	60.0
Divorced/Separated	1	3.3
Widowed	4	13.3
TOTAL	30	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

middle, 3.3 high school and 6.7 are above high school level. It is clear that education level of home-based women workers is very low.

Table 3 discloses that 60.0 % home-based women workers are married, 23.3 % are unmarried, 3.3% are divorced/ separated women workers and others remaining are i.e. 13.3% widowed women workers.

Table 4: Caste Status of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Caste)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
General	6	20.0
OBC	5	16.67
SC	19	63.33
ST	0	0.00
TOTAL	30	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 4 discloses that 20.0% of GEN category of home-based women workers are in this occupation, OBC workers are 16.67% and the most of workers belong to SC category i.e. 63.33 %. it is clear that the majority of the home-based women workers entering into this occupation are coming from the lower caste of the society.

Table 5: Religion Status of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Religion)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Hindu	14	46.67
Muslim	16	53.33
Sikh	0	0.00
Chirstian	0	0.00
TOTAL	30	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 5 highlights that 53.33 % of the workers are Muslim and 46.67% are Hindu.

Table 6: Type of Family of Home-Based Women workers (Factor: Family Type)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Joint	6	20
Nuclear	24	80
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 6 presented above shows that out of 30 respondents 20% are coming from the joint family and 80% are coming from nuclear family.

Table 7: Distribution of Children Possession of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Have Children)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	21	70.00
No	1	3.33
Not Applicable	8	26.67
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 7 shows that 70.0 % respondents are having children and 3.33 % are have not a children other respondent i.e. 26.67% which is comes under the not applicable category are unmarried and separated home-based women workers.

Table 8: Children Wise Distribution of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Number of Children)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
0-1	1	3.3
2-3	12	40.00
4-5	5	16.7
6 & above	3	10.0
Not Applicable	9	30.0
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 8 exhibits children wise distribution of home-based women workers. 40.0% respondents are in the category 2-3 child group. 16.7 % women workers have 4-5 children and 10.0% have more than 6 children in the family.

Table 9: Possession of Ration Card of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Have Ration Card)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	20	80.00
No	5	20.00
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 8 further shows that only 3.3% respondent having a single child i.e. 0-1child group and remaining 30.0 % respondents come under the category of not applicable i.e. some of them unmarried and some are separated.

Table 9 shows the availability of ration card of home-based women workers. It is clear from the above table that most of the respondents 80.0% have ration card. They are used public distribution systems while others 20.0% respondents are not have a ration card.

Table 10: Possession of Bank Account of Home-Based Women Workers

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	73.30
No	8	26.7
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 10 illustrates that 73.3 % of home-based women workers having own bank account and 26.7% are have not own bank account or not using banking facilities.

Table 11: Monthly Income of Home-Based Women Workers (Rs.)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
3000-5000	1	53.3
5001-7000	9	30.0
7001-9000	5	16.7
9001-11000	0	0
11001 & above	0	0
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 11 discloses monthly incomes earn by home-based women workers. Out of 53.3 % respondents earn rupees 3000-5000, while 30.0% of home-based women workers earn only rupees 5001-7000 and 16.7 women earn rupees 7001-9000.

It can be concluded that due to weak negotiation power, home-based women workers do not get fair piece rate according to their work in the unorganised sector.

Table 12: Monthly Expenditure of Home-Based Women Workers (Rs.)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
1000-3000	1	3.3
3001-5000	19	63.3
5001-7000	7	23.3
7001-9000	2	6.7
9001 & above	1	3.3
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 12 shows monthly expenditure of home-based women workers. Out of total, 3.3% respondent monthly expenditure has between rupees 1000-3000, 63.3% respondents have 3001-5000, 23.3% respondents have monthly expenditure between 5001-7000, while 6.7% respondents do expenditure between rupees 7001-9000 only 3.3% respondents do expenditure above rupees 9001, due to the paid low wages and having no other source of income, the status of monthly expenditure of home-based women workers is low.

Table 13: Saving Pattern of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Able to Save Money)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	7	23.3
No	23	76.7
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 13 exhibits that only 23.3 home-based women workers are able to save money from their income while others are remaining 76.7% women are not able to save money due to unsatisfactory economic condition.

Table 14: Another Earning Members/Husband of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Another Earning Member/Husband)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	21	70.0
No	9	30.0
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

It is clear from the above table 14 that 70% of another member of the home-based women workers engaged economic activity while others are 30.0% member of the household neither engaged any economic activity nor contribute to their household's expenditure.

Table 15: Monthly Income of Another Member of Home-Based Women Workers (Rs.) (Factor: Another Earning Member/Husband Monthly Income)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
3001-5000	2	9.52
5001-7000	7	33.33
7001-9000	4	19.05
9001-11000	5	23.81
11001 & above	3	14.29
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 15 discloses monthly incomes earned by another member of the home-based women workers. Out of 9.52% members earn rupees 3000-5000, while 33.33% members earn only rupees 5001-7000, 19.052% members earn rupees 7001-9000, 23.81% members earn rupees between 9001-11000 while only 14.29% members of the household earn above rupees 11001.

Table 16: Distribution of Experience in Job (Years) of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Experience in Jobs)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
0-5	11	36.67
6-11	10	33.33
12-17	7	23.33
18-23	1	3.33
Above 23	1	3.33
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 16 presents that experience of job years and it is clearly showing that from above the table that most of the respondents i.e. 36.67% have 0-5 years job experience, 33.3% of respondents have 6-11 years of job experience,

23.33% respondents have 12-17 years of job experience and others remaining 3.33% respondents have 18-23 and above 23 years of job experience.

Table 17: Improvement of Economic Condition of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Economic Condition)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Improved	5	16.7
Not Improved	25	83.3
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 17 illustrates economic condition of home-based women worker. Despite coming into this work majority of women workers i.e. 83.3% have accepted that their economic condition is not improved after engaged while into this work. They do not satisfy with their basic needs while others 16.7% of home-based women workers are not satisfied as their economic condition are not improve quite enough.

Table 18: Distribution of Having Any Health Disease among Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Any Health Disease)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	16	53.33
No	14	46.67
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 18 presents facing health issue of home-based women workers. 53.33% respondents facing health issues and only 46.67% respondents have no issues related to occupational disease.

Table 19: Distribution of Availing Health Facility Among of Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Availing Health Facility)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Govt. Hospital	16	53.33
Private Hospital	8	26.67
Medical Store	6	20.00
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 19 reveals that most of the respondents i.e. 53.33% avail health facility through govt. hospital and 26.67% of the respondents avail this facility from private hospital and while others are remaining 20.0% of respondents have to like take medicine from medical store to near their house.

Table 20: Distribution of Amount Spend on Treatment Among Home-Based Women Workers (Factor: Amount Spend on Treatment)

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Below Rs.1000	22	73.33
Rs.1001- Rs.2000	8	26.67
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

Table 20 represents that 73.33% of the respondents expend amount i.e., below 1000 Rs. on their treatment as it is clear from the table 19 that majority i.e. 53.33% of the respondents have like to avail health facility from the government hospital. 26.67% of the respondents expend amount on their treatment rupees between Rs. 1001-2000.

8. CONCLUSION

This study has focused only home-based women workers in the unorganized. Findings of this study revealed that most of the home-based women workers work with low-paid in the compulsion. Despite irregular hours, low wages and long working hours these home-based women workers remain in their homes only as an invisible and isolated income generating workforce who have little or no access to government policies, programs, legal protection and no credit is given. In order to build strength, unity and resilience government should have to need to invest in more and more co-operative societies to empower these home-based women workers. ●

REFERENCES

1. Chen Martha A & Sinha Shalini (2016), "Home-based workers and Cities", *Environment & Urbanization*, Copyright © 2016 International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Vol 28 (2), pp. 343–358, DOI: 10.1177/0956247816649865, www.sagepublications.com
2. Hassan Syeda Mahnaz (2014), "Need Assessment of Home-Based Women Workers: A New Paradigm for Social Work", *Sci. Int. (Lahore)*, 26 (3), ISSN 1013-5316, pp. 1253-1258.
3. ILO (2015), "Home-based workers: Decent work and social protection through organization and empowerment, Experiences, good practices and lessons from home-based workers and their organizations", Jakarta, pp. xii- 97, ISBN 978-92-2-130434-0 (print) 978-92-2-130435-7 (web pdf).
4. K., Sivasubramanian; A., Pushpa; V., Raju; and Kumar, Madhu Dhruva (2020). *Women and Informal Employment: An Analysis of Socio-Economic and Health Conditions of Women Home-Based Workers in Chennai, India*. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 21(5), 97-106. Available at: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/vol21/iss5/10>
5. Mehrotra, Santosh and Mario Biggeri (2002), "Social Protection in the Informal Economy: Home Based Women Workers and Outsourced Manufacturing in Asia". *Innocenti Working Paper No. 97*. Florence, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.
6. Raveendran, G., Sudarshan, R., & Vanek, J. (2013), "Home-based Workers in India: Statistics and Trends", (WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 10), WIEGO pp 1-10. Available at: <https://hnsa.org.in>
7. Sinha Shalini (2006), "Rights of Home-based workers", National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi.
8. WIEGO (2016), "Empowering Home-based worker in India Strategies and Solutions" pp. 4-104, <https://www.wiego.org>