

Problems Faced by Unorganized Sector Workers in Bangalore District

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Abstract - Unorganized sector plays a vital role in the development of an Indian economy. The workers in the unorganized sector constitute about 93% of the total work force in the country. Workers belonging to this sector have less job security, poorer chances for growth, Vulnerable to diseases and No leave or paid holidays. It is doubtless to say that majorities of them live under below poverty line and fails to fulfill their basic requirements. This study concentrated on various problems faced by unorganized sector workers for their daily needs and how they are facing problems in the work place. For this purpose, primary data was collected from 100 respondents. Data was tabulated and analyzed with the help of statistical tools to achieve the objectives of the study.

Keywords: Unorganized Sector Workers, Problems, Social Security, Government Initiatives, Awareness Campaigns Low Wages.

INTRODUCTION

The Indian economy is characterized by the existence of a vast majority of informal or unorganized labour employment. The increase of workforce in the unorganized sector has become a significant feature of Indian economy. The Ministry of Labour, Government of India has categorized the unorganized labour force into four groups based on the occupation, nature of employment, especially distressed categories and service categories. Firstly, the occupational unorganized labourers are those labourers who are engaged in agricultural activities as small, marginal farmers, fishermen, beedi rolling, labelling, packing, animal husbandry, building and construction workers, leather workers, etc. ; secondly, the unorganized labourers in terms of nature of employment are those labourers who are attached as agricultural labourers, bonded labourers, migrant workers, contract and casual labourers; thirdly, the unorganized labourers in terms of especially distressed categories are those

labourers who are toddy tappers, scavengers, carriers of loads by head, drivers of animal vehicles, persons engaged in load and unload activities come under this category and fourthly, the unorganized labourers in terms of service categories are those labourers who are midwives, domestic workers, fishermen and women, barbers, vegetable and fruit vendors, and newspaper vendors come under this category.

The unorganized workers work in a very unhygienic and overcrowded condition where there is no adequate sanitation and water facility in their working areas. They live in a very congested room. The nature of employment of unorganized workers is temporary. Their job is instable, casual and scattered. They do not get stable and permanent employment opportunity. Most of them are not aware about their occupational hazardous. They do not have the knowledge of high risk of factory's dust, toxic chemical, lauded sound generated from obsolete machine. They work in extreme temperature and cold which adversely affects on their health.

The Unorganized Worker's Social Security Act, 2008 The Government of India has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 in order to promote social security measures for the unorganized workers. This Act is exclusively designed for the unorganized workers to take up measures for unorganized workers relating to the matters covering life and disability, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefits determined by the central government. The act has various social security schemes for the unorganized workers like The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), The Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The unorganized workers are the less protected workers than the organized sectors. They become the ultimate victim of ill-treatment, exploitation and deprivation. They are not paid equally for their equal works especially the women and child workers which they cannot complain. They cannot claim remuneration for their overtime duty and even cannot claim the benefits of paid holiday and paid leave. Poor economic background compels them to remain as unorganized workers. This study tries to identify the various problems faced by unorganized sector workers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the socio-economic status of unorganised sector workers.
2. To identify the problems faced by unorganized workers.
3. To suggest the recommendations for uplifting the status of unorganized workers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary Data: Primary data conducted from unorganized sector workers through an interview schedule. **Secondary Data:** The various secondary information sources used for the present research include the journals and magazines and websites. **Tools used for Data Analysis:** The data collected was analyzed through percentages, frequencies and Chi-square tests are applied for the analysis of data undertaken in Bengaluru district. **Sampling Design:** The study covers selected unorganized sector workers. In this study convenient random sampling technique has been used to collect the data from 100 respondents.

PROBLEMS FACED BY UNORGANIZED SECTOR WORKERS

- **Incomplete Access to Healthcare:** Unorganized workers often have limited access to healthcare services, which impacts their overall well-being and productivity. Health issues such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and respiratory conditions are prevalent but often go untreated due to the high cost of medical care.

- **Lack of Confidence:** Workers in the unorganized sector often face significant job insecurity, with employment being largely temporary or seasonal. This lack of stability perpetuates financial vulnerability and stress among workers.
- **Exploitation and Inequity:** Many workers face exploitation in the form of underpayment, long working hours without adequate compensation, and sometimes even physical or verbal abuse. Women, in particular, may face additional discrimination and harassment.
- **Low Wages:** The wages in the unorganized sector are generally lower than those in the formal sector. Many workers earn less than the minimum wage, making it difficult to sustain their livelihoods and support their families.
- **Lack of Social Safety:** Most unorganized sector workers do not have access to social security benefits such as health insurance, retirement pensions, or unemployment benefits. This lack of a safety net exacerbates their financial instability.
- **Poor Working Environment:** Workers often endure poor working conditions, including long hours, unsafe environments, and a lack of necessary safety equipment. This can lead to occupational health hazards and injuries.

PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **Government Initiatives:** Programs like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PMSYM) are aimed at providing employment security and social security benefits to unorganized workers. However, effective implementation and increased awareness are crucial for these programs to reach their potential beneficiaries.
- **Healthcare Access:** Expanding healthcare facilities and making medical services more affordable and accessible to unorganized workers can significantly improve their quality of life and productivity.
- **Unionization and Advocacy:** Encouraging unionization and collective bargaining can empower workers to negotiate better wages and working conditions. Advocacy groups can play a

crucial role in raising awareness about workers' rights and ensuring enforcement of labor laws.

- Awareness Campaigns: Conducting awareness campaigns about available government schemes and workers' rights can help unorganized sector workers access the benefits they are entitled to and protect themselves against exploitation.
- Skill Development: Providing vocational training and skill development programs can enhance the employability and income potential of unorganized sector workers. This can help them transition to more secure and better-paying jobs.
- Microfinance and Financial Inclusion: Improved access to microfinance and banking services can

help workers manage their finances better and invest in small business ventures, thereby improving their economic stability.

ANALYSIS AND FINDING

The Primary data collected showed the demographic profile of the sample respondents states that Male respondents are higher than female respondents. Most of respondents falls in the age group of 26 – 40 and married. Primary level education qualifications are high as compared to other education groups. Most of the respondent’s family monthly income is between Rs.10,000- Rs.15,000. Majority of the respondent’s family have more than 4 members.

Table 1: Problems and Challenges faced by unorganized sector workers

SL.NO.	PROBLEMS	FREQUENTLY	RARELY	NEVER
1	Low wages	82	17	1
2	Ignorance of Occupational safety	66	29	5
3	Insecurity in job	68	30	2
4	Exploitation	78	19	3
5	Seasonal employment	49	37	14
6	Excess working hours	81	15	4
7	Lack of Health security	84	13	3
8	Poor working environment	67	29	4
9	Poor employer employee relationship	79	19	2
10	Lack of social security measures	69	29	2
11	Vulnerable to diseases	72	19	9
12	Sexual harassment	22	63	15

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 clearly shows that various problems faced by unorganized sector workers. Majority of the respondents facing the problems of lack of health security, excess working hours and getting low wages for their work.

Table 2: Health Issues faced by Unorganized Sector Workers

SL.NO.	HEALTH ISSUES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Diabetes	12	12%
2	High/low blood Pressure	16	16%
3	Asthma	17	17%
4	Back/joint pains	19	19%
5	Allergy? Skin disease	13	13%
6	Anemia	12	12%
7	Depression	11	11%

SUGGESTIONS

Central and State government offer various insurance and benefit schemes to unorganized sector workers but Lack of awareness among them are the reason of not

enrolment in the various schemes offered by government. Therefore, the officials of central and state government should start awareness program and campaign for the unorganized sector employees to make them feel and be healthy.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Unorganized sector employees get very less returns of their work and they work in worst physical environment. For old age protection to unorganized sector workers including traders, shopkeepers and self-employed persons, the Government has launched two flagship schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan- DhanYojana and National Pension scheme for traders. Under the schemes beneficiaries are entitled to receive minimum monthly assured pension of Rs.3,000 after attaining the age of 60 years. Therefore, researcher recommend the local authority, Government, National Social Security Board, NGOs and all other stakeholders to come forward to help them for their upliftment. Government may conduct various training programs to disseminate the information regarding the scheme to the potential and eligible population.

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