



LIVING STANDARD OF WOMEN WORKERS IN DRAWING- IN SECTION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI

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ABSTRACT:

Textile industry is the largest foreign exchange earning sector in the country. It is estimated that one out of every six households in the country depends on this sector, either directly or indirectly for livelihood. Today, women are involved in all sectors of textile industry. Though it is a traditional industry in India, the general pattern for women is not to weave, but to take part in other various operations. Women's role in decentralized sector is immense. Their livelihood is full of hurdles and tasks. They are urban unorganized workers living in serious destitute and poverty. Most of the women workers have a saving habit. They save money for various purposes. They have deposited their savings with various sources like bank, credit societies, bhishi (kitty bank) and self-help groups. It is observed that 100 % of women workers from drawing-in activities have reported no investment in PF scheme. The women workers were unaware of such insurance scheme. There were only a very few women workers who were insured under the life insurance scheme. The women workers engaged in textile sector did not have any other alternative sources of income, since they remain busy in the assigned work activities.

INTRODUCTION:

The textile industry is the second largest employment generator after agriculture in India. It accounts for more than 30% of the total exports. Textile industry in India has a vast potential for generating employment opportunities in the agriculture, industry, organized and decentralized sectors, rural and urban areas; particularly, for women and the disadvantaged communities, the industry absorbs huge needy population since last century.

The textile industry accounts for around 4% of the gross domestic product (GDP), 14% of industrial production and 16% of the country's total exports. In fact, it is the largest foreign exchange earning sector in the country. It is estimated that one out of every six households in the country depends on this sector, either directly or indirectly for livelihood.

Today, women are involved in all sectors of textile industry. Though it is a traditional industry in India, the general pattern for women is not to weave, but to take part in other various operations. Women's role in decentralized sector is immense. Their livelihood is full of hurdles and tasks. They are urban unorganized workers living in serious destitute and poverty.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The textile industry in Ichalkaranji region is decentralized in various sections. From the production of yarn to making of ready-made clothes includes various stages.

Prior to a new economic policy of India, the women workers in Ichalkaranji city were found to be involved only in pirn-winding machine activities (worked as pirn winders). There was no involvement of rural women in textile sector during 1980s. But today the urban as well as rural women workers are engaged in almost all sub sections of textile industry in Ichalkaranji and adjoining areas.

OBJECTIVE:

To study the socio-economic livelihood of women workers

HYPOTHESIS:

The women workers engaged in textile industry are victims of social, economical and psychological exploitations.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

This study covers the information provided by the women workers regarding their work pattern and various social and economical issues. Hence there is a possibility of data authenticity. However the information provided was cross checked with other entities in the market. The NGOs Trade Unions,

Associations firm owners and the Government Department were the main organs of such information.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on the primary data collected from various sources. The secondary sources of data was collected from various sources like published documents Directorate of Textile Maharashtra, Ichalkaranji, Power looms Weavers Cooperative Association Ltd and other reference books, manuals, web sites etc.

AREA OF FIELD STUDY:

For the purpose of this study, we have selected the Ichalkaranji and adjoining area from which sample was selected. In Ichalkaranji there are four industrial areas.

SAMPLING:

The selection of sampling unit was based on the following formula.

$$n = N / 1+N (e)^2$$

The sampling of study is based on non probability convenience method. The approximate selected number of samples is 50.

DATA COLLECTION AND ITS ANALYSIS:

The study is based on the collection of primary and secondary data from various sources. The primary data were collected from the field and direct personal contact on judgment basis. The secondary source of data was collected from various sources. The primary data were collected on the socio – economic social -economic status, family income, saving and investments.

ECONOMIC VARIABLES COVERED:

Economic variable covers the wage, family income, saving, consumption, indebtedness.

CONCEPTUAL EXPLORATION:

It is essential to understand the meaning and place of work of selected sections in the decentralized textile sector.

DRAWING-IN:

Drawing-in activity is a process prior to preparation of cloth where number of slivers from comber or carding are doubled and drafted. Fiber parallalization improves the process. In this process sliver becomes uniform to get better uniformity in ultimate yarn. This process requires two workers on a beam. Now-a-days women workers are engaged in this sub-section of weaving. It is necessary to note that, prior to weaving process on power loom, the beams of warp fibers have to be made ready for weaving. This setting of warp beam is called drawing-in activity. The loom owner offer contract of warp fibers beam setting to local agents. These agents complete the job task with the help of the women workers.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY:

Data Management



- a) Primary data → Decentralized textile industry in Ichalkaranji → Women workers (drawing-in) → Data (Economic conditions) → Tabulation and Analysis → Interpretation → Conclusions → Recommendations
- b) Secondary data

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN WORKERS IN DECENTRALIZED TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI:

As mentioned earlier, the functioning of different sectors like spinning, warping, sizing, weaving, processing, dying, garment and marketing of readymade clothes, are the main sections in Ichalkaranji. Among these sectors, the women workers are involved in more number in spinning, weaving and garment sections.

NATURE OF WORK OF WOMEN WORKERS IN DRAWING-IN ACTIVITY:

Drawing-in activity is a process prior to preparation of cloth, where number of slivers from comber or carding are doubled and drafted. This process requires two workers on a beam. They may be to males or male-female or two females. This work was done by only male workers earlier. Wages were determined on sizes of the beam. Workers earn around Rs. 40 to 150 per day. An owner or agent recruits the workers to carry out this process.

LIVING STANDARD OF WOMEN WORKERS:

In the present paper researcher has considered saving, consumption, exploitation, indebtedness, other supportive services` at work place and the houses. In this regard, we tried to obtain the information from women workers which are discussed.

Saving Habits:

Table1. Saving Habit of Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq.	%
Yes	44	88.0
No	6	12.0
Total	50	100

They save money for various purposes. They have deposited their savings with various sources like bank, credit societies, *bhishi* (kitty bank) and self-help groups etc. It is observed that 88.0% (44) in drawing-in activity have a saving habit.

Table 2. Place for Saving

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq	%
Bank	00	00
Bhishi/Self-help group	50	100
Total	50	100

Generally women workers save money in bank, *bhishi* and self-help group. Table 2 shows that 100% (50) in drawing activity save their part of income with *bhishi* or self-help groups. Women workers prefer to work with self-help groups as they provide loans without any reasons and without any mortgages. So, this

easy way of getting money helps them to solve or manage their financial problems. Obviously, they like to be a member of SHGs.

Table 3. Expenditure Made by Women Workers for Saving in PF

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq.	%
Up to 100	00	00
100-200	00	00
200-300	00	00
300-400	00	00
400-500	00	00
Above 500	00	00
No PF	50	100
Total	50	100

It is observed that 100 % of women workers from drawing-in activities have reported no investment in GPF scheme. The scheme does not apply to such workers.

Table 4. Expenditure Made by Women Workers on Insurance Premium

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq.	%
Up to 100	00	00
100-200	5	45.45
200-500	6	12.00
Above 500	00	00
Insurance	11	22.00
No insurance	39	78.00
Total	50	100

There were only a very few women workers who were insured under the life insurance scheme. It is further observed that, 45.45 % (5) from drawing-in have paid monthly Rs.100-200 as insurance premium.

Table5. Monthly Saving by Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq.	%
50-100	49	98.00
100-200	00	00
200-300	00	00
300-400	00	00
400-500	00	00
Above 500	00	00
None	1	2.00
Total	50	100

Table 5 shows that 98% (49) from drawing in were saving monthly Rs.50-100 in various sources and agencies. It is essential to consider the negative approach of women workers regarding monthly saving. It is observed that, 2.0% (1) from drawing-in did not save money. Most of the workers did not save due to inadequate earning sources of income.

House Rent Paid:

The workers, who stay in rental houses, have to pay the rent. Only a small number of workers did not paid the rent. It means most of the workers were living in the rental houses.

Table 6. Amount of House Rent Paid by Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Freq.	%
Nil	20	40.0
200-400	00	0.0
400-600	03	6.0
600-800	11	22.0
800-1000	11	22.0
Above-1000	05	10
Total	50	100

Table 6 shows that the workers living place and standard adversely affect the mental and physical make-up of the people. These workers have low wage level. Being unaffordable to live in good situations, they were compelled to choose to live in shabby places. Women workers residing on rental basis generally have to pay house rent ranging between Rs. 400-1000 pm. The rooms were of only 10' x 10'. These thatch-roofed rooms were simultaneously situated in narrow lanes and made up of mud. They have 4 to 5 members in their families. Hence, it is very inconvenient to live in such congested rooms. Thus their living standard was of low grade.

Other Sources of Earning:

The wages were inadequate to comply with all the basic and other needs of the women workers. The earnings of the other family members were the alternative sources of income for the women workers. The women workers engaged in textile sector did not have any other alternative sources of income, since they remain busy in the assigned work activities.

Table 7. Other Family Members as Earner

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Frequency	%
Husband	38	76
Son	05	10
Daughter	00	00
Others	01	2
No	06	12
Total	50	100

Table 8. Opinion of Women Workers about Adequacy of Monthly Income

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Frequency	%
Yes	00	00
No	50	100
Total	50	100

The opinion of women workers about their monthly income was noted. It is found that, their monthly income was not enough for day-to-day growing family expenses. All women workers in drawing-in activity were negatively responded as their monthly income and expenditure was inadequate.

Indebtedness:

Indebtedness occurs by nature when the earnings remain less and consumption and small investments are at the higher side. Some time workers have to borrow for the medical and educational expenses. The expenses which are not visualized and are sudden, people have been compelled to borrow. The wind fall loss also causes borrowing. Borrowing of the women workers were in the nature of advances against their wages. They have to depend on non-institutional institutions due to non-creditworthiness of the workers.

Table 9. Indebtedness of Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Frequency	%
Range of loan amount		
1000-5000	00	00
5000-10000	00	00
10000-20000	9	18.0
20000-50000	22	44.0
50000-100000	10	20.0
100000-200000	8	16.0
Above 200000	00	00
No loan	1	2.0
Total	49	100

As mentioned earlier, most of the women workers did not possess enough monthly income. It is observed that 18.0 % (9) from drawing-in activity were indebted for the amount of Rs.10000-20000. There was only one woman found in drawing-in activity who had not borrowed any loans on her account.

Table 10. Sources of Loan taken by Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Frequency	%
Co-op cr. Soc.	00	0.00
Money lender	00	0.00
Owner	40	81.63
Bank	00	0.00
Micro finance	00	0.00
SHG	09	18.37
Total	49	100.00

The women workers were benefited by various sources of borrowings as per the need and affordability. It is observed that 81.63% (40) from drawing-in activity have borrowed as advance against wages from the firm owners. Of late, Self Help Groups (SHG) has been playing an important role in fetching the rural financial needs. The rural women were having an advantage of SHG to solve their financial problems. It is observed that 18.37% (09) from drawing in activity were borrowed from SHGs.

Table 11. Loan Repayment Methods Practiced by Women Workers

Section →	Drawing-in	
	Frequency	%
Weekly	40	81.63
Monthly	9	18.37
Total	49	100

There were various methods of repayment of loan observed in Ichalkaranji. Table 11 shows that 18.3 % (9) from drawing-in activity were repaying on monthly basis.

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