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## **COMPARATIVE STUDY OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF FEMALE WORKERS IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

Health is key indicator of development. Good health and well-being is sustainable development goal for achievement of MDGs which aims to promote well-being and health of each and every people at every age. WHO stated that reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Women have unique health issues includes related to pregnancy, menstrual cycle, menopause, birth control etc. which are different from men. Working women cannot take adequate and proper rest at the period of pregnancy, menopause, and menstrual cycle etc. especially female workers of unorganized sectors. Birth control issues controlled by educational, occupational and social constituents in rural India. These factors affects reproductive health of women.

Women are hugely participating in unorganized sector. Women have been subordinate in Indian society. Adding to this, they are employing in low status occupational sector. National Institute of Environmental Health sciences argued that lifting heavy loads or working non-daytime schedules are associated to reproductive health of women. Reproductive health of women impacts on health of present and in future society.

### **STUDY REGION:**

Mhaswad is a city in the Man tehsil and one of the towns of Satara district. It lies eastern side of Sahyandri ranges which is eastern part of district. Hence, it receives high temperature and very scanty rainfall. According to census 2011, Mhaswad has 39,495 total population. Female literacy rate (67.23%) is lower as compared to male (80.94) with 13.71 points literacy rate gap which is highest than other towns of Satara district. Sex ratio of Mahaswad is 979 and for age group 0-6, it is 888. In Mhaswad, proportion of female agricultural labourers

(29.61) is higher than male (17.39%). Proportion of female workers in household industry (4.29%) is also higher than male (3.19%). However, in other activities female's participation (29.54%) is very lower than male (48.46%).

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyse reproductive health status of working women in various unorganized sectors.
2. To compare reproductive health status of working women in various unorganized sectors.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected through questionnaire. Stratified random sampling method is used ensuring the representativeness of sample. In this study 159 samples from agricultural sector, 81 from household industries and 71 from other unorganized sectors selected for analysing reproductive health status. Percentile method is used. Secondary data is collected through, Census, reports, journals, articles, websites etc.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

**Table No. 1 Exploitation of Women Workers at Workplace**

Exploitation	Agricultural workers (%)	Household Industry (%)	Other Unorganized sector (%)
Yes	72.96	53.09	71.83
No	27.04	46.91	28.17

Source: Field Survey

The data presented in above table shows that in agricultural sector, 72.96% women have been exploited, 53.9% in household industry and 71.83% in other unorganized sector. Higher percentage of incidence of exploitation are occurred in other unorganized sector and then agricultural women workers also are suffering from exploitation. Incidence of exploitation have been occurred because of lack of organization and among the group which is mainly result of prevalence of poor literacy and awareness and high level of poverty.

**Table No. 2 Age Gap between Children of Women Workers**

Years	Agricultural workers (%)	Household Industry (%)	Other Unorganized sector (%)
>2	56.60	30.86	46.97
2	27.68	25.93	30.30
2<	15.72	43.21	22.73

Source: Field Survey

Above presented data reveals that 56.60%, 30.86% and 46.97% women workers of agriculture, household industry and other unorganized sectors have less than 2 years age gap between two children of women workers respectively where as 15.72%, 43.21% and 22.73% have more than two years.

**Table No. 3 Rest in post -delivery Period by Women Workers**

Months	Agricultural workers (%)	Household Industry (%)	Other Unorganized sector (%)
> 1	19.63	16.25	12.68
1-3	77.84	60	77.46
4-6	2.53	23.75	9.86

Source: Field Survey

As per above table, it reveals that Agricultural workers of 77.83%, workers of household industry of 60% and workers of other unorganized sector of 77.46% have taken rest for 1 to 3 months after delivery. Very few workers agricultural and other unorganized sector have taken rest for 4 to 6 months as compared to household industry. Above table shows that 12% to 20% women of all sectors take rest less than 1 month.

**Table No. 4 Reasons related to inadequate Rest in Pregnancy Period by Women Workers**

Reason	Agricultural workers (%)	Household Industry	Other Unorganized sector (%)
Feel not need	5.88	5	6.24
Refused by family	43.79	45	46.88
Financial Constituent	50.33	50	46.88

Source: Field Survey

Above table shows that near about 50% women workers of all sectors don't take adequate rest after giving birth due to financial constituent and near about 45% women workers don't take rest owing to refusing by family members.

**Table No. 5 Negligence by Women Workers for Menstrual Problems:**

Reason	Agricultural workers (%)	Household Industry	Other Unorganized sector (%)
Not Severe	7.63	11.11	15
Financial Constituent	27.48	23.80	23.33
Refused by Family	64.89	65.09	61.66

Source: Field Survey

Presented data in above table indicates that 60% to 65% women workers don't take treatment for problems related to menstrual cycle owing to refusing by family members while near about 25% women workers have financial problem in all sectors.

### CONCLUSION:

Women workers of unorganized sector are deprived in society. Their occupational status or work status is not supportive for achieving health standard owing to low income and low educational status. Exploitation of women workers found mostly in agriculture and other unorganized sector as compared to household industry. Less age gap between two children causes reproductive health of women. Situation of workers of household industry is quite good as compared to agricultural and other unorganized sector. Women workers not take rest for long time or till up to acquired pre-pregnant state after giving birth owing to mainly refusing of family members and financial constituent. It means social and economic factor influences their reproductive health.

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