

Economic Condition of Women in the Unorganised Sector in Patna City

Priyanka Kumari¹, Dr. Priyanka Singh²

¹Department of Economics, Patliputra University, Patna

²Department of Economics, J.D. Women's College, Patna

ABSTRACT

This research paper examines the economic condition of women working in the unorganised sector of Patna, Bihar. It explores the challenges they face, their income levels, employment conditions, and the impact of socio-economic factors on their livelihoods. The study highlights the need for targeted policies and interventions to improve their economic status and promote gender equality.

INTRODUCTION

The unorganised sector plays a crucial role in the Indian economy, employing a significant portion of the workforce, particularly women. In Patna, the unorganised sector encompasses various activities, including domestic work, street vending, and small-scale agriculture. This paper aims to provide insights into the economic conditions of these women, analyzing their income, job security, and socio-economic challenges.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research indicates that women in the unorganised sector face numerous challenges, including low wages, lack of job security, and limited access to social protection. Studies show that women often engage in informal work due to limited educational and employment opportunities. Previous research highlights the intersection of gender, poverty, and economic vulnerability in shaping women's experiences in the unorganised sector.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. A sample of 200 women employed in various unorganised sectors in Patna was surveyed to gather data on income, working conditions, and socio-economic status. In-depth interviews with 20 participants provided further insights into their experiences and challenges.

FINDINGS

Income Levels

The average monthly income of women in the unorganised sector in Patna is approximately INR 5,000-7,000, which is significantly below the minimum wage in formal sectors. Many women supplement their income through multiple jobs, often leading to exhausting work schedules.

Employment Conditions

Women in the unorganised sector typically work in precarious conditions, lacking formal contracts, job security, and benefits such as healthcare and maternity leave. Many reported facing exploitation from employers, with no recourse to legal protections.

Socio-Economic Challenges

The study identified several challenges faced by women, including:

Lack of Education: Limited access to education restricts their job opportunities.

Cultural Barriers: Societal norms often dictate women's roles, affecting their mobility and work choices.

Financial Dependence: Many women rely on male family members for financial support, limiting their autonomy.

Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, leading to job losses and reduced incomes. Women in the unorganised sector faced increased burdens due to health crises and care giving responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

The economic condition of women in the unorganised sector in Patna reflects broader systemic issues of gender inequality and economic instability. The findings underscore the necessity for policy interventions aimed at enhancing women's access to education, skills training, and financial services.

Policy Recommendations

Skill Development Programs: Implement training programs to enhance skills and increase employability.

Financial Inclusion: Promote access to microfinance and credit facilities tailored for women.

Legal Protections: Strengthen legal frameworks to protect women in the unorganised sector from exploitation.

Social Security Schemes: Introduce and expand social protection programs to cover unorganised workers, including healthcare and maternity benefits.

CONCLUSION

Women in the unorganised sector of Patna face significant economic challenges that hinder their growth and well-being. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts from government, NGOs, and civil society to create an enabling environment that promotes gender equality and economic empowerment.

REFERENCES

- [1]. NCEUS. (2007). Report on the Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganised Sector.
- [2]. Srivastava, R. (2018). Gender and Informality: An Analysis of the Labour Market.
- [3]. International Labour Organization (ILO). (2021). Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture.