

AN ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY WOMEN WORKERS IN TEXTILES AND GARMENTS INDUSTRY IN TELANGANA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The textile industry contributes 4 percent of India's GDP and 11 percent of the country's total exports. Over the years, the industry has seen an increase in the number of females working in it. The broad objective of the paper is to analyze the problems encountered by the women workers in textiles and garments industry in sample districts of Telangana state and to suggest measures to improve their standards of living. The study found that two most important problems faced by them are subsistence living and very little scope for future growth (strongly agree) and the least important problem faced by them is seasonal work. Hence, it is suggested that daily wage rate must be enhanced in such a way that it should be double of the minimum wage rate prescribed by government by keeping value additions attributed to women workers in this industry.

KEY WORDS: Problems of Women Workers, Minimum Wage Rate, Subsistence Living

INTRODUCTION

According to Islam, Khan and Islam (2013)¹, the textile industry accounts for about 2 percent of the Global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This indicates that it is an important industry where individuals can earn a living. The textile industry also contributes significantly to the economies of different countries around the world. For instance, the textile industry contributes 4 percent of India's GDP and 11 percent of the country's total exports. Over the years, the industry has seen an increase in the number of females working in it. According to Ahmed and Raihan (2014)², the textile industry has been one of the most female dominated industries in the world as more than 80 percent of the workforce is females. The increase in the number of female workers in the global industry has both positive and negative implications. On the positive side is that women are more empowered

¹ Islam, M. M., Khan, A. M., & Islam, M. M. (2013). Textile Industries in Bangladesh and Challenges of Growth. *Research Journal of Engineering Sciences*, 2, 31-37.

² Ahmed, S., & Raihan, M. Z. (2014). Health Status of the Female Workers in the Garment Sector of Bangladesh. *Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science*, 4, 43-58.

through improvement of economic status, provision of formal employment, access to knowledge and gaining of digital skills. On the contrary, the increase in women textile workers has exposed more of them to incidences of Gender Based Violence, harassment, overworking conditions, poor working conditions and under payment. The broad objective of the paper is to analyze the problems encountered by the women workers in textiles and garments industry in sample districts of Telangana state and to suggest measures to improve their standards of living. Towards this end, 110 sample women workers are selected as sample respondents representing women workers in Textiles and garments industry in three districts namely Sircilla, Hyderabad and Warangal districts of Telangana state, mostly by adhering to the principles of stratified random sampling methods. The criterion of stratification is field of work of women workers in the units. The required data for this study are collected directly from the respondents with the help of a structured questionnaire/schedule. The findings of the study are presented below.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table-1

Field of work

Field name	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Sewing	45	40.9	40.9
Button stitching	23	20.9	61.8
Thread cutting	10	9.1	70.9
Embroidery	8	7.3	78.2
Washing	8	7.3	85.5
General helper	9	8.2	93.6
Checkers	7	6.4	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-1 shows the distribution of women workers in T&G units by their field of operations. It is observed that 40.9 percent of women workers are involved in sewing, 20.9 percent are in the field of button stitching, 9.1 percent are involved in thread cutting, 7.3 percent each in embroidery and washing, 8.2 percent are general helpers and 6.4 percent are checkers.

Table-2

Wage rate per day

Rs	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Up to 250	27	24.5	24.5
250-300	65	59.1	83.6
300-400	9	8.2	91.8
Above 400	9	8.2	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-2 shows the distribution of women workers in T&G units by their wage rate. It is observed that the wage rate of 24.5 percent of women workers is up to 250 rupees and the same is 250-300 in case of 59.1 percent of women workers, 300-400 rupees in case of 8.2 percent and above 400 rupees in case of 8.2 percent of women workers.

Table-3

Employment per annum

Man days	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Up to 180	24	21.8	21.8
Up to 240	72	65.5	87.3
Above 240	14	12.7	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-3 shows the distribution of women workers in T&G units by their employment. It is observed that employment is up to 180 man days for 21.8 percent of women workers followed by up to 240 man days in case of 65.5 percent and above 240 man days of employment in case of 12.7 percent of women workers.

Table-4

Income per annum

Rs	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Up to 80000	52	47.3	47.3
Up to 120000	42	38.2	85.5
Above 120000	16	14.5	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-4 shows the distribution of women workers in T&G units by their income. It is observed that annual income of women workers is up to 80000 rupees for 47.3 percent of women workers followed by up to 120000 in case of 38.2 percent and above 120000 rupees in case of 14.5 percent of women workers.

Table-5

Savings per annum

Rs	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Nil	69	62.7	62.7
Up to 15000	35	31.8	94.5
Above 15000	6	5.5	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-5 shows the distribution of women workers in T&G units by their savings. It is observed that annual savings of women workers is nil in case of 62.7 percent followed by up to 15000 rupees in case of 31.8 percent of women workers and above 15000 rupees in case of 5.5 percent of women workers.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY WOMEN WORKERS IN T&G UNITS

Table-6

Problems-Casual employment

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	6	5.5	5.5
Agree	50	45.5	50.9
Strongly agree	54	49.1	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-6 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely casual employment which is strongly agreed by 49.1 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 45.5 percent and disagreed by 5.5 percent of women workers.

Table-7

Problems-High incidence poverty

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	7	6.4	6.4
Agree	46	41.8	48.2
Strongly agree	57	51.8	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-7 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely high incidence of poverty which is strongly agreed by 51.8 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 41.8 percent and disagreed by 6.4 percent of women workers.

Table-8

Problems-Exposure to unhealthy atmosphere

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	7	6.4	6.4
Agree	40	36.4	42.7
Strongly agree	63	57.3	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-8 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely exposure to unhealthy atmosphere which is strongly agreed by 57.3 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 36.4 percent and disagreed by 6.4 percent of women workers.

Table-9

Problems-Seasonal work

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	46	41.8	41.8
Agree	50	45.5	87.3
Strongly agree	14	12.7	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-9 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely seasonal work which is strongly agreed by 12.7 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 45.5 percent and disagreed by 41.8 percent of women workers.

Table-10

Problems-Frequent unemployment problem

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	8	7.3	7.3
Agree	43	39.1	46.4
Strongly agree	59	53.6	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-10 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely frequent unemployment problem which is strongly agreed by 53.6 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 39.1 percent and disagreed by 7.3 percent of women workers.

Table-11

Problems-Very little scope for future growth

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	9	8.2	8.2
Agree	32	29.1	37.3
Strongly agree	69	62.7	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-11 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely very little scope for future growth which is strongly agreed by 62.7 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 29.1 percent and disagreed by 8.2 percent of women workers.

Table-12

Problems-Subsistence living

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	6	5.5	5.5
Agree	35	31.8	37.3
Strongly agree	69	62.7	100.0
Total	110	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-12 shows the distribution of women workers by the problems encountered by them namely subsistence living which is strongly agreed by 62.7 percent of women workers and the same is just agreed by 31.8 percent and disagreed by 5.5 percent of women workers.

CONCLUSION

The study found that two most important problems faced by them are subsistence living and very little scope for future growth (strongly agree) and the least important problem faced by them is seasonal work. Hence, it is suggested that hygiene conditions must be created in the units of textile and garments in order to take care of their and health and productivity. it is also suggested that daily wage rate must be enhanced in such a way that it should be double of the minimum wage rate prescribed by government by keeping value additions attributed to women workers in this industry.

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