

## Women in Unorganised Sector – Case Study of Maid Servants in Ahmedabad

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**Abstract:** The socioeconomic transformation of Indian society in the present century and especially in the post- independence period in the form of industrialization, urbanization, westernization, spread of education and enhanced employment opportunities for women has brought about a series of perceptible changes in the status, outlook worldview and, attitude of Indian women, specially educated middle class women. Now and more have been coming out of the four walls of their homes in search of gainful employment which is evident from the slow but steadily rising female work participation Rate (WPR) during the last three censuses. According to 1991 census female WPR for urban areas was 7.18 which rose to 8.31 in 2001 and finally to 9.91 in 2011.

**Key Words:** Work participation Rate, Unorganised sector, Urbanization.

### INTRODUCTION:

Diverse social structures and supporting ideologies created by patriarchal society have confined as well as defined women by restricting them to roles and activities described as female within the four walls of the house. This emancipation has brought about a great change in the life of women throughout the world, influencing their attitudes, values, aspirations and ways of feeling and acting the effective participation in all walks of life. Women with men, from time immemorial, have formed an integral part of the socioeconomic structure throughout the world. Inspire of their contribution to world's culture and civilization, it is almost universally accepted that the women's primary role is that of homemaker and is for the man to provide subsistence to his family. Working women are employed both in organized as well as unorganized sectors of economy. It is in the unorganized sector of rural or urban areas that the over whelming presence and struggle of women is manifest. The present paper aims to take up the task of exploring this new class of women workers, especially their working and living condition.

### Urbanisation:

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### Work participation Rate:

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### Unorganized sector:

Working women are employed both in organized as well as unorganized sectors of economy. It is in the unorganized sector of rural and urban areas that the overwhelming presence and struggle of women is manifest. The unorganized sector, on the other hand, includes agricultures as well various home based production and the service sector of domestic work.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study Titled'' Women in unorganised sector'' (special reference to Ahmedabad, Gujarat state) for the study purpose the data collected from primary method. The major objective of the study is to

identify the impact of unorganised sector of Maid Servants The study conducted for the duration of 3 months Nov2015 – Dec 2015.

working women can be classified into two broad categories according to the degree of organization and nature of problems of these sectors of employment ;viz, the organized and unorganized sectors, for which Jhon Kith Heart used the terms formal and informal sectors .According to the definition of Central statistical office ,the organized sectors comprise units registered under the Factories Act of 1948 and covers those using power and employing 10 or more workers as well as unit not using power but employing 20 or more workers. in addition ,the organised sectors is governed by a number of legislation aimed at protecting the interest and ensuring the welfare of workers such as Minimum wages Act, Labour welfare Legislation , the contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition)Acted.

The National Commission of self- Employed women estimates that 94 percent of the total female workforce is found in this sector. According to census estimates a very high proportion 85.09 % of the total working women in India are employed in the unorganized sector. the low level of education are training as compared to men the tradition allocation of roles and limitation of female labour market for women are reasons for this discrepancy in women’s employment. Thus, a very high proportion is forced to work and live under subdued conditions with family and children devoid of proper living and working conditions, and receiving humiliating treatment. The work role of working women inevitably encroaches on her time and energy approximately allocated for housewife’s role. The general socio – economic condition of maid servants is rather sad and deplorable. In most of the cases the husbands of these maid servants are either unemployed or underemployed. Millions of words have already been spent touching upon the various problems of women working in organized field but a very few studies on the women working in unorganized sector and still fewer on maid servants. The present paper aims to take up the task of exploring this new class of women workers, especially their working and living conditions. Maid servants as part of the unorganized labour are today victims of unmitigated hardships and indignities. They are paid shockingly low wages. There is no minimum wages fixed the minimum wages Act does not cover the domestic workers. They do not have any job protection or security as they are hired and fired at the will and fancies of the employers.

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

- 1 the main thrust of the study is to explore and describe the living and working conditions of this exploited lot for women belonging to the poorest of the poor section in the society
- 2 the major objective of the present study is to explore the socio –economic condition of the maid servants as an important section of the women working in the unorganized sector.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

- A. **Research design:** The research method adopted in this study is analytical and descriptive in nature. This study enables to determine the extent of utilities that the maid servants have been receiving. In order to conduct this study, 50 respondents are selected.
- B. **Sources of data:** All the data required for this research work is obtained from primary and secondary sources. Primary data collected from interview and mainly structured questions has been used as a primary instrument. Secondary data collected from online database.
- C. **Sampling:**
  - ❖ Targeted population maid servants spread all over the city
  - ❖ Sampling method judgement sampling
  - ❖ Sample size 50

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

1. The study has helped the researcher to gain time experience by interacting with the people and has helped to analyse” women in unorganised sector.”
- 2 The maid servants were interviewed at their place of residence to have

A first observation of their living condition. The data have been analysed and interpreted for demographic profile, working condition and job Satisfaction of the respondents.

#### LIMITATION:

- 1 For the study purpose only maid servants of Ahmadabad city
- 2 The outcome of the study restricted to unorganised sector only
- 3 The study majorly considers the primary data.

#### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

**Table 1**  
**Work participation in India (1981-2011)**

Year	Rural\Urban	Persons	Males	Female
1981	Total	43.00	57.10	27.76
	Rural	45.10	58.20	31.40
	Urban	33.50	52.40	11.10
1991	Total	34.17	52.75	14.22
	Rural	35.33	53.78	15.92
	Urban	29.61	48.88	07.18
2001	Total	36.30	52.62	19.67
	Rural	38.79	53.77	23.06
	Urban	29.99	40.06	08.38
2011	Total	37.50	51.61	22.27
	Rural	40.09	52.58	26.79
	Urban	30.16	48.92	09.19

Source Census of India 1991, series 1, India paper 3 of 1991.

**Table-2**

Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age group	No of Respondents	Percentage
Up to 20	10	20
21-25	11	22
26-30	12	24
31-35	08	16
36-40	04	08
41-45	05	10

The above table shows that 20% Maid servants members are belong to up to 20 years age group 22% of Maid servants members are 21-25 year age group, 24% of Maid servants members are belong to 26-30 year age group and 16% of Maid servants members are belong to group of 31-35 age group.8% of Maid servants members are belong to 36-40 year group and 10% of Maid servants are by belong to 41-45 years Age group.

**Table-3**

Distribution of respondents According to their marital status

Sr.no.	Marital status	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1	Unmarried	11	22
2	Married	30	60
3	Widowed	03	06
4	Separated	04	08

5	Deserted	01	02
6	Divorced	01	02

The majority of respondents are married which may imply that their family, responsibility and poverty compel them to go for work. 18% of them are spouseless who are widowed, separated, divorced or deserted.

**Table-4**

Distribution of Respondents According to Reasons of indebtedness

Reasons of indebtedness	No. of respondent	Percentage
Day to day expenses	12	24
For buying consumer durable	07	14
Marriage in the Family	19	38
Death	12	24

The loan may be taken only for some occasion or emergency in the family such as marriage of illness 24% cases it has been taken to meet the day to day expenses of family.

**Table-5**

Distribution of Respondents According to their job satisfaction

Level of satisfaction	No of respondents	Percentage
Fully satisfied	10	20
Somewhat satisfied	23	46
Unsatisfied	17	34
Total	50	100

As for as the job satisfaction is concerned 20% of the respondents are fully satisfied with their work, 46% are somewhat satisfied as in the absence of any other alternative job they consider it son, 34% are unsatisfied with their job maid servant.

**Table-6**

Distribution of Respondents According to their sources of Borrowing

Sources	No of respondent	Percentage
Moneylenders	20	40
Employers	17	34
Relatives	10	20
Friends	03	06

The sources of loan are traditional money ten lenders generally some shopkeepers in the neighbourhood or employed in one third of case the loan has also been taken from friends and relatives.

**Table-7**

Distribution of Respondents According to Reasons of Dissatisfaction

Reasons of dissatisfaction	No of Respondents	Percentage
Less Salary	20	40
Heavy workload	14	28
Bad treatment by employer	10	20
Very time consuming	06	12

Among those who are unsatisfied with their job, all consider low wages as the main cause of their dissatisfaction, 28% complain about the heavy work load while 20% are not satisfied with the treatment given to them by their employers. 12% consider it a very time consuming in comparison to wages received by them.

**FINDINGS:**

- ❖ Majority of the members of maid servants are relatively young as 24% of them are in the age group of 26-30 years.
- ❖ Majority of the respondents are poor and illiterate.
- ❖ The majority of maid servants members depend on maid servants For their protection
- ❖ The present study reveals the maid servants belong to the poorest among the poor sections of the society.
- ❖ Majority of the members of maid servants members marital status 60%

**SUGGESTION AND COMCLUSION:**

The women unorganised sector is very essential for maid servants. The major reason behind this suggestion is when the family size increases directly income also increases but simultaneous expenditure also increases. in the absence of any protective legislation and machinery they have to work under exploitative conditions to improve the lot of this helpless section of the women workers there is a strong need of some protective legislation and to organize them so that they may be in a position to bargain for better wages and improved working conditions. The maid servant's maid is a step forward in achieving risk minimization of economically poor people in Ahmedabad city. The result of this study based on sample survey clearly indicate high rate of success of maid servants women in Unorganized sector most of them are illiterate and working out of poverty. To improve the lot of this helpless section of the women workers there is a strong need of some productive legislation and to organize them them so that they may be in a position to bargain for better wages and improved working condition.

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