

Socio and Economic Conditions of Women Workers in Unorganized Sector in Andhra Pradesh***Dr.R.Rajendra Naidu ,**Principal(Rtd.), Government Degree College ,
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The term 'unorganized labour' has been defined as those workers who have not been able to organized themselves in pursit of their common interests due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments, etc. The unorganized workers account for about 93 per cent of the total workforce and there has been a steady growth in their population in India over the years.

Women in Unorganized Sectors

The number of women in the unorganized sector is many times more than that in the organized sector because of their helplessness due to lake of employment opportunities, limited skills, illiteracy and restricted mobility. Labour laws do not govern the unorganized sector.

Women comprise half of the world's population and perform two thirds of the work, but earn only a third of the total income and own less than a tenth of the resources. The most discriminated people in the world are usually the ones who lack economic power.

According to the 2001 Census about 90 percent of women workers in India are in the unorganized sector. Women enter the market as wage earners but occupy secondary position in the labour workforce. Their significance is considered marginal. They enter the labour market only when the economic compulsions force them to supplement the meager family earnings. This perception of women's work as a supplementing or balancing force in the family and the nation's work force has made them susceptible to all sorts of discriminatory treatment and exploitation (physically, economically and socially) in the field of employment (Gaur and Rana 2002).

The prevalence of women workers in urban unorganized sector is significant in number. They are engaged in activities like domestic work, construction work, small trades like brick making, coir and basket weaving , household industries etc. In rural unorganized sector women are engaged in agricultural activities , animal husbandry , dairy, fisheries etc.

Objective of the study

To know the socio – economic conditions of women workers in unorganized sector in Andhra Pradesh with special reference to agriculture and construction sector.

Sample Design

The total sample of present study comes to 400 women respondents, 200 each from construction sector and agricultural sector. The information of construction workers collected from the districts of Chittoor and West Godavari and agriculture sector data from the districts of Krishna and West Godavari in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The primary data for the study was collected by using a structured interview schedule by visiting the work places of the respondent workers i.e., construction sites and agricultural fields in the study area.

Analysis of the Study

The present study deals with the socio-economic profile of the women workers in the unorganized sector (Construction and Agriculture) covering various aspects such as age, education, marital status, social category, size and type of family, annual income and expenditure, ownership of land, household debt position, sources of debt, household savings, nature and type of housing, facilities available in the houses of the sample families etc.

Social category of the respondents:

Social category wise distribution of sample respondents is presented in table no.1. The table shows that out of total sample respondents of 400, 41.75% belongs to Backward Castes, 39.25% Scheduled Castes, 11.25% Other Castes and 7.75% are Scheduled Tribes. From the analysis of the table, it is observed that maximum workforce in the construction and agriculture activities comes from the weaker sections of the society. It is also noticed that no scheduled tribe worker is found in the sample of agricultural sector.

When we examine construction sector, majority of them (44%) of the total 200 respondents are from Backward Castes whereas in agriculture work the Scheduled Castes are more in number (46%).

**Table No:1 Distribution of Respondents
According to their Social Category**

Sl.N o.	Social category	Constructi on workers		Agricultu re workers		Total	
		No	%	N o.	%	N o.	%
1	Schedul ed Castes	65	32.50	92	46.00	157	39.25
2	Schedul ed Tribes	31	15.50	-	-	31	7.75
3	Backwa rd Castes	88	44.00	79	39.50	167	41.75
4	Other Castes	16	8.00	29	14.50	45	11.25
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Age of the Respondents:

Table No.2 Shows age wise distribution of respondents. It is clearly observed from the table that out of the total respondents 49% of them are in the age group between 25-30 years, 30.75% of the workers are found in the age group between 30-35 years, 8% are in between 35-40 years, 7.25% are in the age group of 40-45 years and 5% are in the age group of 20-25 years. It shows that majority of the sample women workers are found in the age of group of 25-30 years in both the sectors of works. It indicates that productive age group of workers are engaging in unorganized sector. It is very interesting to note that no child labour is found in both the

category of sample respondents. It reveals that most of the respondents as well as the employers are aware about the problems and consequences in employing children below 14 years of age.

**Table No:2 Distribution of Respondents
According to their Age**

Sl.N o.	Age (Years)	Construction workers		Agricult ure workers		Total	
		No.	%	N o.	%	No	%
1	20-25	7	3.50	13	6.50	20	5.00
2	25-30	107	53.50	89	44.50	196	49.00
3	30-35	55	27.50	68	34.00	123	30.75
4	35-40	17	8.50	15	7.50	32	8.00
5	40-45	14	7.00	15	7.50	29	7.25
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Marital Status of the Respondents:

The details of the respondents covered in the study by their marital status is shown in the table no.3. Of the total labour force 91% are married, 1.50% are unmarried, 4.30% are Widows and 3.25% women are divorced/separated. It is observed from the table that no unmarried women is found in the sample of construction work.

**Table No:3 Distribution of Respondents
According to their Marital Status**

Sl. No	Marital Status	Constructi on workers		Agricultur e workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Married	188	94.00	176	88.00	364	91.00
2	Unmarri ed	-	-	6	3.00	6	1.50
3	Divorce d	11	5.50	2	1.00	13	3.25
4	Widow	1	0.50	16	8.00	17	4.25
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Level of Education of the Respondents:

Educational status of the respondents is presented in the table no.4. An analysis of the level of education of the respondents indicates that 60.75%

of the total women workers are illiterates and the remaining respondents are literates and they are distributed as a 5th, 7th, 10th class and Intermediate level of education. The table shows that 21.50% of the total respondents have studied upto 5th class, 8.50% studied upto 7th class, 4.75% upto 10th class and 4.50% have Intermediate level of education. Seen category wise sample, the percentage of illiterates are more in agriculture work than in construction work.

Table No:4 Distribution of Respondents According to their Educational Status

Sl. No.	Level of Education	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		N o.	%	N o.	%	N o.	%
1	Illiterates	11	55.50	13	66.00	14	60.75
2	Up to 5 th class	46	23.00	40	20.00	86	21.50
3	Up to 7 th class	18	9.00	16	8.00	34	8.50
4	Up to 10 th class	12	6.00	7	3.50	19	4.75
5	Intermediate	13	6.50	5	2.50	18	4.50
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Size of the Family:

Table No.5 shows that out of the total respondent families, 56% of the families have four persons in their families, 20.75% have three persons, 11.25% of the families have five persons, 9.50% have two persons and only 2.50% of the families have one person in their respective families. The members in the bigger families seems to be consists of the respondents husbands, brothers, husbands parents, sisters of the husbands, wife of the brothers of the respondents and their children.

The average size of the family of the total respondents is comes to 3.64 persons. Seen category wise sample families 3.43 persons in construction work sample and 3.85 persons in agriculture work.

Table No:5 Number of Family Members in the Respondents Families

Sl. No	Number	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%
1	1	10	5.00	-	-	10	2.50
2	2	36	18.00	2	1.00	38	9.50
3	3	40	20.00	43	21.50	83	20.75
4	4	86	43.00	13	69.00	22	56.00
				8		4	
5	5	28	14.00	17	8.50	45	11.25
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Type of Family:

The analysis shows that overwhelming majority of the total respondents families are belongs to nuclear type. A small percentage of the total families are joint families and these families are found only in the sample of agriculture sector (Table no. 6).

Table No: 6 Type of Family

Sl. No	Type of Family	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Nuclear	20	100.00	19	96.00	39	99.50
2	Joint	-	-	2	4.00	2	0.50
	Total	20	100.00	20	100.00	40	100.00

Source : Field Study

Ownership of land by the sample families:

Table No.7 presents the details of land owned by the respondent families. Out of the total sample families 65% are landless families. Landless families are more in construction sector than in agriculture workers sector. The remaining sample families (35%) have land ranges from below one Acre of land, 1-2 acres and 2-3 Acres of land. Of the total landholding families 11.75% have below one Acre of land. Seen category wise sample families 10.00% of the construction workers families and 13.50% of the agriculture workers families are found in this category. 17.25% of the total sample families have land between one-two Acres of land. 6% of the families have land between 2-3 Acres of land. It is clear from the table that majority of the land holding families are small and mariginal farmers.

Table No: 7 Land Ownership of the Respondents families

Sl. No.	Size of land	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%
1	No land	136	68.00	12	62.00	260	65.00
2	Below 1 Acre	20	10.00	27	13.50	47	11.75
3	1-2 Acres	36	18.00	33	16.50	69	17.25
4	2-3 Acres	8	4.00	16	8.00	24	6.00
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Annual Income of the Respondents Families:

It is seen from the table no. 8 that out of the total respondents families 28.50% of them have annual income between Rs.50000-60000, it is followed by 22% sample families in the range of Rs.60000-70000, 16.50% workers in the category of Rs.70000 and above, 21% have income between Rs.40000 -50000 and 12% have less than Rs.40000. When we examine category wise sample workers, in the case of construction workers a large percentage i.e., 30.50% have income between Rs. 50000-60000 whereas highest percentage of agriculture workers (30.50%) are in the income range of Rs.40000-50000.

Table No:8 Annual Income of the Respondents Families

Sl.No.	Amount in Rs.	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	< 40,000	12	6.00	36	13.00	48	12.00
2	40000-50000	23	11.50	61	30.50	84	21.00
3	50000-60000	61	30.50	53	26.50	114	28.50
4	60000-70000	56	28.00	32	16.00	88	22.00
5	70000 and Above	48	24.00	18	9.00	66	16.50
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Annual Expenditure of the Respondents Families:

Annual Expenditure of the respondents families is presented in table no. 9. The annual expenditure ranges between Rs.<40000 to Rs.70000 and above. The analysis shows that 32.50% of the total respondents families are found in the annual expenditure range between Rs.50000-60000, 25% are in the expenditure range between Rs.60000-70000, 22% of the families are found in Rs.70000 and above annual expenditure, 15% of the families are in between Rs.40000-50000 and 5.50% of the families have expenditure less than Rs. 40000 per annum.

Table No: 9 Annual Expenditure of the Respondents Families

Sl.No.	Amount in Rs.	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	< 40,000	7	3.50	15	7.50	22	5.50
2	40000-50000	12	6.00	48	24.00	60	15.00
3	50000-60000	66	33.00	64	32.00	130	32.50
4	60000-70000	59	29.50	41	20.50	100	25.00
5	70000 and Above	56	28.00	32	16.00	88	22.00
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Household savings:

When we examine the household savings of the sample families, all the families reported that they have savings. These savings are ranges between below Rs.5000 to 15000 and above. 46% of the total sample families are found in the savings range between Rs.5000-10000, 40.25% between Rs.15000 and above, 12.75% in between Rs.10000-15000 and only a miniscule percentage is found in the below Rs. 5000 savings.

The table reveals that out of the total 200 respondents of construction sector, a large percentage of them are in the savings range between Rs.15000 and above followed by 42% between Rs.5000-10000 and 10.50% between Rs.10000-15000.

With regard to the status of savings in the sample families of agriculture work, 50% of the total are in the savings range of Rs.5000-10000 followed

by 34% in between Rs.15000 and above and 15% between Rs.10000-15000.

Table No:10 Household savings of the Respondents families

Sl.No.	Savings (Rs.)	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Below 5000	2	1.00	2	1.00	4	1.00
2	5000-10000	84	42.00	100	50.00	184	46.00
3	10000 - 15000	21	10.50	30	15.00	51	12.75
4	15000 and Above	93	46.50	68	34.00	161	40.25
	Total	200	100.0	200	100.0	400	100.0

Source : Field Study

Household Debt:

Household debt position of the sample families is depicted in table no.11. It is clear from table that 53.50% of the total sample families have no debt and of them 61.50% are from construction sector and 45.50% from agriculture sector families. The remaining families are in debt and these debt position ranges between below Rs.5000 to Rs.20000-25000. Out of the total sample families 21% of them are found in the debt range between Rs.5000-10000, 13.50% are in the debt range of Rs.20000-25000, 7% between Rs.15000-20000, 3% between Rs.10000-15000 and 2% are in below Rs.5000.

When we examine sector wise indebted sample families, a large percentage (30%) of the total families from agriculture sector are in the debt range of Rs.5000-10000. Whereas 18.50% of the total sample families in construction work are found in the debt range of Rs.20000-25000.

Table No:11 Household Debt position of the Respondents families

Sl.No.	Debt (Rs.)	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	No Debt	123	61.50	91	45.50	214	53.50
2	Below 5000	2	1.00	6	3.00	8	2.00
3	5000-10000	24	12.00	60	30.00	84	21.00

4	10000-15000	6	3.00	6	3.00	12	3.00
5	15000-20000	8	4.00	20	10.00	28	7.00
6	20000-25000	37	18.50	17	8.50	54	13.50
	Total	200	100.0	200	100.0	400	100.0

Source : Field Study

Sources of Borrowings:

Table No.12 reveals that out of the total sample families are indebted to different sources. The details of sources of borrowings to the indebted families is shown in table no.11. The table shows that out of the total indebted (No.186) sample families, 77 are from construction workers and 109 are from agriculture workers. They borrowed credit from different sources as shown in the table such as Money lenders, banks, present and previous employers and friends and relatives. Out of the total indebted families 58.60% borrowed loans from banks, seen in this group 61% are from construction sector and 56.90% from agriculture sector. During the discussions it is noticed that they availed loan under the Self Help Groups (SHG) bank linkage scheme because they are the members in SHGs. 17.20% of the total indebted families raised loans from their friends and relatives, 12.90% raised advance from their present and previous employers and the remaining 11.30% from local moneylenders. During the discussions with the respondents the indebted families reported that they availed loans from their employers without any interest and it will be repaid in installments or at the time of final payment.

Table No:12 Source of credit to the indebted families

Sl. No	Source	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Money lenders	6	7.80	15	13.80	21	11.30
2	Banks	47	61.00	62	56.90	109	58.60
3	Employer (owner)	8	10.40	16	14.70	24	12.90

4	Friends & relatives	16	20.80	16	14.70	32	17.20
	Total	77	100.00	109	100.00	186	100.00

Source : Field Study

Nature of the Housing:

Out of the total sample households, a large percentage of them are live in their own houses (68.50%) and the remaining 31.50% families are reside in rented houses. Seen sector wise analysis shows that 56% of the total live in rented houses in construction and 44% of them reside in their own houses. With regard to agriculture workers, overwhelming majority of sample families are found live in own houses (table no.13).

Table No:13 Nature of the Houses of the sample families

Sl.No.	Nature	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Rented	11	56.00	14	7.00	12	31.50
2	Own	88	44.00	18	93.00	27	68.50
	Total	20	100.00	20	100.00	40	100.00

Source : Field Study

Type of Housing:

When the type of houses of the sample families is examined, it is found from the table no.14 that 52% of the total sample families live in pucca houses. The remaining 48% of the families are live in Kachcha houses i.e., cement roofed sheds with bricks wall. Seen category wise sample families, more or less same findings are noticed in both the category of sample.

Table No:14 Type of Houses of the sample families

Sl.No.	Type	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Pucca	11	56.00	106	53.00	218	54.50
2	Semi-pucca	62	31.00	71	35.50	133	33.25
3	Thatched (Kachcha)	26	13.00	23	11.50	49	12.25
	Total	20	100.00	200	100.00	400	100.00

Source : Field Study

Facilities available in the houses of the sample families:

An attempt has been made to know the living conditions of the respondents in terms of no. of living rooms, electricity, toilets, bathrooms, sources of drinking water, medium of cooking etc. Perhaps these assessment is likely to give the nature and standard of living conditions of the sample households.

No. of Rooms:

Table no.15 reveals that a large percentage of the sample families have two rooms in their houses. Seen category wise houses of the respondents, more or less similar situation is noticed in both the sample categories. 41.00% of the total sample families houses have single room. Only 1.50% of the houses of the respondents have three rooms.

Table No:15 No. of Rooms in the Houses of the sample families

Sl.No.	No. of Rooms	Construction workers		Agriculture workers		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	One	78	36.00	86	43.00	164	41.00
2	Two	11	58.00	11	57.00	23	57.50
3	Three	6	3.00	-	-	6	1.50
	Total	20	100.00	20	100.00	40	100.00

Source : Field Study

Electricity, Toilets, Bathrooms, Drinking water and Energy for Cooking:

With regard to the electricity facility in the houses of the sample families, all the respondents stated that they have electricity.

Toilets, bathrooms and drinking water facilities in the houses of the sample families is examine, all the respondents reveal that they have toilets, bathrooms and drinking water facilities. During the discussions with the respondents an interesting aspects were emerged that they constructed the toilets and bathrooms with the financial assistance including subsidy under the scheme of swachcha bharat.

With regard to sources of drinking water majority of the sample families disclosed that main source of drinking water is piped water through taps

supplied by the Gram Panchayat and urban local bodies.

All the respondents households said that LPG as a medium of cooking in their houses.

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Conclusions & Suggestions

- A large percentage of the respondents are belongs to backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Of them backward castes are predominant followed by scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- Nearly half of the total respondents are in the age group between 25-30 years.
- Overwhelming majority of the respondents are married.
- A large percentage of the respondents out of the total are illiterates.
- Overwhelming majority of the sample families are belongs to nuclear type.
- 65% of the total sample families are landless and the remaining landholding families are small and marginal farmers.
- 70% of the total families are found in the annual income between Rs.40,000 to Rs.70,000.
- Nearly 80% of the total families are in the annual expenditure range between Rs.50,000 – 70,000 and above.
- A large percentage of the total sample families have savings between Rs.5,000 – 10,000 and Rs.15,000 above.
- Half of the total sample families are indebt and major sources for credit to the indebted families are commercial banks, friends and relatives, employers local moneylenders.
- Nearly 70% of the total families are live in own houses and most of the houses of are pucca followed by semi-pucca in nature. Majority of the houses of the families have two rooms. All the houses of the sample families have electricity facilities, toilets, bathrooms, drinking water and LPG as medium of cooking.
- A large percentage of the respondent families are landless. Government should provide free agriculture land to the landless families.
- Nearly half of the sample families live in semi pucca and katcha houses. There is a need to construct houses under housing scheme including subsidy.

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