

CHAPTER – 9

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The in – depth analysis of the socio economic conditions of the Informal Labour has led to the following findings :

FINDINGS

Findings Related to Hypotheses

1. There is no significant variation in income and there is no significant relation between the expenditure and the nature of the business of the Informal Labour.
2. The awareness level is very high on the government schemes among the Informal Labour in the study area.
3. The education level is very low among the Informal Labour when it is compared with the literacy rate of Bihar and District.
4. The saving level is extremely low among the Informal Labour when it is compared with the average national saving rate. The average national saving rate in India stands as 29.8 per cent to 30.8 per cent of one's income.
5. All the Informal Labour are facing harassments in the study area.

A. WAGE EARNERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR

The important findings which came to light in this category are as follows :-

- (i) A large number of persons were engaged in occupations which came under the categories of Manufacturing, Shops & Establishment, Domestic Services, Cycle repair and Scooter repair shops.

- (ii) Most of the persons in the Informal Sector do not get livelihood for all the twelve months in a year. Thus, Informal Sector presents a situation of seasonal employment.
- (iii) Workers in the Informal Sector do not receive a reasonable wage rate. The analysis showed that about 80% of the workers in the Informal sector receive less than Rs.50 per day.
- (iv) 66% of the respondents receive wages on the monthly basis and 34% receive on weekly basis.
- (v) About 90% of the respondents receive flat rate wages. There is no system of having a wage scale in the Informal sector.
- (vi) Majority of the workers in the Informal Sector do not receive their wages or salaries in time. In majority of the cases, they receive delayed payment.
- (vii) Incidence of wage different I on the sex basis is found in prevalence in the Informal Sector. Majority of the women workers admitted that their wages are lower in comparison to the wages of their male counterparts.
- (viii) There is no system of paying any allowance in the Informal sector.
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- (xv)
- (xvi)
- (xvii) Majority of the respondents admitted that they received only flat rate wages without any allowance. A very negligible percentage of workers admitted that they received something as dearness allowance, clothing allowance and fooling allowance.
- (xviii) A few categories of Informal sector workers like domestic servants, maid servants, watchmen, caretakers etc admitted that they receive food, clothing, medicines and shelter from their employers.
- (xix) Coming to hours of work, the analysis showed that majority of the respondents were required to work for more than ten hours a day. since the Factories Act, 1947 does not apply to the Informal sector workers, they normally work for longer hours in comparison to the organized sector

workers. It further showed that although they work for longer hours, they do not receive any over time payment from their employers. With regard to spread over, it was found that their spread over was quite longer in comparison to spread over of organized sector workers.

- (xx) The analysis showed that Informal Sector workers do not enjoy any meaningful welfare facility or social security scheme. They sleep at night in the same shop, garage or pavement where they work. They hardly get a cup of tea in case they happen to take tea. Similarly, workers working as domestic servants, maid servants, care takers, gardeners, chauffeurs etc receive tea, breakfast, clothing and medicines from their employers occasionally.
 - (xxi) with regard to working conditions, the Informal sector workers were found to be most unsatisfied. Majority of them complained about excessive heat or cold, lack of drinking water facilities, lack of conveniences, absence of canteen etc.
 - (xxii) With regard to the improvements the Informal sector workers would like to be made, the majority of the workers wanted to make improvement in four areas :-
 - (a) payment of wages
 - (b) hygienic working conditions,
 - (c) drinking water
 - (d) latrines and bathrooms
- 80% of the respondents were of the view that their wages were far from satisfactory. 64% of them were of the view that facilities like latrines and bathrooms were quite unhygienic, 28% complained that drinking water facilities were not available to them.
- (xxiii) With regard to grievances and disputes, 60% of the respondents admitted that they had some grievances and differences with their employers, 40% refused to say anything.

B. **SELF EMPLOYED PEOPLE**

Another set of questionnaire was prepared for the self employed people. About hundred persons were interviewed with this questionnaire. This questionnaire had 48 questions dealing with different areas of employment. A detailed analysis of their replies has been made in chapter V. Here some of the important findings are being presented.

- (i) The persons who work as self employed in the Informal sector are working in areas like vegetable sellers, fruit sellers, vendors, cobblers, barbers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, thela owners, tempo drivers, motor, cycle and scooter repairing shops.
- (ii) Majority of the persons (72%) had a turnover of less than Rs. 200/- per day.
- (iii) The analysis showed that about one third (32%) of the respondents had an income of less than Rs. 30/- per day, about half (52%) Rs. 100/- per day and only 16% had Rs. 200/- per day.

This show that majority of the people in the Informal sector come under the low income category.

- (iv) With regard to the size of the family the analysis showed that about 80% of them had more than 4 children, only 20% had one or two children. This shows that persons who are even little educated understand the importance of having a small family.
- (v) Majority of the persons accepted that they lived a life of hardship, 32% of the respondents had to depend on borrowings, 24% had to do some additional work and 28% had to depend on the income of other members of the family.
- (vi) Majority of the respondents were of the view that income in the Informal sector was neither regular nor stable, they had to depend on borrowings very frequently. They have a life of stress, strain and anxiety.
- (vii) Although lots of government schemes are inforce to provide loan facilities to people of small means, majority of the Informal sector workers had not availed of these facilities. They accepted the procedure to give loan was so tedious that it was difficult for them to obtain these

facilities. As such they mostly took loans from their fiends and acquaintances.

- (viii) With regard to the question, whether they would like their children to remain in the same profession, there was mixed reaction. About one third (32%) felt that they would provide higher education to their children. However, 48% agreed that they would like their children to adopt the same profession while 20% refused to make any comment.

In the final analysis, it can safely be concluded that the general view about the socio economic conditions of workers in the Informal Sector either as wage earners or self employed people was far from satisfactory.

SUGGESTIONS

In the light of the foregoing analysis and findings the following suggestions can be made to improve the conditions of the Informal Labour .

- Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the Informal Labour . The government can create a separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labour to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector under which the street vending falls.
- Informal Labour can be trained in food preservation methods. And they can be provided with a common chilling warehousing to preserve their unsold articles.
- The government can assist them financially for their business activities at free rate of interest. And government can extend the subsidy to the Informal Labour , especially for vending perishable items.
- A market place can be allotted specially for street vending where the Informal Labour may be charged a very nominal rent.
- A vigilance team can be constituted under the headship of the city police Commissioner to prevent the harassments on Informal Labour .

- Free education can be given to the children of Informal Labour and a quota system can be implemented to the children of the Informal Labour in higher education.
- Pension scheme can be implemented and to protect the aged vendors and the premium can be paid by the Government.
- Government can provide a job in government sector to at least only one member from the vendor's family.
- The state run housing board can allocate low cost houses to Informal Labour with proper toilet, water and drainage facilities.
- Awareness programmes on environment and waste disposal management can be given to the Informal Labour .
- Government can set up counseling centers to council the Informal Labour to get rid of their vices.
- All the Informal Labour can be declared as people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL families).

The social security not work of Bihar Government is quite strong.. The government would formulate tailor made programmes to suit and address the specific needs of the Informal Labour . The blanket approach is not giving to solve the problems of the Informal Labour . We should not forget the everlasting slogan that says “Poverty in anywhere; is a threat to the prosperity in every where”.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Government must ensure the equal treatment of unorganized workers in par with organized workers.
- Retail trade which is done by the Informal Labour must be protected and reserved; so the multinational companies and giant companies from India should not be allowed in retailing.
- Nationalized banks should give priority in giving loans to the Informal Labour at a nominal interest rate.
- The scope of the smart card should be extended to various usages.

- Allotment of housed to the Informal Labour should be done through the housing board.

