

A MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO UGC

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An Econometric Study of Time Use Pattern, Nature of Work and Economic Status of Home-Based Women Workers in Coimbatore

Principal Investigator

Dr. G. JAYANTHI MSc M. Phil Ph.D MBA PGDCA

**Assistant Professor
Department of Economics**



PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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Executive Summary of the Report

Home based work includes the persons working in unorganized sector irrespective of whether self-employed or in piece rate employment where their location of work being home at low income and at outside the social security net. Home based work is becoming an important part of the economic transformation process. Its growth is significantly linked to the globalization of industry and the continuous search for cheaper labours and more efficient means of production. Bulk of these worker producers live and work in 'on-the margin' survival conditions and do a variety of jobs for industry and trade, ranging from sewing garments, assembling electronic components to simple jobs of sorting, packaging and labeling goods. As a workforce, home-based workers have remained largely invisible. The working and living conditions of home-based worker is perhaps the most vulnerable.

By examining the working conditions of women home based workers by using Logistic Regression Model, Factor analysis and Garrett Ranking Technique. The study focused on their health status, work status and their problems.

Logit Model results showed that, the wealth status has turned out be statistically significant at 5 per cent level of Chi-square value with expected negative sign. The odds ratio of variable indicates that the household having thatched and tiled house is 44.2 per cent more likely to increase their satisfaction level.

The Work experience, Nature of work, Mode of getting raw materials and Health issues of the respondent are found as statistically significant at 5 per cent level of Chi square value with expected negative sign. The odds ratio of Work experience (57.7), Nature of work (22.2), Mode of getting raw materials (39.4) and Health issues (31.5) indicate that a 1 per cent increase in Work experience, Nature of work, Mode of getting raw materials and Health issues will lead to 57.7, 22.2, 39.4, 31.5 per cent decrease in the satisfaction level of the working conditions in Coimbatore. Education is statistically significant at 5 per cent level of Chi square value with unexpected positive sign. The odds ratio of the variable indicates that, the education level of the respondent is 2.32 per cent is more likely to chances of increase the working conditions than their counterparts. Hence, when the education level of the respondents increased, then the satisfaction level also increased in the Coimbatore city. However, most of the respondents studied only up to primary & secondary levels and it is the reason for choosing home based work. The family support of the respondents is statistically

significant at 5 per cent level of Chi square value with expected positive sign. The odds ratio of family support suggests that it is the key factor which influenced the satisfaction level of working conditions. It indicates that 1 per cent increase in family support leads to 1382 per cent increase in satisfaction level of the respondents. It means that, family support is the most predominant factor for the Home based women workers those who are satisfied in working conditions.

Factor analysis revealed that, out of 14 Sub- attributes 12 Sub-attributes have significant factor loadings under 5 factors. The factor loadings must be greater than 0.5. The factor loadings ranged from 0.523 (Health Issues) to 0.889 (Marital Status). Percentage of the total variance is explained by the factors. Non – significant factors are not included in the final model. The factor 1 has explained 28 per cent of the total variance. Principal component analysis of Extraction Method was employed with the Varimax Rotation Method converged in 13 iterations.

As per the Garrett Ranking Technique among the seven problems, ‘Wage earned by the home based women workers is not enough’ was ranked first followed by ‘Health Problems’. The problems such as ‘No Frequent Orders’, ‘No Proper Machinery’, ‘Late Receipts of Payments’, ‘Exploitation of Intermediaries’, were ranked as third, fourth, fifth, and sixth positions respectively. The problem ‘Congested Environment’ was ranked seventh pointing out the lack of awareness about the working environment or the less importance attached to this factor by the selected women workers.

From study, it can be concluded that the Home based women workers working in unorganized sector are living a life and their working conditions far below from satisfaction level. The low earning of these women cannot meet with their daily needs. They work more than men as they have to play a dual role working both in and outside the home.