A STUDY OF PROFESSION RELATED PROBLEMS FACED BY PROFESSIONALS IN INFORMAL (UNORGANIZED) SECTOR OF NAGPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT
The aim of present study is to highlight problems faced by professionals in unorganized sector. Data was collected through self-prepared questionnaire from total 500 unorganised sector professionals (hawkers, peddlers and street vendors) in Nagpur District. Descriptive analysis was used to analyse the primary data obtained from the 500 individual samples. The study showed that significant percentage of professionals were suffered from threat of change in location, insufficient space for business, harassment from Government specially municipal employees/officials, harassment from anti-social elements, insufficient business facilities and rules and regulations. However the problems such as insecurity for goods, environmental problems due to rain and temperature, health problems due to pollution and loss of goods due to some incidences had not affect the business of unorganized sector professionals severely.

Key words: Unorganised Sector, Problems, Professionals

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1. INTRODUCTION
The informal sector contributes significantly to production, consumption, employment and income generation, thus supporting livelihoods as well as output of developing countries, however our knowledge of the sector, its impact and inter-linkages with various economic and social spheres is still rudimentary (CUTS, 2009). According to World Bank estimates, informal economy accounts for 40 % of the Gross National product (GNP) of low-income countries (Farrell, 2004). In India, the unorganized sector accounts for 62 % of GDP, 50 % of gross national savings and 40% of national exports (ILO 2002).

Unorganised or informal sector constitutes a pivotal part of the Indian economy. More than 90 per cent of workforce and about 50 per cent of the national product are accounted for by the informal economy. A high proportion of socially and economically underprivileged sections of society are concentrated in the informal economic activities. The high levels of growth of the Indian economy during the past two decades is accompanied by increasing informalisation. There are indications of growing interlinkages between informal and formal economic activities. There has been new dynamism of the informal economy in terms of output, employment and earnings. Faster and inclusive growth needs special attention to informal economy. Sustaining high levels of growth are also intertwined with improving domestic demand of those engaged in informal economy, and addressing the needs of the sector in terms of credit, skills, technology, marketing and infrastructure (RCUSS, 2012).

The 1999-2000 NSSO survey reported that 92 % of the Indian workforce (370 million workers and professionals) was employed in the unorganized sector; any macro-analysis would find it hard to ignore these figures.

Unorganised business refers to the traditional formats of low-cost retailing. For example, the local corner shops, owner manned general stores, paan/beedi shops, convenience stores, hand cart and pavement vendors, etc. Currently India having only 8% of organized retail sector and remaining 92% is captured by unorganized (Kamal and Ashish Kumar, 2014).

Unorganised sector professionals are identified as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labour to sell goods and services on the street without having any permanent built-up structure (National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (NPUSV, 2006). Various studies have already confirmed the fact that street vendors comprise one of the most marginalised sections of the urban poor. Notwithstanding the fact that they play a very dynamic role in the urban economy, providing necessary items, which are largely both durable and cost-effective, to average income-earning households at cheap and affordable rates. In addition, they help many small-scale industries to flourish by marketing the products that they manufacture (Bhowmik, 2001; Tiwari, 2000). Thus, they help to sustain the urban economy to a great extent in terms of generation of employment and income, and provision of services to others.

2. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
The unorganized professionals are living below the minimum accepted standards without adequate shelter and other facilities. The low earning of these professionals cannot meet with their daily needs. They have to face various problems at the business place. The study will explore the problems of unorganized sector professionals which helps policy makers to take measures regarding the improvement at work place of unorganized sector professionals.
3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jhabvala (1998) observed that in the context of the changes in the world economy and the decline of the welfare state, there is considerable debate on the need to provide social security to the informal sector. In the past there have been attempts to extend benefits which have been available to the unorganized sector to the informal sector, which has not been very successful. Blunch et al. (2001) attempted to contribute to increased understanding by highlighting important pieces in understanding the concept of the IS across (1) time, briefly discussing how our view of the concept of the IS has evolved over time and (2) space, presenting empirical evidence and stylized features across regions. After presenting the current state of knowledge of the IS, we distill key aspects and issues of the IS and discuss their implications for policy design and implementation, especially in the context of fighting poverty and improving livelihoods of the poor in developing countries. Sigge1 (2010) examined whether this pattern applies in India following economic reforms in the 1990s, and finds a more appropriate model, driven by expansion both in labour supply and in demand, through outsourcing, skill transfers and new enterprises. Is the informal sector in India a means of exploitation or a means of accumulation? One view takes the informal sector to be a site for primitive capital accumulation, with underpaid workers working in abysmal conditions. Another view takes the informal sector to be the venue for economic dynamism and entrepreneurial creativity. Maiti and Sen (2010) evaluated these two views in relation to theories of the informal sector and empirical studies on India. We argue that both views have merit in the Indian context and accounts of the informal sector in India need to take into account the complexity and heterogeneity of production and labour relations that characterises the sector. Dutta et al., (2011) empirically showed that higher corruption increases level of employment in the informal sector. Further, our analysis also shows that for higher levels of lagged state domestic product, the positive impact of corruption on the size of the informal sector is nullified. Moreno et al., (2012) analyzed the relationship between formal sector subcontracting and the evolution of the informal sector using nationally representative survey data of Indian manufacturing enterprises for the period 1995-2006. The results show that formal sector subcontracting is positively related to the size of the informal sector only for the most modern informal activities, supporting the view that subcontracting is related to informal sector modernization. We find no support for the claim that the continued expansion of very traditional informal activities is related to increased outsourcing by formal manufacturing enterprises. Ghani et al (2013) documented several key facts about India's unorganized sector in manufacturing and services. Authors investigated conditions promoting transformation by state-industry. Ghani and Kanbur (2013) examined why cities attract the informal sector and the role that urbanization plays in growth and job creation through both the formal and informal sectors. Cities generate agglomeration benefits in the informal sector, perhaps more so than for the formal sector. The third core section is devoted to policy. At the current conjuncture, agglomeration benefits make a strong case for urbanization as an integral part of development strategy, but concerns about jobless growth and about urban poverty require a focus on the informal sector. Karthikeyan and Mangaleswaran (2014) selected 46 respondents using non-probability sampling method, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. The study is descriptive in nature. The respondents used safety equipments for their work place and government sanitations department to give good guidance for their livelihood programme. Further few suggestions were also given to enhance their different type of working pattern and living conditions. Kamath and Ramanathan (2015) Combining quantitative with
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qualitative data, through a unique methodology of financial diaries, we generate thick descriptions of the informal business involving peddling of vessels and other products in Ramanagaram, Karnataka, India. By dovetailing the cash inflows from the businesses to loan repayments, we show that a standardized microfinance loan is unsuited to their business cash flows. Informal businesses are marked by seasonality and volatility springing from the contextual and socio-demographic circumstances of households running them. A keen understanding of such businesses is imperative for making the informal sector vibrant enough to support the economic lives of the poor.

It is evident from the above literature that studies were carried out on unorganised sector but these were limited only up to labour force. No study was observe to conduct on the problems faced by professionals doing small businesses in unorganised sector. Hence the study is important to find out problems and prospects of professionals doing small business in unorganised sector.

4. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the objective of the study, a sample survey was conducted in Nagpur district. For the study purpose total 500 unorganised sector professionals doing different small businesses (hawkers, Peddlers and street vendors etc.) were selected from all 14 tehsils of Nagpur district. The data was collected through self-prepared interview schedule.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

Descriptive analysis was used to analyse the primary data obtained from the 500 individual samples. Therefore, an attempt was made in this section to show the “what” of this research. For proper analysis and interpretation of the data the use of tables and statistical mode of data presentation formed the basis for analysis. The frequency of answer was shown by providing a frequency table for responses to each of the relevant questions in the questionnaire.

Table 1 Problems faced by unorganised sector professionals at work place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Can’t Say</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient Space for Business</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment from Govt. Employees/Officials</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insecurity for goods</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat of change in location</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental problems due to rain and temperature</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>50.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Due to Traffic</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health problems Due to Pollution</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment from Antisocial Elements</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extortions from Rowdies</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extortion from Police</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufﬁcient business facilities</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of goods due to some incidences</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules and Regulations</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N- No. of Respondents; % - Percentage

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It is evident from the above Table 1 that 70.8% professionals were underwent with the problem of insufficient space for business, whereas 64.2% professionals were suffered due to harassment of Government employees/officials. In addition to this problems such as threat of change in location, harassment from antisocial elements, insufficient business facilities and rules and regulations were reported by 84.2%, 62.4%, 75.2% and 78% respectively. Moreover majority of professionals working in unorganized sector reported that they faced problems such as problem due to traffic (51.2%) and extortions from rowdies (53.8%). Furthermore 42.8% respondents were uncertain regarding problem of extortion from police.

![Figure 1 Problems faced by unorganised sector professionals at work place](image)

6. CONCLUSIONS:
The basic problem faced by these professionals is that of their right to exist in the urban informal sector, because their occupation is illegal. Hence, they cannot enjoy either the dignity or the right to work. The government should thus provide the vendors with legal space for their activities besides also simplifying the rules and regulations that prevent them from carrying on their occupation with dignity and freedom. The key respondents clearly stated that most of the vendors try to avoid following formal rules and regulations, which is difficult for them to follow.

It was also observed that significant percentage of professionals were suffered from threat of change in location, insufficient space for business, harassment from Government specially municipal employees/officials, harassment from anti-social elements, insufficient business facilities and rules and regulations. However the problems such as insecurity for goods, environmental problems due to rain and temperature, health problems due to pollution and loss of goods due to some incidences had not affect the business of unorganized sector professionals severely.
7. IMPLICATIONS:
On the basis of conclusions obtained through study results it is recommended that the Government should provide permanent place for the businesses run by unorganized sector professionals. The government should reform rules and regulations regarding unorganized sector.

REFERENCES
