Naveen Shodh Sansar (An International Refereed / Peer Review Multidisciplinary Research Journal)
RNI No.- MPHIN/2013/60638, ISSN 2320-8767, E- ISSN 2394-3793, Scientific Journal Impact Factor (SJIF)- 8.054,
April to June 2026, E-Journal, Vol. I, Issue LIV (54), ISO 9001:2015 - E2024049304 (QMS)

Social Conditions of Working Women in the Unorganised Sector : A Study of Udaipur District, Rajasthan

Bhawna Shrimali* Prof. Paras Jain**

***Research Scholar (Economics) Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Udaipur (Raj.) INDIA**

****** Professor and Head (Economics) Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Udaipur (Raj.) INDIA**

Abstract: Women working in the unorganised sector contribute significantly to household welfare and social development. However, they frequently experience limited educational opportunities, inadequate social security, poor workplace facilities, and restricted participation in household decision-making. This study examines the social conditions of women workers in the unorganised sector in Udaipur district, Rajasthan. Primary data were collected from 270 women across Girwa, Badgaon, and Gogunda, covering agricultural labour and animal husbandry, daily wage employment, and street vending. The study examines educational status, family structure, health, workplace communication, violence and harassment, domestic responsibilities, menstrual hygiene, digital-device use, and household decision-making. The findings highlight limited educational attainment and continuing constraints on women's participation in major financial decisions. The Women Social Status Index (WSSI), calculated using six indicators, is 43.33 out of 100, indicating a medium level of social status under the study's classification. The study recommends improved education, vocational training, healthcare, workplace safety, financial literacy, and awareness of social security programmes to strengthen women's social position.

Keywords: Women Workers, Unorganised Sector, Social Conditions, Women's Empowerment, Education, Decision-Making, Health, Social Security, Udaipur.

Introduction - Women's participation in the workforce is an important component of social and economic development. In India, women contribute to household income through paid employment and support their families through unpaid domestic and caregiving activities. Many women, particularly those from rural and economically disadvantaged households, depend on the unorganised sector because formal employment opportunities are restricted by limited education, inadequate skills, family responsibilities, and social barriers.

Women employed in agriculture and animal husbandry, daily wage work, and street vending often face insecure employment, limited institutional support, and inadequate social protection. Their social conditions depend not only on income but also on education, health, family relationships, decision-making authority, workplace safety, and access to government welfare programmes.Education can improve women's awareness, communication skills, and employment opportunities. However, earning an income does not automatically ensure equality in household decisions. Many women continue to manage cooking, cleaning, childcare, and other domestic responsibilities alongside paid work. Inadequate healthcare, sanitation, and workplace facilities may further affect their well-being.

Udaipur district provides a relevant setting for examining these issues because women's social and working conditions differ across rural and semi-urban areas. This study investigates women workers in Girwa, Badgaon, and Gogunda, focusing on their education, health, family decision-making, workplace experiences, and social protection.

Review Of Literature

Previous research has highlighted the relationship between informal employment, gender inequality, workplace security, and women's empowerment. Bhat, Singh, and Omrane (2021) examined women's employment in organised and unorganised sectors in India, highlighting the continuing importance of informal work and the disadvantages experienced by women workers. Gayathri (2022) investigated the social status and living conditions of women employed in the unorganised sector in Pollachi Taluk.Pande (2024) examined remuneration, protection, and inequalities in India's labour market, drawing attention to insecure employment and inadequate social security. Tanya and Arya

(2024) discussed social security provisions and the difficulties women workers face in accessing welfare benefits. Arathi and Thirumalraja (2025) highlighted gender-based violence, exploitation, and the importance of dignity and safety in informal employment. Malleswari and Lakshmi (2025) examined maternity protection and barriers to accessing related benefits.More recent studies, including Febiola and Ismono (2026) and Machingambi and Ncube (2026), have emphasised harassment, institutional protection, and the additional disadvantages experienced by vulnerable women workers.Overall, the literature demonstrates that women's informal employment must be examined beyond income and occupation. Education, health, safety, social protection, and decision-making authority are important dimensions of social well-being. The present study contributes a district-level perspective by examining these conditions among women workers in Udaipur.

Objectives Of The Study: The study has two main objectives:

1. To examine the social conditions of women engaged in the unorganised sector and domestic activities in Udaipur district.
2. To assess the educational and skill status of working women and examine their access to education and skill-development opportunities.

Research Methodology: The study was conducted in Udaipur district, Rajasthan, using primary data collected through a field survey. A multistage sampling approach was adopted. Girwa, Badgaon, and Gogunda were selected for the investigation.The total sample consisted of 270 women workers, with 90 respondents from each tehsil. Three occupational categories were included: agricultural labour and animal husbandry, daily wage employment, and street vending. Thirty women from each occupational category were selected in every tehsil.

The study examines demographic characteristics, educational status, family structure, health, workplace communication, violence and harassment, domestic responsibilities, hygiene awareness, household decision-making, digital-device use, and social security.The Women Social Status Index (WSSI) was constructed using six indicators: educational level, annual income, participation in family decision-making, access to health facilities, benefits received from social security schemes, and workplace safety and dignity. Each indicator was assigned a maximum score of five, giving a total maximum score of 30.

The index was calculated using the following formula:

WSSI = (Score obtained ÷ Maximum score) × 100

(Scores of 0–33 indicate low social status, 34–66 indicate medium social status, and 67–100 indicate high social status.)

Results And Discussion

1. Educational Status and Skill Development: Education is an important indicator of women's social status and empowerment. The study reveals limited educational attainment among the surveyed women. Most literate respondents had studied up to the matriculation level, while only a small proportion had completed senior secondary education. None of the respondents had completed undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications.Limited education can restrict access to formal employment, vocational training, information about legal rights, and government welfare programmes. It may also reduce women's opportunities to improve their skills and participate confidently in household decisions. Adult education, continuing education, and vocational training are therefore important for improving women's social and employment prospects.

2. Family and Social Characteristics: Family structure influences women's domestic responsibilities, childcare arrangements, financial support, and ability to balance employment with household duties. Supportive family relationships can help women continue working, whereas unequal sharing of domestic responsibilities may increase their burden.Caste is another relevant social characteristic because it can influence access to education, employment, social mobility, and welfare benefits. Women from socially and economically disadvantaged communities may face additional barriers when seeking better employment opportunities. Equitable access to education, skill development, and social security is necessary to improve their social position.

3. Health and Workplace Conditions: Health is essential to women's well-being and their ability to participate in economic activities. Women working in agriculture, animal husbandry, daily wage employment, and street vending may undertake physically demanding tasks while having limited access to healthcare and suitable workplace facilities.Poor health can reduce work capacity, increase medical expenditure, and affect household welfare. Regular health examinations, reproductive and maternity healthcare, and health-awareness programmes are therefore important.Workplace communication may also be difficult for women with limited education or different linguistic backgrounds. These barriers can affect interactions with employers, customers, co-workers, and government agencies. Accessible information and communication support can help reduce such difficulties.Violence and harassment at home and at work are important concerns affecting women's dignity and security. Insecure employment, limited awareness of legal rights, and inadequate institutional support may make it difficult to seek assistance. Workplace safety measures, awareness of complaint mechanisms, and access to legal support are essential for protecting women workers.

4. Dual Burden and Hygiene Awareness: Women in the unorganised sector often combine paid employment with cooking, cleaning, childcare, and caring for elderly

family members. This dual burden may reduce their time for rest, healthcare, education, and skill development. Greater sharing of household responsibilities and family support can help women balance employment and domestic life.Menstrual hygiene is another important aspect of women's health. Long working hours, limited sanitation facilities, inadequate access to clean water, and financial constraints can make hygienic menstrual management difficult. Better workplace sanitation, affordable hygiene products, and health-awareness programmes can improve women's comfort and dignity.

5. **Digital-Device Use:** Digital devices can improve access to information, banking, digital payments, government services, and employment opportunities. However, their benefits depend on access, awareness, and digital skills. Training in digital literacy and online services can help women access welfare programmes, communicate more effectively, and participate in financial activities.

6. **Household Decision-Making:** Participation in family decision-making is an important indicator of women's empowerment. The study suggests that women whose opinions are considered are generally consulted on children's marriage, agricultural activities, household purchases, and decisions regarding jewellery or household assets.However, women's participation in major financial decisions, investment-related matters, and other significant family issues remains comparatively limited. This indicates that contributing to household income does not necessarily ensure equal decision-making authority.Improved education, financial independence, awareness of rights, and changes in traditional gender attitudes can strengthen women's participation in household decisions. Recognising women's opinions and contributions is essential for improving their social status.

7. **Women Social Status Index:** The WSSI assesses women's social status through six indicators: education, annual income, family decision-making, healthcare access, social security benefits, and workplace safety and dignity.The study assigns a combined score of 13 out of a maximum possible score of 30. Therefore:

WSSI = (13 ÷ 30) × 100 = 43.33

The calculated score of 43.33 falls within the medium category under the study's classification of 34–66.This result indicates that the overall social status of the surveyed women is moderate. Although women contribute to household income and economic activities, constraints relating to decision-making, healthcare access, workplace security, and social recognition remain important. The index provides an overall assessment of the selected indicators rather than demonstrating that every respondent experiences the same conditions.

Suggestions: The findings suggest several measures to improve women's social conditions in the unorganised sector.

First, adult education, continuing education, and vocational training should be expanded to improve women's qualifications and employment opportunities. Training should include digital, financial, and entrepreneurial skills suited to local livelihoods.

Second, healthcare should be made more accessible through regular examinations, reproductive and maternity services, health-awareness programmes, and mobile medical facilities where necessary.

Third, workplace safety should be strengthened through occupation-specific measures, awareness of legal rights, and accessible mechanisms for reporting violence and harassment.

Fourth, women's participation in household decisions should be encouraged through financial literacy, awareness programmes, and recognition of their contributions to family welfare.

Fifth, government agencies and local authorities should improve awareness of social security schemes and provide assistance with registration, documentation, and applications.

Finally, digital literacy and financial inclusion should be promoted to improve women's access to banking, savings, insurance, digital payments, credit, and government services.

Conclusion: This study examines the social conditions of 270 women working in the unorganised sector across Girwa, Badgaon, and Gogunda in Udaipur district. The findings highlight limited educational attainment, inequalities in household decision-making, health and workplace concerns, the dual burden of paid and unpaid work, and the importance of hygiene awareness and digital access.The WSSI score of 43.33 indicates a medium level of social status under the study's classification. This finding suggests that participation in employment alone is insufficient to ensure women's social empowerment. Better access to education, healthcare, workplace protection, social security, and household decision-making is essential.A coordinated approach involving government agencies, local institutions, families, and community organisations can help improve women's social position. Strengthening education, skills, safety, financial literacy, and access to welfare programmes can support better working conditions and greater social empowerment among women in Udaipur's unorganised sector.

References:-

1. Arathi, J., Thirumalraja, D., & Mangayarkkarasi, V. (2025). Gender-based violence and exploitation of women workers in the unorganised sector: A sociological analysis.
2. Bhat, S. A., Singh, S., & Omrane, A. (2021). Trends and patterns of women employment in organized and unorganized sector in India. *The Empirical Economics Letters, 20*(Special Issue), 107–123.
3. Febiola, N. I., & Ismono, J. (2026). Protection of women

workers in the informal sector from sexual violence and harassment in the perspective of ILO Convention No. 190: A comparative study of Indonesia and the Philippines. *Journal of Law & Social Politics, 4*(3), 499–513.

4. Gayathri. (2022). Social status of women working in unorganised sector and its impact on living condition. *International Journal for Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology, 10*, 614–617. https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2022.46684
5. Machingambi, M., & Ncube, M. (2026). Exploring the participation of women with disabilities in the Masvingo City informal sector. *Ngenani: The Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformations*, 168–193.
6. Malleswari, R., & Lakshmi, V. (2025). Maternity leave and the unorganised sector: A field-based socio-legal analysis. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, 7*. https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2025.v07i04.50527
7. Pande, R. (2024). Women in the informal economy in India: Remuneration, protection and duality of the labour market. *Revue Française d'Histoire Économique*, (19), 106–127. https://doi.org/10.3917/rfhe.019.0106
8. Sharma, V., Meena, G. L., Singh, H., Sharma, L., Upadhayay, B., & Yadav, K. K. (2020). Analysis of casual labour in Rajasthan vis-à-vis India. *Economic Affairs, 65*(3), 433–438. https://doi.org/10.46852/0424-2513.3.2020.17
9. Tanya, & Arya, T. (2024). An overview of reformed Code on Social Security and its impact on women employment in unorganised sector. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, 6*, 1–10.
10. Thamilmani, R., Javad, K., Seles, D., Natarajan, K., Adarsh, R., Bapu, K. G. V., & Sivasubramanian, K. (2026). Assessing the role of informal sector employment in urban areas for the economic and social empowerment of women. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-15820-8_31

****