

CHAPTER-5

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Problem of Working Women in Turmeric factories

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Turmeric Grander



Turmeric Powder

CHAPTER- 5

Problem of Working Women In Turmeric Factories

The present chapter describes the different problems of working women in turmeric factories. The working women in turmeric factories faced so many problems. The researcher has tried to focus some of the major problems they are facing. The problems consist of social and economical types. The researcher has tried to understand both types of problems. The different problems are described below.

5.1) Housing problem

The majority of working women live in rental houses or in slum areas. So, their main problem is that they are not having their own house to live. The living conditions in slum or rented houses are very poor. They want to improve their living conditions. They also try to demand some facilities from government to establish housing society. Some of them are having land for houses but they are not getting loan to construct houses from any financial agency. They wish that the government should help them to solve this problem.

5.2) Bank loan

Working women in turmeric factories need more money to fulfill the demands of their household. Due to low salary and no other income source they need loan. The financial institutes are not providing them loan facilities. The banks also are not providing them any type of loan. They say that they can't get the loan because they are not having any regular income source. The financial

institutes need the guarantee of repayment of loan. The workers should get loan at discount rate. Due to the terms and conditions they are unable to get loan.

5.3) Seasonal work

The season of turmeric lasts only for 2 or 3 months in a year. In the season factory needs more women to complete the work. After season, factories reduce the workers. It shows that the working women in turmeric factories are seasonal workers. After season, these women get the work as per demand of factories. Hence, their income source lasts only for two or three months in a year. After seasonal work they are not getting any other work on regular basis. So, they have to earn more money by working hard during the season time to subsist for the remaining months.

5.4) Own land problem

Majority women working in turmeric factories have no land. Some women have a little land but it can not produce any crop as the land is in the famine affected area. Production of crop depends on the rain water only. If the rain falls at right time, the crops will grow well. There is no irrigation system. The land owner is unable to make it irrigate on his own due to heavy cost. Thus, women in the turmeric factories live in hardships.

5.5) Irresponsibility of husband

The husbands of working women in turmeric factory are not aware of their responsibility towards their family. They spend much of their earning on alcohol and other addictions. So they are unable to run the house. Due to these problems women have to earn to meet their household expenses. To solve this problem some organizations are conducting awareness programmes these are

Samajvadi Mahila Sabha- Maharashtra State, Andhshradha Nirmulan Samiti and Central Worker Education Committee sponsored by Central government. These organization give information about alcoholism as well as the blind faith, women health problem, etc. The Central Worker Education Committee take one day seminar and give participant worker Rs.75/-. Zila Parishd Helth department visit the women and they also give information about the various topic like AIDS, health problem etc.

5.6) Children education problem

The economic condition of working women in turmeric factories is not good. They want to educate their children but the fees and the expenses of education are higher than their income. The children are able to score good marks in exams. But they can't afford high fees. The women are asking for some help from government to educate their children. Mathadi board provides books, notebooks and Rs.100/- for the education of their children but it is not sufficient. So, the percentage of children education is decreasing in the families of working women in turmeric factories.

5.7) Turmeric dust

Turmeric powder is a well known medicine in the world. But working in turmeric factory for long time can cause serious illness. While making the powder dust falls in and around the area. The dust enters into human body through breathing and directly it reaches into the lungs. If man works continuously in the same environment, he has to face problem of lungs disease. The working women in turmeric factory suffers from the dust of turmeric powder. It damages the respiratory organs and often brings blindness too. It

means that the powder of turmeric is a medicine but dust of turmeric is a poison for health.

5.8) Widow Women

Among the women working in turmeric factories 38% are widows. Some of these women have small children. They can't look after them if they work and they are not able to run their houses if they do not work. They are helpless.

5.9) Family problem

Due to fast life culture, the families are getting small in size. Majority of women are separated from joint families. They have got children but they are jobless. The husband is unable to work due to old age. So women have to work and earn the money. But they have no capacity to work in factories and to earn sufficient money.

5.10) Problems in factory area

In the factory area, the women face many problems. Some of them are described below.

5.10. A) Lack of clean drinking water

In the factory area, there is no facility of clean drinking water. The workers demand for it but the owners do not take it seriously. If at all they provide, it may not be pure.

5.10. B) No toilet facilities

In some turmeric factories toilet facility is not available. The workers often demand for it. The Mathadi board has repeatedly suggested the owners to

provide it but the owners do not care for it saying that it costs more. They are only after profit.

5.10. C) No rest room

The working women in turmeric factories are having two hours lunch break. Most of the women have their lunch in the factory areas. To take their lunch there is no arrangement. They have their lunch under the shadow of a tree or in a shed where they work. They need some arrangement to be provided.

5.11) Residential problem

Majority of working class women live in rented houses or slum areas. They face the following problems in their daily life.

5.11. A) No municipal facilities

Most of women live in the agricultural zones where municipalities do not provide water lines, electric lines and sanitary facilities. So they face these problems.

5.11. B) Inadequate houses

Majority of these women in turmeric factories live in rented houses mostly in single rooms for which they pay from Rs250/- to 500/- per month. They are accustomed to make adjustment. They are not in the position to build their own houses.

Reference:

- 1) Bapusaheb Magdum Union Leader felicitation volume, Sangli 2006
- 2) Hind Majdur Sabha, Sangli 2008 Golden jubilee volume.