

A REPORT OF THE SITUATION OF SEASONAL WOMEN WORKERS IN IRAN (UROMIA)

AZARAKHSH ENTREPRENEUR WOMEN SOCIETY

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Azarakhsh entrepreneur women society

Azarakhsh entrepreneur women society is a private, non-politic and non-profit organization that was registered by the number of registration, 251, in November 2003, by a group of collegian and young entrepreneurs that mostly were among successful women of West Azerbaijan province, for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, ability, creativity of collegian and young entrepreneurs and assisting establishment of correct structures of civil society.

This organization during its activity by doing following things could implement effective activities in the orientation of its organizational aims and help to enhance private (non-governmental) organizations' function in West Azerbaijan province:

Holding different workshops of increasing the abilities of women entrepreneurs/ holding 20 training courses of FGD by UNICEF help/ Holding welfare courses and topic chains about women and their hilarity and educational and recreative camps/ Holding fairs of women achievements and help to notarize women economic institutes/ Holding training workshops of writing projects, entrepreneurship, trainer training for prevention of AIDS.

Introduction: in 2000, representatives of 189 countries that were members of UN like I.R.Iran have ratified a bulletin under the title of "millennium bulletin". According to this bulletin, the countries were undertook that until 2015, they study the way of developing universal and national development programs for achieving eight goals of millennium development (MDGS).Goals of "millennium bulletin" include: poverty and starvation deletion/ public access to education/ women empowering and generic equality promotion/ infants' mortality reduction/ mothers' health and sanitation improvement/ to fight with AIDS and malaria and other diseases/ environmental conservation and at last expanding universal cooperation for development.

While it is necessary to study and offer statistics about men and women for planning and supervising policies and programs and investigating existing changes in the society, with regard to increasing need to awareness about women position in comparison with men, producing statistics and different information in this area is an important cue toward generic equality. Everywhere human source, is one of the main factors of production and revenue resulted from work is included huge portion of national INCOME. In all societies, labor force is formed by two parts; women labor force and men labor force. In all societies, nearly most adult men work but women occupation out of home has been mostly limited by cultural, social and economical factors. Women labor force, is important not only from a quality viewpoint but also from a quantity point of view. To examine women economic partnership obstacles, it is important to study qualitative aspects of this contribution and their occupation situation for fulfillment of human rights. According to existing laws, among all occupied people in Iran approximately 6 million person are identified who are supported by social insurances and employment act that by accounting their family members, labor(worker) community of country conclude 40% of

rural population and 60% of urban population. A great part of worker force in Iran specially in this province, with their low wages live between poverty line and survival line and most of them, are not accounted in statistics at all, because they are not supported by social security organization, labor ministry and any other organization or firm, that most of these group are women and children.

Women and children who inevitably to be survived are forced to work in the worst work and social conditions with the least job and social security and the lowest wages without any facilities in the farms and gardens of some provinces of Iran like West Azerbaijan province, and there is no assurance and security for their physical and mental health .

They are neglected humans that whether for their own will to manage to live as family supervisor or because of the obligation of their parents or ill, invalid or addicted husbands are forced to work as seasonal workers in the farms, gardens and factories and for achieving such a job, they ignore all their human and employment rights and maybe encounter aggression and prejudice and at last, during the time accept these work conditions and even suppress any criticism and protest in themselves and believe that all these are their fate they are doomed thus.

For examining work and life condition of worker women that neither their job nor their wages and fates are recorded anywhere, by accepting all obstacles that there are in the way of such an examination, a study under the title of" examination of seasonal women workers' situation in Uromia city" has been conducted. Researchers of this study hoped that according to the results and suggestions of this study, country's responsables count the improvement of work condition of these women in their planning, because the effect of their lives, in regard to women role in family and children manner remain in many generations and history won't have a good judgment about causes and inducements of these situations.

Methods: this study in theoretical and practical level, in addition to reviewing the situation and condition of women in different historical eras and offering a brief criticism about some of those viewpoints, investigates the situation of seasonal women workers in Uromia city. In practical part of the examination by asking basic questions about literacy level, age, immigration, settlement condition, marriage situation, religion, culture, work condition and desires and wills of these seasonal women workers, reliable information has been achieved.

Asking question: why do women work? Apparently women work because of the same reasons men work such as financial needs. Also some of women work because of their need to independence, improvement and get the better life. Multilateral role of worker women in work, family and social activities impose heavy responsibilities on them. Women, whether workers, employees, teachers, professors or doctors, in Iran are forced to undertake direct responsibilities of housework. This task generates income that is hidden and is not amount of money which is reached directly but all of it is stored in family basket. How is the situation of women's work in the world? Following are factors that endanger the situation of worker women in most societies and in Iran:

Low wages; delay in occupation; long unemployment; tendency to part time and usual jobs; addiction and imprisonment of husband; severity of husband, brother and father in women's work; lake of security in work environment; not be supported by insurances against events and senility; possessing wages by husbands,...

These are women who must hold back their children's requests and expectations about food, dress, amusement and recreation that most of them are natural!

Women include 70% of poor and 23% of illiterates in the world. Also they include only 14% of executive managers, 10% of parliament chairs and 6% of governmental cabinet posts, 67% of work hours in the world belong to women. 10% of world's income is received by women and less than 1% of world's possessions and wealth is belonged to them!

In the societies in which economical, social, political, civil, legal,...structures are based on incredibility, humiliation and exploiting unfairly, coarseness and harshness of men against women becomes a rule.....

Necessity of conducting this study: Half of the populations of Iran are women. Acquaintance with women situation, classifying them in age, work, economical situation, and employment and unemployment levels is very important. According to census statistics in 2008, the rate of economical activities of men and women is 61.1% and 12.8%, respectively. And the rate of unemployment is 11.3% and 18.4% for men and women, respectively.

Woman and occupation: after dividing the society to the minority of oppressive and majority of oppressed, most of women are injured from two sides: one is to be placed in the row of people who offer revenue and the other is to be a woman and imposed to obedience by men and accepting imposed laws of patriarchy system. Different reasons cause women to work like economical motives with the aim of improving economical condition of family and mental motives such as maintaining individual independence, security feeling and expanding social relations.

Conclusion: seasonal women workers in Iran have very difficult and hard situation. Generally, problems generate when there are needs and also there are obstacles in meeting these needs. Therefore real problem is to feel a need and insufficiency accompanying inability in meeting them. In theory of need, satisfaction is a function of the rate of successfulness and satisfying the needs such as physical and psychological needs. Needs are as exact wants of human are the same in all people whereas values are mental desires of people that are different among them.

Most of seasonal women workers feel proportional unfairness. They believe that worker women of factories earn more wages, their jobs are permanent and their work environment is secure and they are supported by insurances. While it is not so. Both of these groups complain about environmental factors out of work. Most of them have bad lives and the quality of their life is lower than the standards. Mostly reprove about insufficiency of their revenue against expenses. Most of them are obliged to do another work in addition to their main work. Their second jobs are mainly washing clothes in other people's house; selling fast foods and junkets; carpet, hat, gloves and even beggary.

75.8% of them when asked about sufficiency of revenue for meeting the needs of life answered:"very little". 89.40% of them meet these needs by borrowing money from their friends or relatives and other by taking a loan or selling their houses' utensils.

Other problem was the condition of work environment. Other than the events in work environment that damaged them, kind of relations and viewpoints of men (employers) to them was tormenting. This was irritating especially for young women, of course middle aged women complained about insecurity of work environment, too. Other problem was their settlement so that most of them don't have house for themselves and spend main part of their revenue for house rent.

Thus, considering women those carry the expense of family on their shoulders is an important national and social task. It is necessary to provide equal opportunities for women so that all of us can live in a healthy society and social justice without considering vulnerable people will be meaningless and absurd. But unfortunately despite offering the results of this study to the responsible, it has not taken important measures, yet.

An abstract of the results of this study:

93.7% of worker women do seasonal and 5.2% of them do permanent activities. Permanent activity means that they work 6 months in factories by daily wages without insurance premium or other facilities

31.4% of them do agricultural and 68.6% do industrial activities like those that work 6 months in Uromia factories doing cleaning and cutting vegetables, fruits and packaging them.

The lowest age of them was 10 and the highest was 61 years old. The average age was 27 and the most abundance was among 11, 12 and 16 year old teens.

22% of them were illiterate, 15.2% studied in adult class, 29.8% were graduated in secondary school and 11% of them had diploma. (0.5% of them didn't answer)

20, 4% were urban citizens, 40.8% were rural people and 31, 1% were migrated from other cities for work. . (2.5% of them didn't answer)

47.6% were single, 28.3% were married, 17.3% were widow, and 6.3% were divorced. (0.5% of them didn't answer).

husbands of 18.3% of them had no revenue, 75.4% of them answered that they don't know how much their husbands' revenue is, revenue of husbands of 5.2% were lower than 300000 Rials.

Only 19.9% of them took a trip during holidays and 79.1% had never taken a trip.(1% of them didn't answer).

Suggestion:

1- According to the limited studied conducted about women workers' problems especially seasonal women workers, it is suggested that more studies be conducted in this field.

2-According to this that great problem of worker women is lack of social security, it is suggested that half- governmental organizations consider their work, place of live, work conditions. Their characteristics be recorded somewhere and if their rights be trespassed, that organization pursue it.

3-In addition to obtaining authority of half-governmental institutes by employment office, women workers be present in appropriate places in their work environment and record their characteristics.

4-Through one of the governmental insurance enterprises be supported by one of the health insurances.

5-According to death, imprisonment and addictedness of some husbands of worker women, government pay special attention to their living and dwelling problems.

6- Through chain stores, by long-time payments, welfare facilities be provided for them.

7-For solving their problems of illiterateness, education ministry and other organizations plan especial programs.

8-It is necessary to supervising work conditions of women and girls who work in a bad health condition in carpet weaving workshops.

9-Issuance of identity card for seasonal women workers in addition to preventing most social risks can be a licence for gratis use of some social welfare services.