Contours of women’s work in India in the current economic conditions

Sona Mitra

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FWPRS in India: Since EUS were conducted
Female Work Participation rates by states: 2011-12 and 2017-18
• 37.7 percent within SE are helpers in HH enterprises in rural areas
• The share of regular employment for women in rural and urban areas have increased significantly at the all India level. The increase in regular work comes with a caveat of poor working contracts (next slide) and lower earnings (Anand and Thampi, 2019; https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/a-third-of-skilled-youth-in-india-jobless-official-survey-1565161972818.html and https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/most-regular-jobs-in-india-don-t-pay-well-plfs-1565075309032.html).
• Significant presence of self-employment among rural and urban women, though declining.
• Self-employment among women has a large component of unpaid family workers of the level of 35%
Types of contracts for women in regular work across years

Share of regular women workers with no written job contract, no paid leaves and SSB is significant and rising for urban women workers in specific categories. Such trends indicate incidence of increasing informality among women workers. It also indicates a form of casualization of the women workforce, which is different from previous such tendencies where casualization captured only daily wagers. This specific type is about providing earnings at regular intervals but bereft of any other benefits within the contract which improves working conditions and work towards providing a formal employment contract.
Among regular women workers, share of those employed in agriculture remains negligible (by sheer definition of regular work) and hence excluded from the graph.

Service work remains important for women regular workers across rural and urban areas.

Decline in share of manufacturing regular work is also a partial indication of declining factory work or regular home-based wage work for women in the sector.

Given the previous finding on conditions of job contract for regular workers, the incidence of jobs for women w/o contract, w/o paid leave eligibility and w/o SSB under the category of other services marks incidence of informal service employment for women.
Distribution of Regular women workers across tertiary sectors - disaggregated further

- Education remains the most important regular activity for rural women followed by health and social activities (community services).
- The increased share of regular work for women in rural areas is likely driven by these activities.
- The domestic workers (hh as employers) in rural areas remain more or less similar.

- Education, health and community services, domestic work remains the most important regular activity for urban women followed by wholesale and retail trade and some amount of IT related and banking and financial services.
- The increased share of regular work for women is likely driven by a composition of all these activities and not only by domestic workers.
- The domestic workers (hh as employers) remain more or less similar.
Agriculture continues to remain the most important sector for self-employed women workers.

For urban women self-employed workers, manufacturing plays an important role. The importance between 2011-12 and 2017-18 has increased. However, while service is important, the share of self-employed in service has reduced unlike for regular women workers.
Distribution of Self-employed women workers across tertiary sectors- disaggregated further

Disaggregating further at two digit NIC,

- Apart from retail, hotel, food, restaurant, education and other service activities are important for self-employed women in urban areas, which is also similar to rural areas.
- However, information and communication, financial and insurance, professional and scientific services for women self-employed workers show some opportunities only within urban areas.
Thank you
sona.mitra@iwwage.org
www.iwwage.org