Chapter 2
Review of Literature

The present chapter intends to elaborate a review of literature on the issues related to workers in informal economy such as their living and conditions of work along with the other provisions of social security and welfare. The main aim while reviewing the studies in general from informal economy was shifted on to one specific occupational group in this sector i.e. rickshaw pullers. It is expected that review will help in providing the necessary basis and justification for the present study and it will further help in understanding the concepts in general and the rickshaw pullers in specific. The review is likely to highlight the gaps and overlapping in the research studies already done and provide the researcher various dimensions of worker in the informal sector so as to build an insight to delimit the study. The studies were mainly reviewed on the aspects like working and living conditions, mobility patterns, health aspects, social security and other related issues of workers in the informal economy. The studies were divided into two parts, firstly the studies of general nature and secondly, the studies related to the rickshaw pullers.

2.1 Studies on Informal Sector in General

Berman (1976) in his paper tries to explore the pros and cons of using the concept ‘Informal Sector’. While focusing on labour relations, he comes to the result that use of concept ‘informal sector’ is analytically insufficient. He refuses to divide the labour into formal and informal sector and raises serious doubts about labeling as informal sector. The author has argued that the tendency to demarcate the labour into two sectors i.e. formal and informal is wrong. He has discussed in detail the composition of so called informal sector and shatters the concept of dualistic labour system. He suggests that informal sector does not mean the people who do not earn their incomes in a regular and standard way but these are those workers who are excluded from the modern urban sector and whose productivity is much lower. While discussing social background he assumes that the workers belonging to this sector don’t comprise
homogenous group of people and it is fallacious to include that only the rural immigrants as the substantial part of the urban poor to be the main constituent of informal sector. On the size of informal sector the author observed that the old, young and the women all should be included in this sector although their working capacity can’t be put to any productive use. While discussing the role of informal sector as an urban segment he feels the need to not only adhere to the principle of exclusive linkage of the informal sector to urban environment but to also keep in mind the considerable seasonal migration from rural areas to major cities. In the end while discussing the relationship between informal and formal sectors, the author emphasizes on need of better attainment and increased complementarities of these two sectors of the urban economy.

Papola T S (1980) discusses dichotomy in the economics of developing countries. A major part of these economics consists of small and tiny production organizations run on informal basis. He gives characteristics of informal units or sector given by scholars like Week, Heather, Vijay and Joshi etc. All these authors have nearly identical views regarding the nature, access to technology and government help of informal sector. Author in his findings gives features of informal sector namely: small size of operators, informal structure and family ownership, non-modern technology, lack of access to government favours, competitive and unproductive market, unprotected market etc. He also highlights the fact that informal sector cannot be identified as a distinct analytical category. He also discusses grave neglect of informal sector as far as technology and adequate resources are concerned.

Heather Joshi (1980) in his paper, ‘the informal urban economy and its boundaries’ has traced the origin of informal sector to reach for surplus labour being switched from open employment to the informal sector. Joshi discusses in brief about the boundaries of informal sector and discusses that the movement of those working in informal sector are not bound in a strict informal sector area. Highlighting the problems related to defining the boundaries of economic activity. Joshi finds grave discrepancies in the registration procedure i.e. making them appear formal while they are originally
belonging to informal sector. Joshi accepts the element of heterogeneity in informal sector but does not accept that all the people belonging to informal sector sell labour and commodities.

Sen Abhijit (1988) in his note on employment and living standards in the unorganized sector has tried to present the profile of the labour force in informal sector and have provided indicators of income growth in this sector. The author found that per worker incomes have increased much in organized sector as compared to the informal sector. Same is the case with labour absorption in non agriculture. There has been spillover of unorganized labour force from agriculture to non agriculture. He suggests that unorganized non agriculture is likely to be responsive to growth in demand from agriculture than to growth in the organized sectors.

Jagnathan, N.V. and Halder, A (1988) in their paper entitled, ‘A case study of pavement dwellers in Calcutta’ has described occupational distribution of pavement dwellers, occupational mobility among them and the rural urban linkages for this segment of informal sector. They have framed shocking figures related occupational distribution. Almost a quarter of 55,000 pavement dwellers have been earning their bread from socially marginal vacations and there has been no change since 1976. The other three quarters are too engaged in manual labour. About the vocational mobility, the findings of these scholars are stunning. The various segments of the informal sectors are highly impermeable and the unusual access depends on contracts. It also requires acceptability by dominant groups in those segments. As far as rural-urban linkages are concerned, what the dwellers from rural areas send to home is an important part of study of these two scholars. An interesting finding is the fact that the time of stay has no effect on remittance to home. Both scholars opine that remittances are good in transport and service related sectors. Another discouraging finding is the fact that after a pavement dweller has spent his youth, no bare choices are presented either he has to leave or join the most marginalized vocation-begging.
Nigam (1997) has stresses that the unorganized sector workers have been neglected by the government. The government has virtually has nothing to say regarding their status and conditions. Nigam classifies the unorganized sector workers as two different entities. First, there are the traditional vocations, mainly the artisans, fixed according to caste and involved in the production of handicrafts or goods for the subsistence economies. These would also include fish workers, forest workers, the potters, weavers and leather workers etc. The second category consists of the enclaves of casualization and sub-contracting within the modern sector of the economy and the impoverished artisans working as wage labour. There is a huge small scale sector which falls between unorganized sector and the properly organized industry. The unorganized sector workers, therefore, include workers working in such enterprises as well as the traditional artisans.

Madhopadhay Ishita (1998) in the article on “Calcutta's informal sector: Changing pattern of labour use” had traces the changing forms of labour use in Calcutta urban agglomerate during past few decade. The author compares the condition of informal sector which witnessed increasing trend of marginalization and casualisation of the labour force with the rest of the country. The author asserts that Calcutta derives special attention because policy making has been in the hands of left front governments during the last few decades. Due to the leftist political masters, labour organizations had much say in West Bengal as compared to the other parts of the country. The paper explores the effects of these factors on the labour use pattern in informal sector vis-à-vis the rest of the country. The gist of author's findings is that the left front government stressed on the self employed occupations as the only way out to curb swelling unemployed labour. This required a process of marketization of the existing economic organizations. The government gave many incentives and surplus urban labour took refuge in the self employment programmes. The author praises the efforts of CITU, the trade union of ruling CPI (M), whose main demand has been to be put under legislation, and thus complete the liquidation of the status of informality. The author has also found out that the informal sector has mainly thrived on non-migrant labour and labourers who have migrated from outside the west Bengal. The self employed gradually turned
out to be the dominant sub-sector in the informal sector employers due to government policies and labour movements. The author opines that a self employed is much better than a sub-contracted labour which usually forms the bulk of informal sector. But this change and alternative was only for survival not for betterment of informal sector. In the end author concludes that the story of informal sector in Calcutta is for the sake of mere survival in the best way possible and was only a process of reallocation of labour towards self employment.

Bhattacharya’s (1998) work is of immense significant as far as study of informal sector is concerned because the rural-urban migration is an important aspect of informal sector. The rural-urban migration has been studied in background of economic changes of 1970s when share of non agriculture occupations increased. The experiments has been carried at two levels-within and between districts and secondly between the states, also called total migration. It is clear from the data gathered by Bhattacharya that the rural and urban migration increased due to onslaught of economic changes in favour of non agriculture sector. 1981 census reveals the fact that majority of people migrated from rural to urban areas due to economic reasons, such as setting of shops and small business. Most of the migrants who come to urban areas were absorbed by informal sector because they never had capacity to complete with their urban compatriots.

Panda (1999) takes a comprehensive view of provisions relating to recruitment and deployment, wages and earnings, living and working conditions, conditions of work, social security and welfare measures for the unorganized sector workers. He underlines that worst affected of the unorganized sector labour are those who have to migrate from their home states to engage in cheap labour to perform back-breaking manual work in inhuman conditions and in flagrant violence of the legally prescribed working hours, overtime, rest days and wage payments. According to author, more than 93 per cent of total Indian workforce is in unorganized sector and consequently unprotected. The prevailing economic system is responsible for the denial of social justice to them. The equality of status and opportunity and right to live with human dignity coupled with the promises of adequate means of livelihood are nowhere in sight.
Mishra (1999) explores the possibilities and prospects of empowerment of the rural unorganized workers. He addresses the problems of this workforce, their working and living conditions as also the unfair, inequitable, unjust, oppressive and exploitative situations in which they are placed. He is of the view that for no fault of these workers, they are sliding down the ladder of development and fall victims to the machination and manipulation of a host of hostile, callous and insensitive forces around them. They migrate from one part of the territory of India to another in search of better jobs, better wages, better livelihood and quality of life but no sooner they arrive at the destination they are subjected to a chain of ruthless exploitation by malfunctioning and dysfunctional middlemen. The fragile protection through laws, which are mostly on the statute book, is seldom available to them in actuality.

Singh (2001) in his research based on field study has focused on the problems of women domestic workers and has dealt with the working environment, conditions of work, factors forcing them to undertake this work, family life, effects of work on the health of these workers. The study also looked into some of the approaches for improving their quality of life and work, job security options and resource development. Singh found out that 41.33 per cent of these workers were in the age group of 31 to 40 years and 48 per cent were less than 30 years. 40.67 per cent of these workers were from backward castes while 21.22 per cent were from lower castes. 25.33 per cent workers possessed kachacha houses and 20 per cent had pakka houses. 65.33 per cent houses had no electricity while 14.67 per cent had no toilet. 64 per cent of the domestic workers were under debt. Singh pointed out that unlike the workers of the organized sector, the women domestic workers did not enjoy better conditions of work and working conditions, neither did they get satisfactory wages.

Gumber A and Kulkarni, Veena (2000), in their case study of Gujarat related to health insurance for informal sector have explored the availability of health insurance for this marginalized section of the working class. Out of 1200 sampled respondents of Ahmadabad, 360 had subscribed to (ESIS) Employees State Insurance scheme, 120
belonged to a voluntary medical claim plan, another 360 were members of community and self financing scheme run by a NGO called SEWA, while the remaining had no health insurance cover. The study tries to find the relation between morbidity and use of health insurance. The behaviour of surveyed samples showed three types of morbidity: acute, chronic and hospitalization. First type of morbidity was highest in SEWA household and lowest in mediclaim household. The gender played a vital role as the acute morbidity is higher in females as compared to the males. The frequency of illness was also the highest in the SEWA households as compared to the medical claim households. Surprisingly, the private sector plays a great role in providing services for immediate medical help and acute illness, while the ESIS panel doctors and their dispensaries have a poor outreach in rural areas. The study further highlighted that the population is not apathetic about health insurance but suffers due to lack of information. Even the people living in neighborhood of ESIS had no awareness about various health schemes but showed interest in joining them when told. The rural households have given priority to coverage of all illness and timely attention. On the other end of spectrum, the urban households gave priority to the price tag of a new insurance scheme. The current liberalization of insurance sector have failed to provide an affordable health insurance for low income groups, consequently, there is strongly expressed need for health insurance as they tend to spend one-fifth of their income on treatment. The ESIS has a large infrastructure but lacks proper utilization of facilities, labs, operation theatres etc. On the other hand, mediclaim is a little known scheme. In nutshell, there is need for educating people about benefits of new schemes. The study indicates that there is need of information, education and communication activities.

Eapen Mirduel (2001) in her study: “Women in Informal Sector in Kerala: Need for Re-examination” has exposed the hollowness of statistics which shows that there is increase in women's employment in Kerala's 'informal sector'. She opines that employment is irregular, casual, contractual and of exploitative nature. She highlights the nature of employment of women in the informal sector and points out that majority of the women workers in this sector are casual labourers in agriculture, construction,
brick making and other subsidiary activities. She is of the view that although no firm data is available but it is a well known fact that all such activities in which women are engaged, are contracted out. This has a negative impact on women workers. Leaving aside subsidiary activities, the appointments in main occupations are too made on temporary basis. The degree of regularity is nil in employment of women in informal sector. Even in the prime age group (24-30 years) the number of women working in the informal sector has increased. This section of workers needs to be given some type of assets and guidance so that they may be given new platform and skills, other imperatives including raising levels of output and improving the working environment.

According to Chen et al. (2002) the informal economy, during the 1980s, continued to expand, particularly in countries undergoing economic transition - so much so that it has come to be recognized as a feature of economic transition. This is because retrenched workers often move into the informal economy when public enterprises are closed or the public sector is downsized. Retrenched workers who cannot find alternative modern jobs typically join the ranks of either the unemployed or the informally employed. Often the so-called unemployed, especially in transition or developing economies, are actually engaged in informal work. Second, decentralization of production is associated with the formation of smaller, more flexible, and specialized production units as well as subcontracting of production to smaller production units, some of which remain unregistered or informal.

Sanjay et al. (2002) while discussing, has tried to explain social mobility both downward and upward. By using data from 1996 NES (National Election Survey), they have arrived at various results. They refer to increasing “room at the top” which is corroborated by the fact that the number of people who are downwardly mobile is much less than those who are upwardly mobile. In a nutshell their study points that there has been as considerable movement, which is caused by occupational changes in India. Further, a skilled upper salaried class has 26 times more chances to upgrade to upper class as compared to his contemporary from unskilled manual background.
Jayoti Gupta's (2003) paper "Informal Labour in Brick Kilns- Need for Regulation" finds that the Kilns operate in a largely unregulated manner in the informal sector and remain out of preview of any law related to the workplace. The workers are bound to contactors and owners by a new mischief called advance payments. The author feels the innumerable committees appointed to improve their lot made great recommendations but they remained on papers only. The paper is based on a survey of only 51 workers from a total of nine kilns that the author visited. The owners were unwilling to allow the author to collect the required information about the conditions and other aspects of these workers. In the words of Gupta, her objective was to work out the parameters of the industry of brick kilns and try to plan the nature of mediating bodies between workers and other actors from owner's side. The author found out that basically these workers were agricultural labours who moved from state to state in search of employment when it is not available in agriculture sector especially during months of between October and June. It seems the author was meticulous during the survey, as she was able to explore the links between formal or informal workers of different kilns. She was also able to examine the division of labour in such a low technology industry, where every work is done manually. The author finds the degree of exploitation is high and even comments that workers are 'forced' into such a work with same tools of exploitation by contracts and advance payments that all the laws and legal framework are of no use in this case and even finds that none of the workers interviewed had access to a ration card. Overall, the conditions of work are very miserable in the brick kilns.

Vishawanath P.K et al. (2003) has tried to explain the dynamics of the informal labour market with special reference to small-holding rubber sector. Tapping, according to authors is the main labour involving process in rubber plantations. For the purpose of analyzing the dynamics of informality of labour market in rubber plantations, the authors studied the process determining tapping and its size, the inter-regional differences, emerging issues and constraints. For achieving the objectives, a cross section of 287 rubber tapers spread over different locations in rubber growing regions of
Kerala have been interviewed. The study throws light on the increasing proliferation of small and marginal holdings affecting employment earning and future availability of tappers. The declining size of the plantations results into emergence of multiple grower dependence in traditional rubber growing regions in the state. Due to the dispersed structure of small holdings and uneconomic size, the tappers are unable to get adequate tapping task even in the scenario of multiple grower dependence. These deprived tappers earn much less than their counterparts in general agriculture or in large rubber estates. As a result, the authors argue, younger generation sticks to this profession because they have no viable alternative but to stay and work informally. The hope and suggestion which the author give is to evolve a labour reserve mechanism attached to rubber producer's societies, which may solve the two main problems namely the availability of tappers to small holdings and adequate wages to these tappers in informal sector.

Sinha Pravin (2004) in his article “Representing Labour in India” has tried to portray the trade union scenario in India. The article describes the background and current situation in general terms before presenting a case study of the National centre for labour (NCL). He further discusses the poverty situation in India before proceeding towards the employment issues and reflects that as per the international standards, 36 percent of India's population comes below poverty line. He further deals with employment and its relation with development policies. As far as informal sector's spread is concerned, author estimates that 90 percent of total workforce is in the informal sector including those involved in agriculture and related occupations. Sinha comments that as far as legal framework or government policies are concerned, the provision of 200 or more laws enacted by central and state governments are only paper commitments for such workers. In his case study of NCL, writer traces the growth of this body which was formed with assistance of Fredrich Ebert stiftung (FES) a German labour and development foundation active in India when a group of activists and independent officials strived to construct a common platform for informal sector labourers and that formation of an apex body has given voice and recognition to workers in the informal sector and the interaction between unions and agencies has
increased the capacities of members which are ever increasing. In the paper the writer tries to bring home the point that both unions and agencies in India have advantages according to their role and nature, which can help in benefiting the workers of informal sector.

Singh (2005) identified the problems of workers in informal economy with particular reference to brick kilns and reveals that the life of these workers is very tough. These women have to perform a dual role relating to production and reproduction. While bearing and rearing children remain their primary responsibility, they are invariably involved in the remunerative activities also. These workers are unprotected and suffer from economic exploitation. Their ignorance, illiteracy and poverty have added to their woes all the more. A great majority of them have not been benefited by the protective legislation in the critical areas of wages, maternity benefits, childcare and social security.

Chen Martha et al. (2006) in their article on Informality, Gender and Poverty: A Global Picture focuses attention on the challenge of providing decent work for the working poor in the informal economy. The analysis of the national data in a cross section of developing countries has revealed that working force has a multi-layered structure and even earnings and poverty risk associated with diverse segments are different. The findings of the author’s are immense and impressive as they paid special attention to certain factors e.g. distant location and gender while analyzing the information. The authors have found out that there is an immense need to reshape economic policies to cultivate more employment opportunities. They argue that there is also a need to watch keenly the employment statistics of the nation so that all the sort of informal markets come under its preview. They have tried to explore the roots of Informal economy and have also tried to define the term properly. They thrust that worker centered perspective is needed. Another feature of their article is that it tried to compare the informal economies of various regions of the world percentage wise. They argue that, in the whole developing world, informal employment is greatest source of employment for people. The authors have constructed hierarchies of poverty risks
among households and found out that the poverty risk depends upon the nature of employment: formal or informal. The statistics accumulated by them shows that households which depend on precarious forms of informal employment as their primary source of income are likely to have substantially higher property risks than those who have access to more stable employment. The authors suggested that there is need to rethink economic models of labour markets to incorporate self employment in all forms of engaged labour. Another suggestion is about representation of voice of workers which the authors think should be increased. They emphasized that the process and institutions which affect the economic system of the country should have representatives from informal workers especially women.

Tiwari's (2006) study “Income, Consumption and Poverty in Urban Informal Sector” based on a sample of 1500 unregistered informal workers from Agra, Kanpur and Puri tried to examine the poverty of unregistered informal sector workers. Tiwari finds that in Agra, 51 percent and in Puri 37 percent workers were living below poverty line, which is a discouraging figure. Among informal sector activities in these cities, chemical sectors provide largest income generating opportunities within the unregistered informal manufacturing hub. Author underlines the need of raising the loan limit and introduction of a separate credit scheme. He has advised Central Government to promote economic activities in consonance with the rehabilitation programmes for the socioeconomic development of both unregistered informal sector workers and the entrepreneurs.

Sarthivel et al. (2006) in their article “Unorganized Sector Workforce in India” has tried to examine the social security coverage of informal sector workers. They have argued that any design for social security coverage of these workers which is based on contributory basis, is bound to fail because of lack of poor affordability and lack of an institutional mechanism. By adopting residual and direct approaches, the authors have tried to estimate the size of the unorganized sector. The duos have also examined social security schemes existing in India at present. They opine that two kinds of schemes exist namely promotional and protective. But the examination revealed that unorganized
sector workers have been virtually left out of social security arrangements. After using the last four employment-unemployment survey by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the authors revealed that social security coverage schemes have been largely against economically and socially vulnerable sections. While regular workers are largely covered by the provident fund regime, the ever increasing number of unorganized sector workers are discriminated and left without any choice.

Gumber, Anil (2006) in the study on “Health Security for Informal Workers” made an attempt to review the existing health insurance schemes catering to the general population along with the needs of informal sector and the poor sectors of the society. Some critical issues related to accessibility and use of health care services, the out of pocket expenditure on health care and the need for health insurance for poor householders perusing varied occupation in both rural and urban areas are discussed. Their discussion is based on a pilot study undertaken in Gujarat. The study examined the feasibility for health insurance to poor people in relation to their capacities to pay and willingness along with the mechanism of delivery for such services. The authors has also reviewed the various health insurance programmes presently operating in India and had tried to examine the health seeking behavior, health expenditure and morbidity patterns for household protected under different health insurance schemes. The study highlighted the demand for health insurance and suggested an affordable insurance plan for workers in the informal sector. The key findings of this study were that majority of health insurance schemes do not reach the poor section of society especially the women due to cultural constraints. Author explained that Panchayati Raj institution can play a pivotal role in advancing coordinating and managing new health insurance schemes. For this purpose the sates shall delegate powers to PRIs to plan, manage and run various welfare schemes including community health insurance to address the basic needs of the poorer section of the society.

Sekhar, Helan. R (2008) in their study on street vendors in Noida attempted to understand and unravel the status and special vulnerability of vendors in the context of globalization, impact of liberalization and macroeconomic changes in employment
patterns, working conditions related to other aspects of work. The study also tried to understand the special needs of vendors, especially women and child vendors and have provided possible strategic to address the vulnerabilities and insecurities of the vendors with regard to storage, market, raw material, working conditions, social protection. The study highlighted various problems faced by informal workers on the hands of police and local administration in the form of confiscation and impoundments of goods, fines and suspension of work. The low level of legal literacy along with lack of unity put them at the loser’s end. The researcher had made some recommendation related to the issues of special training to vendors regarding storage; processing and maintenance of hygienic along with this emphasis were on reviewing of existing laws especially with regards to fine and release of goods. The better provision for credit, training and formation of cooperatives was also trusted upon to improve the profitability of these vendors.

Dhas and Helen (2008) in their paper had made an attempt to comprehend the nature and growth of unorganized workers while focusing on social security initiatives of the government for informal sector workers and further to draw attention on the requirements of the unorganized workers on social security aspects. The scrutiny of data available from the Census and National Sample Survey Organization shows that the unorganized workers account for about 93 per cent of the total workforce and it has been growing gradually over the years. It was also observed by the authors that due to globalization this sector would spread out further. It was also emphasized that India has long history of providing social assistance and social security to the needy especially the vulnerable sections of the society in the hours of crises. For this purpose the institutions like joint families, village communities provides help while religious charities play major role in providing social security and social assistance to the needy by the way of food, clothing, medicine, shelter etc. But after independence these informal measures of social security and assistance were eroding very fastly as till recent past the government is more concerned about the organized sector or industrial workers and had neglected the rural and unorganized labour force on social security.
matters to a greater extent. In this context, it is argued that the major security needs of the unorganized workers are food security, nutritional security, health security, housing security, employment security, income security, life and accident security, and old age security. Thus the social security initiatives by the Centre, State and NGO’s shows that there is growing need of more efforts required than the presently available to cover the growing unorganized workers. In this backdrop the authors are arguing for a Comprehensive, Universal and Integrated Social Security System for the informal sector workers in India.

Naik, Ajaya Kumar, (2009), in his paper “Informal Sector and Informal Workers in India” presented the informal sector employment and informal employment scenario in India. He discussed the definition of the informal sector proposed by National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), where it has been stated that the informal sector has less than ten total workers and the informal workers are those who do not have social security benefits. The magnitude of workforce is large in the unorganized /informal sector. There are more people from rural areas engaged in the informal sector. The average annual growth rate of workers in the formal sector is higher than that of informal sector. The study also presents that the concept of Informal Worker is based on the personal characteristic of the worker rather than the enterprise. The estimated number of informal workers is more than that of formal sector workers.

Mukherjee Dipa (2009) has studied the importance of informal sector in Indian economy, especially with regard to informal manufacturing sector. The study focused on the informal manufacturing sectors from 1983 to 2000 in terms of growth and productivity. As it was very clear that informal sector is not of homogenous nature and various different segments of the informal manufacturing sector (IMS) are present and operating at national level in both rural and urban areas. The author had tried to find out the existing policy environment for informal manufacturing sector along with this various patterns related to growth and dynamic nature of this sector were focused on. Further the study revealed the various regional dispensaries in productivity level across states in both urban and rural areas. The author also explained the various options
available in enhancing productivity level in informal manufacturing sector. The thrust were given on technology up gradation, availability of financial resources, ownership of land and other structural factors of regional economy. At the last the researcher points out various policies as the way ahead for improving the informal sector by the way of proper policy formation, availability of resources, skill formation, urban planning, technology up gradation and other policy issues related to institutional reforms, social factor and regional development programmes. The author concludes that informal sector utilized the Virgin Human resources efficiently and provides these workers with employment opportunities along with their contribution in national development perspective.

Ghosh (2010) in his paper explores the health insecurities of workers in informal employment based on an empirical study conducted in Delhi. The broad objective of the present study is to understand the health insecurities of households involved in the informal economy. As the idea of the study was to understand the health related vulnerabilities and insecurities of workers in informal employment with low income, it has been purposively restricted to households in slums and resettlement colonies. For this purpose, a total 506 households covering 2493 individuals of all ages and categories like petty trade, construction and service sector were covered. The information related to socio economic profile of the respondents showed majority of them belonged to scheduled caste and other backward caste groups and their economic level is very low. The poor sanitary conditions and lack of basic amenities created vulnerabilities in terms of frequent health related problems. Among the common illnesses faced by the households, water borne diseases (such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, jaundice) and occupational diseases (such as lung diseases, joint pain and work related accidents) were some of the common health problems. Among the respondents the majority 90 percent were migrants and lacks secure and stable source of income which further adds to their vulnerability. The analysis indicates the high cost burden of illness covering direct as well as indirect costs. The findings show that government health facilities which are meant to be used by the lower income group and therefore subsidized do not
facilitate the urban poor. The fact that households had to pay for the medicines/tests and also lost their income due to the long waiting hours, dissuaded the poor informal workers from availing government facilities. As a result households visited private hospitals/clinics and local unregistered doctors, pharmacists in spite of the higher expenses. Besides the direct expenses incurred by households in the form of medicines, tests, travel charges, etc. the indirect costs associated with illness such as loss of wages added to the burden of households. As a result, households resorted to coping strategies which ranged from selling added resorted ranged assets, borrowing, to cost prevention strategies like ignoring illness/non-treatment. These coping strategies have an adverse effect on the welfare and livelihood of the household. For an informal sector household surviving on low wages, this loss of income creates additional burden on the households. The study highlights the fact that besides quality improvements in the public health care system, extending health insurance cover for out-patient care should be considered in order to protect informal sector households from health related contingencies.

Seethi at al. (2010) in their empirical findings on the socio economic profile of the migrant labourers in Patiala City has tried to explore the nature, size, type and other characteristics of migrant labourers. The study also examines to what extent migration has contributed in improving the overall economic conditions of these migrants and their families. An examination was conducted to know the possible reasons of migration and also the various legal enactments of centre and state protecting the rights of the migrant workers. For this purpose a sample of 100 migrant workers were taken as respondents from the 10 occupational activities of unorganized sector in which they easily got work in Patiala City. The findings revealed that 74 percent respondents were from Bihar while remaining 26 percent belonged to state of Uttar Pradesh and that to from rural areas. Incidences of poverty, wage difference, attraction for city life and unemployment were the main reasons behind migration. The education attainment of these migrant workers was very low as 73 percent of them were illiterates while few have completed their primary level of education. Majority of them were unemployed at
their native place while many were engaged in agriculture and allied activities to support their livelihood. Among these migrants 78 percent were from backward caste groups while 16 percent and 6 percent respondents belonged to scheduled caste and general caste categories respectively. The rate of migration was observed to be at young and productive years of life and it is male dominated. The wives and children were left behind to take care of the assets and other person in the family. The authors revealed in their findings that 54 percent migrants were not having any assets at their native place and in case of remaining that to are not sufficient to fulfill the daily needs in satisfactory level. The working and living conditions of these workers were not very good and majority of them live in a rented and pooled accommodation with sole aim of cost cutting and extra savings. In the same way they work for longer hours. Some of these workers were found to be in habit of skipping meals for the sake of savings and to remit more money to support the families left at their native places. The extent of harassment faced by these migrant workers by hands of police, railway police, and local people on one pretext or the other was also highlighted in this paper. The local rickshaw pullers do not allow migrants to join their unions. While exploring the consumption expenditure of these workers it was highlighted that across all the occupations 40-60 percent were spending on their food and related items as economic theory supports this evidence that people from lower bracket of the society spend their sizeable amount from their income on the food items. According to the findings 84 percent of respondents reported that they would like to go back and settled at their native places if they were provided with better employment opportunity and other facilities at their native places. In the end the authors were of the view that government must assume a lead role in educating these migrant people and also efforts should be made to find the ways and means to promote their earnings at their native places. It was also argued that mechanism should be devise to protect these workers from ill treatment and harassments caused to them at work place and in the society. Railway department should ensure their hassle free journey at concessional rates on occasions and in festive seasons. The authors while concluding emphasized that all these migrant workers were supporting their livelihood by working in informal sector, thus government must take some policy initiatives to improve their
socio-economic status and also to place social security measures for these migrant workers in unorganized sector to overcome the contingences of life.

Dutta et al. (2011) in their paper present the empirical investigation of the informal sector and corruption in India. The analysis underlines that the extent of corruption in India in every sector is very high mainly because of stifling bureaucratic hurdles at all levels. The informal sector is quite unregulated and characterized by high inequalities and poverty. The study is based on empirical investigation from 20 Indian states. The findings showed that high corruption increase the level of employment in informal sector. The study also highlighted that the corruption in certain sectors is more sensitive to the size of informal sector relative to others. The rate of corruption was found to be more in Municipal services, PDS/Ration and Government Hospitals and this largely affects the informal sector workers.

2.2 Studies on Rickshaw Pullers

Gupta et al. (1986) had examined the extent of drug abuse among rickshaw pullers in industrial town of Ludhiana. Present work was undertaken to study socio-demographic factors of the rickshaw pullers and extent of the use of various substances besides exploring the motivating factors for their consumption. These respondents were randomly selected from six rickshaw stands of civil lines Ludhiana. All those rickshaw pullers who were available on these stands during 2 weeks period were included for this study. Out of 280 rickshaw pullers contacted, 250 were interviewed by a semi structured interviewed schedule which included questions related to demographic variables like sex, age, number of years of education, religion, domicile (rural/urban), whether staying alone or with family, full time/part time job and patterns of drug use among them. During the course of field investigation full confidentiality and anonymity was assured and it was found that 55.2 percent respondents were locals while remaining 44.8 percent belonged to other states. Majority of rickshaw puller across migrants and non migrants groups belonged to Hindu religion. The analysis of data on drug abuse reflected that tobacco (92 percent) consumption was at the highest while alcohol (76
percent) was second highest followed by cannabis (16 percent) and opium (2.4 percent). Patterns of current use of drugs in the past 30 days were reported as tobacco (79.2 percent), alcohol (54.4 percent), cannabis (8.0 percent) and opium (0.8 percent). 52 to 60 percent respondents were taking drugs out of curiosity and to overcome boredom besides remaining awake. 28.4 percent of them were using drugs to induce sleep. Few took to get pleasure or kicks, to increase physical strength and get rid from fatigue, to celebrate certain occasions and for the sake of company.

Sen Jai (1996) in his article namely, ‘Left Front and unintended city’, comments on the drive by left front Government in West Bengal to phase out rickshaw pullers (a part of informal sector) by using authoritative means. He discusses at length the role of two factors within the Left Front which has been ruling since decades. He describes how few voices in favour of this segment of informal sector silenced due to protest from majority who wanted to flush them out form city of Calcutta to make it “cleaner”. While offering various solutions which might have solved the problem the author had suggested the involvement of rickshaw pullers themselves in this “humanization” of society. The apathetic public should demand a sort of assurance for providing alternative means of transport. This plight of rickshaw pullers highlighted by Sen is symbolic of plight of those working in informal sector.

Ahmed and Khandaker (1997) had carried out the study to investigate the dietary pattern and nutritional status of rickshaw pullers in Bangladesh. The study included 252 rickshaw pullers from Dhaka city between aged 20-60 years. The purpose of the study was to collect socio-economic, general health and dietary information. The study aim at investigating the nutritional status and dietary pattern of rickshaw pullers and who were living in slums and formed the largest group of urban manual workers in Bangladesh. It was found that an increasing number of the population now has moved to live in urban areas and among them large majorities are engaged in manual work to support their living. The poor nutritional status of the intake of food reduces the work capacity and increases the degree of fatigue. The findings of the present study further revealed that the diet of the rickshaw pullers were lacking in energy and various
micronutrients as a large proportion of the respondents do not take eggs (46 percent), milk (77 percent) and meat (46 percent). Nearly about half (49 percent) of the rickshaw pullers had energy intake below the prerequisite and about 52 percent of the rickshaw pullers were found to be undernourished. Data on food consumption revealed that cereals are the key sources of energy, protein, carbohydrates and a number of micronutrients in the daily diets of the rickshaw pullers. The main reasons attributed by the authors for this poor intake of food by the rickshaw pullers in the study was mainly due to their low socio-economic status and lack of information on the importance of proper food intake. While concluding the authors underlined the need on educating the working sections of the society regarding the essentials of nutrition emphasizing the role of good nutrition in improving their working capacity.

Khanna, Ruchika (2001) in her article presents the problems caused by rickshaw-pullers by not abiding by the traffic rules and safety norms. Rickshaw pullers were involved in a large number of road accidents on the Chandigarh city roads every day. She has underlined the need for training of rickshaw-pullers. She expressed concern that about 12,000 to 15,000 rickshaws ply on Chandigarh roads but not even 15 per cent of them obey the rules. In spite of the special drives to educate rickshaw pullers undertaken by the traffic police, the situation has not improved much. Rickshaw pullers ply their vehicles without licenses in violation of the Chandigarh Cycle Rickshaw Rules. Sometimes more than two passengers are carried on one rickshaw while many times the rickshaw pullers drive under the influence of intoxicants. The original shape of a rickshaw cannot be altered and the rickshaw pullers are also supposed to wear a cap as a uniform. The rear view mirror, reflector and a bell are mandatory but most of the rickshaw pullers never care for these rules in Chandigarh.

According to Ravi, Rajinder (2004), Rickshaw is a self occupied-employed mode of transport, where a poor, illiterate, unaware from urban compulsions and even a migrant, without depending upon the public or private capital can live respectful and an independent life. According to the author, the rickshaw can stand as antidote in dangerous exploitation of regional energy sources. If the rickshaw is ensured its
respectful place in life, it will save the planet from devastation caused due to the exhaust of energy sources. The income level in this occupation is almost fixed and saves person from unemployment, hunger, crime, and frustration.

Begum and Sen (2005) in their paper on rickshaw pullers examine the condition of Dhaka’s rickshaw pullers, a major occupational group in the urban informal sector, and discuss the viability of this livelihood as a strategy for responding to chronic poverty. This paper is based on a study drawing on information from current and former rickshaw pullers of Dhaka in Bangladesh. It was found that most of these rickshaw pullers are very poor, and have little education and few skills. Rickshaw pulling provides them with relatively easy access to the urban labour market, and an escape from extreme rural poverty. But the initial trend of modest upward mobility from rickshaw pulling is not sustained in the long run. For the sample in this study, 402 rickshaw pullers were interviewed through questionnaire. Almost all economic and social indicators related to the profile of pullers and their families were explored in detail with regard to their education, marital status, income, living conditions etc. Apart from this, the discussions were carried on the household income expenditure and other features related to well being of the rickshaw pullers. The unsustainability of the livelihood is related to the extreme physical demands of the activity, which are unrealistic in the context of poverty and malnutrition, and which result in high vulnerability to health shocks. The paper concludes that rickshaw pulling provides no permanent route in escaping poverty.

Hossain and Shahriar (2005) had made an attempt to examine the level of awareness among the rickshaw pullers in Dhaka city. The main objectives of the study were to measure the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and to explore the relationship between level of knowledge and socio-economic indicators. The study also aims at recommending some policy to increase the level of knowledge of the poorer sections about HIV/AIDS and to create mass awareness about this fatal disease. For the purpose of this study, 50 rickshaw pullers were interviewed and general information related to HIV/AIDS was taken. Besides this, information on age, social status, family
marital status, address, educational qualifications, monthly income and expenditure was also collected. To check the knowledge base of rickshaw pullers about HIV/AIDS, a scale was invented and series of ten questions was made. The findings revealed that 44 percent rickshaw pullers level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS was stated to be worse while 42 percent falls in bad category of knowledge. Apart from this, 14 percent were having satisfactory level of knowledge on the issues related to HIV/AIDS. It was also highlighted that level of education has positive relationship with level of awareness about HIV/AIDS, as educated rickshaw pullers were more informed and aware on the present issue. While assessing the level of knowledge through various media, it was found that billboards and newspapers had generated awareness among 16 percent of rickshaw pullers whereas 40 percent were informed by the health workers. It was further suggested that people can be easily protected from HIV/AIDS prevalence by proper use of mass media. Apart from this, some factors were found to be playing important role in increasing awareness level among rickshaw pullers and in general masses like religious rules and regulations, civil societies and other cultural values. Further, as policy recommendations it was suggested that a full time course on HIV/AIDS must be introduced in all educational institutions. The authors underline the need to create a social movement against this disease and for this purpose all the stakeholders, civil societies, NGOs, youth and mass media should play their role in prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Bhuiya et al. (2007), in their study “Increasing Dual Protection among Rickshaw Pullers in Bangladesh” conducted in six urban clinics of Dhaka Division has tested two strategies to increase access to family planning and reproductive health information and services by rickshaw pullers. a) an educational campaign together with improved availability of condoms, and b) an educational campaign alone. The main aim of the study was to increase knowledge of reproductive health along with contraceptive methods, safe sex, and risk of STIs and HIV among rickshaw pullers. Besides this, the focus was to increase knowledge of rickshaw pullers about consistent and correct use of condoms, both for preventing pregnancy and protection from STIs. The study further
stress upon to increase access to family planning services, particularly condoms, for rickshaw pullers with help of modern contraceptive method of family planning among rickshaw pullers. This study was to provide reproductive health (RH) information and services to rickshaw pullers. They constitute a large segment of the marginalized urban poor with limited access to family planning and reproductive health information and services. They are also frequently involved in risky behaviors and are considered a bridging population for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. The author underlined the need to increase contraceptive use among rickshaw pullers, with special emphasis on condom use. The main findings of the study reveals that a total of 5,494 Rickshaw pullers attended at least one educational session while 71 percent of the rickshaw pullers attended at least two sessions and 43 percent attended all the sessions. The first session was on family planning methods including condoms promotion demonstration which was the most highly attended by 75 percent. Apart from this 68 percent of rickshaw pullers had attended the session on other family planning methods while 66 percent had attended the session on STIs and HIV. Community distributors sold 7,262 condoms with an average of 87 per month. At the 113 satellite clinics organized at the experimental sites, Rickshaw pullers received 691 services, including 183 family planning-related services and 79 services for STIs. Rickshaw pullers expressed willingness to discuss reproductive health and other related topics in detail. However, translation of acquired knowledge about condoms use about bringing changes into the risky behaviors among rickshaw pullers does not seem to have happened, as was evident by the increase in extramarital sex relationship across all groups. So the need to focus on behavior change and not only information communication requires special attention during scale-up of the intervention strategies.

Satapathy et al. (2007) conducted the study to access the health status of rickshaw pullers in Behrampur town of South Orissa. The authors found out various personal, social and environmental factors related to the health of rickshaw pullers and have suggested measures for improvement for their health. The findings revealed that 78.26 percent rickshaw pullers had migrated from rural areas and majority (79 percent)
of them was from the Schedule Caste groups. Of the total 48 percent were illiterates and 52 percent were literates who had attained education up to primary and upper primary levels. With regard to the health status, the study finds that a huge majority (91.76 percent) suffered from musculoskeletal problems which were one of the main reasons of morbidity among these respondents. Ophthalmic problems (related to eyes problems) were present in more than half (51 percent) of the population whereas more than one third of these pullers suffered from one or the other dental disorders. In case of 12 percent respondents Genito-Urinary (GU) problems were present whereas 15 percent rickshaw pullers had skin related problems. In 11.95 percent rickshaw pullers respiratory diseases were present and 10.86 percent had diarrhoeal disorder. The study further highlighted that the rickshaw pullers were also exposed to noise pollution by vehicular traffic and this can lead to sensory-neural type deafness. The addiction patterns revealed that 81 percent of the respondents were addicted to tobacco chewing. More than half of the respondents had acid peptic diseases (APD), which was due to their irregular dietary habits, physical as well as mental stress, lack of adequate rest etc.

As regards the measures for improving the health status the study underlines the need for compulsory registration of rickshaw pullers so that appropriate health services can be suitably targeted for this community. It has also been recommended that regular health check-ups should be carried out with the involvement of NGOs and Social Service Organizations apart from carrying out awareness generation activities related to the prevention of RTIs/STIs and for adopting healthy life style.

Kurosaki et al. (2007) in their paper tries to find the relationship between rural-urban migration and urban poverty. For this purpose a pilot survey was conducted in north-east Delhi. Detailed information on eighty rickshaw pullers and twenty-six rickshaw owner-contractors was collected. The study is specifically focused to explore the socio-economic background of rickshaw pullers in north-east Delhi and also the economic status of migrant rickshaw pullers' families in the countryside, nature of their in- as well as return- migration, their living conditions in Delhi, their working conditions, earnings and the money they are able to save and transfer to their families.
back home. The study also tries to find out the economics of rickshaw renting business, sources of capital to enter the business, and finally, the nature of transactions between rickshaw owners and rickshaw pullers. The study finds that cycle rickshaws provide an important and popular means of transport in the urban, semi-urban areas in all parts of the country. This activity does not require any particular type of skill nor does any initial investment is required on the part of the rickshaw pullers. The data on the socio-economic profile of rickshaw pullers indicate that majority belong to the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward castes. The educational attainments of rickshaw pullers were very low with almost half of them being illiterate while remaining had gone through only very few years of schooling in their villages. The economic status before taking to rickshaw pulling was almost desperate. Extreme economic deprivation and social marginalization must have been one of the main causes for their migration to the town in search of a better life. More than 40 percent of the migrants reported that they had been unemployed in their villages while the others were engaged in very small scale cultivation or other activities like agricultural and non-agricultural casual labour, animal husbandry etc. On the other hand, the rickshaw pullers who have taken permanent residence in the city of Delhi must have found this activity relatively more lucrative than whatever they had been engaged in earlier. The average daily earning of the rickshaw pullers, both migrant and resident, ranges between Rs.80-110, implying a monthly income of Rs. 2400-3,300. On the basis of evidence, this was emphasized that this level of earning seems to afford them a much better standard of living than their earlier occupations in the villages or elsewhere. In the next part of the study, it was intended to find the socio-economic status of the contractors and they were found to be little better off than the rickshaw pullers. Many of them belong to the relatively upper caste Hindu background and were slightly better educated than the rickshaw pullers. The study emphasizes that cycle rickshaw plying is an informal activity, which exists on the sidelines of city life. The contribution of this sector in providing pollution free transport to a fairly large population and their role in generation of income and employment at the grass root level has not been sufficiently appreciated. While
suggesting the measures to increase the productivity and to enhance the earning capacity of the rickshaw pullers the focus was to design the improved version of rickshaw which is more comfortable for commuters to travel and also less strenuous for rickshaw pullers to drive. In the end the authors were of the opinion that rickshaw pulling activity plays significant role in generating additional employment and income at the grass root level and leads to income transfers from the more vibrant urban economy to the lowest rung of the rural economy thereby making a contribution towards alleviating rural poverty and in raising the standard of living.

Singh, D. P et al. (2008) in their study “Urban Informal Sector: Exploring the Plight of Cycle-Rickshaw Pullers in Haryana” explores various aspects of the occupational life of rickshaw pullers in Haryana like health, housing and welfare measures available to them apart from knowing various aspects relating to their mobility from their villages. For this purpose a sample of 561 rickshaw pullers was drawn from four districts namely Jind, Ambala, Rohtak and Gurgaon of Haryana. The study finds out the mobility trends among rickshaw pullers as it was revealed that all these respondents alone or with their families left their homes for want of work. Of the total sample 80.12 percent respondents were from urban areas. All the rural area respondents had migrated to cities and had settled in city slums or villages situated at the urban periphery. The urban area respondents were by and large, pavement dweller or slum dwellers. Some local respondents resided in their native villages but come to the city daily for plying rickshaw. The article expressed the multiple responses of the respondents with regard to the reasons of their migration from their native places. It was found that among the main reason of migration to the present destinations are poverty, indebtedness, irregular work availability, no agricultural land and lack of jobs. The other reasons reported by the workers for their migration were family rivalries and social insecurity. It was observed that some families migrated because one or more of their family members or friends were already in job. Such respondents preferred to join this occupation particularly because they were able to get some money on a daily basis which they could use for their health and day to day needs. The study argues that the
evils of smoking, drinking, gambling and lottery etc were quite prevalent among the majority of them during investigation it was found that no rickshaw puller had attended any road safety training programme. The respondents mostly complained of pain in the back, waist, shoulders, joints, coughing, chest pain, headache, tuberculosis and difficult breathing. The authors further opined that the Government should make a policy to regulate movements of rickshaws in the urban areas by establishing pre-paid authorized cycle rickshaw stands/booths, fixing fares, dress codes and plying hours.

Roy Sanjay (2009) emphasized on living condition of migrant rickshaw pullers in Delhi. The author tends to find out the different causes of migration along with the various factors which motivated these pullers to leave their native place for new destination. In this paper the comparison was drawn between living conditions of migrant rickshaw pullers who were staying with families and without families in Delhi. The author finds out that rickshaw pullers living along with their families were mostly staying in single rooms while hiring on rent in slums. These places were very unhygienic, congested and also lack basic civic amenities such as clean drinking water, toilet and electricity. The number of children was also high among the respondent rickshaw pullers. The average was 4.3 numbers of children in the family. In these families child labour was also prevalent. The study highlights aspects related to living conditions of rickshaw pullers without families and suggested that these pullers preferred to stay in pooled accommodation by hiring them on rent. There were no proper arrangements for toilet/bathroom and kitchens. They use public and open places for their activities. The prevalence of tobacco chewing, smoking biddis and drinking cheap alcohol was also common in these rickshaw pullers. The author opined some recommendations related to improvement in their living conditions, family planning and other health measures. In the last the author tries to give social work interventions to improve their overall quality of life.

Md Hafiz Ehsanul Hoque et al. (2009) in their study “HIV-related risk behaviours and the correlates among rickshaw pullers of Kamrangirchar, Dhaka,
Bangladesh: A cross-sectional study” worked on six hundred rickshaw pullers, from the single largest slum cluster of Dhaka. Participants were interviewed with a response rate of 99.2 percent (n = 595), using a structured questionnaire and asked about illicit substance use, sexual behaviour and risk perception for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. Independent predictors of having sex with Female Sex Workers were analyzed by multivariate analysis. A qualitative study was subsequently conducted with 30 rickshaw pullers to supplement the findings of the initial survey. The background of conducting this study were based on the reports of National HIV serological and behavioural surveillance of Bangladesh repeatedly demonstrated a very high proportion of rickshaw pullers in Dhaka city, having sex with female sex workers (FSWs) and using illicit substances. The key findings of the study revealed that the proportion of survey respondents who had sex with FSWs and those who used illicit substances in the previous 12 months period were 7.9 percent and 24.9 percent, respectively, much lower than the results achieved in the 2003–04 behavioural surveillance (72.8 percent and 89.9 percent, respectively). Multivariate analysis revealed the characteristics of younger age, being never married, living alone with family remaining in other districts and using illicit substances in the previous 12 months were significantly associated with having sex with FSWs. Study emphasizes the importance of focused HIV prevention programs for rickshaw pullers as high-risk behaviour. The study also contradicts the findings of the behavioural surveillance as the number of rickshaw pullers involved in high risk behavior as suggested is less.

Kishwar Madhu Purnima (2010) in the paper “Urban Informal Sector: The Need for a Bottom up Agenda of Economic Reforms- Case Studies of Cycle Rickshaws and Street Vendors in Delhi” has tried to deal with the regulatory role of State Government in providing license to the largest groups of self-employed in the urban areas namely rickshaw puller, owners and street vendors. The author while discussing the case of rickshaw pullers has started from the origin/historical background and how the demand of this vehicle is growing day by day and helps in providing cheap and convenient mode of travel for passengers in the dense areas. Rickshaw are used in various other
forms and provides door step services all around the clock ranging from picking and droppping passengers, children from school, goods and even rickshaw trolleys are used for collection of garbage from houses and disposal. Besides the eco-friendly nature of this vehicle, it is an instant source of livelihood and earnings for many poor families. A part from this, other benefits in the form of cycle rickshaw repair and cycle parts, tool manufacturing units also generate employment for many. Despite, these benefits the author underlines various problems faced by the rickshaw pullers by hands of Municipal Staff and Police. Even in many areas or on roads plying of rickshaw has been banned. The impractical nature of policy regarding owner should be puller and quota licensing were strongly condemned in the article. While highlighting the plight of rickshaw pullers, tyranny of police, raids and confiscation of vehicles, by the traffic police and Municipal authorities were also discussed. In case of street vendors, the author has discussed the importance of vendors in providing door step services according to the demand and capacity of customer in urban cities. Purnima has also discussed the various dimensions of vending professions in generating employment, acting as low cost distribution channel for small scale industries, helps in selling farm products like fruits, vegetables from whole sale market etc. The study further explores the restrictions and absurd quota of licensing system of Municipalities. According to Municipal Law person has to get license before operating in city as a vendor. Thus author has condemned the various processes and drives initiated by MC Authorities on the name of clearance and treating street vendors illegal despite the Supreme Court judgment that this profession comes under livelihood clause. The arbitrator check on one pretext or another make vendor’s victim of confiscation raids, fines, seizure and harassment etc. Despite, recommendation of National Policy on Street Vendors, the municipalities all over the nation cannot rationalize its licensing and quota system. Thus in the end author opines that implementation machinery should be placed in for the overall betterment of workers in informal sector which provides check on arbitrary and exploitive nature of licensing regimes.
Khan et al. (2012) has tried to enlist the socio-economic characteristics of rickshaw pullers in their paper “Socio-Economic Profile of Cycle Rickshaw Pullers: A Case Study.” The authors have highlighted the multiplicity of causes behind following this profession. They have analyzed the data collected through questionnaire and field survey done on the respondents’ of Aligarh city during the month of February and March, 2010. Apart from portraying the socio-economic profile of the rickshaw pullers, the study aims at highlighting the implications rising out of rickshaw pulling on the health of these pullers and suggests remedial steps to overcome these health problems. The data on socio economic variables include age, education, marital status, place of birth and other minute details. The analysis of the data revealed that rickshaw pulling is not a lucrative profession of the society sans social security and other benefits. The findings suggest that the causes which compel these pullers to engage themselves into this work are poverty, family disintegration, illiteracy, debt and small size of land holdings. The data also showed that majority of them suffer from diseases like cough, cold, joint, back and chest pains, asthma, gastroenteritis and tuberculosis which lead to untimely deaths. Among these rickshaw pullers smoking and chewing of tobacco was very common while many were in habit of drinking, taking drugs and involve in gambling. With regards to types of problems faced by the rickshaw pullers as reported includes lack of rickshaw stands, basic facilities like water and medical aid, rude behavior of police, shopkeepers and passengers, condition of roads etc. The study underlines number of remedial measures for improving the conditions of these working poor. These include the necessity of recognition of rickshaws as a non-polluting, cheap and efficient mode of transportation, eradication of rampant corruption during the issuing of licenses to the rickshaw pullers. With their ingenuity, the authors have suggested some innovative steps like setting up of rickshaw banks, declaring ace congested areas as ‘No Entry’ zones for motorized vehicles and provisions of both medical aid and insurance at cheap rates. Besides the above steps the study also emphasized the need to launch special drives to educate the pullers with special focus on vocational education.
Conclusion

From the review it is clear that the employment in informal sector has over the years diversified and changed quite a lot. However, not much has changed so far as the living and working conditions of the workers engaged in various activities of this sector is concerned. There have been efforts to provide social security and welfare cover to these workers both by the Government and the Non Government agencies but most of these initiatives have failed to achieve the desired objectives and making any discernible impact on the standard of living of these teeming millions. The welfare provisions have though enable to make a significant difference in the term and conditions of employment in some specific activities of the informal sector, there has not been much improvement in the quality of life of rickshaw pullers. The studies related to the rickshaw pulling clearly shows that they work for longer hour without any protection from unfavorable weather conditions. Their living conditions are not satisfactory and use of alcohol, smoking and drugs is quite common among this segment of population. The overall condition of these workers continue to remain dismal and needs urgent attention from all the stakeholders of the society in implementing the policies and programmes in letter and spirits which are designed for the welfare of these workers from time to time.