PREFACE

The growing volume of unorganised activities in urban areas is primarily a product of the 'rapid urbanisation', particularly in the metropolies of third world in recent past. The huge addition to the labour force in the cities, have not only resulted the increasing unemployment, because of the inability of the modern or formal sector to provide employment to those added to the cities and towns, but also in the proliferation of numerous small scale activities, which is designated as "Urban Informal Sector". It is, not, therefore, surprising that the UIS has aroused a great deal of research interest and a passionate controversy too, in the recent years. More importantly, the studies in this field have been carried out on large metropolies, not many indepth research have been carried out on small scale cities and towns. Moreover, hardly any study has been conducted in M.P keeping in view of the above aspects, the present course study investigates the income and employment of workers engaged in informal trade sector units in Raipur city.

UIS has a vast coverage and multitude of people are engaged in these activities. But the problem of this sector are myriad, complex and intricate. The labour force engaged in this sector constitutes a very heterogenous group and their productivity, skill, problems and exploitation is not common. Each categories have its own problems and perspectives in economy. In light of that, each category has to be focused separately and in branch specific manner. Trade sector, which constitutes a very significant proportion in economy, consists a large share of UIS workers, which productivity and contribution is very difficult to measure. Hence, these workers leying at the bottom of the labour market and have been found to working in very exploitative conditions. Present study is a modest attempt to focus and analyse the employment and income of UIS workers employed in trading units.

Although the findings of study relates to Raipur city and particularly in trade sector units. But the findings are relevant to the wider context and eye opening for any democratic system, in which a large fraction of labour force have been oppressed. The findings of the study will certainly draw the attention of policy makers, administrators and researchers towards the most disadvantaged labour class. I hope this work would be helpful to identify the problem areas of the participants of the informal trading units and also to draw the guidelines for improving their condition. This work will feel rewarded if it proves helpful for workers, trade unions, policy makers, administrators and young researchers in this field.