India’s economic progress depends on the contributions of the informal sector workers. More than 95 percent informal sector workers constitute the total India’s workforce. Unfortunately, despite their immense contributions the socio economic conditions of India’s informal sector workers remain poor. The informal sector workers are poorly organised and do not enjoy any social security protection. The workers in this sector are generally unskilled and lack capital resources. The main aim of majority of informal sector workers is to supplement their family income.

The small size of employment, small capital, low scale technology, absence of proper implementation of laws and legislations, high competition, exploitation, unawareness about the rights of employees, poor working condition in the work place, lack of education of the workers, poverty among the workers are the main features of the informal sector.

In this present study, two units of informal sector i.e beedi and brick industries are discussed. Here the Socio–Economic Status of Women Workers in Beedi and Brick Industries of Goalpara District is discussed. In Goalpara district, the majority of beedi workers and brick workers are not registered and have no identity cards. Low incomes in the beedi and brick industries have compelled the workers to bring their children in the working site. Low economic
level has compelled the beedi workers to engage their children in rolling the beedis. They have only tried to enhance the family income.

Beedi factory is dominated by women. It also involves a large number of children. Actually the owners of the beedi factory do not formally employ children to roll beedis. The piece rate system has encouraged the workers to involve their children in rolling beedis.

Brick industry is a traditional industry. This industry is completely seasonal. It employs more than 3 million people. In the ancient Egyptians and Indus valley civilisation the brick were used. The Romans had also used the fired bricks. The Indian brick industry is informal and unprotected by law. The workers in this industry do not enjoy any social security and welfare benefits.

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