Chapter 5

WOMEN’S EMPLOYMENT IN ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE IN SULTANPUR DISTRICT
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Sultanpur district lies on latitude 26 deg 15 min north and longitude 82 deg 05 min east on the right bank of Gomti. The Sultanpur city is 138 km south east of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. It is well connected by rail and road. Spread over an area of 4,561 sq km, Sultanpur district has six tehsils (sub-districts) and 23 development blocks.

As per Census 2011, the district has a population of 3,790,922 out of which just 3.06 per cent population reside in urban areas.

Target people were located in city and villages which are situated on the banks of the Gomti River that flows through the district. The land is sandy and non-productive. Numerous ravines draining into the Gomti lead to high scale land erosion. The target villages are away from district headquarters. There are no transport facilities in these villages. Though most of the families own bicycles, only men can ride them.

5.1 Socio-Cultural Status of Women in Sultanpur District

Mostly Hindus inhibit the project villages. Community is stratified along caste and class lines. Lower caste people are still considered as untouchable in the society. Exploitation of lower castes by the upper caste people is one of the major problems of the area. The predominant castes in the population are: Harijans, Nishads, Yadavas
and Khatiks. As elsewhere, here too the upper castes (Kshatriyas and Brahmins) dominate over lower castes.

Living standard of lower castes is very miserable and they live in huts made of sarpat (a kind of grass with long and sharp leaves). Most of the lower caste people are illiterate and even among upper castes female literacy rate is very low. Basic facilities like roads, electricity, medical facilities, transportation, etc., are either poorly developed, or non-existent altogether. People are generally not aware of their rights. The functioning of panchayati raj institutions is not democratic as dominant people control them. Scheduled Caste and Women panchayat representatives are neglected due to their incapability. Government welfare programs and basic infrastructures of the health and education are very virtually non-existent. People still believe in old traditions and beliefs due to illiteracy.

**Situation of Women**

Gender difference is one of the major concerns in the area. Women of each class are considered subordinate and they are confined to their household works. Women are still considered subordinate one. Even among the upper caste women, *purda pratha* (system of covering head with a cloth) is prevalent so their participation in the outdoor activities is almost non-existent. Domestic violence is one of major concerns for the women due to alcoholism. Women lack awareness about their rights.

**Education**

Teachers are irregular in the primary schools and drop out instances are very high. Existence of infrastructural facilities such roof, play
grounds and playing materials in the schools is extremely poor. State Government-sponsored schemes are virtually non-existent. Teacher-pupil ratio in most of the schools is very low. Availability of mid day meal to the children is not qualitative and it is irregular also. Distribution of the scholarships for the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class students is not fair. Anganwadi Centres are irregular and in some cases not functional.

Girls' education after primary schools is not possible as the target area does not have a middle or higher secondary school. To reach the nearest such school they have to pass through forest and for the lack of security they prefer to be at homes.

Health

There is no primary health centre in any of the target villages. The nearest PHC is in Karaurdi village, but generally medicines are not available, staff is inadequate and lady doctors are not available. ANMs are careless in discharging their duties and as such unsafe deliveries are common. RTI (Reproductive Tract Infections) and STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) are very common among men and women. Due to high rate of migration, possibility of AIDS patients is one of the major concerns. Tuberculosis, asthma and stomach ailments are common.

Due to lack of government hospitals and medical facilities, quacks and untrained doctor exploit the people. Use of herbal medical system is no longer in the practice in the villages.
Economy and Employment

Target people are dependent on marginal agriculture and agricultural labor for their livelihood. Some families are engaged in activities like mason work, broom making, running of small general merchant shops, goat rearing, rope making and cycle repairing. Rate of migration towards the metropolitan cities among youths is very high. There are no opportunities for skill building and vocational trainings. People of lower castes are still doing their traditional business as Nishad are engaged in fishing, Harijan are doing labour works. Lower castes people have meagre income due to low rate of wages.

Agriculture

Even among those who own agricultural land, a majority own small pieces of land, measuring up to 1 bigha. The crop yield from such small landholdings is not able to feed the families. People generally practice traditional agriculture. Main source of irrigation is private tube well, from which water is taken on payment. Land erosion of agricultural fields is very high due to ravines. Ground water table is declining very fast. Mostly lands are rain fed with mono or double cropping cycle. Other sources of water like ponds and wells are drying up. Wage rates of the labourer class are very low – for men they are Rs 50 per day and for women Rs 35 per day. Patta land is generally barren and hence not productive and in some cases the beneficiaries do not have its possession.

5.2 General Characteristics of the District

The Sultanpur district Gazetteer published in 1903 A.D. sheds some light on the history and origin of the district. It notes that the chief
land owning families of the time were the Rajputs of various clans, who possessed 76.16% of the total land area. Among them Raghuvanshies and the Rajkumars alone held over one-fourth of the district, while their kinsmen, the Bachgotis and Rajwars owned 11.4 and 3.4%, respectively. The Sultanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh represent a complex array of physical and geopolitical environment, well known for geo-hydrological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values. The total geographic area of the district is 2672.89 km. In the administrative point of view the district has 04 Tehsils, 14 blocks, 01 Nagar Palika and 04 Town areas. There is also 01 Lok Sabha seat and 05 Vidhan Sabha Seat.

**Topography**

The land of Sultanpur district is generally plane except some regions around the Gomti river which drains almost the whole district. However, the southern part of Sultanpur drains towards Sai river flowing through the Pratapgarh district. Geographic area of the district is 2672.89 km. It may be called an agrarian area as agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Sultanpur, the head quarter of the district is the only town of importance having municipal board. Other town areas are Kadipur. There are four tehsils and fourteen development blocks which form the district. Namely, Sadar (Sultanpur), Kadipur, Jaisinghpur and Lambhua are the tehsils.

**Availability of Minerals**

No major minerals are found in the districts. Only sand are available along the bank of river Gomti which is used in construction of permanent houses. In some places stones are also found which are
used by the Public Work Department for road construction in the districts.

**Growth Trend**

The sugar economy in the districts, like many other districts and states of India, is highly regulated, starting from sugarcane to the end product sugar. Even the by products are subject to government control. M/S kishan Sahakari Chini Mill Ltd. under the control of government of Uttar Pradesh and producing sugar. As per the primary information the industry is growing @ 10 % per annum. As the demand of sugar in the national and international market is increasing day by day the future prospects of the industry appears to be very promising.

**Vendarisation / Ancillarisation of the Industry**

There are few vendors of the sugar mill who provide services for repair and maintenance of plants and machinery. The basic raw material in the sugar mill is sugarcane which is produced by the nearby farmers and they directly supply to the mill. The rates of the sugarcane are also decided by the government.

**Medium Scale Enterprises**

Major Exportable Item: Nil

Service Enterprise:

There are few units of automobile repairing, General Engineering workshop, hotels & restaurant, computer based training institute, Cyber cafes, Beauty parlours, Photo copying tailoring shops etc. that are catering to the requirements of local population.
5.3 Potentials Areas for Service Industry

- Automobile Repairing/Servicing for two wheeler, four wheeler and Heavy Motor Vehicles
- Xerox photocopiers
- Agro items Repairing workshops
- Transport Agencies
- Mobile repairing stores
- Coaching Institutes
- Track & Tour operators
- Electric & Electronics Home Appliances Repairing,
- Cyber cafes
- Hotels & Restaurant

5.4 Potential for New MSMEs

Available Human and Physical resources in districts Sultanpur shows that there is a potential for establishment of new micro, small and medium manufacturing enterprises. Basically the economy of the districts is ago based and mainly Rice/ Paddy, Wheat, Corn and pulses are grown and a large part of these crops has sold in the nearby districts. It shows that the there is great potential of agro and allied industries. In future the following industries can set up in the district:

- Mini rice mill
- Rice Brown Oil
- Mini floor mill
- Bakery Products
• Noodles & Vermicelli
• Spices grinding
• Cattle feed
• Metal Fabrication
• Dal mill
• Milk & dairy products
• School furniture & steel furniture
• Detergent Powder
• Packaged food industry
• Printing press
• Package Drinking water
• Handicraft Items
• Potato Chips
• Agriculture equipments
• Ice cream & Ice candy
• Spices grounding
• Edible oil mill15
• Detergent Powder
• Readymade Garments
• Food processing units
• Steel Fabrications
• Footwear Industry
• Paper Envelopes

The small scale industries constitute an important segment of the state economy in terms of employment generation, source of foreign exchange earnings and exports. The favourable government policies coupled with availability of large pool of human resource makes the state one of the best location for setting up SSI units within the state.
The state has set up 679703 units, which has generated employment for 2742766 persons and has attracted investment of more than Rs. 12000 crore. The state has proposed to set up 33000 units in the annual budget of FY 2011-12 which would create employment opportunities for 1.3 lakhs person of the state.

Uttar Pradesh has initiated several schemes for the development of SSIs, such as Transport Assistance Scheme, Technology Upgradation Scheme and has introduced Single Table System for providing prompt and quick solutions to the entrepreneurs in the state. In addition to this, the state has also implemented Market Development Assistance Scheme to facilitate marketing of products of Khadi and Village industries.

Uttar Pradesh has immense potential to emerge as one of the most economically developed state in India. The state offers a wide range of subsidies, fiscal and policy incentives, industry friendly policy framework to provide conducive milieu to foster investments and industrial growth coupled with availability of skilled and semiskilled workforce, attractive incentives and a responsive and prompt public delivery system.

The economic policy of the state mainly focuses on agro food processing industries, biotech, tourism, energy and IT. The state offers favourable and conducive milieu for undertaking industrial ventures coupled with availability of skilled and semi skilled labour force, investor friendly policy framework and speedy clearances through web based single window system “Nivesh Mitra”. The state provides excellent investment environment and has attracted more
than Rs. 49000 crore industrial investment proposals in the last four years. However, being a land locked state, import of raw materials and export of finished goods bears the additional inland transportation cost which results in augmenting the prices of products. Thus, provision of more cost-effective transportation network for undertaking exports and imports is necessary for providing a favourable environment for industries to undertake profitable and cost friendly activities. Small Scale Industries constitute an important segment of the state's economy in terms of employment generation, source of foreign exchange earnings and exports. This sector mainly comprises units like handicraft sector, khadi and village industries, handloom and sericulture. However, many of these SSI units have not remained financially viable and have become sick. Thus, state government should come up with integrated approach to facilitate development of SSI units by providing financial assistance, technical know how, up gradation of industrial infrastructure and strong backward and forward market linkages. In addition to this, there is also an urgent need to expose artisans to modern technologies and skill development programmes.

In the services sector, IT, tourism and banking are the important areas. The state has emerged as a hub for IT-ITES industries including software, captive business process outsourcing and electronics and has the potential to emerge as the tourism hub of India. However, the credit deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks stands at a low level of around 44% against the national average figure of around 75%. Thus, state government should endeavour to step it up to promote financial outreach in semi urban
and urban areas where credit deposit ratio stands at low 40.1% and 43.5% respectively.

In economics we often talk of discrimination which means denial of equality and human rights to women and the freedom to make decisions which affects their lives and results in widening disparities in the human capabilities and functioning associated between man and woman. From an economist point of view, gender discrimination severely limits expansion and utilization of human capabilities in women and it has critical implications for economic growth (Pradhan and Abraham, 2005). It is assumed that the status of women and discrimination against them are inversely related and therefore measuring women’s status is equivalent to measuring gender discrimination. This issue, though, is receiving increasing academic and policy attention in the recent years, there is still a dearth of research in this area, particularly quantitative and empirical research. The present study attempts to investigate how the status of women is related to economic development and tries to broaden our underpinning on the issue of inequality.

Thus, we can conclude that Sultanpur district does not shows very rosy picture of women’s employment in economic enterprises but, yes the district has potentials, only concern is that HRD strategies needs to be relooked and over all the current efforts needs to be geared up.

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