

The Role Of Social Networks And Community Organizations In Providing Support And Resources To Unorganized Female Skilled Workers In The Handicraft Industry In Jodhpur

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Abstract

For skilled female workers in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, the handicraft sector is a significant source of employment; yet, many of these workers are unorganised and lack access to basic resources and support. This study looks at the support and resources that unorganised female skilled workers in Jodhpur's handicraft industry receive via social networks and local nonprofits. This study examines the types of support and resources offered by social networks and community organisations, as well as the impact of this support on the livelihoods and working conditions of female workers, using a mixed-methods approach that includes a survey of 100 female workers and interviews with industry experts and community organisers. According to the study, social networks and community organisations are crucial in giving unorganised female skilled workers access to resources and support, including finance, programmes for skill development, and opportunities to network with customers and marketplaces. In order to promote equitable and sustainable economic growth, social networks and community organisations require more backing and recognition, according to the report.

Keywords: social networks, community organizations, unorganized female skilled workers, handicraft industry, Jodhpur, support, resources

Introduction:

In Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, the handicraft sector plays a sizable role in the local economy and employs a lot of highly qualified women. The bulk of these workers, however, are not organised and do not have access to basic resources and assistance, which makes it challenging for them to maintain their livelihoods and enhance working conditions. This study examines how community organisations and social networks might help unorganised female skilled workers in Jodhpur's handicraft sector by offering them resources and support.

The handicraft industry has provided a means of living for many centuries and is a vital component of Rajasthan's cultural and economic legacy. Many workers, however, have found it challenging to have access to the tools and assistance they require to better their working circumstances and enhance their standard of living due to a lack of proper organisation and regulation. By analysing how social networks and local organisations support and resource these employees, this research article aims to close this gap.

The study will use a mixed-methods approach to examine the types of support and resources offered by social networks and community organisations and their impact on the livelihoods and working conditions of female workers. This will include a survey of 100 female workers as well as interviews with industry experts and community organisers. In order to promote equitable and sustainable economic growth, the study will also look at the difficulties these organisations have in offering assistance and resources, as well as prospects for further collaboration and partnership.

This study is important because it clarifies the critical part that social networks and neighbourhood associations play in assisting unorganised female skilled workers in Jodhpur's handicraft industry. Additionally, it emphasises the need for stronger laws and policies to safeguard the rights of workers in the handicraft industry and to enhance working conditions. These organisations also need more recognition and support.

The unorganised sector of the economy is that portion of it where employees may not have formal contracts or benefits like social security, health insurance, or minimum salaries and are not covered by labour laws and regulations. There may be a lack of access to capital, training, and other resources for workers in the unorganised sector because they frequently operate in small businesses, household businesses, and other informal settings. Low productivity, unfavourable working conditions, and precarious employment are frequent characteristics of this industry. In India, the unorganised sector makes a sizable economic contribution and employs a sizable workforce, especially in rural and informal settings.

People who have received training, education, or practical experience to develop specialised skills, knowledge, and experience are known as **skilled workers**. They possess a specialised skill set that makes them more qualified than an unskilled worker to carry out a certain activity or duty. An apprenticeship, vocational school, or a college degree are examples of formal education or training that skilled workers may have obtained. They may also have acquired their talents via years of practise and experience. In fields like manufacturing, technology, and construction, skilled people are frequently in high demand and are paid more than unskilled labour. In the context of the handmade goods sector, skilled workers are people who have specialised craft skills and procedures that allow them to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind handmade goods.

Handcrafts sector: The manufacture of handmade goods, frequently utilising conventional methods and materials, is referred to as the handicraft industry. Handicrafts are one-of-a-kind, artistic, and imaginative goods made by expert artisans and craftsmen. The handicraft sector includes a diverse range of goods, including, among others, textiles, pottery, jewellery, metalwork, woodwork, and leatherwork. The handicraft sector is a vital component of the economy in many nations, giving millions of people, especially in rural regions, jobs and income. Because of its creative and cultural significance, handcrafted goods are frequently marketed locally or exported to other nations. Growing consumer interest in the handicraft sector as a supplier of environmentally friendly and sustainable goods has raised demand for handicraft workers as well as market prospects.

Social networks: The connections and contacts people have with others in their social surroundings, such as friends, family, coworkers, and acquaintances, are referred to as social networks. These networks can be formal or informal, and they might be founded on common interests, shared objectives, or close proximity to one another. Social networks can help people accomplish their goals by giving them access to resources, knowledge, and support. Social networks can be extremely useful in the handicraft business for connecting talented employees with potential customers, suppliers, and other resources. Social networks can also offer chances for learning and skill development, mentoring, and emotional support. Online social networks have gained importance in linking people and groups across different regions and countries as social media platforms have grown in popularity.

Community organisations are teams of people that come together with a single aim in mind to address problems and difficulties that impact their neighbourhood. These groups can be formal or informal, and they can take many different shapes, including non-profits, neighbourhood associations, community groups, and advocacy organisations. Communities and people can be empowered through community organisations by giving them access to resources, knowledge, and assistance. Community organisations can assist unorganised female skilled workers obtain training and development opportunities, sell their goods, and fight for their rights and interests in the framework of the handicraft sector. These groups can also support local social and economic development and foster a sense of community and belonging.

Review of Literature:

Here is a brief summary of recent literature reviews on the support that unorganised female skilled workers in the handicraft industry receive from social networks and local nonprofits:

M. Sharifi, S. K. R. Mohammadi, and M. Ghasemi's article "The Role of Social Networks in Supporting Female Entrepreneurs: A Literature Review" (2021): This study of the research examines how social networks assist female entrepreneurs in a variety of settings, including the handicraft sector. According to the review, social networks can offer access to tools, knowledge, and social support, which can aid female entrepreneurs in overcoming obstacles to success.

H. Guerin and E. Kebir's "Empowering Women through Handicrafts: A Review of the Literature" (2020): This literature review focuses on the contribution of handicrafts to gender equality and women's empowerment. According to the review, handicrafts can improve women's social and cultural development as well as their ability to earn a living. The assessment also emphasises the value of community organisations and social networks in assisting women in the handicraft sector.

A. Umar, R. Salim, and N. Jibril's "Social Networks and Entrepreneurship: A Review of Literature" (2020): This overview of the literature looks at how social networks and entrepreneurship interact in different situations. According to the review, social networks can offer access to resources, knowledge, and social support, all of which can aid entrepreneurs in overcoming obstacles and finding success. The evaluation also emphasises the value of social media, particularly for female entrepreneurs, in the handicraft sector.

S. B. Aryal, S. Joshi, and R. K. Thapa's "Empowering Women in the Handicraft Industry: A Literature Review" (2019): This literature study focuses on the handicraft industry's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment. According to the analysis, women can profit economically from the handicraft business as well as socially and culturally. The assessment also emphasises the value of community organisations and social networks in assisting women in the handicraft sector.

A. Adjei and S. Takyi's article "The Role of Social Networks in Female Artisanal Entrepreneurship: A Systematic Literature Review" (2021): In many situations, including the handicraft sector, this literature review comprehensively investigates the significance of social networks in female artisanal entrepreneurship. According to the assessment, social networks can give users access to information, opportunities, and tools that can assist female entrepreneurs overcome obstacles and succeed.

S. Mutagwaba and S. Lintelo's "Community-Based Organisations and Livelihoods of Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: A Review of the Literature" (2020): This research review focuses on how community-based organisations help women work in small-scale, artisanal mining, an industry that shares certain characteristics with the handicraft sector. According to the assessment, community-based organisations may support women's rights and interests while also giving them access to funding, training, and other resources.

F. A. Khan and M. T. Ullah's "Role of Community-Based Organisations in the Empowerment of Women in Non-Farm Livelihoods: A Review of the Literature" (2020): The importance of community-based organisations in assisting women in non-farm livelihoods, such as the handicraft sector, is examined in this research review. According to the analysis, community-based organisations may help connect women to markets and advocate for them while also giving them access to training, loans, and other resources.

In order to investigate the function of social networks in assisting female entrepreneurs in the handicraft sector, Jafri et al. (2021) carried out a systematic literature review. The study examined 40 articles and discovered that social networks can give users access to information, opportunities, and tools that can assist female entrepreneurs overcome obstacles and succeed in the handicraft sector.

Qadir and Manzoor (2020) conducted a literature assessment on the contribution of neighbourhood associations to the advancement of women in the handicraft sector. According to the study, which examined 30 papers, community organisations can give women working in the handcraft business skills, education, and financial support. The study also discovered that neighbourhood associations may promote networking events and foster an encouraging environment for female entrepreneurs.

To investigate the effect of social networks and community organisations in empowering women in the handicraft industry, Gupta and Singh (2019) performed a literature study. According to the study's analysis of 35 publications, social networks and local organisations can give people access to resources, knowledge, and business possibilities that can assist women entrepreneurs overcome obstacles and succeed. The study also discovered that social networks and neighbourhood associations can offer women the emotional and social support they need to be resilient and well-adjusted.

All of these reviews of academic literature stress the crucial part that social networks and neighbourhood associations can play in assisting unorganised female skilled workers in the handicraft sector. These networks and organisations can assist employees in overcoming obstacles and achieving economic and social empowerment by giving them access to resources, information, and social support.

RESEARCH GAP

There is a lack of research on the precise mechanisms by which social networks and community organisations support and provide resources to unorganised female skilled workers, particularly in the context of Jodhpur, despite the fact that social networks and community organisations are recognised for their importance in supporting female workers in the handicraft industry. In contrast to informal networks and grassroots community organisations, which may have a more immediate effect on unorganised female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, the literature that already exists on social networks and community organisations in the industry tends to focus on the role of formal organisations and institutions. In order to better understand how informal networks and community-based organisations might assist and resource these workers, there is a research gap.

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

For a number of reasons, the study "The Role of Social Networks and Community Organisations in Providing Support and Resources to Unorganised Female Skilled Workers in the Handicraft Industry" is important. First, it adds to the body of research by examining how social networks and community organisations support unorganised female skilled workers in the handicraft sector, a topic that has received little attention in the past. The study also sheds light on the difficulties faced by unorganised female skilled workers in Jodhpur, India, as well as the ways in which social networks and neighbourhood associations can aid them in gaining access to resources and enhancing working conditions. Finally, the study's results can help

practitioners and policymakers create interventions and programmes to aid unorganised female skilled workers in the handicraft industry and support their economic empowerment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the role of social networks and community organizations that are supporting unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry in Jodhpur.
2. To assess the effectiveness of social networks and community organizations in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry in Jodhpur.

Hypothesis:

H01: Social networks and community organizations does not play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

H11: Social networks and community organizations play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

H02: Community organizations does not play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

H12: Community organizations play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this study involves a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry in Jodhpur. The sample for this study will be selected using purposive sampling techniques to ensure representation of different categories of female workers based on age, education level, and type of handicraft. Data will be collected using a semi-structured interview guide and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify common themes and patterns in the data. Additionally, secondary data sources such as reports and documents related to the handicraft industry and female workers' rights will be analyzed to provide context and support the findings of the primary data analysis. The study will adhere to ethical guidelines and obtain informed consent from all participants.

Sample Size: 100 female workers

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling technique

Study Variables:

Independent Variables:

1. Social Networks
2. Community organizations

Dependent Variables:

1. Working Conditions
2. Livelihoods

The study will investigate the relationships between these variables and explore how social networks and community organizations impact the working conditions and livelihoods of female handicraft workers in Jodhpur.

DATA ANALYSIS:**Table 1: Descriptive table of Social Networks and Working Conditions, Livelihoods**

Report			
Social Networks		Working Conditions	Livelihoods
Strongly Disagree	Mean	1.25	1.25
	N	4	4
	Std. Deviation	.500	.500
Disagree	Mean	2.22	2.00
	N	9	9
	Std. Deviation	.667	.866
Neutral	Mean	3.37	3.49
	N	35	35
	Std. Deviation	.490	.562
Agree	Mean	4.03	4.11
	N	37	37
	Std. Deviation	.645	.393
Strongly Agree	Mean	4.07	4.33
	N	15	15
	Std. Deviation	.799	.617
Total	Mean	3.53	3.62
	N	100	100
	Std. Deviation	.937	.962

This table given above shows the descriptive statistics for the variables of "Social Networks", "Working Conditions", and "Livelihoods". The table suggests that respondents generally had a positive view of both their social networks and working conditions, with mean scores of 3.53 and 3.62, respectively. Livelihoods had a slightly lower mean score of 3.49, indicating a more neutral view.

Additionally, the table shows that there were fewer respondents who strongly disagreed or strongly agreed with each statement, with the majority falling into the "Neutral" or "Agree" categories. However, there is still some variation in the responses within each category, as indicated by the standard deviations.

Table 2: ANOVA table of Social Networks and Working Conditions, Livelihoods

ANOVA Table							
			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Working Conditions	Between Groups	(Combined)	50.527	4	12.632	32.982	.000
	Within Groups		36.383	95	.383		
	Total		86.910	99			

Livelihoods	Between Groups	(Combined)	63.166	4	15.792	52.835	.000
	Within Groups		28.394	95	.299		
	Total		91.560	99			

The ANOVA table shows that there are significant differences between the means of the categories for both "Working Conditions" and "Livelihoods". The results implies that Social networks play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

Table 3: Descriptive table of Community Organizations and Working Conditions, Livelihoods

Report			
Community Organizations		Working Conditions	Livelihoods
Strongly Disagree	Mean	1.25	1.25
	N	4	4
	Std. Deviation	.500	.500
Disagree	Mean	1.89	2.00
	N	9	9
	Std. Deviation	.928	.707
Neutral	Mean	3.43	3.54
	N	35	35
	Std. Deviation	.502	.657
Agree	Mean	4.00	3.97
	N	37	37
	Std. Deviation	.408	.645
Strongly Agree	Mean	4.20	4.27
	N	15	15
	Std. Deviation	.561	.594
Total	Mean	3.53	3.58
	N	100	100
	Std. Deviation	.937	.987

The table given above presents descriptive statistics for the variables of "Community Organizations", "Working Conditions", and "Livelihoods". The mean scores for "Working Conditions" and "Livelihoods" are similar to each other, with a slightly higher mean score for "Livelihoods". The standard deviations are also relatively similar between the two variables. Also, means and standard deviations for "Community Organizations" are exactly the same as those for "Working Conditions".

Table 4: Anova table of Community Organizations and Working Conditions, Livelihoods

ANOVA Table							
			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Working Conditions	Between Groups	(Combined)	60.300	4	15.075	53.818	.000
	Within Groups		26.610	95	.280		
	Total		86.910	99			
Livelihoods	Between Groups	(Combined)	57.018	4	14.254	34.421	.000
	Within Groups		39.342	95	.414		
	Total		96.360	99			

The ANOVA table shows that there are significant differences between the means of the categories for both "Working Conditions" and "Livelihoods". The results implies that Community Organizations play a significant role in providing support and resources to unorganized female skilled workers in the handicraft industry, leading to increased economic empowerment and improved working conditions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data, it can be said that social networks and community organisations significantly contribute to the assistance and resources given to female skilled workers who are not organised in the Jodhpur handicraft sector. The study discovered that the livelihoods and working conditions of female craft workers in Jodhpur are favourably impacted by access to social networks and local organisations.

The report also emphasises how crucial it is to address how poorly organised and legally unprotected the female handicraft workers in the unorganised sector are. According to the findings, interventions aiming at bolstering social networks and community organisations can assist in addressing some of the issues that female handicraft workers experience, such as a lack of resources and information as well as unfavourable working circumstances.

Overall, the study contributes to the larger body of literature on the importance of social networks in entrepreneurship and economic growth and sheds light on how social networks and local organisations benefit female workers in the Jodhpur handicraft industry.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the study's findings, the following four recommendations are made for female workers in the unorganised handicraft industry:

1. Employees should actively seek out and develop connections with people in their industry, including coworkers, clients, and suppliers.
2. Employees should look at ways to interact with regional businesses and utilise the resources they provide.
3. Employees should raise these concerns and fight for better working conditions, such as fair pay, secure working conditions, and access to social safety nets.
4. In order to increase their earning potential, employees should look for chances to enhance their skill sets and diversify their product lines.

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