

**ICSSR NATIONAL
SEMINAR ON
“ INFORMAL WOMEN WORKER
IN WESTERN ODISHA,
SUSTAINIBILITY AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE ”**



19th and 20th November 2022

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**Biju Pattanaik Rangamancha
Panchayat College, Bargarh**

-Organized by-

**P.G. Department of History
Panchayat College, Bargarh**

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INVITATION

The P.G. Department of History, Panchayat College, Bargarh is glad to inform you that the ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on “**Informal women worker in western Odisha, sustainability and social justice**” will be organized in Panchayat College, Bargarh on 19th & 20th November 2022.

The Department extends its cordial invitation to you and your scholars/colleagues to participate in the Seminar and present paper on related theme.

The Sub-themes

- Health and hygienic
- Socio-Economic Status
- Domestic Worker
- Occupational Pattern
- Home-based work
- Piece rated Work
- Exploitation
- Gender Discrimination
- Vishava Guru Bharat
- Atma nirbhara bharat
- Freedom Struggle
- Migration
- Agriculture
- Labour laws
- Awareness Programmers

The Seminar

The holy land of Western Odisha is a territory in the western part of Odisha extending from the Kalahandi district in the South to the Sundargarh district in the North-west. Western Odisha includes the districts of Balangir, Bargarh, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Sundargarh and Athmallick sub-division of Angul district. This geographical area is also recognized by the state government of Odisha as the area under Western Odisha Development Council.

The informal sector is a significant contributor to the employment and gross state domestic product (GSDP) of a state like Odisha.. The share of the Agriculture sector in the State GSDP has come down to a level of around 18 percent, However it accounts for 62 percent of the total workforce as per 2011 Census. Women constitute nearly half (49.5 %) of the State's total population. As such their socioeconomic development is crucial for sustainable growth of the economy. Women make for only 23% of those employing India's informal sector but up to 91% of Indian women in paid jobs are in the informal sector as per the report prepared by institution of social studies trust New Delhi (2021)

Informal Women workers in Western Odisha continue to struggle for survival in the society despite low wages, lack of education, medical facilities and awareness in availing government facilities. In the present seminar we will try to highlight different core issues i.e. right to work, safe work, minimum income and social justice and laws relating to the informal women workers of Western Odisha.

Many areas of the informal women workers are still to be explored, i.e. in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, household, shopping hall, hotel, real estate, street vending, bagging. Again, the nature of their work differs from region to region. Credit constraint is a common problem faced by them. They are exploited by employers.

The term informal sector came into a broader sense in the academic literature only after the visit of the International Labor Organization (ILO) that same with unemployment mission to Kenya. It is well known that a major part of the workforce in Western Odisha, India and other developing countries works in informal sector. The informal sector has become an increasingly popular subject of study, not just in economics, but also in sociology and anthropology. Keith Hart was the first person to introduce the term "Informal Sector". He introduced it while making a presentation on "Informal income opportunities and urban employment in Ghana" in Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

Informal employment includes all remunerative works, both self-employment and wage-employment, that are not recognized, regulated, or protected by existing legal or regulatory framework and non-remunerative works undertaken in an income-producing enterprise.

It seems more logical to take the informal economy of India as the mainstream which requires a proper regulatory framework to ensure that those who drive this sector are provided the opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing of the nation while enjoying a life with dignity and an environment of 'decent work'. It is a matter of great concern that the informal sector in Western Odisha has largely remained outside the

realm of social security. People working in this sector suffer from fluctuating income and lack of basic rights as workers.

As System of National Account (SNA), 1993, defined, the informal sector as consisting of units engaged in the production of goods or services with the primary objective of generating employment and income to the persons concerned. They form part of the household sector as unincorporated enterprises owned by households. They are distinguished from corporations and quasi-corporations on the basis of their legal status and the type of accounts they hold. These household enterprises do not have an independent legal status of the households or household members owning them.

An important aspect of quality of employment in India is the predominance of the informal sector. The size of the organized sector, characterized by higher earnings and job security is small. It accounted for less than 6% of the total employment in 2004-05. Around two-thirds of the total organized sector employment is in the public sector. Over the years, organized sector employment has grown slower than the total employment, reflecting the faster growth of employment in the unorganized sector. As a result, there has been increasing informalisation of employment over the years. This informalisation has been more pronounced in the case of female workers. As a whole, about 96% of female employment is in the unorganized sector as against about 91% of males. In urban areas, the percentage of unorganized sector workers is close to 65-70%. Not all of them are poor but crude estimates suggest that close to half of this number is in dire need of occupational up-scaling.

A large proportion of the workers engaged in the urban unorganized sector is migrants from rural areas with poor educational training and skill background and is employed in low-paying, semi-skilled or unskilled jobs. The productivity and earning levels are low in most of the enterprises that do not often provide full time work to those engaged. For the employees, the working environment is not conducive. Working hours are long and most of the conditions of decent employment (e.g. paid leave, pension, bonus, medical support and health insurance, maternity leave benefits, compensation against accident, etc.) are nearly non-existent. The past trends and all the available evidence suggest that the bulk of the growth in employment in future will come from the unorganized sector. It will be an important challenge to ensure that employment in this sector consists of jobs with safe conditions of work, decent and growing earnings and a measure of income and social security. Moreover, increasing the proportion of the unorganized sector employment will be an important task to accomplish in the near future.

The present study intends to explore various issues affecting women informal workers related to sustainability and social justice in Western Odisha. It aims at examining the trends and patterns of informal female workers in Western Odisha with reference to their socioeconomic status and occupational varieties. It too attempts to discover the reason behind vulnerability and insecurity among the informal female workers exploring various factors which force women into informal sectors and also the income inequality among rural and urban female workers.

Appeal for Paper & Participation

Interested academicians and research scholars are requested to submit research papers with abstract both in hard copy (A4-size: computer printed, font size-12, Times New Roman font and 1.5 line spacing) and soft copy in CD (MS-Word) by 8th Nov 2022 to the following address.

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Registration Fees: 300/- per participant

About the College

Panchayat College, Bargarh is a Lead College and only Government College in the district established in the year 1960. The College imparts Honours Courses in Arts, Science and Commerce and Post Graduate Courses in ten subjects (Pol. Sc., Odia, Math., Commerce, Hist, Eco., Eng., Zool., Hin. Psy), B.Ed., B.Sc.(Comp. Sc.), IGNOU, OSOU study centre. The College is located in a rural setting with lush green trees in an environment friendly atmosphere. The College boasts of a complete Wi-Fi campus.

About the Department

The Department of History that came into existence in 1960 is committed to achieve the mission of facilitating the department with efficient and effective human resources required by quality education and personal growth. The department earned reputation by producing toppers in the subjects in U.G. and P.G. Examination under the Sambalpur University placements in reputed academic institutions, public and private sectors. The department offers B.A. Honours programme with 24 seats & P.G. programme with 16 seats each year.