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# Participation of Women in Vegetable Market as a Seller: a Case Study of Sunday Market of Gangtok, Sikkim

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### ABSTRACT

In the present world, various study based on overall development of women such as their social status, social benefits, their constitutional rights and their education provided by modern scholar proved that, their status in modern society is totally different from traditional society. Establishment of democratic society like in India pays especial attention for women development. While the presence of gender discrimination in traditional society influence the mentality of the today's people, due to this in many rural areas of India women are still behind the bar. The structural behaviour of ancient society proved that women were always dominated by the male members. They are mainly concentrating on domestic work only. In this study researcher try to examine the participation of women in vegetable market as a seller along with their problems during market time, their socio-economic condition and the factors which influence their participation on vegetable market as seller. It is true that women are participating in various sectors and their number is also increasing but at the same time they are not free to exercise their power. They work under pressure of various factors such as unhealthy working environment, social security, public pressure and family pressure. Thus, central and the state Government gives high priority for the social empowerment of women in their policies.

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### Introduction

India is basically an agricultural country where majority of its population lives in rural areas and their income directly depends on agriculture. Most of the citizen of world largest democratic country engaged in agricultural based activities in two ways, that is seller and labour (Agriculture labour) where women actively participate. Especially in India participation of women in informal sector mainly in open market as a labour and seller influence by the working environment, their security and status as well. While the factors like economic condition of the family, self-dependent, self-determination is the secondary things. With the presence of gender disparities majority of women are engaged in agricultural sector and their work in this sector is crucial to the provision of an adequate food supply for their household. Apart from many social developmental works women spend almost 10 to 12 hours per day on household works, child care due to which the economic work of their labour is not valued (Gopalan 1987). Agriculture holds 75.38% of all women work force in India, out of which 94% of women in crop cultivation are in cereal production and other 14% are engaged in production of other vegetable and horticulture. While 3.72% are engaged in fruits, nuts, beverages and spice crops (Fartyal and Rathore 2013). Regarding participation of women in informal sector, India witnesses a decreasing trend on it. The data provided by NSSO in 2009-10 on employment and unemployment shows steep fall on women participation that is 23% in 2009-10 from 29.4% in 2004-05, within same period women employment decline at the rate of 1.72% annually (Mahapatro 2013). On the other hand women are also participating in small business as an entrepreneur. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor found that one in eleven women is involved in entrepreneurship across the globe and India occupies

second position among 22 countries where 14.1% of women have ventured entrepreneurship (Reynolds et al., 2002). According to Sharma, in advance countries like USA, 25% of all business own by women, one-third of small business in Canada and one-fifth in France (Sharma 2013). While in micro level that is in Sikkim 30 enterprises are managed by Women directly out of 98 women enterprises (as on 31th March 2010) (Das 2012). So, by reviewing mentioned litterateur researcher found that women are able to participate in different sector as a labour as well as producer.

### Methodology

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data as well. Primary data was collected with the help of questionnaire and to fill the questionnaire all female sellers who sell vegetables on Sunday market are selected and interviewed in April 2015. The respondents were interviewed in the market only on specific day called Sunday, because Sunday market (Bazar) is also called hart Bazar in study area, where everyone is engaged in selling and purchasing process. The questionnaires were asked in English but to avoid confusion researcher used local language to communicate. To collect correct and reliable information researcher give every effort and after collection of data researcher uses simple statistics technique like percentage to analyze it.

### Result and discussion

#### Category wise distribution of the respondents

According to table No.1, out of 109 women vegetable seller 38% are ST, 3% are SC, 55% are OBC and 04% belongs to general category. In this study more than 50% sellers belongs to OBC category and more than 25% sellers belongs to ST category whereas the percentage of other two categories is negligible. After survey researcher found that, illiteracy,

economic condition of the family, absence of earning member in family and basic need of the family are the basic reason for their maximum number in this profession. While academically they are illiterate but traditionally qualified and they know how to produce and sell vegetables. During survey maximum number of sellers informed that "as a seller only, we used to earn minimum income because of middle men who depend on small percentage of our income directly, so to decrease this kind of linkage we became producer cum seller. This kind of pattern not only gives us solid profit but also increases our ability to work and encourages us".

#### Marital status of the Respondents

In this study researcher found that 55% of sample women vegetable sellers are single, 26% are Married, 16% are widow and only 3% are divorcee. The reason for the maximum participation of single (Un married) sample women in vegetable sellers profession are responsibility towards, maximum age gap between their parents and sample women and only member in the family who can earn income to fight against poverty of the family, while same factors are applicable to other sample women in this study. Further researcher found that, by involving in this profession they can earn additional in the family through which they can save some amount of money for future investment.

#### Educational Qualification of the respondents

Educational qualification of the sample women shows that, out of 42 ST sample women only 14% able to obtain upper-Primary education and 17% obtain Primary level education whereas rest are illiterate. On the other side maximum illiterate women are from OBC background. After survey researcher found that, distance of the school from home, poverty of the family and limited schools in and around home town are the basic reasons for their limited qualification.

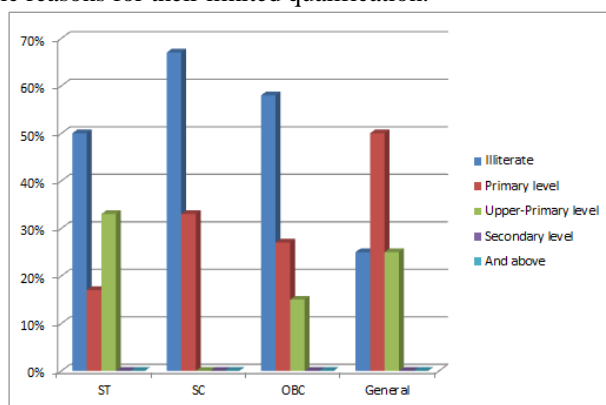


Figure 1. Educational qualification of the sample respondents

#### Family size of the respondents

According to the table no. 3, 15% of sample respondents were minimum number of three members in their family. While only 3% sample persons were maximum numbers of ten members in their family. In this study researcher found that family planning and population control methods were not adopted by sample respondents due to their illiteracy and unavailability of such facilities in those days but their next generation called their children know the disadvantage of over population and they actively participated on it. Further 90% of sample respondents agreed that, family size matters a lot in agriculture sector because large size family save maximum cost of production by involving them in agriculture sector as a labour in own land. After survey it was found that due to mentioned

mentality maximum number of sample respondents had more than three members in family.

#### Respondent's family type

According to table no. 4. 81% sample women out of 109 sample size are living in joint family, whereas only 19% are living in nuclear family. In this study researcher found that, old age of parents, maximum of school going children in family and large size of own agricultural land are the responsible reasons for their (sample women) joint living condition. Whereas on the other hand, small size of own agricultural land and rented house are the responsible reasons for their nuclear living conditions. Earning member in the respondent's family (excluding her sample women)

Regarding earning members, 70% of the sample women have one earning member in their family, 29% sample women have two members and 1% has three members. This found that, the combine earning opportunities of the sample women and other member of the family able to balance the consumption expenditure on their family. Further, data mention in table no. 5 shows that out of 109 sample women only 66 samples have additional income earning member in their family, whereas other sample women sellers directly depends on income earned by themselves by selling vegetable in Sunday market in Gangtok and they are able to equalize their consumption with that income. After survey it was found that almost 90% of the additional earning members belong to joint family where family members are large.

#### Number of school going and school leaving children in respondent's family

Regarding number of school going and school living children in the sample women family data mentioned in table no. 6 shows that, 36% out of 109 sample women have one school going children and only 3% sample women have one school leaving children. Further 29% sample women sellers have two school going children and only 7% sample have two school leaving children. In the same manner 14% samples have three school going children, 2% samples have four school going children and 1% sample women has four school leaving children. In this study researcher found that 18% and 89% sample women have no school going children and no school leaving children in their family. After survey researcher found that all most every school leaving children are engaged in labour force in their own production and daily wage labour as well.

#### Settlement Condition

In the present study researcher found that 72% out of 109 sample women seller used to settle in their own house with own land. Further researcher found that those sample women who used to stay on their own land with own house earn high income as compared to those family who used to settle in rented house on other's land. Those sample women family who used to live in other's land with rented house are compelled to pay yearly tax to their landlords. In this regard maximum number of their family members is forced to sell their physical labour in labours market for additional income.

#### Housing Condition

According to table no. 8, 49% of the total sample women seller have pucca house, 23% have semi-pucca house and 28% have kaccha house. In this study researcher found that, those sample women family who live in other's land have semi-pucca and kaccha house because their settlement is not permanent, they have to leave the place with no choice if landlord wants.

#### Residential Status

Out of 109 sample women, 30 respondents migrated from different part of the states and other states as well.

**Table 1. Category wise distribution of the sample women**

Total	ST	SC	OBC	General
109	42 (38%)	03 (03%)	60 (55%)	04 (4%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 2. Marital Status of the Sample women**

Total	Single	Married	Divorcee	Widowed
109	60 (55%)	28 (26%)	03 (3%)	18 (16%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 3. Family size of the respondents**

Number of Family member	Number of Respondents
Three	16 (15%)
four	33 (30%)
Five	20 (18%)
Six	19 (17%)
Seven	08 (07%)
Eight	05 (05%)
Nine	05 (05%)
Ten	03 (03%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 4. Respondent's family type**

Size of the Family	Number of respondents living within the size
Joint Family	88 (81%)
Nuclear Family	21 (19%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 5. Number of earning member in the family**

Earning members in the family	Number of family (Excluding sample women)
01	46 (70%)
02	19 (29%)
03	01 (01%)
04	00 (00%)
05	00 (00%)
And above	00 (00%)
Total	66 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 6. Number of school going children and school leaving children in the respondent's family**

Number of school going children	Number of Family	Number of school leaving children (Below 18 years)	Number of Family
01	39 (36%)	01	03 (03%)
02	32 (29%)	02	08 (07%)
03	15 (14%)	03	00 (00%)
04	02 (02%)	04	01 (01%)
05	01 (01%)	05	00 (00%)
Non	20 (18%)	Non	97 (89%)
Total	109 (100%)	Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 7. Settlement Condition of the respondents**

Settlement condition	Number of family
Own House (Own Land)	79 (72%)
Rented House (Other's Land)	30 (23%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 8. Housing condition of the respondents**

Housing Condition	Number of Family
Pucca	53 (49%)
Semi-pucca	25 (23%)
Kaccha	31 (28%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 9. Residential Status of the respondents**

Residential Status	Rural Area	Urban Area	Total
Migrated from			
East District	07 (23%)	00	07
West District	03 (10%)	00	03
South District	09 (30%)	00	09
North District	03 (10%)	00	03
Other States	08 (27%)	00	08
Total	30 (100%)	00	30

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 10. Number of years involved in the occupation (Vegetable seller and seller cum vegetable producer)**

Year	Seller cum vegetable Producer	Seller
	Number of Respondent	Number of respondent
Less than one year	08 (10%)	00 (00%)
1-5 years	27 (34%)	12 (40%)
6- 10 years	22 (28%)	11 (37%)
11- 15 years	06 (08%)	04 (13%)
16-20 years	14 (18%)	02 (07%)
20 years and above	02 (02%)	01 (03%)
total	79 (100%)	30 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 11. Collection of vegetable**

Collection mode	Number of respondents
Nearby village along with own production	66 (60%)
Totally depends on other's production	30 (28%)
Self production	13 (12%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 12. Wage rate/ Labour paid by the respondents**

Wage rate/labour	Number of respondents
Less than 100/day	00 (00%)
100-150/day	19 (48%)
151- 200/day	08 (21%)
201-250/day	08 (21%)
251 and above/day	04 (10%)
Total	39 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 13. Price of the vegetable fixed by the respondents for sell in vegetable market**

Increase in the price (selling price hold by sellers in the market) (in Rs)	Number of respondents
5%	13 (12%)
10%	56 (51%)
15%	40 (36%)
20% and above	00 (00%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 14. Tax paid by the respondents to sell vegetable in the Sunday market**

Tax paid by seller/day (in Rs.)	Number of respondents
Less than 30/day	105 (96%)
31-50/day	04 (04%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 15. Income of the respondents by selling vegetables on especial market called Sunday market**

net Income of the Respondents (in Rs)/Sunday only	Number of respondents	Monthly Average income of the respondents (Researcher assume four Sunday on a month)
100- 500	40 (36%)	1800/month
501- 1000	54 (50%)	3600/month
1001- 1500	13 (12%)	5200/month
1501- 2000	02 (02%)	7800/month
Total	109 (100%)	

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 16. Monthly expenditure of the respondents**

Monthly Expenditure (In Rs.)	Number of Respondents
Less than 1000	00 (00%)
1001- 1500	09 (08%)
1501- 2000	03 (03%)
2001- 2500	07 (06%)
2501- 3000	01 (01%)
3001- 3500	40 (36%)
3501-4000	27 (25%)
4001-4500	18 (17%)
4501- 5000	04 (04%)
5001 and above	00 (00%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 17. Saving of the respondents in different mode**

Saving/month (In Rs.)	Number of respondents saving in a Banks	Number of respondents saving in a Post Office	Number of respondents
100-500	12 (11%)	11 (10%)	23 (21%)
501-1000	18 (16%)	29 (26%)	47 (44%)
1001- 1500	23 (21%)	06 (05%)	29 (26%)
1501- 2000	08 (07%)	02 (02%)	10 (09%)
2001 and above	00 (00%)	00 (00%)	00 (00%)
Total	61 (56%)	48 (44%)	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 18. Facilitated and Nun-Facilitated respondents**

Items	Number of Respondents
Facilitated	14 (18%)
Non- Facilitated	65 (82%)
Total	79 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

**Table 19. Use of Chemical Fertilizers**

Chemical Fertilizer	Number of respondents
Non-users	109 (100%)
Users	00 (00%)
Total	109 (100%)

Source: Field Survey march 2015

According to above table (table no. 9), migration process is highly active in surrounding region of study area. The rapid urbanization and structural development in capital of Sikkim called Gangtok pull maximum number of people from different parts of the state and country as well. In this study researcher found that out of 109 sample women sellers only 30 samples migrated from different areas to study area to participate in Sunday market as a seller only. While remaining samples come from their own home to participate in Sunday market as a seller, because they are producer and seller as well. On the other days of a week excluding Sunday they generally work in agricultural field to produce vegetables.

#### **Number of years involved in the occupation (Vegetable seller and seller cum vegetable producer)**

After survey it was found that 2% (table no. 10) of sample women sellers cum vegetable producer and 1% (table no. 10) sample women seller are involved in the profession called vegetable seller from 20 years back (table no. 10). This means their academic qualification doesn't make any sense here, their traditional knowledge and supportive nature of their family encourage them to do so. Further maximum number of sellers cum producers engaged in this profession from 6-10 years. While on the other hand 40% of sellers engaged in this profession from 1-5years. This study prevails that only 10% sellers cum producers are new in this profession.

#### **Collection of vegetables**

Regarding collection mode of vegetable researcher found that 60% (table no. 11) sample women sellers collected their vegetable from near village and mix with their own production and sell. Further in this study researcher found that 28% of sample women depends on other's production for sell, they are sellers only. Researcher found that they mostly migrated from other districts of the states such as, north, west and south; usually they live in Gangtok itself. While only 12% sample women sellers are seller cum producers because they grow their own vegetables for sell. After survey researcher found that most of the sellers cum producers belong to nearby study areas and they generally travel from their home only in a specific day called Sunday. That is the reason they earn higher income as compared to those sample women seller who depend on producer for vegetables. Usually, the helping hand of their family members which reduce the total cost of a vegetable, because they never calculate the wage rate of home labour, which further leads to maximize the direct income of those sample women seller cum producer.

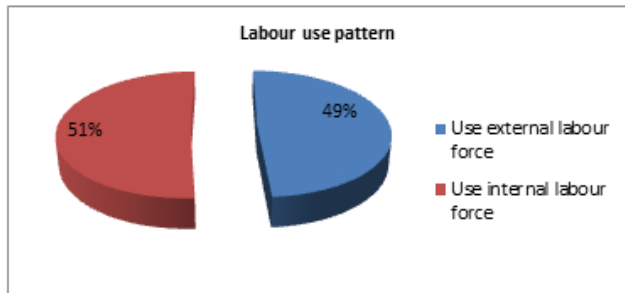
#### **Use of labour**

As mention earlier labour use pattern can influence the total cost of production and income of the seller as well. According to figure no. 2, out of 79 sample women sellers only 49% used external labour on daily wage basic for vegetable production,

Whereas 51% sample women used internal labour for production where their wage rate is not necessary, because internal labour includes family members only. Further out of 109 sample women sellers only 79 sample used labour force for production (external and internal) remaining 30 samples are sellers only. They bought vegetables from producers and sell it on the market.

#### Wage rate

According to table no. 12, maximum number of producers pays 100-150 Rs/labour/day for the production and only 10% of sample seller cum producer pays 251 Rs and above/day/labour as a labour wage. Another fact which researcher found in this is only 15% of sample seller cum producer use external labour only for one week which is maximum in their opinion because if they involve them for a long duration it will increase the total cost of production and further leads to decrease their (seller's) net income.



**Figure 2. Labour use pattern for the production**

#### Price fixation of the vegetables

To maintain uniformity in prices the sample women arrive at selling price by adding a percentage on their total cost and this certain percentage includes their profit and transportation cost. The sample women who are nearby the market are able to earn a high profit as compared to those of far distance sample women seller. The increasing percentage of selling price to maintain uniformity in price is shown in Table no.13. The data mentioned in below table (table no. 13) shows that only 12% sample seller increase their vegetables price by 5% of the total cost of production or total investment and sell on that price only, whereas more than 50% sample respondents sell their vegetables by increasing 10% of the total investment. Further remaining 36% of the sample seller sells their vegetables by increasing 15% of the total cost of production to their selling price. After survey researcher found that vegetables which are produced by the producers within the state called Sikkim is more expensive as compared to import from Siliguri and other states of India. While researcher found that the organic production process (without chemical fertilizers) is the main reason which creates difference in price of the vegetable which is produced in Sikkim and import from other states.

#### Tax mode

According to table no. 14, 96% of sample respondents pay 30 Rs/day as a tax for allotment areas where they sell their vegetables, whereas only 4% sample pay 31-50 Rs/day as a tax. After survey researcher found that seller has to pay tax on the basic of size of the allotment area, the large size holder have to pay more than those sellers who sell her products in small area that is why tax rate is different in study area.

#### Income, expenditure and saving pattern of the respondents

According to table no. 15, 36% sample sellers out of 109 persons able to earn 100-500 Rs/Sunday by selling vegetables in especial market called Sunday market of Gangtok. Further 12% and 50% sample seller earn 1001-1500 and 501-1000 Rs/Sunday

respectively. While 2% sample sellers earn 1501-2000 Rs/Sunday. During survey researcher found that by selling vegetables in four Sunday in a week (four Sunday in a month in average) almost 100% samples are able to run their family and provide basis need to their children and they save some amount of their income on banks and post office as well (mention in table no 17).

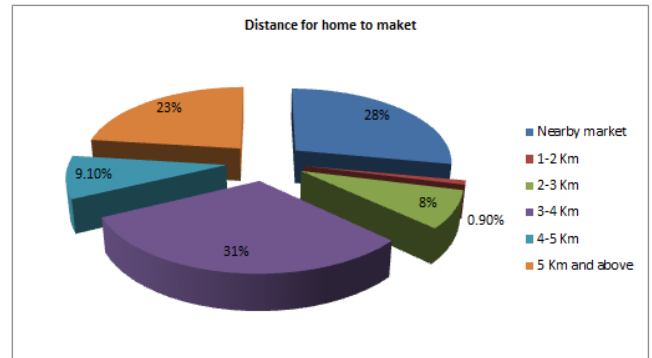
#### Monthly expenditure of the respondents

Monthly expenditure of the respondents shows that, 36% of the total sample of 109 sample falls under those families whose monthly expenditure is 3001-3500 Rs, 25% sample seller's monthly income is 3501-4000 Rs. After survey researcher found their joint family pattern and large number of family member are the basic reason for their maximum monthly expenditure as compared to nuclear family. However the joint income of other members of the family gives not only the small hope to the sample women seller but they encourage and give full support to sample seller to participate in vegetable seller profession.

#### Saving of the respondents

According to the table no. 17, 56% of sample women sellers save their certain percentage of income in banks and 44% of sample seller save some amount of money in post office. After survey researcher found that only distance of banks, illiteracy of the sample women and lack of confidence are the reasons 44% of sample seller women save their money in post office instead of bank. Another reason which was found by researcher during survey on this manner is most of the sample seller women belong to rural place where the banks are not established.

#### Distance from home to market



**Figure 3**

According to above figure (Figure No.3), 28% sample women sellers stay nearby the study area, 31% has to travel 3-4 Kilometre every Sunday to reach Sunday market to sell their products and 23% has to travel more than 5 kilometres every Sunday to reach market. Further researcher found that transportation cost varies from seller to seller because of the distance, which leads to decrease in profit.. But still they manage to sell at uniform prices due to perfect competition where profit is based on quantity.

#### Facilities provided by Government for the development of agricultural to vegetable producer

Above table shows the details of facilities (excluding fertilizers) provided by state as well as central government to the sample respondents for the development of agriculture production. After survey researcher found that out of 109 sample women only 79 plays a dual role that is seller cum producer, whereas 30 sample women depends on other producers for their vegetable. Data mention in table no.18, shows that out of 79 sample women only 18% women receives government facilities for the betterment of agriculture such as water pipes, modern plough machine and high yielding varieties of seeds which increase output. On the other side 82% sample women are still

behind the bar. After survey researcher found that, this unequal distribution of such facilities is based on urgent need, these facilities are distributed only to those farmer who need it most urgent or where construction of permanent or temporary irrigation canals are not possible. Regarding seeds distribution researcher found that everyone will get it but it will take time.

#### **Use of Chemical Fertilizers**

#### **Managing Home Work**

During survey 69% respondents informed that their family member agree to do casual work of the home in her absence. While 25% and 06% sample women informed that their husband and daughter actively participate in casual home work in her absence. The positive nature of sample women's family members including their husband and daughter regarding their working capacity in informal sector as seller prove that the changing nature of modern society provide equal status in every aspects to each human kind.

#### **Conclusion**

Increasing demand of organic vegetables in Sikkim for supplementing diets encourage the women of rural area to engage themselves in vegetable production process and involve in market as a sellers. Through this they not earn some hand full of income but they play important role to develop nation through self-employment activities. In this study researcher found that women can do a better job of vegetable producer and sellers as well if they are provided with proper training, suitable technological package ad with proper inputs. This will not only enable them to increase their production capacity but earn maximum income to reduce poverty problems as well. While to help them with their most important problems like irrigation,

transportation and marketing government should provide each and every possible facilities. In this study all sample women able to provide each and every basic facility to their children by earning some amount of money through selling vegetable in Sunday market. The positive nature of other members of the family towards sample women profession called vegetable seller, not only give them hope for the betterment of family but good environment in family.

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