

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN HOME-BASED WORKERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO INDIA'S GROWTH STORY >>>>



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

HOMENET SOUTH ASIA ASSOCIATION
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Section 1: Situating Home-based workers in the Indian economy

1. India's growth story is a paradox. While India has seen impressive growth in its Gross Domestic Product and per capita income, these gains have not been evenly distributed. Even though India is an economy of over two trillion dollars, there is still substantial unemployment and poverty. In addition, the feminisation of poverty and unemployment aggravates the situation for women.

In order to address issues of poverty and unemployment, it is essential to look at the informal sector because of its sheer size. A 2018 report by the International Labour Organization, titled 'Women and Men in the Informal Economy – A Statistical Picture (Third edition)' pegs the informal sector in India at over 82%.

2. Home-based workers are a category of informal sector workers who are involved in the production of goods and services, in their own homes or adjacent grounds or premises, for the market. There are two kinds of home-based workers - (i) self employed or own-account workers and contributing family members and (ii) sub-contracted or piece rate workers also referred to as home-workers - engaged in the production of goods and services for the market in their homes or in nearby areas.

Home-based workers produce a wide range of goods for both domestic and global markets: stitching garments, shoes and footballs; weaving textiles; producing craft products; rolling incense sticks, cigarettes and cigars; threading flower garlands; processing and preparing food items; assembling or packaging electronics, automobile parts, and pharmaceutical products, among other items. Some sell goods or provide services (laundry, salon services, mechanical repair) from their homes; while still others carry out clerical or professional work.

3. There were 37.4 million home-based workers in India, in 2011-12¹, and their numbers are growing. During the 12 year period, between 1999-00 and 2011-12, the number of home-based workers increased significantly, from 23.3 million in 1999-00 to 37.4 million in 2011-12². Home-based workers are thus a significant and increasing part of the Indian labour force.
4. There are more home-based workers in rural areas than in urban areas, although in recent years urban, home-based work grew faster. This is reflected in the steady increases in the numbers of urban home-based workers from 9.8 million in 1999-00 to 16.9 million in 2011-12³.

¹Source: Raveendran G., Sudarshan R.M. and J. Vanek (2013): "Home-based workers in India: Statistics and Trends". HNSA & WIEGO

²Same as 1 above

³Same as 1 above

**TABLE 1: HOME-BASED WORKERS BY BRANCH OF INDUSTRY:
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, 2011-12**

Industries			
	Females	Males	Total
Mining & Quarrying	0.2	0	0.1
Manufacturing	72.7	41.2	54.7
Construction	0	1.1	0.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.1	35.1	26.1
Hotels & Restaurants	3.3	4.1	3.7
Transport, Storage & Communication	0.1	3.4	2
Financial Intermediation	0.6	1.5	1.1
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	0.4	3.8	2.3
Education	4.1	2.3	3.1
Health & Social Work	0.6	1.4	1.1
Other Community, Social & Personal Services	4	6	5.2
Total	100	100	100

Source: Raveendran G., Sudarshan R.M. and J. Vanek (2013): "Home-based workers in India: Statistics and Trends". HNSA &WIEGO



5. Though there are slightly more men home-based workers as compared to women home-based workers, the number of women home-based workers is still a sizable 16 million⁴. While home-based workers are present in most branches of economic activity, they are concentrated in manufacturing and trade and repair services (Table 1). A little more than half (55%) of all home-based workers are in manufacturing. Most women in home-based work were in manufacturing—in fact an overwhelming 73% of all women home-based workers are in manufacturing.
6. Other significant facts are that:
 - Seventy five percent of manufacturing units and workers in India are informal: of these 75% are home-based (Basole and Basu 2011) – in other words, around 50% of manufacturing units in India are home-based. However, the emphasis remains on large and medium enterprise and there is no mention of the micro enterprise and the home-based worker.
 - It is observed that while in 1999-2000, 60.7% of women employed in manufacturing were in home based manufacturing, this grew to 68.8% in 2011-12⁵. This indicates a growing role for women in home-based manufacturing. By contrast, home-based manufacturing was a far less important source of employment for men. In 2011-12, manufacture of wearing apparel was the second (the first being tobacco products - beedi) most important industry employing 25.7% of women in home-based manufacturing, up from 6.2 % in 1999-2000 ⁶.

The opportunities for home-based work to contribute to India's growth story

7. The policy environment in India today is very conducive for promoting, encouraging and incentivising home-based work in the informal sector. A number of large initiatives/programmes of the Government of India, namely *Make in India, Skilling India, Jan Dhan Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Digital India, Prime Minister Awas Yojana* etc, if used effectively, can go a long way to ensure home-based work contributes to India's growth story. 'Come, Make in India!' - the clarion call of Prime Minister Modi, has found resonance with India Inc. His promise of single-window clearances, minimal procedures and cutting out of any red-tapism has caught the attention of the world. This initiative and other policy pronouncements of the Government of India are seen as vital impetuses for employment and growth. While launching the initiative, on 25 September 2014, the Prime Minister said *"It is important for the purchasing power of the common man to increase, as this would further boost demand, and hence spur development, in addition to benefitting investors. The faster people are pulled out of poverty and brought into the middle class, the more opportunity will there be for global business. Therefore, investors from abroad need to create jobs. Cost effective manufacturing and a handsome buyer – one who has purchasing power – are both required. More employment means more purchasing power."* Make in India focuses on 25 sectors (Annex 1) of the economy for job creation and growth. Skilling India, Digital India and Mudra Yojana—are other key programmes that compliment the Government's flagship 'Make in India' initiative.
8. Of all the 'Make in India' sectors, the ones that have the maximum scope for synergy with home-based work are the Textile and Garment Making and Food Processing sectors. These sectors can not only become significant contributors to India's growth story but also provide opportunities to address the poverty and employment concerns of a large segment of non-agricultural, informal workers, namely, the home-based workers.

⁴Table 1 in Same document as 1 above

⁵Source: Same as 1 above

⁶ Source: Same as 1 above



9. Home-based workers in textiles and garment making sector:

- There 9.19 million home-based workers in Textile and Garment making sector in India (See Table 2 below).
- There are over 5.5 million women home-based workers, as against 3.6 million men home-based workers

**TABLE 2: STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF HOME-BASED WORKERS
IN TEXTILES AND GARMENTS
2011-12 SURVEY**

State	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Jammu & Kashmir	92,187	72,122	164,309	2.5	1.3	1.8
Himachal Pradesh	13,323	14,951	28,275	0.4	0.3	0.3
Punjab	49,133	236,438	285,571	1.4	4.2	3.1
Chandigarh	237	5,821	6,058	0.0	0.1	0.1
Uttaranchal	26,344	52,607	78,951	0.7	0.9	0.9
Haryana	74,742	34,338	109,079	2.1	0.6	1.2
Delhi	35,963	18,921	54,884	1.0	0.3	0.6
Rajasthan	85,029	264,598	349,627	2.3	4.7	3.8
Uttar Pradesh	1,021,201	1,115,904	2,137,105	28.2	20.0	23.2
Bihar	201,887	37,802	239,689	5.6	0.7	2.6
Sikkim	3,155	2,099	5,254	0.1	0.0	0.1
Arunachal Pradesh	111	66	177	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nagaland	789	6,937	7,727	0.0	0.1	0.1
Manipur	6,127	57,202	63,329	0.2	1.0	0.7
Mizoram	344	1,023	1,367	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tripura	1,778	1,278	3,056	0.0	0.0	0.0
Meghalaya	938	3,300	4,238	0.0	0.1	0.0
Assam	11,310	43,570	54,880	0.3	0.8	0.6
West Bengal	607,111	900,650	1,507,761	16.8	16.2	16.4
Jharkhand	37,839	29,938	67,777	1.0	0.5	0.7
Orissa	52,714	97,042	149,756	1.5	1.7	1.6

Chhattisgarh	7,659	28,846	36,505	0.2	0.5	0.4
Madhya Pradesh	164,067	100,063	264,130	4.5	1.8	2.9
Gujarat	209,752	488,298	698,050	5.8	8.8	7.6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8	2,235	2,243	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maharashtra	109,458	397,766	507,224	3.0	7.1	5.5
Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana)	225,052	578,334	803,386	6.2	10.4	8.7
Karnataka	124,723	229,873	354,596	3.4	4.1	3.9
Goa	213	2,920	3,132	0.0	0.1	0.0
Lakshadweep		142	142	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kerala	37,568	205,668	243,236	1.0	3.7	2.6
Tamil Nadu	418,995	536,918	955,913	11.6	9.6	10.4
Pondicherry	1,469	3,149	4,618	0.0	0.1	0.1
Andaman & Nicobar		513	513	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	3,621,228	5,571,331	9,192,559	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Raveendran G., 2017, drawn from Employment-Unemployment Survey of 2011-12 by clubbing HBWs in manufacture of textiles and manufacture of wearing apparel

- The largest number of Home-based workers live in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
- A large percentage of women Home-based workers work in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana) and West Bengal, besides Uttar Pradesh which has the highest concentration.
- There are considerably more women Home-based workers (compared to men Home-based workers) in Punjab, Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand), Rajasthan, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana), Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the North East States.



10. Home-based workers in Food Processing:

TABLE 3: STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF HOME-BASED WORKERS IN FOOD PROCESSING

Numbers				Percentage		
State	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Jammu & Kashmir	21,038	-	21,038	2.1	0.0	1.3
Punjab	18,214	2,366	20,580	1.9	0.3	1.2
Uttaranchal	4,878	-	4,878	0.5	0.0	0.3
Haryana	7,101	-	7,101	0.7	0.0	0.4
Rajasthan	23,961	31,828	55,789	2.4	4.5	3.3
Uttar Pradesh	238,921	128,486	367,407	24.4	18.3	21.9
Bihar	118,489	13,719	132,208	12.1	2.0	7.9
Manipur	2,963	8,007	10,970	0.3	1.1	0.7
Mizoram	182	-	182	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tripura	2,762	3,284	6,046	0.3	0.5	0.4
Meghalaya	2,130	877	3,008	0.2	0.1	0.2
Assam	11,635	3,295	14,930	1.2	0.5	0.9
West Bengal	67,861	65,813	133,674	6.9	9.4	8.0
Jharkhand	30,140	9,633	39,773	3.1	1.4	2.4
Orissa	64,304	66,566	130,870	6.6	9.5	7.8
Chhattisgarh	18,941	19,832	38,773	1.9	2.8	2.3
Madhya Pradesh	53,167	25,043	78,211	5.4	3.6	4.7
Gujarat	37,763	13,637	51,399	3.9	1.9	3.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	288	288	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maharashtra	68,464	56,300	124,764	7.0	8.0	7.4
Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana)	69,023	77,321	146,345	7.0	11.0	8.7
Karnataka	27,102	29,939	57,041	2.8	4.3	3.4
Goa	150	151	301	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kerala	52,001	51,228	103,229	5.3	7.3	6.1
Tamil Nadu	37,555	94,209	131,763	3.8	13.4	7.8
Andaman & Nicobar	807	-	807	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total	979,552	701,822	1,681,374	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Raveendran G., 2017, drawn from Employment-Unemployment Survey of 2011-12

- There are over 1.68 million home-based workers working in the Food Processing sector in India
- The state-wise break-up is documented in Table 3 (above).
- Over .7 million women home-based workers and nearly 1 million men home-based workers are engaged in Food Processing
- The largest concentration (percentage) of Home-based workers in this sector work in Uttar Pradesh (22%), followed by Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana) (8.7%) and West Bengal (8%).
- States with the highest concentration of all women Home-based workers engaged in Food Processing are Uttar Pradesh (18.3%), Tamil Nadu (13.4%) and Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana) (11%).
- There are more women home-based workers than men home-based workers in Food Processing in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana), and Tamil Nadu.



11. Conclusions:

- The policy environment in India has the potential to provide opportunities for home-based workers, especially women home-based workers to contribute to India's growth story.
- In 2011-12, there were already 37.4 million home-based workers in India; of which a sizable 16 million were women home-based workers⁷.
- From amongst the 25 'Make in India' sectors, the ones that have the maximum number of home-based workers are the Textile and Garment Making and Food Processing sectors. Here, home-based workers can play a contributory role in India's development; as well as in the country's fight against poverty and to generate employment in the informal sector.
- Of the total 9.19 million home-based workers in Textile and Garment making sector in India; over 5.5 million are women home-based workers⁸.
- While the largest number of textile and garment home-based workers live in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; women home-based workers number more than men home-based workers in Punjab, Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand), Rajasthan, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana), Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the North East States.
- There are over 1.68 million home-based workers working in the Food Processing sector in India; of which women home-based workers account for over .7 million⁹.
- The largest concentration of home-based workers in this sector, work in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana) and West Bengal. States with the highest concentration of women home-based workers engaged in Food Processing are Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh (inclusive of present day Telangana).
- These facts and figures provide a good idea of the magnitude of home-based work, the sectors and geographical locations for the growth of 'Make in India' and home-based workers contribution thereto. This could be useful both from the policy point of view as well as for businesses across the country, which could benefit by a skilled pool of workers in selected sectors. Care must also be taken to see that this happens hand-in-hand with initiatives that ensure decent work¹⁰ for all.
- It is estimated that 33.4 percent of all home-based workers in 1999-2000 were sub-contracted, piece-rate workers and this figure for women, sub-contracted workers was as high as 45 percent. This shows that they play an important role in global and domestic supply chains that are ever-expanding in this globalising world. Once again there could be an opportunity here.

⁷Source: Same as 1 above

⁸Employment-Unemployment Survey of 2011-12

⁹Employment-Unemployment Survey of 2011-12

¹⁰International Labour Organisation defines this as "Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men." (<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work>)



ANNEX 1

MAKE IN INDIA SECTORS

1. Automobiles
2. Automobile Components
3. Aviation
4. Biotechnology
5. Chemicals
6. Construction
7. Defense Manufacturing
8. Electrical Machinery
9. Electronic Systems
10. Food Processing
11. IT And BPM
12. Leather
13. Media And Entertainment
14. Mining
15. Oil And Gas
16. Pharmaceuticals
17. Ports
18. Railways
19. Renewable Energy
20. Roads And Highways
21. Space
22. Textiles And Garments
23. Thermal Power
24. Tourism and Hospitality
25. Wellness



