

A STUDY OF THE 'STREE KAAMGAAR KALYAN YOJANA' OF POONA MERCHANTS' CHAMBER, PUNE

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ABSTRACT

The Poona Merchants' Chamber is an association of wholesale grocery traders of Pune. Most of these wholesale grocery traders operate from the Market Yard, which is situated at Gultekdi in Pune. The grocery trade in the market yard can function smoothly, only with the support of intermediaries. These include the commission agents, porters (hamaals), and the female workers (streekaamgaar). The 'streekaamgaar' (female workers) do the job of cleaning the shops, sweeping, cleaning of foodgrains and related work. These women perform menial jobs, nevertheless, their work is also important for the smooth functioning of the grocery market. The Poona Merchants' Chamber has a separate Committee to implement the 'StreeKaamgaarKalyanYojana' (Scheme for Welfare of Female Workers), which aims at ensuring fair wages and welfare facilities for the female workers in the Market yard. This paper attempts to bring out the unique features of this scheme. Data was collected using questionnaire and interview method from the female workers and the officials of Poona Merchants' Chamber respectively. It was found that the scheme has been highly successful and the female workers are highly satisfied with it. The paper highlights the important role played by Poona Merchants' Chamber in implementing this scheme.

KEY WORDS: Grocery market, Hamaal, Poona Merchants' Chamber, welfare scheme.

REFERENCES

1. Interview with Mr. Ashok Lodha, President of Committee for 'StreeKaamgaarKalyanYojana' of the Poona Merchants' Chamber.
2. Primary data collected through questionnaire for the female workers
3. Interview with Dr. Baba Aadhav, President of the 'HamaalPanchayat', Market Yard, Pune
4. Annual Report of Poona Merchants' Chamber, and 'VanijyaVishwa', the monthly mouthpiece of the Poona Merchants' Chamber.
5. Bare text of the Maharashtra Mathadi, Hamal and other Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1969.