

Women into assembling of Syringe-Ahmedabad

Visit to one of the slum areas in Ahmedabad was undertaken with the purpose of getting better understanding of the work related to surgical devices that was given to HBWs. On exploring the area and interacting with the residents, it came to light that HBWs of the area were primarily into assembling of surgical devices such as chamber used in Syringe and regulator in drip syringe.

The area had other homebased workers involved in other trades such as bundling of plastic spoons, stitching, odd jobs related to garment sectors such as cutting extra threads from the product. But, some were engaged in assembling of the surgical devices for the last five years. .

WORK:

The work had come to these women directly from the factory as a result they didn't have to depend on contractor or middlemen. . As factory is located nearby, women go walking to fetch the raw material. It was interesting to know from these women, how, they discovered factory and availed the work. As these women were looking for job, they approached the representative of factory directly and requested to get the work. .

Looking at these women's need, factory gave the work. To begin with, short orientation at factory was conducted to educate and train them on assembling work. Post orientation, women started getting work from the factory. It was mentioned to us, all women go individually to fetch their raw material. It was surprise to us, to learn that women visited factory 4 times a day. Each time she carries 8 kg sack on her head. She works for two hours to assemble the regular/chambers and then, walk again to deliver the finished product. In a day, she holds 64 kg on her head giving body ache.



HBW carrying a sack of devices

ASSEMBLING:

HBWs, who were involved in assembling parts of the syringe, inserted the tip of the syringe into the chamber and sealed it. Assembling of one chamber, took around one minute and to singlehandedly complete one whole sack of chambers, weighing 8 kg, it took two hours at a stretch.



HBW assembling Chambers

Women who were into assembling of regulators that are used in drip syringe inserted a reel into the regulator. It took around one minute to do the task singlehandedly around two and half hours to complete one whole sack, weighing 8 kg each.



HBWs assembling Regulators

WAGES:

Those women involved in assembling chambers, they are paid on volume/ per kg. For assembling 8 kg of chambers, they are paid Rs. 4 per kg. Therefore, from each sack they earn Rs. 32 and, in a day, they earn Rs. 128. While assembling the parts of the regulator they are paid per sack, which is for Rs. 23. Through the assembling work, women could earn around Rs. 5000 month. The women didn't keep the record of the work, but factory gave the women carbon copy of the work done as a proof of record. The factory made monthly payment. There was no instances of rejection, as women were able to deliver exact against the volume provided.

These women had information about the devise which is further transport to Delhi by factory.

WORKING CONDITION:

HBWs of the area like their counterparts in areas such as Nobel Nagar, Raja veer Nagar etc had easy access to water, electricity and other basic civic amenities, the roads of the area were well paved and the houses were also properly constructed. On an average there were 5-7 members in every house. While talking about their work, HBWs mentioned that they take the help of other members of the family at times in order to finish the work on time. On being asked if they would like to learn different skills as well HBWs said that they are open to learn as many skills as required as long as they are able to get more work and better payment. Dwellers of the area particularly the young housewives showed keen interest in learning stitching, embroidery and embellishment work, as they found it both creative and interesting. Harsha ben one of the resident of the area said " I love to do work that is creative in nature such as embroidery , it makes me feel really good but due to unavailability of work had to give up my interest and get into this assembling trade , as there is regular work available and better payment in this field." Almost all of them complained about body ache because of carrying the weight on their head. The women with whom we interacted were vocal and well informed. However, these women didn't consider themselves as worker. Because, they said "financial and medical facilities are provided to people who are working in the office, we are doing the work at our place, we are not entitled to such provisions." The women voiced one demand to have more and better wages.