


Chapter 7


Poverty and Social Insecurity Among the Unorganized Workers of Garment Industry: A Qualitative Study through the Lens of Human Security Approach

Jipson Joseph

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-1795-5051>

Christ University, India

Achyutananda Mishra

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4113-0974>

Christ University, India

ABSTRACT

Poverty and social insecurities cause alarming inequalities. Employment is a secure mechanism to overcome these instabilities. However, formal and informal industrial sectors have insecure employment conditions affecting workers' well-being. Inequality is worse in the garment industrial sector as it has more unorganized workers. This is evident in developing countries like India and Bangladesh, which are demanding a human-centered security approach. This chapter explores, using qualitative methodology's semi-structured interview method, poverty and social insecurities of the unorganized garment workers in the Bommanahalli area of Urban Bangalore, India. The chapter also uses empirical study data from the Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies (2023) to critically evaluate the garment sectors of Bangalore and Bangladesh through the lens of the human security paradigm. The study reveals

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-1767-0.ch007

that the unorganized garment workers of these developing countries face severe poverty and social insecurities. It requires urgent action from both governments using a human security approach.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty and social insecurities significantly challenge human lives, causing human security issues (Shildrick et al., 2012). Poverty and inequality are comparatively very high in India (Chancel & Piketty, 2019). Bangladesh faces the same complexities more severely (Bhattacharya et al., 2024). India's central and state governments provide few social security schemes like old-age pensions, widow pensions, and monthly stipends for unemployed women and youth (Mohurle et al., 2022). Social security schemes are significantly less in Bangladesh (Bhattacharya et al., 2024). However, all these short-term support systems and social security policies do not ensure true welfare and human security (Razavi, 2022). To address these insecurities and issues, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (1994) developed a human security approach to focus the State's interest in real-life situations of people. The human security paradigm tries to secure human life through its human-centered approach in seven broad categories, such as economic security. Such a human-centered approach is advanced as an efficient means for eradicating poverty and ensuring social security. From a people-centered approach, employment is often considered a substantial medium to escape the poverty trap (Kuldasheva et al., 2023). Secure and well-paid employment is highly acclaimed as the real long-term support system for people's security (Ellwood, 1988). However, such secure employment opportunities are scarce in developing countries like India and Bangladesh, where many people face severe economic and social inequalities in their absence. Human life becomes intolerable with these inequalities. It is very evident in low-pay and no-pay sectors (Shildrick et al., 2012), failing to secure people's lives and welfare (Stewart, 2007) and to ensure the demands of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-6, 8, & 10 (No poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, and reduced inequalities).

Adequate payment and security schemes in the working sector are essential for human well-being and sustainable societal growth (ILO, 2021). Compared to the developed world, these are vital prerequisites for the sustainable development of the developing countries. India and Bangladesh have achieved considerable growth in poverty eradication, but still, 2.2% of Indian and 5.01% of Bangladesh populations are below the World Bank's poverty line (Rai, 2024). Complete poverty eradication will be possible only by creating more secure and adequately paid employment

30 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/poverty-and-social-insecurity-among-the-unorganized-workers-of-garment-industry/386581

Related Content

Secure Cyber-Physical Systems for Improving Transportation Facilities in Smart Cities and Industry 4.0

Vijey Thayananthanand Javad Yazdani (2021). *Research Anthology on Cross-Industry Challenges of Industry 4.0* (pp. 772-791).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/secure-cyber-physical-systems-for-improving-transportation-facilities-in-smart-cities-and-industry-40/276848

How Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Creates Value: An Evidence-Based Look at the Aerospace and Defence Industry

Hadi Tolga Göksidanand Erhan Solakolu (2025). *International Journal of Applied Industrial Engineering* (pp. 1-18).

www.irma-international.org/article/how-product-lifecycle-management-plm-creates-value/368255

Demand Forecasting in Hybrid MTS/MTO Production Systems

Moeen Sammak Jalaliand S.M.T. Fatemi Ghomi (2018). *International Journal of Applied Industrial Engineering* (pp. 63-78).

www.irma-international.org/article/demand-forecasting-in-hybrid-mtsmt-to-production-systems/202421

Traffic Control of Two Parallel Stations Using the Optimal Dynamic Assignment Policy

Seifedine Kadry (2012). *Handbook of Research on Industrial Informatics and Manufacturing Intelligence: Innovations and Solutions* (pp. 372-389).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/traffic-control-two-parallel-stations/64729

Application of Hybrid Firefly Algorithm-Tabu Search Technique to Minimize the Makespan in Job Shop Scheduling problem

Manoj Govind Kharat, Siddhant Sanjeev Khadke, Rakesh D. Raut, Sachin S. Kamble, Sheetal Jaisingh Kambleand Mukesh Govind Kharat (2016). *International Journal of Applied Industrial Engineering* (pp. 1-21).

www.irma-international.org/article/application-of-hybrid-firefly-algorithm-tabu-search-technique-to-minimize-the-makespan-in-job-shop-scheduling-problem/168603