

Campaign on Identity card

In India 93% of the workers are in the informal sector and the number has increased in the pandemic. With the increase in the inflation rate, the informal workers especially the women workers are simultaneously engaged in more than one trades to earn their living. The livelihood of the workers is also seasonal and they change the livelihood as per the needs. One of the signification workforce in the informal sector is of self- employed workers like street vendors and waste recyclers.

Whenever the social security schemes are declared or some welfare benefit is declared by the Govt. it becomes difficult for the workers to prove their identity and get the benefit.

Moreover, the Govt is also not aware about the huge numbers of workers involved in the informal livelihood as they have no records. The lack of workers record in the informal economy hampers the policy formulation and enactment of the laws and legislation to protect and regulate the livelihood of the workers.

The census also does not capture the workers and their livelihood. Very recently according to the newspaper article the census claimed that the women workers in the total work force is decreasing. We had to fight it and show that we are having membership of 2.1 million.

System Gaps

1. The Govt. are not aware and does not recognise the informal workers as a major work force.
2. Though contributing substantially in the economics, export, savings of the country the informal work force remain undermined.
3. The role of the informal workforce continues to be neglected by the Govt.
4. The employers/contractors refuse to issue identity card to the workers because of liability under the labour laws.
5. The women workers are themselves not aware of their identity as the workers.
6. In current digitalization the identification of some kind in the must for the worker otherwise she will not be eligible benefit.

Campaigns

Long term

1. Social dialogues with the Govt. and other stake holders to provide some sort of identification to the worker.
2. Setting up the centres in the participatory process with member-based organisations to provide identification to the worker

Short term

1. Mobilization and creating awareness
2. Hand holding the workers for registration and accessing the Identity cards and begetting requisite documents for it.