

RARE

730

A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC BEHAVIOUR OF WOMEN WORKERS' WELFARE IN GARMENT INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

GUWANI MADIGASEKERA

FGS/02/25/01/2005/28

The dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya as a partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Master of Business Administration Degree Programme.

ප්‍රවේශ අංකය:	730
වර්ග අංකය:	

**THE FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA
SRI LANKA**

December 2009



ABSTRACT

Garment industry plays an important role in Sri Lankan economy and captured a vast majority of the total labour market in Sri Lanka. It has become Sri Lanka's largest export industry since 1986 and largest net foreign exchange earner since 1992. The establishment of factories began to accelerate after 1992 with the 200 garment factory program which aimed at reducing unemployment. The geographical location of garment factories shows that the industry is not well scattered in the country. Most of the garment industries are located in Colombo and Gampaha Districts because of better infrastructure facilities and close proximity to Colombo harbour. Women account for two thirds of the garment workforce dominating employment in the industry. Most of the women workers came from rural areas to free trade zone areas in search of employment. The industry became a source of income for many poor households in rural areas. This study aims to make a deeper observation and analyze the socio economic behaviour of women workers' welfare in Garment Industry in Sri Lanka.

This study was conducted towards four key objectives including the main objective to examine the socio economic behaviour and the degree of its influence on the women welfare. This analysis covers four research questions. Five hypotheses were formulated based on the variables used in the conceptual framework. The relationship between independent variables and dependent variables were mainly considered. For this purpose a sample of hundred and fifty respondents were selected from the garment industry. Both primary and secondary data collection methods were used to collect data and a great emphasis was given on primary data collection techniques. Mainly questionnaire, interview and investigation methods were applied to collect relevant data. Data was evaluated using descriptive statistical tools.

Key issues were identified through the data analysis and results of the research. Further, this overall study provides better understanding about the socio economic behaviour of women workers' welfare in garment industry in Sri Lanka with a set of suggestions for the survival of this industry. It is sure that this study would be a better basis for future researchers who are in the need of conducting surveys related to this industry on other aspects.