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EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INFORMAL SECTOR: A STUDY OF WORKING WOMEN'S FORUM (WWF) NGO, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

In India, 84 % of the working class women work in an informal system of work (i.e., the informal sector) and their ventures require informal systems of credit. The poor women in slum and rural areas lacked access to production credit for their economic ventures as the formal banking system neither recognized their valuable economic role nor considered them bankable/credit worthy. Further, the dispossession of assets, destitution, illiteracy and lack of awareness, knowledge and information on essential matters on the part of the poor women had created a myth among the elite that the poor women cannot manage their own situations. Thus, the working women's forum took up the struggle to organize the poor women workers into groups, who had no experience about any formal / informal union.

KEYWORDS: Workers, Poor Women, Women's Forum, Empowered Poor, Micro- Entrepreneurs