

“Zarina Bibi”

Zarina Bibi is not able to get out of the house very often so she has never been out to explore the market for their production and do not know about the price of their products in the markets. The middleman brings the work order. She is aware of the exploitation by the middleman, but fears that she would lose her jobs if she argues with him. She also feels their handwork brings health problems, but no welfare for them. Her living and living standard is lower than a poor family.

“I am living in a one-room rental accommodation with 7 family members including my 3 daughters, two sons and husband, who has been jobless since last two years. I work for ten hours a day, seven days a week, yet unable to give to eat sufficient to my family”, told by Zarina Bibi. She works in embroidery, stitch work and quilt work on piece rate. She lives at Kahna Nou village 25 km from Lahore city. She is in her age of 30 but looks an old woman of 55 years. She is illiterate and has got no training she is working for. The electricity and water supply is not available to her in the house.



“One of the major problems is long distance from home to market place from where I get order and deliver the finished products. The high cost of transportation suffers our earning and time”, informed Zarina Bibi. She does not have the capability to bargain in the market with the suppliers, shopkeepers and the middlemen and does not know the market value of her work.

Zarina is attached with an organization Working Women Union yet it could not help her in any way. She has no role to play in the organization neither it provided order to her. The organization is not registered one thus no social security and benefits are enjoyed by her and other women workers.

She suffers from back ache and high blood pressure but no health center is working in her village therefore she has to go to Lahore for treatment which is very hard for her to afford.

When asked about her most essential needs, she replied, “I work for 10 hours a day and get only Rs. 500 to 700. I feel ashamed of myself as a mother when my son and daughter ask for fruit and I am unable to provide them with any”.

