

Life of Home based workers

Urban Study Report

Findings of Kasur and Multan



By Kishwar Sultana

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Findings of Two districts of Punjab

Kishwar Sultana



The document is an output of a project
*"Strengthening the Organizations of Urban Poor Homebased Workers
for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance"*
by HomeNet South Asia.

Contents

<i>Glossary</i>	5
<i>Excutive Summary</i>	7
<i>Background</i>	9
<i>A view: Women Home-based Workers in Pakistan</i>	11
<i>Kasur:</i> <i>Key Findings of the FGDs with HBWs and Government Officials</i>	13
<i>Findings with the District Government Officials</i>	16
<i>Multan:</i> <i>Focus Group Discussion with HBWs and Government Officials</i>	21
<i>Life of Homebased Workers: Survey Findings</i>	26
<i>Annexure</i>	33

Glossary

CBO	Community Based organization
CCB	Citizen Community Board
CDA	Capital Development authority
FGD	Focus Group discussion
HBWs	Home based workers
HNSA	HomeNet South Asia
HNP	HomeNet Pakistan
LIT	Lahore Improvement Trust
LDA	Lahore Development Authority
MCL	Metropolitan corporation Lahore
MDG	Millennium development goals
PCO	Population Census Organization
PCRWR	Pakistan council for Research in Water Resources
RDA	Rawalpindi Development Authority
SDI	Spatial data Infrastructure
TMA	Tehsil Municipal Authority
TMO	Tehsil Municipal Officer
UNDP	United National Development Authority
UC	Union council
WASA	Water and Sanitation Authority

Executive Summary

The study on Urban Planning Policies and Practices: Life of Homebased Workers covers urban planning, policies and practices and issues of homebased workers in urban areas in two major cities of the province of Punjab and is a continuation of the Urban Policies and Practices focusing on the impacts of urban planning on the livelihoods of home based workers.

Punjab is undergoing a process of urbanization driven by structural economic change. It is transforming from an agriculturally-based economy to a manufacturing and service based economy. This transformation will continue over the next decade. According to the World Bank's Development Data Platform (DDP) database (2006), urban-based manufacturing and service sectors composed 77 percent of the Pakistan's GDP in 2003 and more than 90 percent of GDP growth during 1999 - 2003.

The study was conducted by HomeNet Pakistan under a project of HomeNet South Asia Trust for Inclusive Urban Policies in South Asia and South East Asian countries. The ultimate objective of this analysis is to strengthen the organizations of urban home based workers for their greater visibility and participation in city governance. In this sense, it is imperative to highlight issues which urban home-based workers face in terms of urban planning and development. In doing so, it serves therefore as baseline to see what changes can be brought about in urban policies and planning development approaches.

The study was executed in Multan and Kasur groups of home-based workers. HomeNet Pakistan hired a consultant to undertake the study. With the assistance of HomeNet Pakistan member organizations in two cities , Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) were conducted. In the two cities groups of women home based workers and city officials were focused.

Poor conditions of roads and streets, ill-conceived planning and implementation of the development projects, unavailability of drinking water, absence of medical facilities for mother and children, water borne diseases, unavailability of schools and colleges, long-distanced transportation facilities, bedding of streets above the level of houses and consequential back-flow of water, shortage and failure of electricity, silence of labor laws and labor department, exploitation at the hands of middlepersons and factories, mismatch between earning and expenditures by the women home based workers and loss of savings or even income at every unfortunate downturn are some of the realities which combine together, make development planning a critical subject for life, health and prosperity of women home-based workers.

The study recommends that the challenges faced by the urban

poor need a new planning with regard to effectively harness the potential of the urban unemployed or underemployed to the improvement of the residential areas which is also the workplace of home based workers. There is a need to initiate a process of empowering low-income groups and communities living in poverty, by expanding their economic opportunities, employment, and access to social services, basic infrastructure and other requirements for sustainable livelihoods. In the given situation focus should be on building provincial capacity to address urban development issues and programmes with a gender lens. Engagement with city authorities through dialogues and consultations and bridging the gaps between the city planners and home based workers organizations should be the integral part of the strategy for developing a comprehensive pro home based workers urban policy.

In order to address the issues of urban home based workers, community initiatives should be respected and attitude of partnership with people needs to be promoted and nurtured. A space for interaction between government agencies, interest groups (formal and informal) and communities needs to be created, nurtured and institutionalized over a period of time. All plans at city, sector and or neighborhood level needs to be processed through public hearings from conceptual to the final stage. In order to develop a sense of collectiveness among home based workers their voices should be mainstreamed at union council level by giving them fair representation for recognition and visibility.

Ume-Laila Azhar
HomeNet Pakistan

Background

HomeNet Pakistan is a network of organizations formed to raise awareness about the working conditions of home based women workers who comprise 70% of the informal workforce behind the country's economic activities. It is working for the recognition and support of home based workers since 2005.

Home-based work has its own history and in the world it has become a stable and profitable mode of production and a source of economy. Although, it is beneficial especially for women as they can earn their living while being stayed within the premises of their homes, however, unfortunately their situation in Pakistan is worse for multiple reasons.

This study has been conducted in two cities of Punjab i.e., Multan and Kasur, to understand the issues of urban home based workers around the livelihood and housing. It explores as to how absence or lack of basic amenities like water, pavements, electricity, drainage etc. affects their livelihood. Surrounded with fear about eviction and evacuation by corporation and builders homebased workers are always in threat. In addition, it reflects the existing and successful schemes benefitting the urban dwellers in particular to homebased workers. It is in continuation of the last urban study (Nov'2010- Feb'2011), carried out in four cities in the province of Punjab, Pakistan (Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi), focusing mainly the infrastructural and service-related problems of the cities as they affect home-based workers, especially women. In Specific terms, the study has the following key objectives:

- Study urban policies on poor and actual practices of two cities of Punjab (Kasur and Multan)
- Identification of the urban issues around the livelihood of homebased workers in two cities. In Kasur, the areas include UC # 7,10,11, Basti Lal Shah, Nafess Colony, Dosehra Ground, Dhanpat Road, Railway Road, Sewan Wala Bhatta, Sabri Basti, and in Multan, areas are UC #4, Chah Koray Wala, Chah Phool Wala, Ahmedabad, Chah Mirhyar, Ghosia bad UC# 26
- Identify schemes and programmes with the cooperation of urban poor and identify departments and their roles in serving the urban poor

For this purpose, Home Net Pakistan hired a consultant who adopted the following methodology:

- Two focus group discussion with 24 HBWs in each city (Kasur and Multan)
- Meeting and interaction with the local government officials
- Individual interviews of the home based workers
- Exploring the literature on schemes and city policies in the two given cities

The questions asked from home based workers during one –on-one interviews were relating to their economic conditions, children's education, family information such as number of children and husband's profession. They were also asked about health conditions, monthly income, availability of work, availability of civic facilities such as provision of clean drinking water, health facilities, recreational places, disposal of solid waste, sewerage system, cleanliness of the area, access to schools and hospitals, attitude of authorities concerning the solution of their problems.

Women Home-based Workers in Pakistan

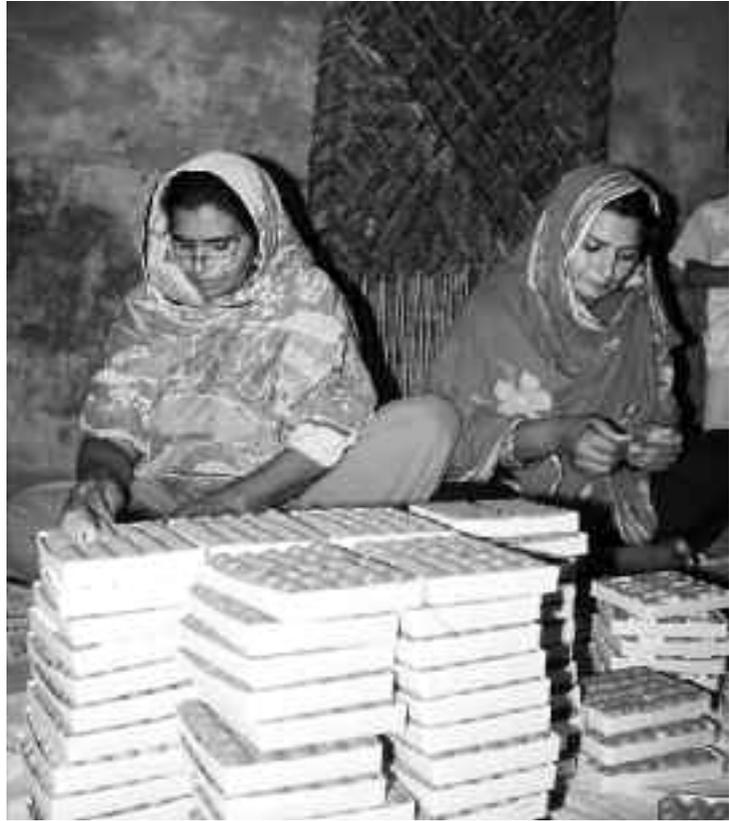
According to government's estimated figures there are about 8.52 million home based workers in Pakistan. The proportion of women workers is 65 % in contrast to only 4% of all male home based workers. They contribute to the country's economic growth, as we see that Pakistan accounts 80 % of the world's match-grade footballs and earns nearly \$50 million in foreign exchange from this industry alone. According to the figures given by the concerned civil society organizations, this figure was about 20 million and out of which 12 million were women.

Most of the women home-based workers in the country are piece rate workers. They receive work from sub-contractors or intermediaries and are paid a piece rate, according to the number of items produced. They do not have any direct contact with the markets for the goods they produce. These women usually come from lower or lower middle income background and form various age groups as well. They usually possess very little or no education. Young girls of age six to fourteen work and help their mothers in making and finishing the tasks assigned to them by the middleman against extremely low wages, even after working 12-16 hours a day under conditions that are harsh, unhealthy, and hazardous to them.

Home based workers are involved in different sectors like that of carpet weaving, bangle making, football stitching, sewing, knitting, embroi-



dery etc. There are no local laws or rules that are supportive to these workers. They are not even recognized as a labor force despite the fact labor laws in the country exist but they don't give any coverage to them. The labor protection, social security coverage and provision of safety and health services and benefits are not extended to them. They are unable to access the services, facilities, rights and benefits, including a fair remuneration under national laws. They have no easy access even to basic civic facilities like that of health and clean drinking water. They areas where these workers normally dwell are poor areas in terms of civic facilities like availability of clean drinking water, access to health care centers, hospitals, schools, recreational parks and even sewerage system.



Kasur



Key Findings of the Focus Group Discussions with Homebased Workers and Government Officials, District Kasur

Findings with the Women Homebased Workers

In district Kasur, consultant conducted four FDGs. Two were conducted with the home based workers and two with the district government officials. All FDGs were conducted at the office of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHD) on March 9-10, 2013. About 32 home based women workers participated in the first FDG and 18 in the second. Majority of the workers were found to be earning their livings through sewing and embroidery.



Comprehensive information regarding their living style, economic conditions, civic facilities, health conditions, availability of basic rights and etc was ascertained through questionnaires, containing a variety of close and open ended questions. A total of 287 women homebased workers were surveyed in this regard. At least seven case-studies were also developed from within the same group which participated both in survey as well as FDGs. The case-studies reflect their plight in terms of the absence of civic facilities especially clean drinking water, electricity supply, health complications, irregularities in earning their living, uncertainty of future of their children, etc. These also reflect information regarding domestic responsibilities, boarding and lodging, clothing and marriages.

In district Kasur, the residents, particularly in localities where these homebased workers reside, face problems of environmental pollution, and its other associated problems like poor sewerage system, air pollution and unavailability of clean drinking water. Similarly some other problems which the residents of such urban localities, especially that of Kot Muraad, were the poor arrangements for the disposal of solid waste, unavailability of recreational places as well as lack of medical facilities.

Findings with the District Government Officials

District government officials, belonging to Environment, Public Health Engineering, Education, Community Development, Social Welfare and Health Departments were present in the focus group discussions here at Kasur. Officials from GRAP and Town Administration also attended the first FDG. About 16 district government officials were the part of second FDG with government officials, discussion with them highlighted schemes those departments were running and schemes that were under process. The officials told that the schemes aimed to benefit workers along with other citizens of district Kasur especially those living in urban areas of the said district. They also informed how those workers could access departments for their grievances



They also informed how those workers could access departments for their grievances

Razua Sultana

Razua Sultana, a homebased worker at Kasur, informed that she stitches clothes and her daily income was between Rs 100-150. She has seven children, four daughters and three sons. Her husband works at a wood cutting machine and was a cardiac patient. She told that her eyesight was weak. It makes for her difficult in hours when electricity fails. She added that they were unable to have treatment in the government hospital. She said that her residence was at Kot Muraad and to visit the hospital they spend Rs about 100 as fare just for one visit. She added that since her husband was heart patient therefore travelling through packed commuter buses was not possible for her and for travelling they have to take auto rickshaw. She said that she was unable to afford her children's education. She further told that her sons were younger than her daughters and were not able to do some job. Razia also shared that all of her daughters were the age of marriage but the family was too poor to make arrangements. She said that they live in a three marla house and the accommodation was insufficient to comfortably house the family. She also has complaints about provision of clean drinking water, unavailability of electricity, poor sewerage system in the area provision of poor services by water and sanitation agency and solid waste management.

and avail those services.

Since one of the major concerns of home based workers in district Kasur was the environmental pollution, the District Environment Officer informed that there were about 1000 industrial units in the district and about 275 tanneries. He informed that there was a supply of about 18,000 cubic industrial waste per day in district Kasur and to cope with it the department had installed incinerators and water treatment plants. He informed that currently about 13,000 cubic industrial water was being treated through treatment plants. The government was planning to install more such plants. The District Officer informed that although the capacity of incinerators was insufficient to dispose of the



Zainab Bibi

Zainab Bibi, another homebased worker at Kasur, told that she makes Prandas and her every day earning was Rs 50. Zainab has seven children and her husband was leading a crippled life due to having defect in his leg. She informed that infection developed in her husband's leg when it was fractured almost 19 years before. She also told that her three daughters who are younger than her sons have attained the age of marriage but the family is unable to manage all that. Expressing her sentiments, Zainab wished her sons and daughters were educated.

entire industrial waste, the government has however plans to install more incinerators for the disposal of waste. He shared that as far as power looms or cottage industry was concerned, under Environment Protection Act 1999, no industry can be installed or fixed without having NOC from the department. He said that if anyone finds that some industry in residential area was working or an industry works without having NOC from the department than any common citizen can approach the department and lodge complaint.

Representative of the Community Development Department informed that to provide clean drinking water to the citizens, water filtration plants were installed in the city and more work in that regard was being done. They said that a water testing laboratory was working in the city where any citizen could go and have the



Gulzar Bibi

Gulzar bibi, resident of the same area where Zainab lived, also has the same story. She informed that she too has seven children, five daughters and two sons. She told that her three daughters have attained the age of marriage but making arrangement for their marriage was almost next to impossible for the family. Gulzar is also an asthmatic and anemic. She said the doctor had advised her for blood transfusion but getting that kind of treatment was unaffordable to her because her total every day earning was in between Rs 50 to 100. She revealed that her kids also help her in making decoration pieces but despite all that they even could not manage their bread because the earning was inadequate. She complained of poor sewerage system in the area.



water of the area tested without any cost. The citizens can also approach the department to get the complaint addressed.

Representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Kasur, informed that Industrial Homes of the department were working even at tehsil level. Those industrial homes were providing training to common people, including home based workers. They told that those industrial homes were imparting training in 10 different areas and offering three month long courses. Anyone can seek admission in them. Similarly sanatzaars of the department were also operational in the district and facilities to home based workers were being provided to display their work and seek opportunities for earning.



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Health Department representatives shared that as far as facilities for medical treatment were concerned, there was a District Headquarter Hospital in district which provides free medical services to the citizens. They said that free medicines were being provided to the patients. Anyone having any complaint can approach the authorities and have their grievances addressed through proper channel.

GRAP officials informed in the focus group discussion that an inheritance rights committee was working at the district level. It was a four member committee. They shared that anyone having any complaint regarding inheritance rights can lodge complaint with the committee and can have his or her problem resolved without any cost. The departments informed that their services were available to every citizen or resident of the district regardless of their status or position. However priority is given to poor and deserving people they informed.

Multan



Focus Group Discussion with Homebased Workers and Government Officials, Multan

Findings with the Women Homebased Workers

In District Multan, two FGDs were conducted with women homebased workers. First FGD was conducted at Ghausabad and the other was held at Qasam Pur Colony District Multan. These FGDs were conducted on March 13-14, 2013 respectively. Twenty participants attended the first FGD while 33 were there present in the second one. These FGDs were conducted with home based workers residing in urban areas. Same methodology of survey and one-on-one interview was employed here too.

The FGDs inform that stitching, embroidery and bangle making are most common home-based employment sectors at Multan. As far as domestic issues were concerned, these were almost the



Nasreen Bibi

Nasreen Bibi, at Multan, told that she made tassels of bed sheets and pillows. After completing one bed sheet and two pillows she earns nine rupees. She told that her husband works at a welding shop and their household monthly income was barely Rs 7,000 while the monthly rent of the house was Rs 5000. Nasreen revealed that she suffers from Hepatitis C but was unable to afford treatment even from a government hospital. She told that the civil hospital and Nishtar Hospital were far away from her residence. Besides this, the injections required for treatment of her illness were unavailable in the hospitals. She told that the price for one injection was Rs 13,000 at a private hospital. She was a sugar patient too. She complained that failure of electricity supply causes strain on eye-sight and the poor sewerage system contributes in harboring mosquitoes and filth in the area, bringing ill health among the family members. The unavailability of clean drinking water was also contributing in health complications, she added.

same as that of those workers at district Kasur.

During both the said FGDs, the issues pointed out by the homebased workers were common related to the civic facilities. The glaring issues included poor sewerage system, unavailability of clean drinking water and failure of electricity. The workers in the FGD at Ghausabad pointed out that sewerage lines in their area



were blocked for the last three months and despite several complaints, the concerned authority was paying no attention. They told that living in that area was a misadventure because of filth caused by the blocked sewerage system and mosquitoes. They complained that clean drinking water was unavailable to them. Majority of workers from among the participants of the FGD complained that they were suffering from different diseases including hepatitis. They also complained that they did not have easy access to medical facilities because both of poor economy and the distance involved. The consultant took eight one-on-one interviews of the homebased workers also. During the interviews it was found that the problems of interviewees in terms of income, supply of electricity, domestic problems, complaints against authorities responsible for civic facilities, health problems were almost the same as those identified at the district Kasur.

Shahjahan Bibi

Shahjahan Bibi, mother of five children, told that her husband died 17 years before and she runs her home with stitch and embroidery work. She is suffering from Hepatitis C and was unable to afford her medical treatment almost the above as enumerated by Nasreen as above. Zubaida Bibi, another mother of seven children, was a patient of Hepatitis C and has similar problems like that of Nasreen and Shahjahan.

The participants of the discussion shared that despite visiting relevant government offices and approaching relevant authorities, their complaints regarding poor sewerage system and availability of clean drinking water remained unaddressed. Among those interviewees, two women were representing home based women workers' unions, namely Women Ghar Mazdoor General Union and Women Food Workers General Union.

These union leaders, Najma Perveen President Ghar Mazdoor Women General Union and Suraya Begum vice president Food Workers General Union told that they were getting united under the umbrellas of their unions and they will jointly fight for their rights.

Findings with District Government Officials

Two FDGs were conducted with officials from district government departments, including Health, Water and Sanitation, Cooperative Societies, Education, Public Health Engineering, Labor, and Town Municipal Administration. These group discussions highlighted services which these departments were providing in dwelling areas of those home based workers and schemes which were in line.

The representatives of the town municipal administration and water and sanitation agency informed that sewerage lines of the city were very old and were unable to bear the load of sewage water. They informed that the sewage lines were being replaced and the work will be expedited as the next government steps in. They also informed that water supply pipelines were also being replaced and new connections for water supply lines were being given to the people. Similarly, new tube wells were being installed with deep boring system so as to ensure that reservoir does not go dry quickly. They also added that the sewage disposal pumps were installed to dispose the

water off. A scheme for water filtration plants was also in progress to ensure provision of clean drinking water. Similarly, representatives from Health Department informed that the government was providing maximum free of cost services in government hospitals and in case some medicines were in shortage it doesn't mean that the services have been



suspended. They told that there were some rules and procedures for the procurement and supply of medicines and the hospital administrations have to follow them. They added that the government hospitals were providing services to the residents of both the rural and urban areas and anyone can avail those services.

Responding to a question regarding the registration of unions of home based workers and their other labor rights such as social security services, wages and etc, District Labor Officer said that registering unions of home based workers was not in the jurisdiction of the department because these workers are not registered as labor. He said that recognizing the as labor was the business of the parliament and once they were recognized as labor through legislation then these workers would be able to avail their labor rights.

It is important to note that since home based workers are not recognized as labor therefore despite their hard work their wages are not fixed as that of the factory or industry workers whose minimum wages are Rs 9,000 per month. These homebased workers despite 10 to 12 hours work could hardly earn Rs 1,500 to 3,000 per month which is just insufficient for all practical purposes. These workers lead their lives below the poverty line. There is not a single government department working for the betterment of these workers despite the fact that they are a major fork force of the country and contribute a lot in the informal economy of Pakistan.

Life of Homebased Workers: Survey Findings

HomeNet Pakistan conducted a comprehensive survey of 287 women homebased workers in Multan and Kasur. The findings of the survey reinforce the information ascertained through FDGs with them. Total 73 questions were put to understand their socio-economic aspects of their lives. There were 267 women respondents who belonged to Muslim community, whereas 1 was Christian and 19 did not opt to disclose their religious identity. Some key areas of this survey have been highlighted in this section.

Literacy Levels

The survey reveals that a majority, as many as 40 %, were illiterate. About 35 % were barely literate. A meager 9 % attended elementary school and 10 % crossed higher-secondary grade. Only 2 % had passed intermediate. The rest of the respondents did not choose to share anything in this regard.

Nature of Work

HomeNet inquired from the homebased workers whether they own the homebased business or were running it under any contractual arrangements. As little as 13 % homebased workers in Multan and Kasur claimed that they own the rights of the homebased work. A major-

Type of Homebased Work: Survey Respondents 287	
Leather and Leather Goods	0
Belt Making	3
Leather Scrapping	0
Shoe making	49
Beedi Making	0
Kite making	4
Garments and Hosiery	5
Chikmaking	49
Chain making	0
Coal Pickers	0
Flower making	4
Adda Work/Embroidery	62
Stitching	38
Hand Work	9
Bead work	1
Gota Kinari (Embellishment)	1
Bangle Making	3
Sweater	7
Embroidery	4
Others	23
Glass Making	1
Baan making	7
Laariyan Making	1
Mirror Making	1
Not Filled	15



Working Since: 287 Respondents	
Less than 3 years	73
4 to 5 years	121
6 to 10 years	48
Above 10 years	34
Seasonal work	6
Regular work	2
Not Filled	3

ity, as many as 77 %, did not own their business. The rest did not share the status. Similarly, through another set of questions, 53% women homebased workers told they receive raw material from contractor at their own door step. Accumulatively, however, each homebased worker spent 651 rupees on the raw material on average. Similarly, in a response to another question, bout 18 % women respondents revealed that they did not even own the equipment they use in their work. However, about 43 % of them claim that they damages or get the equipment fixed in case it fails to work or it breaks. On average, a homebased worker spends 512 rupees in order to get equipment fixed.

Number of Family Members, Earning Members and Male and Female Division

The following table illustrates that the average family size of homebased workers is almost 7 % wherein earning members' average is well below 3. Given the fact that the income of the households in question is just inadequate, the imbalance goes against the households in question. These families are entrapped in a vicious circle of poverty.

Children and their Schooling

The homebased workers' majority, as in the first question, is illiterate or barely literate. However, their priorities for their children are evidently different. The table given on the previous page demonstrates that not a single child is out of school/college presently. However, we are not so sure whether the children would stay in school/college in coming years as necessities of life are getting more expensive each day and life for a common citizen is becoming increasingly impossible.

Value Chain of Work: 287 Respondents	
Preparatory Work	51
Full Production	79
Divided Job	4
Value Addition	132
Others	6
Not Filled	15

Total Family Members 287 Respondents	
Min	1
Max	13
Average	6.645614
Not Filled	1
Earning Members:	
Min	1
Max	8
Average	2.434783
Not Filled	10
Family Members Male	
Min	1
Max	6
Average	3.053191
Not Filled	4
Family members Female	
Min	1
Max	8
Average	3.556738
Not Filled	4

Children and their Schooling	
Min	1
Max	5
Average	2.265306
Not Filled	41

Level of Education Studying in	
Elementary Education	191
Secondary Education	79
Collage / Tech. Education	17



Status of Housing, Security and Basic Amenities

It is not a surprise that a majority of the women homebased workers live in their own houses because a majority would go extra mile to earn at least security of a house. Their houses, of course, are located in slums or areas which are little better than slums.

The survey reveals that 85 % homebased workers have their own houses. The rest are either located in rented houses or leased ones. In case of rented houses, the homebased workers have to pay about 2400 rupees per month on average. Only 2 % homebased workers shared that they faced threats of eviction from the government authorities (because they were running business in residential area).

Those homebased workers who need water in processing of their products (who are 13 %), a majority spends 27 minutes in fetching water on average. It is however significant to note that none of the households were using community washrooms because each household has its own.

Of the surveyed homebased workers, 86 % told that they have a legal electricity connection but electricity fails more than often. As little as 4 % dared to admit they had an illegal connection. The rest did not respond to this question. It is important to note that 34 % homebased workers depended heavily on electricity, which is a rare commodity in Pakistan for quite some time now. Only 7 % homebased workers' contractors pay the electricity bill for them. The rest pay for themselves or opted not to respond. It is however very interesting to note that about 21 % homebased workers paid bribery for an electricity connection.

Space and Condition of the Houses

The survey reveals that 27 % homebased workers have adequate space in their houses for the nature of work they do. A majority of them, as many as 53 %, replied in negative. About 52 % respondents however added that their houses were not properly ventilated. This means they are forced to labor in squalid and dungeon conditions.

The fact that the condition of the houses of the homebased workers is poor is supported by

the finding of this survey too. As many as 51% respondents told that ceiling of their house leaked in monsoon. And 40 % of those who face such adversity live in a damp house. They told that walls and floor of their house gets dampened in rainy season. This is why 62 % did not feel happy with the health and hygiene conditions of their house and the vicinities. The same percentage is also unhappy with the solid waste issues in the area. The rest feel comfortable probably because of deep internalization of such conditions.

Five Most Needed Facilities for Better Performance	
Education	97
Transport	1
Sanitation	19
Health	87
Clean Environment	21
Work Payment	3
Clean Water	72
Work	7
Gas	12
Wage	1
Home	1
Residence	2
Open Space	28
Street Lights	4
Clean every thing	1
Govt. Hospital	1
Need Money treatment my head	1
LPG Gas	3
Load-shedding	2
Increase Income	15
Roads	1
Loan	4
Machinery	1
Material	1
Orders	1
Money	1
Employment	3
Regular Work	1

Five Most Needed Facilities for Better Performance of Homebased Workers

Homebased workers, both in Kasur and Multan district, mark education, health, clean drinking water, open space and better sanitary conditions as the top most important needs of their lives. Except education and health, the rest relate to the municipal services. But it is very significant to note that education ranks as the highest priority.

Status of Labor and Income

Status of labor suggests that on an average a homebased worker has to work for more than six hours daily. This is obviously in addition to the workload they have as women in a masculine society. The survey illustrates that a majority of the surveyed homebased workers work on a piece-rate arrangement, earning about 2,430 rupees a month. Accumulatively, a family of homebased worker, of more than 6 members, earns roughly 7,300 rupees a month income. The difficulty to live a decent life in this much amount is certainly beyond comprehension. HomeNet also learnt, through another question, that 67 % homebased workers walk on foot because they cannot afford transport. Only 4 % could afford a private transport. Those who have to travel by public or private transport add that they might earn additional 1,300 rupees if they have a free transport facility. What this money can do in the lives of these people is obvious.

A majority of surveyed homebased workers, as many as 85 %, did not have any complaint against or suggestion for the contractor. Nearly 8 % do have one. They suggest timely payment and regular work. This is an irony that 84 % of the surveyed women homebased workers in Kasur and Multan did not have any idea of minimum wage in Pakistan. Barely 9 % had heard about it. As many as 30% women homebased workers complained that their wages have never been revised. The rest did not choose to respond to the question about revision of wages. But we become more aware of the situation of the women homebased workers, who because of fear or other reasons, do not protest against the injustice meted out to them by the contractors. As

Working For Months in a Year	
Min	1
Max	12
Average	7.604082
Average Working Hours	
Min	2
Max	30
Average	6.602564
Involvement in the Work	
Full Time(Wage)	93
Piece Rate	147
Part Time(Wage)	36
Casual Work Only	11
Monthly Earning	
Min	200
Max	10000
Average	2437.5
Income from Other Sources	
Min	1500
Max	5000
Average	2500
Earning of Other Family Members	
Min	400
Max	18200
Average	5136.731

many as 88% respondents told that they never refused I work in for raise in the wage/piece rate. However, 6 % did so.

The survey tells us that about 12% women homebased workers resort to friends in case they need some credit. As many as 21% go to relatives in such cases whereas 20 % rely on the contractor. The following table illustrates some implications of taking loan from the contractor:

Implications of Credit from the Contractor: Percentages	
Work More	19
Higher Interest Rate	21
Payment Retained	36
Payment Reduced	22
Delayed Payment	6

Health Problems Due to Nature Work	
Headache	146
Backache	205
Eye Pain	224
Swelling in Limbs and Fingers	161
Digestive Problems	41
Respiratory Problems	11

Medical Treatment Facility	
Govt. hospital	201
Primary Health Clinics	3
Private Clinics	77

Distance for Seeking Medical Help	
Near	156
Far	62

Visit of Clinics / Hospital	
When Sick	223
Never	4

Spending on Health	
Min	10
Max	5000
Average	789.9013

Benefit from Health Camps	
Yes	5
No	218

Medical Support from Employer/Contractor	
Yes	12
No	260

Beneficiary of a Programme/NGO and Memberships

HomeNet Pakistan tried to identify in this survey whether poverty reduction programmes, whether of government or of NGOs, reach out to the women homebased workers. The findings reveal that a striking majority of 93 % denied that they were beneficiary at all. A small percentage, about 3 %, confirmed to be a beneficiary. About 75 % respondents told that they were not member of any NGO or trade union. About 21 % however acknowledged that they were members. Yet, as many as 74 % respondents told that they did not receive any kind of support from any government or a private agency.



Sense of Security

“Do you feel safe in your house?” was one of the questions asked from women homebased workers in this survey. A majority of 79% told they felt safe. About 18 % did not feel safe. As many as 48 % respondents told that the police station was nearby their house. And 37 % told that the police station was far off. Total 61 % respondents revealed that the police was not responsive to their complaints/grievances. About 19% of the respondents replied affirmatively.

Health Conditions

The overall statistics regarding the health conditions of the women homebased workers in Multan and Kasur is not encouraging. The following table reveals that homebased workers beset multiple health issues, and therefore heavily depend on health services being provided in government hospitals. But even In this case, they spend about as much as they do on the maintenance of their equipment or about half of what they spend on travel. A majority of them did not have any medical assistance from medical camps or their employer/contractor. In some cases, respondents are less than 287. It implies that the missing respondents opted not to respond.

Savings and Others Facilities

It is pointless to ask a poverty stricken family about savings. This is why when we asked whether the respondent homebased workers hold any bank account, only 0.6 % replied affirmatively. Same is the case with medical insurance. As little as 1% respondents told that they had a medical insurance. Similarly, barely 0.6% has had life insurance. None has a microcredit facility. Only 23% claimed to have some subsidized food from the contractor. This at least illustrates that contractors run multiple businesses at the same time. However, a majority, as many as 90% respondents, told that they did not have any support, in cash or kind, from any government institution. Barely 1.2 % holds EOBI card and 0.6% has social security card.

Annexure

Questionnaire

for ascertaining Livelihood Issues of
Home-based Workers in Multan (Urban)

A. Respondent Details:

1	Name, Sex & Age:	
2	Religion: Muslim <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Education level : Illiterate <input type="checkbox"/> Semi Illiterate <input type="checkbox"/> Up to Elementary School <input type="checkbox"/> Upto 10 th <input type="checkbox"/> Upto 12 th <input type="checkbox"/> Above 12 th <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Training <input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Home Address and Contact number	
5	Nature of the Work Own account worker <input type="checkbox"/> Contractual worker <input type="checkbox"/>	
6	Name of the work: Leather and Leather goods Belt making Leather scrapping Shoe making Brick making Kite making Garments and Hosiery Chick making Chain making poultry making Flower making Adda work Others(Specify)	Type of work you do in value chain Preparatory work <input type="checkbox"/> Full Production <input type="checkbox"/> Division of Labour <input type="checkbox"/> Finishing & Value Addition in Production <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Years of involvement in this work	Less than 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> Above 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> Regular work <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal work <input type="checkbox"/> If Seasonal then what is your second work

8	<p>Details of Family Members</p> <p>Names , Sex, Relationship, and Age</p> <p>Total Members: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Earning Members: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>1:</p> <p>2:</p> <p>3:</p> <p>4:</p> <p>5:</p>
9	<p>No. of Studying / School-going Children</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>_____ @ Elementary Education</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____ @ Secondary Education</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____ @ College / Tech. Edu.</p>
B Details about Housing:		
10	<p>The status of your house : Own <input type="checkbox"/> On Rent <input type="checkbox"/> On lease <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
11	<p>If on Rent, for how long? How much rent do you pay?</p>	
12	<p>Do you face any work related problem as tenant?</p> <p>If yes specify;</p>	
13	<p>Do you face any objection/problem from your landlord regarding your work?</p> <p>If yes specify;</p>	

14	Do you face any threat of eviction from city corporation, Private builders?
15	Did you ever have to evict/relocate your shelter? Why?
16	What impact did it have on your livelihood (work)/income/ earning ability?
17	<p>Family Assets Owned and Facilities at Home</p> <p>House: Tiled <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> Roof: Thatched <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>TV: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Radio : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DVD/CD Player: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Refrigerator : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Heater/Coolers: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mobile Phone : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Scooter /Cycle: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>LPG Gas : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Running Water (Tap): Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sewage: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Drinking water: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Not then How do you get water:</p>

	<p>Toilet at home: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Specify) :</p>
18	<p>If yes for water, Do you have to pay for it? If yes, how much?</p> <hr/> <p>Besides household use, do you also need water for your homebased work?</p> <hr/> <p>If yes, is it available?</p> <hr/> <p>If water facility is not available in the house, how far you have to go to fetch it and how much time it takes?</p> <hr/> <p>For sanitation, if using community latrines, how much are you paying for it?</p> <hr/> <p>If yes for electricity, is it: legal <input type="checkbox"/> illegal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p>Besides household use, Do you also need electricity for your homebased work?</p>

<p>How much do you pay for it? Does your contractor repay you for it?</p>
<p>Do you have to pay any legal /illegal amount for electricity?</p>
<p>Is there enough space in your house for your work? Do you feel space constraint?</p>
<p>Is there space on the pavement in front of your house where you can work?</p>
<p>Is your house well ventilated?</p>
<p>Does the roof of your house leak? If yes, what are the losses you face?</p>
<p>Are the walls and floors damaged or dampened in your house? What are the difficulties and losses do you have to bear?</p>
<p>Are you satisfied with the drainage & hygienic conditions in your house/Mohalla? In no, What problems do you face?</p>

	Is the waste disposal system working satisfactorily in your house/Mohalla and surrounding?
	Are there street lights in your housing area? Are they working?
	What are the most important five facilities need to be available within the house (and its premises) to make you HB work better?
	Is Gas facility available in the house? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Are you working with chemicals? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes specify:
C. Data on Monthly Income / Earnings:	
19	How many months in a year do you work/get work:
20	Average working Hours in a day:

21	Involvement in the Work in terms of : Full Time (wages/8hrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Piece Rate <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time (wages/3-4hrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Casual work only <input type="checkbox"/> Others work <input type="checkbox"/> What is your total earning in a month?	
22	Who earns what: Husban: Father: Brother: Son: Daughter: Others:	Rs. <input type="text"/>
23	Income from other sources Agriculture / Rent /Fixed Deposits Others than this work	
24	Total Family Income in a month from all sources	
C.	Work Related Particulars	Response
25	For how long are you working?	
26	Are you a contract worker?	Yes NO

27	If yes, Who is the contractor and where is she/he from?	
28	Is the raw material delivered at home or you procure it yourself?	
29	If you procure yourself, hoe far is it from your house?	
30	What mode of transport do you use?	By foot <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport <input type="checkbox"/> Private transport <input type="checkbox"/>
31	How much time and money in a month do you have to spend in procuring raw material?	
32	How much more you could earn without the travel?	
33	What is the turnaround time (how many days)?	
34	How often (to what extent) is your product rejected by the contractor?	
35	What is the estimated loss due to rejection?	
36	How much do you earn in day or a month?	
37	Is there any deductions in your Wages / salary?	yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, for what _____

38	Do you have any suggestion / (complaints) about payment of Wages? If yes, details _____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
39	Do you have an idea about the Minimum Wages you are supposed to get?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
40	How often is your earning revised?		
41	How do you demand for revision of your earning?		
42	Did you ever refuse to work in protest?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
43	If yes, what was issue and what was the result?		
44	Have you taken any loan	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
45	In times of need, Where do you get credit from?	Friends <input type="checkbox"/>	Relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Banks <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/>
46	If credit amount taken from contractor, implications are	Work more <input type="checkbox"/>	Higher Interest Rate <input type="checkbox"/> Payment retained <input type="checkbox"/> Payment <input type="checkbox"/> reduced <input type="checkbox"/> Delayed payment <input type="checkbox"/>
47	Are you beneficiary of any plan/scheme?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
48	Are member of any Trade Union/NGO?		
49	Have you received any kind of Support from your Trade union/NGO?		
50	Do you have your own equipments?		

51	Do you get it from the contractor?
52	Who has to spend on the maintenance of the equipments?
53	How often you have to spend on maintenance and what amount?
54	Do you feel safe in your house? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
55	How far is the police station from your house? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
56	Is the police authority responsive to your needs and complaints? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
D. Occupational Health Issues :	
57	Do you get health problems due to nature of your work? If yes, what? Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Backache <input type="checkbox"/> Eye pain <input type="checkbox"/> Swelling in limbs and fingers <input type="checkbox"/> Digestive problems <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory problems Others <input type="checkbox"/> (specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
58	Where do you go for your medical treatment or checkup? Govt. hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Primary health Clinics <input type="checkbox"/> Private Clinic <input type="checkbox"/>
59	How far do you have to travel for seeking medical facility?

60	How many times on an average do you have to visit clinics/hospital?	
61	How much do you spend on an average on health?	
62	Do you benefit from health camps? Who organises them?	
63	Do you get any medical support from your employer/contractor?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
64	Do you have a (Savings) Bank Account in your name?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
65	Do you have Medical Insurance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
66	Do you have a Life Insurance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
67	Support / facilities from the Employer (contractor) Health Care <input type="checkbox"/> Support for Children Education <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized food <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Credit support <input type="checkbox"/> Housing facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Training programs <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
E	About Policy Support to HBW	
68	Do you get any kind of support from any Govt. /Municipality Scheme/plan as HBW?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
69	Are you aware of any such scheme or plan?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

70	<p>Do you have any of these ID card ?</p> <p>ID card <input type="checkbox"/> EOBi card <input type="checkbox"/> Job card <input type="checkbox"/></p>
71	<p>Do you avail any social security benefits?</p> <p>Social Security Card <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Education support <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Food Subsidy <input type="checkbox"/> Employment security <input type="checkbox"/> Housing support <input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance <input type="checkbox"/></p>
72	<p>What do you want to demand from your employer/contractor improve your livelihood condition?</p>
73	<p>What do you want to demand from the government to improve your livelihood condition?</p>

Signature of HBW

Name and Signature of Data Surveyor

Date:

Date: