

Preface and Acknowledgements

The interest in "Unorganised Sector" was created in my mind by witnessing the role and potentiality of this sector in the development process of the developing countries. This sector has become an important segment of the economy of the developing world. In spite of the rapid industrialisation and expansion of the formal sector the urban areas of developing world have failed to provide employment to all those who have migrated to the cities and towns in search of employment. However the large numbers of rural migrants to the urban areas seem to have created their own employment opportunities by engaging themselves in various informal activities. In spite of multi facet growth profile of the informal sector National and State Governments have overlooked its interest and infrastructure requirements in their development strategies. The present study is based on primary data collected from Rickshaw Pullers and Construction Workers in different locations of Siliguri Municipal Corporation Area (SMCA). The study has been conducted to (a) identify growth of these two groups of informal sector workers ;(b) assess their socioeconomic conditions; (c) portray the working and living conditions; (d) nature of migration and (e) provide a general data base picturesque of the important segment of urban economy.

To me, 'Making' suggests the act of doing something with one's hands. Obviously it entails more than 'doing': doing must be the final outcome of an amalgamation of many faculties interacting with one another and determining the final form of the thing made. Books on primary and secondary sources are of immense help to formulate my basic idea. In this context, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the librarians and staff of the central library, NBU; ISEC, Bangalore; ILO, New Delhi.

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