PREFACE

Domestic workers constitute one of the largest women sectors in India. They also represent one of the largest numbers of workers in the informal economy of the country. Domestic workers, in particular women domestic workers, are constantly growing section of workers in the informal sector of urban India. Domestic work contributes a substantive type of employment and generation of earnings for many women. More or less all middle and upper class people employ preferably female domestic servant in their households. The domestic workers generally perform a series of household tasks such as cleaning utensils, sweeping and cleaning rooms, washing clothes, fetching water etc. The study is to examine the level of women labour participation in domestic services. An effort has been made to reveal the socio-economic conditions of domestic workers in Silchar town. It has also been tried to examine the general nature of working conditions of women domestic workers, their special problems and how they combine wage work with domestic responsibilities. This study exploring primary data collected from women domestic workers in Silchar town of Assam state, evidently brings out that domestic work as a feminine occupation in a city like Silchar is a epitome of critical deficits in human development, a vicious situation of lack of core entitlements which are required to enjoy freedom guaranteed by the democratic society and the necessity of appropriate alternatives to bring a positive social change, impacting lives of hapless domestic workers and their families.

This study entitled**Women Workers in Unorganized Sector of Economy: A Study of Women Domestic labour in Silchar Town**attempt to analyse the socio is an -economic conditions, as well as work and work conditions of women domestic workers in Silchar town. It is based on the empirical data collected on social background, family composition, family health, living conditions, work and work condition, health and food, financial affairs and so on by administering a structured interview schedule to conduct indepth informal interviews to the respondents from nine slum pockets of Silchar town; namely, Malini Beel, Saratpally, Malugram, Chingkuri Road, Maadhur Bandh, Kalibari Char, Tarapur, Bhakatpur and Kanakpur. The study is divided into seven chapters, in all, entailing a bibliography and preceeded by a preface. the and therefore describes study the introduces first chapter The

formulation of the research problem, extensive review of the existing studies on women labour in unorganized sector and women domestic labour and the methodological strategy of study which consists of types and sources of data, universe and units, lection of unitsse, techniques and tools of data collection, methods of data analysis and sociological significance of the study. Chapter two discusses unorganised women workers in India, women workers in India,women domestic workers in North East India, and Women domesic workers in Barak Valley of South Assam. Chapter three gives a description of the field of the study, i.e.,Silchar town .It depicts historical background of Silchar ,its population ,social morphology,institutions ,industries ,its occupational structure, working population and women domestic workers in Silchar town. Chapter four gives an account of the socio-economic conditions of the women domestic workers-their agegroup, caste, religion, education, marital status, living condition, etc. hapter five discusses the work and work C conditons of the women domestic workers and their problems. Chapter six deals with social implications of domestic work for the national economy in general and for the women domestic workers,their health, family and community their/society in particular. Chapter seven summarises the study,brings out the major findings and concludess it along with some suggestions put forth for improvment of their conditions.

that the socio study reveal The findings of the- onomic conditions of the respondentsec /women domestic workers is poor.The female domestic servants have to face a lot of problems at the work place which include low level of wage, a minimal pay or no pay for extra work, absence of leave facility, sexual harassment by male employer etc. These problems can never be overcome until the concept of unionism is developed among the female domestic workers. If the Government and NGOs join hands together to excute the prevent exploitation of the women domestic policies and enforce the various Acts which workers and impliment the Minimum Wages Act, only then, will all the workers in unorganised sector in general and women domestic workers in particuar will have a decent working conditions, decent wages,live a decent life thus to