

# FEMALE HOME BASED WORKERS- AN INSIGHT

In order to have a better understanding based on actual data from the field, Taraqee Passand Organization-TPO along with sister organizations from the GTF-Multan undertook a study in the three most affected Union Councils of Kot-Addu, District Muzaffar Garh namely:

- ✚ **Union Council No-1, Mozah Choudhary, Basti 5 Marla Scheme Tehsil Kot Addu**
- ✚ **Union Council No 25 Sheikh Umar, Mozah Parharh Gharbi Kot Addu**
- ✚ **Union Council No 27, Monhan Mozah Shadi Kdan Sanawan To Kot Addu**

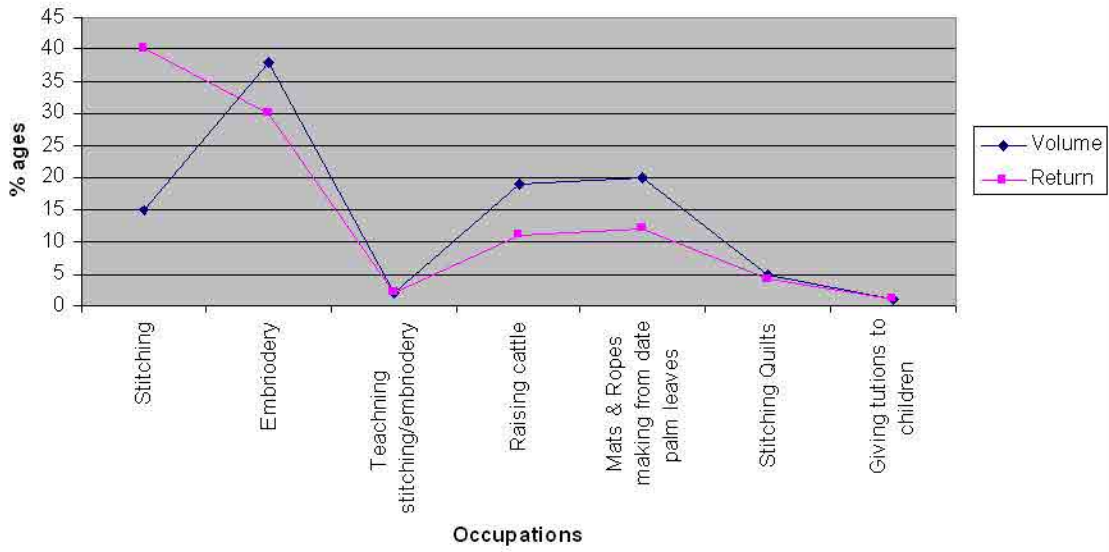
During the study Nominal Group Technique (NGT) was used to ensure that information is collected from each individual with out being influenced by the more outspoken members of the community. Since most of the individuals are illiterate therefore the female members of the group from TPO, WDO, ROLE, SEAP Pakistan, The Gender & Peace Network-GPN, ZDWA, Agahi, and RDO helped the participants in filling the required cards. Some of the literate girls from the society were also involved in the process.

## Main Findings:

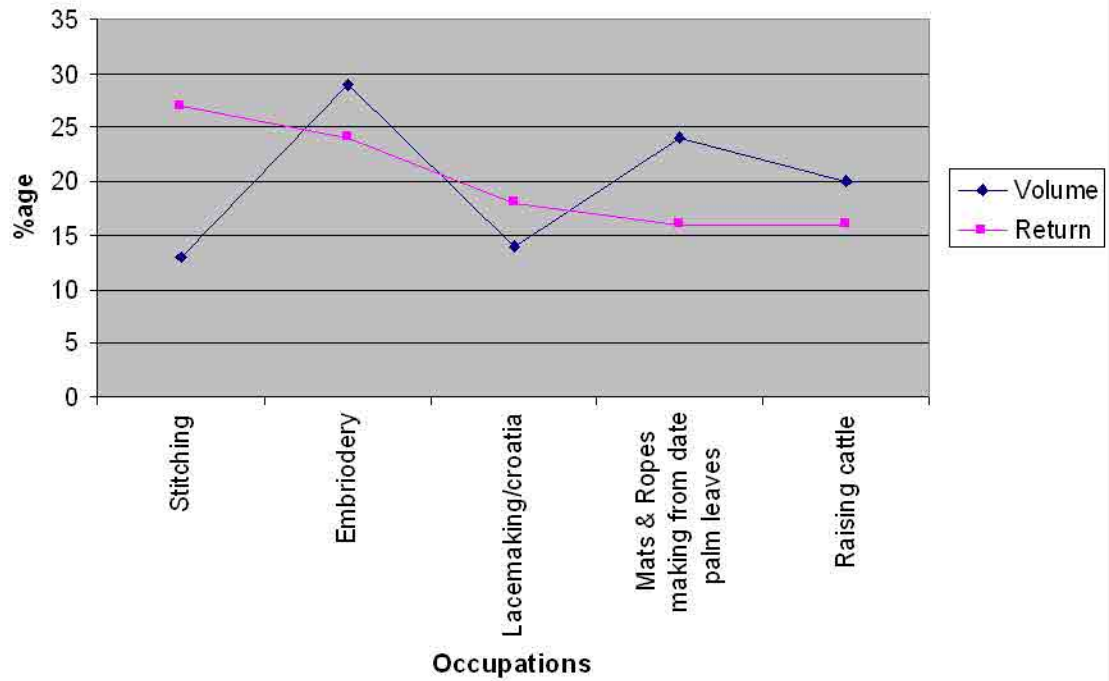
- ✚ Female home based workers are involved in multiple occupations.
- ✚ Stitching has a higher return but the volume of work is small, according to the participants it takes shorter to stitch than other occupations.
- ✚ Embroidery, making ropes and mats from date palm leaves and cattle raising has lower return but higher volume of work except for Union Council # 27, Manat Mozah Shadi Khan Sanawan Kot Addu where the cattle were owned by the home based workers & are among the small landowners. In the first two instances the cattle were/are raised by the women under a contract whereby in return for raising the cattle the women are allowed to keep half of the off-springs born while the cattle are under the custody of the keepers.



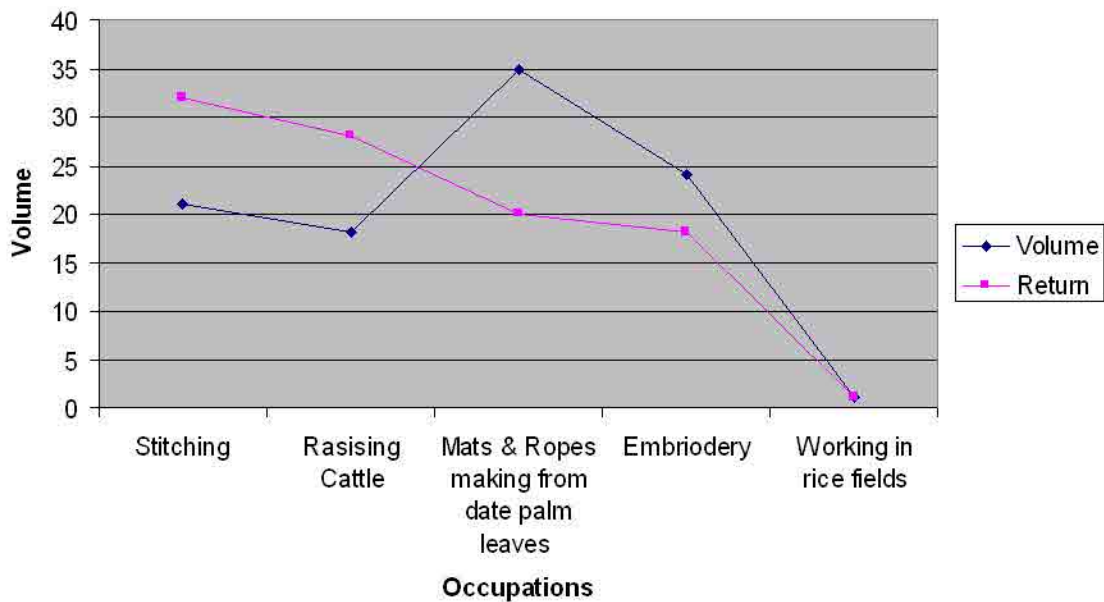
**Mozah Choudhary Union Council # 1, Basti 5 Marlah Scheme Tehsil Kot Addu- % of orders received (volume) VS Income (Return) from differen home base work**



**Mozah Parharh Gharbi, Union Council # 25 Sheikh Umar KotAddu- % of orders received (Volume) VS Income (return) from differen home based works**



Union Council # 27 Manat, Mozah ShadiKhan, Sanawah, KotAddu- %age of orders received (volume) VS Income (return) from different home based works.



### It is important to note that:

- ✚ Embroidery and mats made of date palm trees are purchased by well established dealers, whereas the well off landowners provide cattle to the poor women on contract. In both the cases it is the vulnerable women versus the well off dealers & landowners due to which the profit margin of the home based female workers is negligible.
- ✚ In Southern Punjab the dates are harvested in June along with cutting of the leaves. These leaves are dried and stored for use/sale for making mats, ropes, baskets and a wide variety of other products. Majority of the leaves have been destroyed/taken away by the floods and more leaves will only be available after the coming June.
- ✚ During the meeting with the home based workers a blind female also participated who despite the loss of her eye sight is involved making mats and ropes out of date palm leaves. According to her this is the only work she can do despite losing her sight.



## Problems faced by female home based workers after floods:

1. The stitching machines are damaged beyond repair
2. The middlemen/ dealers are asking for compensation of the raw material lost during the floods before placing further orders
3. Khushali Bank is demanding its loan along with interest. More than 100 women had availed finances from Khushali Bank in Mozah Choudhary, Union Council No-1, Basti 5 Marla Scheme Tehsil Kot Addu.
4. Owners are demanding compensation for the livestock lost during floods
5. Shortage of date palm leaves after floods
6. Negligible demands/ orders after floods.
7. People are too poor to stitch new clothes after floods
8. Parents do not have money to pay as tuition fees of their children.

## Possible Solutions:

1. Writing off the loans by Khushali Bank
2. Development of community organizations for home based workers with links to the end users to do away with middle men.
3. Provision of livestock on partnership basis
4. Provision of stitching machines.



## Profile of Target Area- Kot Addu

Kot Addu is a city and Tehsil of Muzaffar Garh District in the Punjab province of Pakistan. This city is subdivided into **28 Union Councils**. It is located in the southern part of the Punjab province, and is a very historic city.. It is built just east of the Indus River, more or less in the centre of the country, and about 866 km from Karachi, 600 km from Islamabad, 100 km from Multan, 80 km from D.G.Khan, 60 km from Muzaffar Garh, 60 km from Layyah and 16km from Taunsa Barrage. Kot Addu City



## Union Councils for Study

<b>Total Union Council</b>	<b>03</b>	
<b>Total Population of Three U/C</b>	<b>1,07,771</b>	
<b>Total House Hold of 03 U/C</b>	<b>17961</b>	<b>U/C Nos: 01-25-27</b>
<b>Total Home Based Workers- HBWs(Approximate )</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>4,160-FHBWs</b>

### Demography:

✚ Total Population	8,08,438 Persons
✚ Total Area	8,77,989 Acres
✚ Area under Cultivation	4,24,521

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