

# Mobility as Capability: Women in the Indian Informal Economy

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## Abstract

Right to space and access to money is intrinsic to one's independence, as wrote Virginia Woolf (1929). Even within the informal sector, which is usually envisaged as a manifestation of low productivity activities, the access to paid work brings in considerable improvements in the well being of the women workers, particularly. The opportunities that the informal sector offers may be inferior in comparison to the formal sector work. However, collective action, networking, and negotiations are able to raise the bargaining power and enhance the earnings. Several instances are there, which show that the informal sector has helped occupational and upward income mobility despite the fact the formal–informal sector earnings differentials are substantial.

**Keywords:** social capital, network formation, women workers, deprivation, mobility, work, autonomy, individual agency

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