**ABSTRACT**

The title includes the various facets of informal economy in different parts of Kolkata. The informal economy is actually the part of an economy that is neither taxed, nor monitored by any form of government. In most Indian cities the urban poor survive by working in the informal sector. Poverty and lack of gainful employment in the rural areas and in the smaller towns drive large numbers of people to the cities for work and livelihood. The fall of employment in the organized sector in the post-reform period has not been compensated fully by the growth of employment in the informal sector. Jobs in the unorganized informal sector are of heterogeneous types, and there are different types of jobs even within a particular service sector and there is a degree of income inequality among workers.

The fast going and busy schedule of most of the residents in cities and towns, have forced them to depend on the informal or the unorganized economy which comprises of the poorer masses, having poor educational qualifications, etc.

The informal economy in West Bengal gained momentum in the post independence period as a huge number of in-migrants started residing in the streets of big towns and cities like Kolkata. Besides men, women constitute a vital part of the workforce in the state as in the workforce of this country and the changes in sectoral composition of labour highlights the incidence of feminization at least in a crude sense.

In this research work a number of survey groups are selected which forms the integral part of informal economy in Kolkata. Primary survey was mostly used for doing this research work, except for the street vendors.