

A Study on Problems and Prospects of Women Beedi Workers in Mudukulathur, Ramanathapuram District

Dr.A.LOGU, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Sethupathy Government Arts College, Ramanathapuram, India.

ABSTRACT - Beedi rolling is one of the most important informal sector activities in India, which employs a huge number of women. The beedi industry is the fourth largest labour industry in India, after agriculture, fishnet and construction. The Government of India estimates about 50 lakh workers in the beedi rolling industry, most of them are home based women workers. The study based on both primary and secondary data. The sample size was fixed at 250 women beedi workers in Mudukulathur, Ramanathapuram district. The important objective of the study is health problems faced by the beedi rollers in the study area. The main finding of the study is out of the ten occupational health diseases; the coefficient of variance of Ache-Head, Back and Neck (9.42) is the major occupational health disease of Beedi rolling women workers.

Key words: Problems & Prospects, Beedi Rolling and Women Worker.

I. INTRODUCTION

Beedi rolling is one of the most important unorganized sector activities in India. The Government of India estimates that, there are about 6.1 million full-time workers and a further 5.84 million people engaged with beedi industry related job in India. It is also an extraordinary fact that, among them, majority of the workers are home based, who are live under poverty line. Beedi workers more often are the most susceptible sector of the society and a huge number of them are totally dependent on beedi rolling in rural India. They are continue to fight for survival despite low wages, steady exploitation by the agents, lack of education, medical facilities and unawareness of government policies. Hence, there is need to develop the living and working conditions as well as to promote decent employment and income opportunities for women beedi workers. In India, most of the beedi workers are women who operate from their homes and are isolated from the rest of the industrial workforce and for this reason they are easy target for gross exploitation. Women workers tend to suffer from a number of occupational health problems.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The important objectives of the study are,

- ❖ To examine study the socio-economic conditions of the beedi-rollers.
- ❖ To analyse the income and expenditure pattern of beedi workers in the study area.
- ❖ To discuss the present problems of the beedi workers in the study area.
- ❖ To analyse the health problems faced by the beedi rollers in the study area.

III. HYPOTHESIS

- ❖ There is a significant relationship between income and expenditure pattern of women Beedi rolling worker.
- ❖ Health Problem is a major problem of beedi rolling workers in Mudukulathur.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study is complied with the help of both primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected from the field directly by interviewing the Beedi rolling women workers from Mudukulathur. The secondary data are collected from published source like books, journals, magazine, records, thesis and internet. The researcher has selected the respondents on the basis of convenience sampling method. The sample size is determined 250 respondents. The tools used in the present study were Karl Pearson's co-efficient of correlation, mean score and t-test.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

5.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF BEEDI ROLLING WOMEN WORKS:

The analysis of the Beedi rolling women workers and their socio-economic profile are given below. Table.1 gives details regarding the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Table.1 Socio-Economic Profile of Women Beedi Rolling Worker

Sl. No	Characteristics	No	%	Sl. No	Characteristics	No	%
Age wise Classification				Religion wise Classification			
1	Below-30 years	73	29.2	1	Hindu	22	88.8
2	30 – 40 years	11	46.8	2	Muslim	10	4.0
3	40 and above	60	24.0	3	Christian	18	7.2
Community				Type of family			
1	BC	13	52.8	1	Nuclear family	19	76.0
2	MBC	82	32.8	2	Joint family	60	24.0
3	SC	36	14.4	Marital status			
Educational status				1	Unmarried	20	8.0
1	Illiterate	44	17.6	2	Married	20	80.0
2	Primary	78	31.2	3	Separated	10	4.0
3	Upper Primary	10	40.0	4	Widow	20	8.0
4	HSC	20	8.0	1	Per-capita Income (in Rs./ month)		
5	Graduate	8	3.2				

Source: Primary data

Table.1 shows that 46.8 per cent of the respondents belong to 30-40 years age group. 88.8 per cent of the respondents are Hindus religions. 52.8 per cent of the respondents are backward community. 76 per cent of the respondents live in nuclear family. 40 per cent of the respondents have completed upper primary level education. 80 per cent of the respondents are married.

5.2 ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RELATIONSHIP:

Ho: There is significant relationship between income and expenditure among the sample households.

Inorder to, analyze the relationship between income and expenditure pattern of women beedi rolling worker in the sample households, the investigator is using simple correlation.

$$r = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \times \sum y^2}}$$

Here, r = Karl Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation

x = Stands for income y = for savings

$$Exy = 8171.4, Ex^2 = 8951.2, Ey^2 = 8967.4$$

$$r = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \times \sum y^2}}$$

$$= \frac{8171.4}{\sqrt{8951.2 \times 8967.4}}$$

$$= \frac{8171.4}{\sqrt{80271681.1}}$$

$$= \frac{8171.4}{8959.45}$$

$$= 0.9120$$

The value of Karl Person’s Co-efficient of correlation is 0.9120. This shows a high positive correlation between income and expenditure pattern of the sample respondents. It can be clear that the income of the sample respondents increases the expenditure also increases and on the other hand the income decreases the expenditure also decrease.

Result:

The analysis and test reveals that there is close relationship between income and expenditure pattern. Most of the women beedi worker expenses a small percentage of their income, if the income will increase, expenditure will also be increased. So there is a close relationship between income and expenditure of women beedi rolling worker.

5.3 PROBLEM FACED BY BEEDI ROLLING WORKERS:

Table.2 Problem faced by women beedi rolling workers

Sl.No	Problems	No.of Respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Low Wages	52	20.8	III
2	Low Social Status	70	28.0	II
3	Health Problem	84	33.6	I
4	No Permanent Working Place	8	3.2	VI
5	Working Hours	13	5.2	V
6	Not Enough Income	23	9.2	IV
	Total	250	100	

Source: Primary data

Table.2 reveals that problem faced by beedi rolling women workers, 33.6 per cent of the respondents are faced by health problem (rank-I), 28 per cent of the respondent are faced problem of low social status (Rank-II), 20.8 per cent of the respondents are problem faced by low wages (rank-III), 9.2 per cent of the respondents are problem faced by not enough income (rank-IV), 5.2 per cent of the respondents are problem faced by working hours (rank-V) and the remaining 3.2 per cent of the respondents are problem faced by no permanent working place (rank-VI).

5.4 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARD:

The qualitative information regarding occupational health hazards faced by the women beedi rollers and household members have been discussed and presented in this section.

The major occupational health hazards faced by the women beedi rollers in the study area are shown in the table.

Table.3 Occupational health hazards of women beedi workers

Sl.No	Occupational Health Disease	Mean	SD	C.V	t-value	Rank
1	Ache-Head, Back and Neck	68.43	7.42	9.42	142.38	I
2	Back-strain	64.70	7.08	9.11	135.11	II
3	Swelling of the lower limbs	39.43	1.86	5.20	42.64	X
4	Asthma	61.00	6.92	8.50	127.69	III
5	Tuberculosis	55.59	5.50	7.91	88.65	VI
6	Respiratory disorder	59.34	6.77	8.61	112.51	IV
7	Gastrointestinal illness	42.65	2.39	6.95	55.12	IX
8	Gynaecological problems	51.60	4.33	7.63	72.33	VII
9	Susceptible to fungal diseases	57.65	6.61	8.42	97.62	V
10	Peptic ulcer	50.08	3.25	7.25	69.43	VIII

Source: Primary data

Table.3 express that out of the ten occupational health disease, the coefficient of variance of Ache-Head, Back and Neck (9.42), is the major occupational health disease of Beedi rolling women workers, followed by Back-strain (9.11), Respiratory disorder (8.61), Asthma (8.50), Susceptible to fungal diseases (8.42), Tuberculosis (7.91), Gynaecological problems (7.63), Peptic ulcer (7.25), Gastrointestinal illness (6.95) and Swelling of the lower limbs (5.20). It is inferred from the table.3 that the occupational health disease is encountered by most of the women beedi rolling workers as the standard deviation and coefficient of variation for the occupational health disease is the women beedi rolling worker in Mudukulathur, Ramanathapuram district.

It is found that the mean scores of Ache-Head, Back and Neck, is the major occupational health disease of Beedi rolling women workers, followed by Back-strain, Respiratory disorder, Asthma, Susceptible to fungal diseases, Tuberculosis, Gynaecological problems, Peptic ulcer, Gastrointestinal illness and Swelling of the lower limbs are 68.43, 64.70, 61.00, 59.34, 57.65, 55.59, 51.60, 50.08, 42.65, and 39.43 respectively. Further, 't' values shows that they are significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is concluded that all the all women beedi rolling worker taken into consideration have a significant bearing on their occupational health hazards.

VI. FINDINGS

- ❖ The study express that 46.8 per cent of the respondents belong to 30-40 years age group. 88.8 per cent of the respondents are Hindus religions. 52.8 per cent of the respondents are backward community. 76 per cent of the respondents live in nuclear family. 40 per cent of the respondents have completed upper

primary level education. 80 per cent of the respondents are married.

- ❖ The analysis and test reveals that there is close relationship between income and expenditure pattern. Most of the women beedi worker expenses a small percentage of their income, if the income will increase, expenditure will also be increased. So there is a close relationship between income and expenditure of women beedi rolling worker.
- ❖ The study reveals that out of the ten occupational health diseases, the coefficient of variance of Ache-Head, Back and Neck (9.42) is the major occupational health disease of Beedi rolling women workers.
- ❖ The study shows that the mean scores of Ache-Head, Back and Neck, is the major occupational health disease of Beedi rolling women workers.
- ❖ The study express that problem faced by beedi rolling women workers, 33.6 per cent of the respondents are faced by health problem (rank-I), 28 per cent of the respondent are faced problem of low social status (Rank-II) and 3.2 per cent of the respondents are problem faced by no permanent working place (rank-VI).

VII. SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ The wages of the workers are low. The government must fix minimum wage to the work force.
- ❖ The beedi industry owners must provide medical care to work force.
- ❖ The labour welfare officers should make frequent visits to the beedi workers residential area and see that workers are provided safety measures and masks to protect their lungs and hands.
- ❖ Imparting proper health education and awareness among beedi workers
- ❖ Health dispensaries should be settled in beedi workers concentrated blocks.
- ❖ Grant of financial assistance to women beedi workers for purchase of spectacles.
- ❖ Improve women's awareness of employment opportunities and widen occupational choices through entrepreneurial development programmes and participatory rapid appraisal exercises at local level to be conducted through their organizations

VIII. CONCLUSION

This study has given a clear picture about the problems and prospects of women beedi works in Mudukulathur, Ramanathapuram district. The government should take steps to strictly implement the minimum wages act, welfare measures, and takes necessary steps to remove the evils of factory system, no doubt, the standard of living of women

beedi workers will be better off. The study concluded that beedi rolling work is the temporary work at the same time it gives employment opportunity only for few hours in a day. So they have to choose another type of work in the same time for their livelihood. In order to improve the conditions of women beedi rolling workers the government must take necessary steps to improve the working hours and number of days as well as other type of employment opportunity for their betterment.

REFERENCES

- [1] Avachat and Anil (1979), "Beedi Workers of Nippani", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol XIII, No.30, pp 1203-1205.
- [2] Mohandas.M (1980), "Beedi Workers in Kerala: Conditions of Life and Work", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XV, No.36, pp.1517-1523.
- [3] Mohandas.M and Praveen Kumar.P.V(1992), "Impact of Co-Perativisation on Working Conditions: Study of Beedi Industry in Kerala", Economic and Political weekly, Vol.28, No.26-27, pp.1333-1338.
- [4] Rajasekhar.D and Sreedhar.G (2002), "Alternative Employment Opportunities for Women Beedi Workers: A Study in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka", Journal of Rural Development, Vol.21, No.94, pp.449-480.
- [5] Rao and Nitya (1992), "Occupational Health of Women in Beedi Industry, Mainstream", Vol.No.30, No.21, pp.12-19.
- [6] Rajatsingh and Padmalatha.C(1995), "Occupational Illness of Beedi Rollers in South India", Environmental Economics, Vol.13, No.04, pp.875-879.
- [7] Srinivasulu.K (1997), "Impact of Liberalization on Beedi Workers", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.32, No.11, pp.515-517.
- [8] Sudarshan.R and Kaur.R (1999), "The Tobacco Industry and Women's Employment: Old Concerns and New Imperatives", The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol.42, No.4, pp.675-685.
- [9] Sarkar.S (2004), "Women Workers in Beedi Rolling", The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol.47, No.1, pp.135-140.