

Socio-Economic Profile of the Beedi Workers A-Select District of Telangana State

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ABSTRACT: The central idea of this paper is to explore the link between the socio-economic positions of women working in the unorganized sector with special reference to beedi rolling. In India, Beedi making is an age-old industry and one of the largest job providers for women in the unorganized sector. Women have an inherent advantage in this job of beedi rolling due to deft fingers, yet significant gender bias exists. The job is mainly done by the weaker economic class in the country who don't have adequate education and skills to look for an alternate job. The work of beedi rolling is preferred by women because it can be carried from home along with domestic chores. Thus, they supplement family income by managing household jobs. However, in recent years, the trade has shrunk thus there is the situation of underemployment.

I. INTRODUCTION

In India, Beedi making is an age-old industry and one of the largest job providers for women in the unorganized sector. The Indian market for smoking is dominated by beedi. "Beedis or "Beedis" are hand-rolled unfiltered cigarettes. A beedi consists of about 0.2 grams of processed sun-dried tobacco flakes rolled in a tendu leaf or tempura leaf and then tied with cotton thread. The tobacco rolled in beedi is different from that used in cigarettes. The beedi rolling activity is primarily carried out by workers having weaker socioeconomic status in society. Most of the beedi-making work is carried out in rural and semi-urban areas where it is one of the major sources of livelihood for many families. The work of beedi making is primarily carried by Schedule Castes (SC) and Muslims OBC who lost their traditional source of livelihood (weaving, potteries, etc.) due to cheap industrial substitutes and changing consumer preferences. Beedi making is viewed by these families as an additional source of income to cover up the shrinking income. Muslim women dominate the beedi work because due to religious stricture, they are not allowed to go out to work. This home-based work is widely acceptable among them (Bhatty 1980, 1985; Koli 1990; Mohandas 1980; Gopal 1997). The participation of Scheduled Castes is high in certain centers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh (Labour Bureau 1996; Prasad and Prasad 1985). Children of beedi workers get involved in this work at a tender age; as a result, cases of school dropouts are also reported in large numbers. Socio-economic empowerment is essential for self-respect which cannot be achieved without economic independence. It has been widely reported that women beedi workers have poor socio-economic conditions. Further, in spite of many legislations and efforts of trade unions, the conditions of beedi workers continued to deteriorate; forcing them to entertain child labor.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Salesmen et al. (1922) reported that parental lead exposure is associated with congenital malformations. Further, in the year 2000 they reported that parental exposure to lead increases the risk of infertility at low occupational exposure levels. A delay was observed among the wives of men exposed to lead

Welch & Cullen (1988) evaluated the semen samples from shipyard painters exposed to ethylene glycol ethers. Sperm concentrations, velocity, motility, morphology, morphometry, and viability were measured. The measures of sperm counts were lower in painters. Exposure to six organic solvents (styrene, toluene, xylene,

tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane) was conducted to investigate the effects of parental exposure of pregnancy. Spontaneous abortions and congenital malformations among.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of this paper is to (1) explore the living and working conditions of women beedi workers in the Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh, India, (2) Identify and examine their economic status, (3) Study the characteristics of families engaged in this particular activity, and (4) explore the nature of exploitation faced by women beedi workers in the area under study and (5) to identify the factors that could be held responsible for the plight of women beedi workers in the region.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the socio-economic profile of the beedi worker.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Vikarabad	n	%	Karimnagar	N	%
Gender			Gender		
Male	9	30	Male	7	23.3
Female	21	70	Female	23	76.6
Age			Age		
Up to 20 years	6	20	Up to 20 years	5	16.6
20-40 years	15	50	20-40 years	13	43.3
40-60 years	7	23.3	40-60 years	8	26.6
61 years and above	2	6.67	61 years and above	3	10
FAMILY TYPE			FAMILY TYPE		
Nuclear Family	8	26.6	Nuclear Family	11	36.6
Joint Family	22	73.3	Joint Family	19	63.3
FAMILY SIZE			FAMILY SIZE		
Upto 5 members	14	46.6	Upto 5 members	11	36.66
More than 5 members	16	53.3	More than 5 members	19	63.33
Monthly Income			Monthly Income		
Less the 10,000	10	33.33	Less the 10,000	12	40
10,001 to 20,000	8	26.66	10,001 to 20,000	7	23.33
20,001 to 30,000	7	23.33	20,001 to 30,000	6	20
Above 30,001	5	16.66	Above 30,001	4	13.33

The abovetable revealed that 80% of the beedi workers were female in Vikarabad dist. And 70 % of the respondents also found that the Karimnagar dist. female is 76.6. the age group of Vikarabad 20-40 years 50 % of the respondents. Karimnagar 20- 40 years 43.3% of the respondents are higher. Type of family in Vikarabad joint family 73.3 % of the respondents. Karimnagar joint family 63.3% of the respondents. Vikarabad dist. Family size of more than 5 members 53.3% of the respondents. Karimnagar dist. more than 5 members 63.33% of the respondents. Vikarabad dist. Monthly income less than 10,000 33.33% of the respondents. Karimnagar dist. less than 10,000 were 23.3 % of the respondents.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper delves into the intricate relationship between the socio-economic positions of women engaged in beedi rolling, particularly in the unorganized sector in India. Beedi making, a longstanding industry, has served as a significant source of employment for women, leveraging their adeptness in the craft. Despite the

inherent advantages women possess in beedi rolling, the industry is marred by notable gender bias. The occupation primarily attracts individuals from the economically disadvantaged classes, lacking adequate education and skills for alternative employment. The appeal of beedi rolling lies in its home-based nature, allowing women to manage domestic responsibilities concurrently. This arrangement supplements family income, making it a preferred choice for women. However, with the recent contraction of the beedi trade, there has been a surge in underemployment, exacerbating the challenges faced by these women. The research methodology section outlines the objectives of the study, emphasizing the exploration of living and working conditions, economic status, family characteristics, and the nature of exploitation faced by women beedi workers. The data analysis, focusing on districts like Vikarabad and Karimnagar, reveals key demographic trends and economic indicators among beedi workers. In essence, this paper sheds light on the complex interplay between socio-economic factors and gender dynamics within the beedi rolling industry. The findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve the conditions of women in this sector, addressing issues of economic instability, gender bias, and the repercussions of a shrinking industry. As policymakers and stakeholders strive for inclusive growth, it is imperative to consider the unique challenges faced by women in the unorganized sector, working towards empowering them economically and socially.

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