



A STUDY OF PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN BEEDI WORKERS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

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Abstract

Beedi Rolling is one of the most important handicrafts in India, employing a large number of women. The handicraft industry is the fourth largest industry in India after agriculture, fisheries and construction. The Indian government estimates that the beedi rolling industry employs about 50,000 workers, most of whom are housewives. This study is based on primary and secondary data. A sample size of 100 women beedi workers in Tirunelveli district has been set. The main focus of the study is the health problems faced by beedi worker in the study area. Main results of the study Six occupational diseases, back and neck pain and asthma were the main occupational diseases of beedi workers.

Keywords: Problems, women, beedi rolling worker

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1. Introduction

In India, beedi making is an ancient profession and one of the largest employers of women in the informal sector. The betel nut industry plays an important role in rural development. Tamil Nadu is one of the major hubs of India as far as beedi industry is concerned. Beedi rolling is mainly done by laborers from weaker socio-economic status of the society. While most beedi work is done in rural and semi-urban areas and is a major source of livelihood for many families, beedi production is a century-old business in India. Beedi making is the main occupation of most women and children living in villages across the country. The beedi industry is almost an unorganized sector, so the government authorities also find it difficult to enforce various legal requirements. Apart from other legal complications, the health risks for women workers involved in bidi making are very high.

Literature Review

Kumar et al., (2010) They reported in their study that women beedi workers suffered from pains, cough, dizziness, abdominal pain. Because of the high levels of nicotine and other chemicals in bidi tobacco, their workers are at risk of developing systemic diseases.

Tenguzli, D. and Veerachami, P. (2015), In his study, a review of primary scientific papers on the occupational health risks of construction workers outside the industry. These articles examine the impact of various hazards on female construction workers. Research covers major hazards such as mechanical, chemical, mental, biological, and physical from social medicine, environmental studies, psychology, sociology, and general medical perspectives. Few studies have been conducted to link ideology to occupational health risks from an economic point of view. This research gap opens up new opportunities to study the economic analysis of occupational health risks in the construction industry.

Statement of the Problem

The unorganized sector faces many problems such as unemployment, low wages, irregular wages, unavailability of social security and welfare

services, exploitative working conditions. Beedi workers face many problems such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, disease, low and irregular wages. Their socio-economic status and health are very bad. Bidi leaves pose various health hazards to workers and people living nearby.

Objectives of the Study

1. Investigating socio-economic conditions of women beedi rollers.
2. Analysis the current problems of women beedi workers.
3. To study the health problems faced by women beedi workers.

2. Methodology

The study is collected using primary and secondary data. Primary data will be collected in the field through face-to-face meetings with Beedi women working in the rolling mills of Tirunelveli region. Secondary data was collected from published sources such as books, journals, reports, dissertations, and the internet. Researchers chose respondents based on the convenience sampling method. The size of the sample is determined by 100 respondents. The tools used in this study are Garrett rank score, Chi-square test.

Hypothesis

H0: "There is no significant relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers"

H1: "There is a significant relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers"

Limitations

1. The study was conducted only in Tirunelveli district.
2. The respondent's opinion would change, and it changed.
3. The result obtained is valid only for the selected study period.

3. Results and Interpretation.

After collecting the data from the respondents using a structured questionnaire, the following results are explained.

	Category	No. of Respondents.	Percentage of Respondents.
Age	15-25 Age Group	16	16%
	26-35Age Group	24	24%
	36-45Age Group	25	25%
	46above age Group	35	35%
	Total	100	100
Monthly Income	Below 10000	75	75%
	10000-15000	12	12%
	15000-20000	13	13%
	Above 20000	0	0
	Total	100	100
Religion wise Classification	Hindu	78	78%
	Christian	12	12%
	Muslim	10	10%
	Total	100	100
Marital Status	Married	69	69%
	Unmarried	9	9%
	Widow	20	20%
	Divorce	2	2%
	Total	100	100
Types of family	Nuclear family	95	95%
	Joint family	5	5%
	Total	100	100
Educational status	Illiterate	65	65%
	Primary	15	15%
	Upper primary	9	9%
	HSC	10	10%
	Graduate	1	1%
	Total	100	100
Health problem of beedi women workers	Ache-Head, Back and Neck pain	25	25%
	Back-strain	28	28%
	Asthma	32	32%
	Susceptible to fungal diseases	6	6%
	Tuberculosis	8	8%
	Other	1	1%
	Total	100	100

Table1 Socio-Economic condition of Women Beedi Rolling

Source: Primary data

Table :2 The problems of the woman beedi workers

SL.NO	PEOBLEM	GARRETT SCORE	MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	Low Wages	75	53.95	III
2	Low Social Status	60	52.9	IV
3	Health Problem	50	57.45	I
4	No Permanent Working Place	40	45.35	V
5	Working Hours	25	54.65	II

Source: Primary data

Table.2 show the problem faced by women who do beedi rolling,57.95 percent of the respondents face health problem (Rank-I), 54.65 percent of the respondents face working hours (Rank-II), 53.95 percent of the respondent's problem is low pay (Rank-III), the problem of the respondent is 52.9 percent low social status (Rank-IV), 45.35 percent respondent's problem is no permanent place of work (Rank-V).

Table:3 Relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers

Age	Heath problem						Total
	Ache-Head, Back and Neck pain	Back-strain	Asthma	Susceptible to fungal diseases	Tuberculosis	Other	
15-25	5	5	3	1	1	1	16
26-35	6	9	7	2	-	-	24
36-45	10	3	10	-	2	-	25
46	4	11	12	5	5	-	37
Total	25	28	32	6	8	1	100

Source: Primary data

To find out the relationship between the age of beedi beating women and the health problems of beedi beating women. Chi-square test is used to analyze the hypothesis "There is no Relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers" Degree of freedom=(r-c) (c-1), Table value= 25, Calculate value= 22.0461 Because the numerical value is less than the table value. The hypothesis "There is a relationship between age of female beedi workers and health problems of beedi workers" was accepted.

Findings

- ❖ The study shows that 35% of respondents are over 46 years old. 78% of the respondents are Hindus. 95% of respondents live in single households. 65 % of respondents were unaware of the document. 69 % of respondents were married. 75 % of the respondents belong to the below 10,000 income group. 32% of the respondents face the health problem of asthma.
- ❖ The study revealed that there is a correlation between the age of beedi workers and the health problems of beedi workers.

Suggestions

- ❖ Low wages for women beedi workers. The government should set a minimum wage for women beedi workers.
- ❖ Beedi business owners should provide medical services to their employees.
- ❖ Occupational safety inspectors should frequently visit the residential areas of Beedi

Chi Square Test: Relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers

To study the relationship between beedi working women age and Health problem of beedi women workers

workers and ensure that workers are provided with protective equipment and masks to protect their lungs and hands. Ensuring proper health education and awareness among beedi workers.

- ❖ In the neighborhoods where the Beedi workers are concentrated, health centers should be established.

4. Conclusion

This document gives a clear picture of the problems of Beedi women in Tirunelveli region. There is no doubt that if the government takes steps to strictly enforce the minimum wage law and social security schemes and takes necessary measures to eliminate the evils of the factory system, the standard of living of working women will improve. The study revealed that beedi rolling is a temporary job and is only available for a few hours a day at a time. Therefore, they have to simultaneously choose another type of work for their earnings. The Government should take the necessary measures to improve the working conditions of working women by improving working hours and other forms of employment for their promotion.

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