

# A Study on the Socio-Economic State of Female Beedi Worker at Karchhna, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

<sup>1</sup>Arvind Kumar Mishra, <sup>2</sup>Akhilesh Kumar Mishra

<sup>1,2</sup>MSW Scholar, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, India

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**Abstract:** One of the chief unorganized industries especially in rural areas is beedi making industry. More than 80 percent of the beedi making centers are rural in nature. Therefore, beedi making is considered to be a rural-based industry. low-priced female labour is largely available in these rural areas. . Beedi workers are weak segments of the country's labour force which has increased involvement of women labour in Beedi rolling activities. The conditions of Beedi workers at present as well as in the past have not been hopeful. The Beedi industry is present all over the country. The researcher in this study aimed at gaining near into the "Socio – economic state of female Beedi workers at Karchhna near Allahabad(u.p). The central objective of the study was to assessment the Socio–economic condition of the female Beedi workers at Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Majority 98 percent of the Beedi workers were from the marginalized sections of the society and therefore they were socially,education ,health and economically backward. Poverty was the main reason that induced the respondents to take up Beedi work as an occupation. Majority, respondents were working for contractors which showed that they were subjected to utilization. 58 Percentage of the respondents earn less than Rs. 1,500 rs per month which is not adequate to maintain their family. Majority 70 percent of the respondents declared that their health problems were due to their occupation. Women's organization working for the unorganized sector like AIDWA, need to conduct consciousness programs among the female Beedi workers at Karchhna and allow them to fight against all forms of operation. The conclusion of the study will be helpful to NGOs and the Social Welfare Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh to launch necessary schemes for the welfare of female Beedi workers.

**Keywords:** Unorganized Workers, Beedi, Socio, economic, Female, rights of beedi workers.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Beedi industry accounts for about 90 percentage of the employment of the Indian tobacco industry. Currently, about 10 percentage of the Beedi developed take place in the organized sector. The Government estimates show about 4.4 million workers in the Beedi industry, but the trade unions claim that there are over 7.0 million Beedi workers in India. However, out of total workers in the Beedi industry, about 90 percentage are home based workers and most of them are women workers. The child labour is also participating in the Beedi production activity. The total number of child labourers in India is estimated at 50 to 115 million who spread all over the country of which around 2, 00,000 children are working in the Beedi industry. They are involved in Beedi rolling which is largely a home based activity. Most of the children start rolling Beedis at the age of 14 or 15. Also, many of them have not registered themselves, in as much as they do not have their own passbooks. They produce the Beedies in the name of the mother, who is engaged in other work elsewhere. So, looking only at records and figures, the problem of child labour in the Beedi industry is just about non-existent and the children are simply expenditure their childhood rolling Beedis inside their homes.

Out of all the states, Madhya Pradesh accounts for the highest share of employment followed by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. All the other states together had less than 10 percentage share of employment in India.

Informal sector workers are generally not represented in the institutions and organizations of the labour movement. The main concentration of Beedi workers are engaged in tobacco industry. The Parliamentary standing committee on subordinate legislation (1990) says that 20 million labours and 6 million farmers are engaged in cultivation of tobacco. The size of the unorganized sector indicates its importance as a major force both economically and politically. Additionally the unorganized sector is a major contributor to the gross national product of the country contributing about 63 percent of the country's national income in 1994 – 95. These numbers point to the urgent need to deal with issues of social security of these workers and producers. Historically, the system of social security in India, as elsewhere was started with the organize sector. The first social security legislation was the workmen's compensation Act, 1923. The size of the unorganized sector has been growing over the last few decades. In 1971 the unorganized sector comprised 89 percent of the workforce, whereas in 1995 it was 92.5 percent. This increase is the result both of (casualisation) of the existing organized sector workers and lack of growth of employment opportunities within the organized sector employment, with 96 percent of all female workers being in this sector.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Unorganized sectors are facing many major problems such as unemployment, low wages, and irregular payment of wages, non availability of social security and welfare facilities, and exploitative working conditions. The Beedi workers at Gojjha villege, Allahabad District are facing many problems, such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, sickness, low wages, Health problem and irregular payment of wages. Their socio-economic and health conditions are really bad. The Beedi leaves cause various forms of health hazards both to the workers and also to the people staying around.

## III. NEED FOR THE STUDY

The People who are engaged in Beedi work are facing serious problems including poverty, health hazard, family problems, poor housing facilities, insufficient nutritious food, unhygienic the environment, illiteracy, physical stress and debts etc. The researcher is keen to learn about the conditions of Beedi workers. The findings of the study will be useful to NGOs working for the development of the unorganized sector.

## IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- I. To study the economic life and problems of the Workers.
- II. To study the housing conditions of the Workers.
- III. To study the family problems of the Workers.
- IV. To study the community life of the Workers.
- V. To study the interests and future plans of the Workers.
- VI. To suggest measures to improve the condition of the Workers.
- VII. To study the economic condition.

## V. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted Gojaiha Village, Allahabad District. There are 50 families involved in Beedi work. These Beedi workers are from down south rural areas of Gojaiha, Allahabad and Kaushambi districts. These families have migrated some 25 years ago in search of jobs. The researcher used a descriptive design. As the objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic and working conditions of the female Beedi workers at Bhashi Village in Allahabad District. The research decided to adopt the descriptive design. Totally 70 families were involved in Beedi work in the field of study. The research selected 50 for the study using a purposive sampling method. Only those female heads of the families who were involved in Beedi work and who were willing to answer the schedule, were included for the study. The primary data were collected from the workers working in Beedi making. They were interviewed face to face by the researcher using an interview schedule. The secondary data were collected from Department of assistant Director of statistics, statistical hand book of Allahabad District with the women in the unorganized sector. Relevant websites periodicals and news papers also reviewed. The mail tool of data collection used for the study was an interview schedule. For the preparation of the

interview schedule the consultation of the research guide was taken. Interview schedule was prepared based on the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was prepared in English and later translated into Hindi. The researcher read some of the books, reports and article of Beedi to understand the topic of the study, better. The interview schedule include various aspects such as social status, economic conditions, health problems, housing or working conditions, political aspects, education facilities for their children and their future plan. To test the tool, the researcher interviewed five workers. Since the researcher did not find any major changes in the interview schedule, the researcher continued with the data collection. The researcher has assumed that Beedi workers are facing several problems due to their socio-economic backwardness such as poverty, illiteracy, ill health, poor sanitations and improper housing. Due to certain limitations in the field the researcher had to adopt the purposive sampling method.

## VI. RIGHTS OF BEEDI AND CIGAR WORKERS

A few state governments have indeed made efforts to ensure social justice to the workers by enacting special laws for regulating the conditions or work of these labourers, but in vain. Because of the highly mobile nature of the industry manufacturers have moved from the area where any such law is in force to places where no such law exists. The efficacy of these two sets of law in ensuring the welfare of the workers has thus been far from satisfactory. To fill the void the union government felt it necessary to formulate a central legislation that would deal exclusively with the workers, welfare and commensurate with the objective of uprooting exploitation found to be exiting in the society. In pursuance of this objective the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 came into being. This act basically seeks to formulate a code of rules and regulation regarding the control and management of the industry to minimize exploitation of the workers. It also tries to improve the working condition of the labourers and provide for their welfare. While on the one hand the Act enjoins certain duties and responsibilities on the employer regarding the workers welfare and other facilities, it also forbids him from doing certain acts. A person is considered an employee if (a) he or she is employed directly or through any agency (contractor) in any skilled, unskilled, manual or clerical work, or (b) he or she is given raw materials by an employer or a contractor for making Beedi or cigar or both at home (home worker).

## VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data presented in Table first the frequency distribution regarding all the testing variables was applied, that generated individual results for each of the variable. Secondly, the correlation between the variable of Age and Qualification and their relation with the satisfaction level was applied, that generated several interesting results.

**Table 1: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Age**

Age	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Below – 20 years	15	30	30
21 years – 30 years	10	20	20
31 years – 40 years	16	32	32
41 years – 50 years	06	12	12
51 years – 60 years	03	06	6
<b>T o t a l</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Majority 82 percent of the respondent were below 40 years. This is the period during which a person's earning capacity is at its peak. After 40 years, a woman has several health problems and therefore she will not be able to work hard. This factor is important for a socio – economic study.

**Table 2: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Education**

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Illiterate	10	10	10
Primary	22	55	55
Middle School	07	15	15
High School	06	12	12
Graduation	05	08	08
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above table 2 it is evident that the workers' educational level was very low.

**Table 3: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Monthly Income**

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than Rs. 1500	28	58	58
Rs. 1501 – Rs. 2500	16	34	34
Rs. 2501- Rs. 3500	05	05	05
Rs. 3501 – Rs. 4500	01	03	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Type of House**

Type of House	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Pucca House	15	30	30
Semi Pucca House	10	20	20
Thatched House	23	40	40
Hud House	02	10	10
<b>T o t a l</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Sizable groups of 40 percent of the workers have been living under Thatched. This type of Thatched houses a lot of heat and can cause a lot of health problems. Majority 65percent did not have sanitation facilities in their houses.

**Table 5: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Family Problems**

Problems	Frequency	Frequency	Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Drinker family man	14(65)	36(35)	50	100
Family problems	19(41)	31(59)	50	100
School dropped children	10(80)	40(20)	50	100
Male domination at home	26(53)	24(47)	50	100
Role of women in house	33(73)	17(27)	50	100

This above table 5 it is evident that gender discrimination was found in the families of workers.

**Table 6: Distribution of the workers on the basis of Community life**

Community life	Frequency	Frequency	Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
SHG's	34 (55)	16 (45)	50	100
SHG's Member	24 (45)	26 (55)	50	100
Community Programme Participate	16 (66)	34 (34)	50	100
Political Support	05 (25)	45 (75)	50	100

The table 6 describes the majority 55 percent of the workers village is have SHG's. 45percent of the workers are member of SHG's out of the 45percent who are in SHG's 66 percent of them participated in the community program 25percent of the workers are supporting political parties. 90percent of the villages do not have SHGs but 34percent of the workers participated in community programme.

### **VIII. FINDINGS**

In this chapter the researcher has presented the main findings of the study. Majority 82 percent of the respondent were below 40 years. This is the period during which a person's earning capacity is at its peak. After 40 years, a woman has several health problems and therefore she will not be able to work hard. This factor is important for a socio – economic study. From the above table 2 it is evident that the workers' educational level was very low. Sizable groups of 40 percent of the workers have been living under Thatched. This type of Thatched houses a lot of heat and can cause a lot of health problems. Majority 65percent did not have sanitation facilities in their houses. This above table 5 it is evident that gender discrimination was found in the families of workers. The table 6 describes the majority 55 percent of the workers village is have SHG's. 45percent of the workers are member of SHG's out of the 45percent who are in SHG's 66 percent of them participated in the community program 25percent of the workers are supporting political parties. 90percent of the villages do not have SHGs but 34percent of the workers participated in community programme. The workers have some concrete plan or the other for their future. They can conduct surveys to find out the human rights violation against Beedi workers. They can help in the formation of SHG's the women earn be trainee various program of self – Employment programs. Awareness regarding the rights of Beedi workers can also the promoted by the NGO. The NGO can take up issues concerning the female Beedi workers like their working condition, health problems and vocational training programmes.

### **XI. CONCLUSION**

Women Beedi workers have been facing lot of problems. They do not have any basic facilities (health, sanitation problem, economic problem, education and soon). The welfare scheme for women Beedi workers are not reaching them. They are deprived of then basic rights and they are exploited by the contractors. So there is an urgent need for the protection of Beedi workers to overcome in their live's.

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