

A Study on the Working Condition of Salt Pan Workers in Thoothukudi

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Abstract:- Salt is very essential dietary commodity. Common salt is an article of daily necessity for human consumption. It has been important commodity for hundred years. It is used widely in the chemical industry and has various industrial uses. It is considered to be the basic as well as a highly indispensable commodity. Salt can be consumed by both rich and poor only to the limited and fixed quantity irrespective of the price or health. Salt is not found in nature. It is available in abundant quantities in sea water. Salt is a cheap and bulk commodity. It is produced in our country by the private, Co-operative and Government sectors. India now ranks third in the world in the production of salt. Salt is an important physiological necessity of life. With an enormous and growing population, the demand for salt is vital importance. Salt is used for several purpose. It is used for cooking as table salt and as a preservative in the preparation of condiments, pickles and food stuffs. It is also used to a limited extent in agriculture as an insecticide, wood killer and for stock feeding. It finds use in curing fish, meat packing, dairying and other industries to prevent deterioration. It is used in several industries such as glass, leather, soap, oil purification, dyestuffs, textiles, ceramics, refrigeration etc., in this regard, the main objective of the study is knowing the consumer working condition of salt pan workers in Thoothukudi.

Key words: Salt chemical, sea water, fixed quantity.

INTRODUCTION

Salt is an important physiological necessity of life. With an enormous and growing population, the demand for salt is of vital importance. Salt can be consumed by rich poor only to the limited and irrespective of the price or health Salt is not found in nature. It is available in abundant qualities in sea water. Salt is used several purpose. It is used for cooking as table cooking as table salt and as a perspective in the preparation of condiments, pickles and stuffs. It is also used to a limited extent in agriculture as an insecticide, wood killer and for stock feeding. It finds use in curing fish, meat packing, dairying and other industries to prevent deterioration. It is used in several industries such as glass, leather, soap, oil, purification, dyestuffs, textiles, ceramics, refrigeration etc. Its largest use in the manufacture of sodium components visa. soda ash, caustic soda, sodium sulphate etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shashikala (2006) in this PhD thesis ‘A Study on Nutritional and Health Status of Salt Workers, stated that agrees are the poor class people and salt production in the only source of their livelihood. Dou to death of modern and latest mechanical devices in the salt industries, the production of salt is slow and minimum and old process of producing salt is still prevalent. As such, agaries do not have interest in diversion of business to other field and also their living standard continues to be lower.

Jaiswal et al (2015) in her online article ‘Solar Pumps help Indian Woman Salt Workers Escape from Poverty’ explained that today India is third largest producer of salt in the world., with 75 per cent of Indian production coming from Gujarat. Yet the salt workers, many of them being woman produce salt still live in poverty. They have to borrow money from salt traders to buy diesel, food and drinking water for the salt production seasons and they live in tough desert conditions from October to May.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The salt workers are employed on contract basic and are paid very low remuneration, not sufficient for leading quality of life. The economical and physical exploitation by lenders makes and traders makes their condition worst. In order to meet the off seasons cash requirements, the salt workers have to borrow money from any organized credit facility or money in the area. Salt producers also pay advance to workers during the beginning of season. The environmental condition in their working place is very poor. The job causes lot of stress and unhappiness to the workers. As the salt workers do painful work constantly exposed to salt and salt pan environment, defects in their physical and mental health is inevitable. In this study, the researchers have made an attempt to find out the socio economic status and standard of living of the salt workers in Thoothukudi.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To find out socio economic conditions of the salt workers.
- To find the nature of employment in salt of Thoothukudi
- To analyze the labor welfare of the salt workers.
- To suggest policy measure to improve the condition of workers in the salt industry.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is an attempt the workers condition of salt pan workers in Thoothukudi.

SAMPLING DEESIGN

The study is based on survey method. In present study, convenience sampling technique is employed to collect data from the respondents in Thoothukudi Town. 120 respondents have been selected.

COLLECTION OF DATA

The study is based on both primary data and secondary data. Primary data were collected through interview schedules. Secondary data were collected through website, articles, books, journals.

FRAME WORK OF ANALYSIS

The data collected from the primary source are analyzed with reference by applying appropriate statistical tools. Percentage and chi-square.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

1. Demographical variables

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Gender		
Male	66	55
Female	54	45
Total	120	100
Age		
Below 20 years	12	10
21-30 years	24	20
31 40 years	41	34
Above 41 years	43	36

Total	120	100
Educational qualification		
Illiterate	71	59
Primary school	22	18
Hitch school	18	15
Higher secondary school	9	8
Total	120	100
Marital status		
Married	94	78
Un married	26	22
Total	120	100
Monthly income		
Less than Rs. 5000	28	23
Rs.5000- Rs.8000	57	48
Rs.8000-Rs.10000	16	13
Above Rs.10000	19	16
Total	120	100

Source: Primary data

It is inferred that 55 percent of the respondents are male, 36 percent of the respondents are in the age group of Above 41 years, 59 percent of the respondents are illiterate, 78 percent of the respondents are married, 48 percent of the respondents have monthly income Rs.5000 to Rs.8000.

2. Descriptive analyses

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Nature of Work		
Watering	32	27
Scarping	41	34
Removing	25	21

Load man/ others	22	18
Total	120	100
Working hours per day		
4 hours	12	10
6 hours	19	16
8 hours	79	66
12 hours	10	8
Total	120	100
Years of experience		
Below 4 years	16	13
4-8 years	28	23
8-12 years	37	31
Above 12 years	39	33
Total	120	100
Suffer occupational disease		
Yes	109	91
No	11	9
Total	120	100
Disease affecting		
Skin disease	26	24
Eye disease	25	23
Back pain	11	10
Both a and b	47	43
Total	109	100

Source: Primary data

It is inferred that 34 percent of the respondents are nature of work is scarping, 66 percent of the respondents are daily working in 8 hours, 33 percent of the respondents are working experience in Above 12 years, 91 percent of the respondents are suffering occupational diseases, 43 percent of the respondents are affecting skin and eye disease.

COMPARISON BETWEEN EDUCATION LEVEL AND OPINION YOUR JOB

Null Hypothesis (H0)

There is no significant relationship between education level and opinion about your job of salt pan workers.

Educational qualification	Level of satisfaction - opinion a pinion about your job			
	Highly satisfied	satisfied	Not satisfied	Total
Lliterate	6	28	37	71
Primary school	3	7	12	22
High school	1	9	8	18
Hr.Sec. school	1	1	7	9
Total	11	45	64	120

COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE TEST

Rows & columans	O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
R1C1	6	6.51	-0.51	0.2601	0.0399
R2C1	3	2.01	0.99	0.9801	0.4876
R3C1	1	1.65	-0.65	0.4225	0.2560
R4C1	1	0.83	0.17	0.0289	0.0348
R1C2	28	26.63	1.37	1.8769	0.0704
R2C2	7	8.25	-1.25	1.5625	0.1893
R3C2	9	6.75	2.25	5.0625	0.7500
R4C2	1	3.38	-2.38	5.6644	1.6758
R1C3	37	37.86	-0.86	0.7396	0.0195
R2C3	12	11.73	0.27	0.0729	0.0062
R3C3	8	9.6	-1.60	2.5600	0.2666
R4C3	7	4.8	2.20	4.84	1.0080
TOTAL	120				4.8041

Degree of freedom = (R-1) (C-1)
 = (4-1) (3-1)
 = 3×2
 =6

Table value @ 5% =12.592 so it is accepted.

Inference: At 5% level the table value for 6 degrees of freedom is 12.592. the calculated value of χ^2 is 4.8041 and is less than table value. Therefore, the null hypotheses (H₀) IS accepted. It is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the education level and opinion about their job towards salt pan workers.

FINDINGS

- It is found that 55 % of the respondents are male.
- It is found that 36 % of the respondents belong to the age group of above 41 years.
- It is observed that 59% of the respondents are illiterate.
- It is found that 78% of the respondents are married.
- It is found that 48% of the respondents earns a monthly income 5000-8000.
- It is observed reveals that the 34% of the respondents are working in scraping.
- It is found that 66% of the respondents working hours per day 8 hours ago.
- It is found that 33 % of the respondents of the respondent's years of experience above 12 years.
- It is found that 91 % of the respondents are suffer occupational disease.
- It is found that 43 % the respondents are affecting skin disease and eye disease.

SUGGESTION

- The salt workers should be provided with a suitable lunchroom with provision for safe drinking water.
- The salt workers must be provided with the necessary equipment 's to work inside the saltpan like footwear etc.
- Employers should be encouraged to give adequate monthly advances to the workers. Such advance should
 Bearn no interest.
- The state government should also make provision to compensate these workers against natural disasters like
 heavy rains, floods, cyclone and fires, etc.,

CONCLUSION

Salt industry is caused by the wage is not equal to the working hours. The job security is paramount Important motivational measure but in this area there is no job security to the salt workers. It should be taken into account by the labor welfare department. Other welfare measures are also not sufficient to the worker's expectation. Therefore, the conditions of salt worker in Thoothukudi are poor. Thoothukudi salt industry is on the springboard of accelerated development in the near future.

REFERENCE

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