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“A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF BIDI WORKERS IN SOLAPUR CITY” 43RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE [ISS] LUCKNOW

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ABSTRACT

India is the third largest producer of tobacco in the world next only to the U.S.A. and CHINA. The smoking of tobacco as a habit however was introduced in India by the Portuguese in the beginning of the 17th century. Bidi industry is one of the biggest cottage industries in India. There are about 4.4 million workers engaged in this industry in India. 4 lakh workers are engaged in this industry in Maharashtra and 75 thousand workers are engaged in this industry in Solapur city. According to conservative estimate more than 6 million persons are engaged in Beedi making processing and allied work.



KEY WORDS: Dielectric constant, Psycho pharmaceutical Drugs, Determination.

INTRODUCTION

Beedi is made of tendu leaves and tobacco. Beedi industry is agro based and cottage industry and here mainly women and children are involved in the process of making Bidi. The majority workers who live below the poverty line. The workers are in vulnerable condition in the country. The industry is widely spread all over the country so there is a need to improve the working living educational, economic condition of the workers.

We found in Solapur majority of the bidi rollers are Dalits. They belong from SC, ST, OBC, categories.

In the present research paper an attempt is made a sociological study of the bidi rollers in Solapur city.

Overview of Solapur City:- Solapur city is a district head quarter is geographically located between 17.15 degree east longitude the city is situated in the south east fringe of Maharashtra state. Here rainfall is uncertain and scanty. The monsoon period is from second fortnight of June to end September bringing rains from south west monsoon. It adversely affects the socio economic condition of peoples. The area is about 180 sq.kms.

Research Methodology

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study and understand the problems of bidi workers.
2. To study their caste status
3. To study their educational & economical condition.

4. To study the awareness of workers about the bad practices applied for the workers (*Gullakatta & Chatbidi.*)

HYPOTHESIS

Majority bidi workers are illiterate they are suppressed by the owners.

There is a relation between the educational condition gender condition of the workers & the illegal practice of *Gullakatta & chat-bidi.*

METHODOLOGY

The required data is collected by two ways primary & secondary. For collecting the primary data structured question were prepared and information was collected through scheduled convenient sampling method is used. 100 respondents were selected from Solapur city. Observation discussion questionnaire these tools are used for primary data collection. Various govt. reports on the Global tobacco epidemic (WHO) various periodicals library resource regarding this issue and internet such sources are used for collecting at secondary data.

Data analysis and interpretation .

Table No. 1
Distribution of bidi workers on the basis of caste.

Sr.no.	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Padmashali	32	32%
2.	Kuranshetti	21	21%
3.	Momin	19	19%
4.	Mahar	16	16%
5.	Matang	12	12%
	Total	100	100%

It is observed here that we found 32 respondents belong from padmashali (OBC) , 21 from kurashetti (OBC), 19 momin (minority), 16 mahar , 12 matang are from (SC) categories. It shows that all the 100 bidi workers are from backward class.

Table No. 2
Distribution of the workers on the basis of education.

Sr.No.	Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	52	52%
2.	Below 10 th std.	28	28%
3.	Below 12 th std.	18	18%
4.	Graduate	02	02%
5.	Post graduate	0	0%
		100	100%

From table no.2 shows that 52 responds are illiterate. Majority are illiterate. 28 are below 10th std., 18 are passed 10th std. but not passed 12th std. only 2 are graduate. No one is post graduate. The educational condition is not favorable.

Table No.3
Distribution of the monthly income of the workers family.

Sr. No.	Family income (monthly) in Rs.	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Below Rs.3000	47	47%

2.	Below Rs.300 to Rs.4000	21	21%
3.	Rs.400 to Rs.5000	19	19%
4.	Above 5000	13	13%
		100	100%

Income is an important factor to find out the standard of living of a particular family. Through table no.3 we interpret that 3% workers house monthly income is below 3000 only, 13% of workers house income is above Rs.5000.

Table No.4
Distribution of the workers on the basis of type of ration card.

Type of house	Frequency	Percentage
Owned	73	73%
Rented	27	27%
	100	100%

The above table shows the type of house condition of the respondents 73% of workers like in their own house and 27% of workers live in rented houses. This is the good sign that they live in their own house but majority have house of only one room it is quite congested.

Table No.7
Table showing the bad practice status Gullakatta.

Sr.No.	Knowing about Gullakatta	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	100	100%
2.	No	00	00%
		100%	

As from table no.7 it can be seen that Gullakatta is bad practice is in Solapur 100% workers given positive answer.

Table No.8
Table showing the awareness of 'chat bidi'

Sr. No.	Knowing about chat bidi	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	92	92%
2.	No	08	08%
		100	100%

The table reveals that 92% of workers has given positive answers that they are facing the problem but only 8% who had said that they don't know about the bad practice 'chatbidi'.

FINDINGS

It is found that all the bidi workers are women. 72% of works belong from OBC category and the remaining 28% of workers belong from SC category All are depressed all are dalits. It is observed that majority of the bidi workers are below 10th std only 2% of workers are graduate Education is a weapon of social change, social development. Education is considered as the major component of human resource but here the status of the workers is not favorable.

The monthly income of the majority house holds is low 47% of the workers have a house hold income is below 3000Rs. Only 13% of workers house hold monthly is above 6000Rs. It indicates their bad condition.

It is observed that majority 73% of workers having yellow ration card and only 27% having orange card and no one having white card it is also indicates the economical bad condition of the workers.

It is a good sign that 73% of workers are living in their own house only 27% of the workers are living in rented houses. Here are more things observed that majority of workers have referred that they have got it under central government housing scheme for bidi workers.

It is revealed that 100% of workers have given the positive answer about the bad practice of *Gullkatta* is the unique bad practice is going on only in Solapur city *Gullkatta* the owners take 25 bidies of the workers without giving any remuneration to the workers.

It is also observed that *chattbidi* is also the bad practice of this industry. The owners can take 5% defective beedies but on the basis of *cattbidi* the owner take 100-200 beedies daily it is badly affected on the workers 92% of workers knowing about it but 8% workers don't not about .

The bidi workers in Solapur city are facing many problems and living in uncomfortable condition.

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