

North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

North Asian International Research Journal

Of

Multidisciplinary

Chief Editor

Dr. Nisar Hussain Malik



Publisher

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik

Associate Editor

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trpathi



Honorary

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium



Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 2326

North Asian International Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce, B.S.A.U Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: - Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No. 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815, Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com

A STUDY ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF ESTATE WORKERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VALPARAI TEA GARDENS, TAMIL NADU



Dr. R. MATHIVANAN*

***Director**, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore – 641046

ABSTRACT

Plantation sector is one of the leading sectors in the economy. In many parts of our country, plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber etc. are cultivated and it plays a major role in the economic progress of the economy. Tea production in India has increased from 853.7 Million Kgs. in 2001 to 1111.76 Million Kgs. in 2012 and the area under tea has also increased from 509,806 Hectare in 2001 to 578,000 hectares in 2011. Plantation workers are highly dependent on management for water, electricity, firewood, health, education etc, most affected group of people or direct victims of disaster in tea or coffee industry are the workers there. Tea estates being enclave economies, workers there lose employment, wages and statutory benefits like health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation etc.

Incidences of starvation induced deaths and suicides are coming to estates. Management try to overcome crisis by raising work load, downsizing labour force; cutting down wage, keeping pending retirement benefits and contribution to Provident Fund account of workers and cutting down statutory welfare measures.

Keywords: *Economic conditions, Plantation workers life style, Workers health.*

INTRODUCTION

India is a country which is earns its major income from agriculture. Nearly 70 per cent of the labour force is employed in the agriculture sector. Although in the recent years the share of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product is coming down, still agriculture is the dominant sector of the economy and it impacts the well being of the other sectors. Plantation is a part of agriculture and it directly employs more than 2 million workers in the country. Plantation plays a very crucial role in the export of agricultural produce. About 15 per cent of the total export earnings of agriculture products come from crops like tea, coffee and rubber, although these plantations occupy only one per cent of the total cropped area. 1.3 Plantations are economic entities connected historically with certain crops. A plantation crop normally is a monoculture and includes growing of variety of products like Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Pepper & other spices etc.

Plantation sector is one of the leading sectors in the economy. In many parts of our country, plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber etc. are cultivated and it plays a major role in the economic progress of the economy. Tea production in India has increased from 853.7 Million Kgs. in 2001 to 1111.76 Million Kgs. in 2012 and the area under tea has also increased from 509,806 Hectare in 2001 to 578,000 hectares in 2011.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kakali Hazarika (2012) studied the vulnerable living conditions of tea tribes and labourers under urbanized culture. The main source of data collected for the study are books, published literature of plantation companies, associations, journals, reports published by different organizations etc. Apart from that primary data collected from 1500 workers in six big tea gardens of Assam. It is found that women workers in India are facing one of the worst forms of exploitation in modern times. Wage cut policy of the employers affect productivity of the industry. His analysis suggested that measures must be taken to prevent availability of alcoholic beverages and gambling in and around tea garden areas. Women empowerment is urgent need for the tea garden workers and special value based education should be introduced.

Achyut Krishna Borah (2013) studied the socio – economic condition and income and expenditure pattern of plantation workers in Lepetkota tea estate in Assam The study uses both primary and secondary data sources. The secondary data was conducted through journals, books and internet. The study found that majority of the Indian tea producers are not getting fair prices in the market for their tea and this passes to the workers as wage cuts and it further affects the tea industry without a strong and skilled labour force and there are lack of educational facilities for the children of the tea estate workers in the study area. The study also suggested that every worker must have bank account and deposit a few per cent of his income in the respective account, infrastructure facilities should develop in the study area so that the workers residential environment will improve and labour welfare department should regularly investigate the status of social security measures available in the tea gardens.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Impact and consequence of the crisis in plantation industry are multidimensional in nature. The process of abandonment or closure of estates becomes common. The closing down of estates and tea factories adversely affect the overall performance of economy of tea producing district. Crores of tax revenue to government from tea industry under different heads like agricultural income tax, plantation tax, land tax, factory's license fee, Building Tax has been pending for years. The financial position of local bodies in the tea areas is seriously affected. Since plantation workers are highly dependent on management for water, electricity, firewood, health, education etc, most affected group of people or direct victims of disaster in tea or coffee industry are the workers there. Tea estates being enclave economies, workers there lose employment, wages and statutory benefits like health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation etc.

Incidences of starvation induced deaths and suicides are coming to estates. Management try to overcome crisis by raising work load, downsizing labour force; cutting down wage, keeping pending retirement benefits and

contribution to Provident Fund account of workers and cutting down statutory welfare measures. The deep crisis in the tea industry has severely affected the standard of living of estate labourers, employment opportunities, and level of trade union activities. So it is fruitful to study the impact of the crisis in tea on the socio - economic condition of the workers and their responses and surviving strategies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives were framed for this study.

- To assess the living conditions of workers in the tea industry in the study area.
- To analyses the problem faced by the estate workers
- To give suitable suggestions to improve the economic conditions of the estate workers.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has selected the valparai area in Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu. The source of data is primary which has been collected from the workers through structured questionnaire method. The study comprising of four tea estates located in four blocks of the district. The sample size is 150 collected from all major tea estates in Valparai.

PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

Valparai is a Taluk and hill station in the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu, India. It is located 3,500 feet above sea level on the Anaimalai Hills range of the Western Ghats, at a distance of 100 km from Coimbatore and 65 km from Pollachi. There are 40 hairpin bends on the way up to Valparai from Azhiyar. While major portions of the land are owned by private tea companies, large forest areas continue to be out of bounds. As of 2011, the town had a population of 70,859.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Distribution of the respondents and their age

Age	No. of Respondents (n=150)	Percentage (100%)
Below 18 years	9	6.2%
18 to 30 years	15	10.0%
31 to 45 years	92	61.3%
Above 45 years	34	22.7%

The above table shows that 61.3 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 31 to 45 years. 22.7% of the respondents are in the age group of above 45 years. 10% of the respondents are in the age group of 18 to 30 years. Remaining

Distribution of the respondents and their usage of cooking fuel

Fuel used for Cooking	No. of Respondents (n=150)	Percentage (100%)
Fire	12	8%
Wood	32	21.3%
Kerosene	30	20%
Coal	18	12.0%
Cow dung cake	37	22.7%
Gas	21	14%

The above table shows that 22.7% of the respondents are using cow dung cake for cooking. 21.3% of the respondents are using wood for cooking. 20% of the respondents are using kerosene for cooking. 14% of the respondents are using gas for cooking. 12% of the respondents are using coal for cooking. 8% of the respondents are using fire for cooking.

Distribution of the respondents and their assets

Assets	No. of Respondents (n=150)	Percentage (100%)	Rank
Bicycle	93	62	5 th
Telephone/Mobile	96	64	4 th
Television Set	123	82	3 rd
Refrigerator/ Deep freeze	21	14	11 th
Audio/Video system	29	19.3	10 th
Furniture, Chairs	64	42.7	7 th
Cart/Bets	81	54	6 th
Availability of Laptop/ Computer	52	34.7	9 th
Motor Cycle / Scooter	58	38.7	8 th
Mixer Grinder	142	94.7	1 st
Jewels (Savaran)	124	82.7	2 nd

The above reveals that 94.7% of the respondents are having government free mixer grinder and its gets first rank. 82.7% of the respondents are having gold jewels like chains, thaali and its get second rank. 82% of the respondents are having government free television, so it gets third rank. The last and least 14% of the respondents are having refrigerator/ deep freezer.

Rank as per expenditure of the respondents

Rank	Food		Own needs		Fuel		Lighting		Education		Rent		Saving		Others	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1 st	44	29.3	34	22.6	4	2.7	29	19.3	19	12.6	25	16.7	33	22	15	10
2 nd	15	10	42	28	22	14.6	22	14.6	22	14.6	33	22	25	16.7	10	6.7
3 rd	7	4.7	26	17.3	18	12	15	10	9	6	39	26	31	20.7	17	11.3
4 th	26	17.3	12	8	13	8.7	12	8	37	25.1	8	5.3	4	2.7	22	14.6
5 th	15	10	7	4.7	22	14.6	7	4.7	15	10	8	5.3	11	7.3	16	10.7
6 th	11	7.3	15	10	18	12	31	20.7	22	14.6	3	2	7	4.7	15	10
7 th	22	14.6	4	2.7	29	19.3	15	10	11	7.3	18	12	6	4	9	6
8 th	4	2.7	8	5.3	11	7.3	9	6	10	6.7	4	2.7	29	19.3	18	12
9 th	6	4	2	1.3	13	8.8	10	6.7	5	3.3	12	8	4	2.7	28	18.7
Total	150	100	150	100	150	100	150	100	150	100	150	100	150	100	150	100
Result	1 st		2 nd		8 th		5 th		4 th		3 rd		6 th		7 th	

The above table expresses that 29.3% of the respondents are giving priority for their food expenses. 28% of the respondents are giving priority for their own needs. 26% of the respondents are giving priority for their rent. 25.1% of the respondents are giving priority for their educational expenses. 20.7% of the respondents are giving priority for their lighting expenses. 19.3% of the respondents are giving priority for their savings.

Distribution of the respondents and their source of financial assistance

Sources of Financial Assistance	No. of Respondents (n=150)	Percentage (100%)	Rank
Sell Livestock	66	44	3 rd
Relatives	51	34	4 th
Neighbour	99	66	2 nd
Formal lending facility	19	13	5 th
Informal lending facility	121	81	1 st

The above table portrays that 81% of the respondents are depending on informal lending facility for their sources of financial assistance. 66% of the respondents are depending on neighbour for their financial assistance. 44% of the respondents are depending on sell lives stock for their financial assistance.

SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are made for the betterment of the working conditions of the working population of the estates.

1. The wage of the workers is very low. There is a need for policy measures to increase the wage of the workers in the estates.
2. The workers are met with the basic health problems in the health centres' run by the management. So, there is a need for measures to cover even the complicated health issues to increase the efficiency and standard of the workers.
3. The workers should be motivated with the saving habit. The present saving habit of the workers will help them to meet their various obligations in the future.
4. To prevent the health of the workers, disease preventive instruments like rain coats, umbrella, rain shoes etc., should be supplied to them.
5. Proper training regarding handling of tools and machines should be given to workers before operating the factory machines.
6. Utmost precaution should be taken while spraying chemicals so that the workers are not exposed to hazardous chemicals. Protection equipment such as goggles or face shields, chemical-resistant gloves, aprons, boots and respirators should be provided.
7. The workers like to be recognized for their work and are susceptible to the effects of love, recognition, rejection, job satisfaction, rewards and discipline. As such, the master-servant relationship existing in the tea estates should be gradually done away with.

CONCLUSION

Despite certain difficulties faced by the Indian tea industry, it is still performing very well in terms of production, export, employment and foreign exchange earnings. There is a need for renovation in the Indian tea industry. One of the reports says that in north India, many of the tea factories were shutdown due to various issues. Estate workers are a major part of labour market of the study area. They are engaged or have engaged in gainful employment contributing to home, to state and to the nation. So the society should ensure continuously that they are given due respect and status.

REFERENCES

- ❖ Baroowah,G.P., 2006: The Legend, Life and Livelihood of India, Guwahati, India, LBS Publications, pp.75-77.
- ❖ Bhadra,R.K., 1997: Social Dimensions of Health of Tea Plantation Workers in India, Dibrugarh, India, N.L. Publishers, pp.84-97.
- ❖ Dev,V., Dash,A.P., Khound,K., 2006: High-risk areas of malaria and prioritizing interventions in Assam, Current Science, Vol. 90 (1), pp.32-36.
- ❖ Griffiths,P., 1967: The History of the Indian Tea Industry, London, U.K., Willam Clowes and Sons, pp.2-21.
- ❖ IGNOU, 2009: Human Resource Management MPA-014, New Delhi, India: Berry Art Press, 283-288.
- ❖ ILO/WHO,1995: Occupational safety and Health, retrieved from www.agius.com/hew/resource/ohsilo.htm dated 23.03.12.

Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

**Address:- Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No-221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301
Jammu & Kashmir, India**

Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,

Ph No: 01933212815

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, info@nairjc.com

Website: www.nairjc.com

