

A SOCIO – ECONOMICAL STUDY OF RAG PICKERS IN MODERN SOCIETY ESPECIALLY IN THE CITY OF CHITRADURGA

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ABSTRACT:

Chitradurga district is an administrative district of Karnataka state in southern India. When we listen to a word 'RAG PICKER' we imagine dirty person collecting waste across the road and we can hesitate to touch them. In English, these terms include rag picker, reclaimer, informal resource recoverer, binner, recycler, poacher, salvager, scavenger, and waste picker. Rag picking is one of the occupation like a self employment, not only a single reason for that job. It is not a social problem, like a self employment, like a social service, The rural peoples suffer from so many facilities than they moving in the direction of city for hunting job or leading of life. The house of rag pickers is not like banana skill for explain. Because they built of his house by waste tarpaulin piece, cloth piece, broken cement sheet, or political leaders old advertising function flex sheets. Among the rag pickers the status of women more or less more comfortable, We provide financial helps to rag pickers, for self employment, construction of house,, The public's must give respect to them. Because it is one of the social services, Let it the public simply be salient about them, giving moral support to them.

KEY WORDS: - RAG PICKER', Chitradurga district, solid liquid wastage, scraps materials, GOSAVI, begging, stolen, robbery.

INTRODUCTION

Chitradurga District

Chitradurga district is an administrative district of Karnataka state in southern India. The city of Chitradurga is the district headquarters. Chitradurga gets its name from Chitrakaldurga. An umbrella-shaped lofty hill found

there. According to the 2011 census Chitradurga district has a population of 1,660,378, roughly equal to the nation of Guinea-Bissau or the US state of Idaho. This gives it a ranking of 297th position in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 197 inhabitants per square kilometer (510 /sq mi) Its population growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 9.39%. Chitradurga has a sex ratio of 969 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.82%.



When we listen to a word ‘RAG PICKER’ we imagine dirty person collecting waste across the road and we can hesitate to touch them. But question yourself that what are the struggles they are facing in their life and what are the social works they are doing?.

A **Rag-picker**, or **Chiffonnier**, is term for someone who makes a living by rummaging through refuse in the streets to collect material for salvage. Scraps of cloth and paper could be turned into cardboard, broken glass could be melted down and reused, and even dead cats and dogs could be skinned to make clothes.

The rag-pickers in 19th and early 20th Century did not recycle the materials themselves; they would simply collect whatever they could find and turn it over to a "master rag-picker" (usually a former rag-picker) who would, in turn, sell it generally by weight to wealthy investors with the means to convert the materials into something more profitable.

Although it was solely a job for the lowest of the working classes, rag-picking was considered an honest occupation, more on the level of street sweeper than of a beggar.

Rag-picking is still widespread in several developed cities today, such as in Mumbai, India, where it offers the poorest in society around the rubbish and recycling areas a chance to earn a hand-to-mouth supply of money.

In 2015, the Environment Minister of India declared a national award to recognize the service rendered by rag-pickers. The award, with a cash prize of Rs. 1.5 lakh, is for three best rag pickers and three associations involved in innovation of best practices.

MEANING

Many terms are used to refer to people who salvage recyclables from the waste stream for sale or personal consumption.

In English, these terms include rag picker, reclaimer, informal resource recoverer, binner, recycler, poacher, salvager, scavenger, and waste picker in Spanish cartonero, chatarrero, pepenador, clasificador, minador and reciclador; and in Portuguese catador de materiais recicláveis. A more contemporary term, focusing on the outcome of the professional activity, is "informal sector recycling". However, the word "informal" can be partly misleading, because in practice a continuum between total informality and proper organization in taxed registered formal activities may be encountered.

In 2008, participants of the First World Conference of Waste Pickers chose to use the term "waste picker" for English usage to facilitate global communication. The term "scavenger" is also commonly used, but many waste pickers find it demeaning due to the implied comparison with animals.^[6]

A waste picker is different from a waste collector because the waste collected by the latter may be destined for a landfill or incinerator, not necessarily for a recycling facility.

"Dumpster diving" generally refers to the practice of anti-consumer and freeman activists who reclaim items such as food and clothes from the waste stream as a form of protest against consumer culture. "Waste picking" generally refers to activity motivated purely by economic need.

REASONS FOR THE RAG PICKING

Rag picking is one of the occupation like a self employment, not only a single reason for that job. It is not a social problem, like a self employment, like a social service, but so many people had degraded opinion. Not like that, Here now we will discussion about the rag picking and what is the position of the rag pickers.

1] Growth of population:- India is in second position in the population of world, day by day the population growing like a Arithmetic. But there is no suitable facilities to that population, the human being must earning for the life leading. So one of the easiest root for the earning rag picking in city or town. It is not presence at village.



2] Unemployment:-The unemployment is one of the reason for that system. The society provide less facilities to more population, and provide more facilities to less population. Some families suffer from unemployment some families enjoyed all facilities those who are suffer from employment they will find alternative works for the leading of life in this way the rag picking is one.



3] Poverty:- Population, poverty, pollution, is main characteristics of Indian society. So many people's suffer from one time one chip of food, the stomach stick to backbone. Not only himself, man is a social animal he will doing something not only himself for defenders also. The mother doing work for her children, men doing something for his family. All types of work done for the stomach and piece of cloth. Then the easiest root is available rag picking. It is better than stolen, robbing, cheating so and so.



4] Lack of Education:- Education is best medicine for the killing of all problems, but so many people's suffer that facilities. The education system is support to human being for the earning of something. Many parents doing this job to give sufficient education to their children. But lack of general awareness among their society made their children also continue that job.



5] Industrialization:- The growth of industries provide so many opportunities to peoples, other hand created so many problems, like solid liquid wastage, scraps materials, the unemployed and un skilled peoples picking the rags or waste sold to guzzarie, getting some earnings for one day food or expenses. It is expected raw materials like waste paper broken glass, waste cloths, dead animals skin, used plastic, etc, t is available in road side or street houses, or any public places.



6] Modernization:- The process of modernization is provide more opportunities to society. An individual thinking about himself for the growing in direction of upward. Hotels, restaurants, multiplex malls, complex, textile show rooms, vegetable markets, provide wastage goods. And other hand the blinking, colorful life attracted to everybody. But unfortunately he can't reach that goal, inevitability human being selected available work or job for the leading of life. In that position he observed in front of him some waste or rag he think it will be help to me, surely that is help to him instantly day by day it will be continue.



7]Urbanization:- The growth of cities support to all process, Mega cities, Metropolitan cities, class-1, 2, 3, cities day by day growing. The city is like a land of opportunity. All facilities available here with or without money. Money peoples living his own way, less peoples wondering for life. Then the city provide work or job to them, The city not growing simply, it is produces so many types of waste, like used cement, scraps, waste paper, broken glass, wooden pieces, etc. other hand the money less peoples consuming that himself.



8] Migration: - Migration is one of the common task of human being, from one place to another place moving for deferent purposes is common. The rural peoples suffer from so many facilities than they moving in the direction of city for hunting job or leading of life. The city also attracted to suffering peoples. But he doesn't know what position in city. There is no readymade facilities to migrant peoples. They try to hunting job but experience, skill, capacity, is essential in city. They are not fit to like that jobs inevitability they initially start rag picking day by day it will be continuing.

9] Caste system:- The Indian society suffered from caste and sub caste, Majority of peoples living in caste feelings, In this system so many people's suffer from suitable position, and dignity, life leadings. Then they find out alternative way for the life leading earnings. They not like identified in begging, stolen, robbery or other illegal activities. So they will select rag picking works.



10]Science and Technology:- Now-a-daysso many sector is dumping variety wastages in dumping places and public places, like waste electric waste, electronic waste, computer, paper, parcel waste, water battle, plastic waste, etc.... Automatically the waste attracted the poor and unemployed person for dumping or recycling. Some industries attracted like that wastes. Day-by-day the work convert as a job to that peoples.

FINDINGS

The rag picking is not belonging to any particular place, town, street, or society. So many rag pickers adopted that job like a hereditary job. Other hand that is like a curse, and gift.

Any how that is one of the self employment and like a social service.



1]Family condition:- The rag pickers family condition is miserable, because they have three or four children, there is no sufficient facilities like food, cloth, health, husband and wife also adopted rag picking, but it is not providing sufficient food or cloth, maximum they will selected cloth in waste drums, but there is no any general awareness about garments, textiles, fashions, dress saloons, But they know that shops, they did not know anything about new materials or cloths in that shops



2] House structure:- The house of rag pickers is not like banana skill for explain. Because they built of his house by waste tarpaulin piece, cloth piece, broken cement sheet, or political leaders old advertising function flex sheets. their house maximum size is 9X9 or 9X6 enough. There is no wall, wall like a screen of sari or piece of cloth, and if we sleep in night easily we can count stars of sky at night, but at the day time we may observe parts of son. The wall has some woolds but that is covered by his favorite film actress wall sticks or his favorite god or goddess. And hanging a small mirror, or another wall poster, with comb and local talcum powder, inside his

favorite dog or cat or bring up parrot, or another favorite animal. In this time the burden of guests, inevitability they will manage.



3] Culture:-Their family culture is very poor because there is no any general awareness about soft or hard speeches. They used the words always below the belt. And in their family also they used the dirty words often in their conversation. Other hand there is no any particular god or goddess for worshipping. But some rag pickers worship Mahalakshmi goddess. They are not fit for the maintain his hereditary culture or imitating culture. They are moving in the direction of imbalance life. Majority of rag pickers belong to particular cast, We may be observed in Chitradurga city who belong to GOSAVI cast. Which means the rag pickers adopted such that job influence of his ancistors job. They have rice, wheat, or other local food, and eating meat, chicken, but not eating beef, fork. Some male consuming alcohol, but not compulsory.



4] Health and sanitation:-WE may observed the rag pickers health is miscible condition. There is know any general awareness about septic, gangrene, epidemic, or what is the effect of if waste needle strike. But they rag picking. The rag picking is not in a main street or majestic road sides, that is available in slum area or dumping of garbage or wastage of city consumers. Some time picking iron scrubs, but there is no any type of safeguards to

them to his hands or legs, Health risks: There is a high prevalence of disease among waste pickers due to their exposure to hazardous materials such as fecal matter, paper saturated by toxic materials, bottles and containers with chemical residues, contaminated needles, They suffer from so many epidemic diseases, and incurable injuries But inevitability they picking the rag for social service.



5]Economic condition:-The rag pickers economic condition is very poor, because a rag pickers picking in a day maximum, 100 or 200 rupees, valuable plastic or another rags. But it is not sufficient to them. So many people's picking the rag for one time meal, or eating food. Some time it is also not available, then they adopt fasting, some time they going to medical shops.

They asking to medical shop owner, please take this amount and give me tablets which I can work without eating. What a miracle thought but still there is any tablets or medicine for removing of hungry of human stomach. If it is find the population will destroy.



6] Social position:- The rag pickers social position is very poor, because they belong to low caste. This opinion of social position, In the ladder of social position they enjoyed low social status, the public is not giving a good

respect or human respect. Some time the societymen'sobservingillegal way. It is one of the insult of rag pickers. Some time they became accused by the public's under the stolen, materials or goods.



7] Relationship with human beings:- The rag pickers has been more durable relationship among his groups. They marry within a group. The relationship with publics is less, though they create contact with publics for the maintenance of his daily life availabilities. They keep distance from publics function or festivals, after the function they come to that place for picking the rags, or wastage of function or festivals. Most of these rag pickers are young children.

As they have no source of income of their own and are often orphans or street dwellers, rag picking seems to be their favorite pastime and their main source of income as well. They scrounge around every day as soon as the waste gets deposited early in the morning at the main garbage centers. But it is not as simple as just finding the stuff and selling it to the 'kabaadi walla' shops. The garbage picking industry has a hierarchal format with there being several middlemen who make the most of these innocent children, much like the organized retail industry.



8] The status of women:- Among the rag pickers the status of women more or less more comfortable, because women also going to rag picking and earning something not depend upon her parents or husband. The women

became empowerment. But she suffer from education facilities, She marry with in a group, but now-a-days love marriage also took place among them. There is no any discrimination. But she is living under the male also. Though some women's achievement is marvelous

Example 1] SUMAN MORE, and her parents migrated to puna from their village for in search of work and began waste picking she started waste picking with them when she was about 13 years old. Suman married at the age of 22 while Suman's husband also contributed to the finance. Their main source of income was waste picking, When Suman started work she would pickup recyclable waste on the road side, in local waste depositories of public waste bins. She walker long distances and worked from dawn to the dusk. Her children helped to sort the waste at home because sorted waste offered a better price.



In 1992-1993 organizers of the KKPKP trade union of waste pickers came Suman's community to talk about the need of organize the explainer that the benefits of organizing included access to waste at source few hours of work for the same amount of money cleaner working condition and insurance.

Many of her neighbors discouraged her from becoming a member, but Suman decide to the join KKPKP with a few other people in community and ask never regretted her decision.

Working with KKPKP [Kagad Kachha, Patra, Kastatakari Panchayath] Suman who was earlier shamed by the by the society being a garbage picker and belonging to a low caste was one among the many esteemed speakers at the forth session of the International Labor Conference held from June 1st to 13th

"I thought it was just us rag pickers who were not treated properly but during the conference I learnt about many other people like hair stylists, and viewers who were also struggling to find their voice.

Suman has four children, among them one is journalist in Indian Express with adouble Master Degree, another is Graduate preparing Civil Service exams, Athird son is a B,Com student, while her daughter is married.



Example:- 2] MANJULA WAGHELA Ahmadabad earlier she is rag picking but now she is owner of rag and waste recycling center and gave job opportunities more than 400 women in her center. She has been faced so many challenges and problems, insults, harassments. But she achieved in her own field. She established [SSSUMSSML] Sree Soundrya Sapayee uthkarsha Mahila Sahakari Mandali Limited. They provide service to more than 45 Institutions, through the scientific technological vacuum cleaner, High –Jet equipments. IIM, National Institute of Design, Physical Research center, getting service from Manjula Waghela and her team.



9] The future life of youngsters:- Among the rag pickers the youngsters also continued the rag picking job, Some youths working like helper in Bar and restaurant, Hotels, General stores. But there is no suitable future to them they living imbalanced future life. They suffer from education facilities. Countable youths got good

education and got degrees. Remaining the youths suffer from that facilities. Numberless of industries is arising in our society but there is no suitable job to rag picker youths.



10] Political position:- The rag picking belong to a particular cast in chitradurga district of Karnataka state. But there is no any person took place in political field. The Indian constitution provide reservation facilities to SC/ST/OBC categories, But the reservation facilities going to those who are dominant in political field they acquired all facilities. So the rag pickers oppressed by dominants. Local or State, level politicians used the rag pickers for his voting profit, The politicians giving assurance to them, at the time of election, after election runfar away from them. So there are no any opportunities to them.



SUGGESTIONS

1]Provide Education:- We must provide education facilities to them, state, central, private institutions must provide free education facilities. Because all problems controlling by only one medicine that is education. We must create general awareness about their present and future life. The primary education is one of the

fundamental rights to every child. So we must respect to human rights through educating them. Provide mid-day-meal, scholar, free cloth or uniform facilities, ration like rice, wheat, or other food grains.

2] Generate the Job opportunity:- Work is worship, do something for life leading. This is old statements, Now-a-days we must getting good job and recognized job. central and state government along with IT/BT Techno parks, generate the job opportunities to youngsters, Variety jobs may support for the development of our society.

3] Training and Self Employment:- We must training facilities to rag pickers about the recycling or what is the use of different wastage, what is useless by that how to recycling the wastage, information of scientific technologies for rag picking and distribution of recycling and non recycling wastages, safe guards. And provide Self employment training facilities to youths about mobile repair, computer DTP works, Data Entry, Traveling information to tourists, garments, etc.. Then they will develop its own way. Government and NGO must provide these facilities.

4] Economic loan facilities:- We provide financial helps to rag pickers, for self employment, construction of house, purchasing raw materials to self marketing, or scientific equipments like vacuum cleaner, recycling machines etc..Its helps to them like education or health. Some Self-help groups provide economic helps to them, Nationalized Banks, Commercial, Co-Operative societies must provide economic helps through less interest and easy installments. Central and state government must take serious action in his Budget.

5] Health and Sanitation:- So many rag pickers suffer from incurable deceases. There is no any type of drinking water, drainage system, cleaning atmosphere, in his residential area. They are living in slum area, they built his house on drainage, whole city wastage water going through rag pickers street. When the start of rain season they living in hell, So many families collapse in drainage water floods. So we must provide at least some portion high quality. Drinking water, street light primary health centers, and supply the free medicine treatment to rag pickers.

6] Social Importance:- The rag picking is not a social problem, but society observing like a problem, and they are guilty. First such feelings should be remove, The public's must give respect to them. Because it is one of the social services, Let it the public simply be salient about them, giving moral support to them. They will picking the rag saliently and go. So the society must provide opportunity to them for living with us. Because they are part of our society. Without them the society became hell.

7] Support to voluntary organizations:-The human being fulfilling his essential demands through the his own organization. Now-a-days the organizations or Self-help groups, Stree-Shakti women groups essential for the

development family and society. Especially it support to the women empowerment. Some youths organizations also support for the improvement of general life sector. So we must support to them, and state –central government support to such groups under the scientific observation through the child and women welfare department, Social welfare department etc. and giving legal provisions to organizations.

8] Support to political participation:- The rag pickers is backward in political entry. The reservation system is reserved for only those who are dominant in that group they will get full facilities. Other hand week sections suffer from that, So the reservation system is useful for the development but rag pickers may be belong to SC category, In SC so many castes – sub castes is there. Under that the reservation must reserved for rag pickers in all sectors. When they entry to politics automatically they getting his facilities, because in modern period politics is essential for the identification of his own group.

9] Establishment of Scientific technological recycling centers:- The government should be establishment of recycling units under the technological system. Must control of garbage or wastage dumping system. Legally the units license facilities provide to rag pickers, for the misuse of rag pickers. Then the reproduce from wastage transfer to authorized industry as a raw material. Automatically the rag pickers getting sufficient gain from his effort.

10] Establishment of Scientific study center and Research center:- The rag picking system is not a new system in our society, it is oldest system, but still there is no any scientific study or observation. But countable cases is took place in our society. That attempt is sufficient to our society or administration. So the government should establishment of scientific research center for study about rag pickers, situation, condition, family structure, culture, relationship, what is essential program, for the control of his problem etc..... These are must find out and transmitted to society.

CONCLUSION:

Waste or Rag picking provides a source of livelihood to extremely poor people with few other employment opportunities. It is not a social problem it is one of the part time job or social service. Though many waste pickers practice their trade as a full-time profession, its flexible hours make it accessible to women with other care responsibilities and to people looking to supplement income from other jobs. Waste pickers provide between 50 and 100% of waste collecting services in most cities of the developing world in India “SWACHHA BHARATH”. It is help to local municipalities expenses. Reducing pollution and mitigating climate change: By

cutting the quantity of virgin materials needed for production, waste pickers save room in landfills, lessen water and energy consumption, reduce air and water pollution, and abate climate change.

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