

A Study on Sustainability of Beedi Women Workers and Beedi Business: Special Case to Solapur City, Maharashtra

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Abstract:

Now days, India is one of leading beedi producing country in the world. Since from many decades, the Beedi making industry playing vital role and one of the largest job provider for women in the unorganized sector of Indian. The government of India estimates that there are about more than 4.4 million beedi workers. The majority are home based workers who live below the poverty line (BPL) and who don't have any other skills apart from the beedi rolling. In this paper the statistical survey of 251 female beedi workers was conducted from Solapur District, Maharashtra. The Statistical analysis indicates that beedi rolling occupation was mostly preferred by the women because this work can be carried from home along with household responsibilities. However since from last few decades due to modernization and change in government policies significant decline trend in production of beedi was observed which result in unemployment for women beedi workers.

Key words: Statistical analysis, Beedi, women workers.

Introduction:

In India tobacco is mostly grown in Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra and to a lesser extent in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (Tobacco Board 2016; ILO 2003). Beedi is a type of little cigarette, made of natural contents that is tendu leaves instead of paper as in cigarette and tobacco. In beedi rolling business most of the workers are women's how belongs to low income and most of them preferred this occupation to support their family expenses. Solapur is one of the junction to which connect the north India and south India not only through high-ways and but also through Rail-ways. Traditionally Solapur is well known for "Chadder" or it textile industry. However now days Solapur City has unique importance as it is included in for Smart City development project of Indian government. Along with this Solapur is also known for having the India's biggest beedi workers colony for around 30,000 houses for beedi workers under the Prime Minister Awas Yojna. In Solapur, Beedi industry is the second important industry in Solapur. There are 115 units of 29 various beedi factories. In these 115 units there are about 70,000 lady workers and 1,725 factory workers in the district. The beedi rolling work is generally not requires any special skills that is anyone execute this without any particular educational qualification. The most of beedi workers in Solapur city are female workers who are belongs to weaker socio-economic status and illiterate. These workers carried chosen this profession for one of the major sources of livelihood for their families.

Beeddi rolling becomes traditional source of livelihood due cheap industrial substitutes and changing consumer preference. At present more than 1 lakh workers are depends on this Beedi industry to cover their facility expenses, children education etc. However change in life style and government policies towards tobacco products and its consumption the market requirement of beedi is found to decreasing. Due to this decrease in demand of beedi in India, the survival of weed workers and their family is very critical. As Beedi rolling is a home based work and engaged large number of female workers on a daily wage basis in Solapur city. The day by day income these beedi workers is declining which having sever impact socio-economic status of beedi works and their family, also on employment rate and economy of Solapur city.

Therefore it is important to explore the sustainability of Beedi business in and its impact on social economical status of beedi workers in Solapur city. In this paper, we conducted a statistical study of 251 female beedi workers in order to explore the year by year significance change in production of beedi, its impact on economical condition beedi workers and sustainability of beedi business in Solapur city.

Review of literature:

The Solapur is home to the largest number of beedi workers of Maharashtra. Large numbers of females are engaged in beedi rolling. However since many of research it observed that the beedi production in Solapur city is declining and is having the strong impact on the beedi workers economical conditions. Ashish S. Supase (2020) found due down fall beedi 90% of beedi workers have the compliance to change their profession; however they can only be accomplished if the right opportunities are provided by government. If there is a provision of training, 90% of the respondents are interested in making the shift to an alternative livelihood.

Prakash Palande (2018) Majority of the women beedi rollers are facing several health problems. These women beedi rollers are belonging to poor families. Illiteracy or less education, ignorance, lack of awareness are major problems. Monika Arora (2020) study indicates that beedi industry of India contributed to only 0.65% of the total Gross Value Added (GVA) by the entire manufacturing industry. Employment in this industry was primarily through contractors who earned only 17% of wages compared to workers in other manufacturing industries.

R.Thanga Selvan (2013) studied Income and Expenditure Pattern of Women Beedi Workers in Radhapuram Taluk of Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu, India. He mainly observed that Even though beedi rolling is an alternative employment opportunity to the women in the rural area they are able to earn a substandard income compare to other sectors. Arindam Nandi (2013) recognize that due to the relatively small economic footprint of the beedi industry in India, higher excise taxes and regulations on beedis are unlikely to disrupt economic growth at an aggregate level, or lead to mass unemployment and economic hardship among small beedi workers.

According to the "Report on Marketing of Tobacco in India and Burma" (1939), about one-fourth of the total bidi production was concentrated in Central Province (Gujarat, MP), while about 40% of the total production was contributed by the Provinces of Bombay (Maharashtra and Karnataka) and Madras (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) and the remaining was scattered over the rest of the country.

The beedi industry has significant economic and social implications on beedi workers in Solapur as they enter into this area to gain some economical support to their family. However at present days due to less demand of beedi, the economy of beedi industry has been influenced specially in Solapur. Due to which beedi manufactures unable fulfill the minimum daily wages of women beedi workers of Solapur city. Hence its real time necessity to conduct the research related to social economical condition of female beedi workers of Solapur city. Very few studies have been attempted in this direction; hence an attempt has been made in this study to analyze social economical status of female in beedi rolling activity in last decades and their sustainability in beedi industry.

Research Methodology:

This study is conducted to explore the overview scenario of female workers of Solapur beedi industry with objectives;

1. To know the demographic details of female workers.
2. To explore the average work experience female workers in beedi working profession.
3. To test the significance change in daily wages of female beedi workers.
4. To test significance change in beedi production from year 2003 to 2020.

Area under study:

The present study was undertaken in Solapur City of Maharashtra state India. Solapur City is well known for beedi manufacturing across India. Solapur City has the predominant occupation coming under household manufacturing is beedi rolling. The Solapur is the major beedi producing center in the Maharashtra State representing a space with the

highest concentration of beedi production with more than 70,000 female beedi are working to support their family income.

Data Collection: The present study primary data is collected through field work. The survey questionnaires were conducted to collect the data from female workers to know the beedi production trend.

Sample Design and Size: The random sampling has been conducted to collect data from female beedi workers involved in beedi rolling from at two years. Overall 251 female beedi workers have been chosen randomly for an in-depth analysis. That is to draw valid conclusion about this study the sample size (n) of 251 female beedi workers is taken.

Data Analysis: In order to generate the scientific evidence about the study all statistical analysis has been conducted using SPSS. In this paper, all quantitative variables are presented using descriptive statistics and year wise percentage change is calculated for daily wages of female beedi workers and beedi production from year 2003 to 2020 and same is presented using graphs. To test year by year significance difference of beedi production one way ANOVA is used, at 5% level of significance.

The present study was undertaken in Solapur city. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through field work. The interview of 251 female workers conducted and data is collected. In this process the observations, questionnaires techniques are applied.

Results and findings:

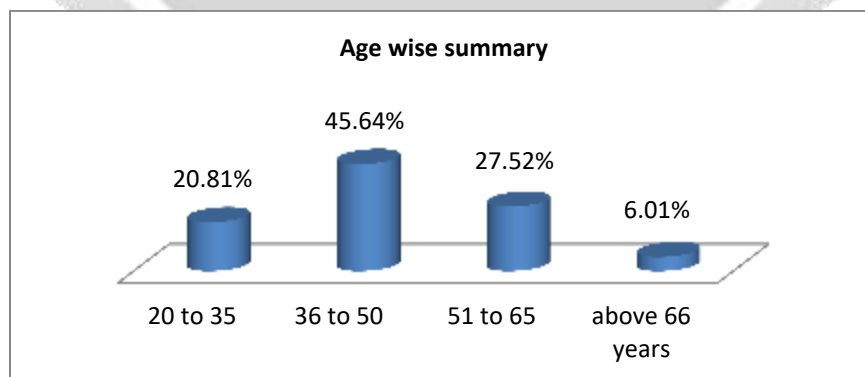
Demographic results:

Age is important characteristic of female workers life. It refers to physical and psychological maturity of a person and also serves as an indication of her experience, knowledge and worldly wisdom. Table No. 1 reveals that a most of the female beedi workers are found to be neither very young, nor very old that almost beedi workers are from active age group. The average age of female beedi workers from Solapur City is of 50 years with maximum age of 75 years and minimum age of 21 years.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Age female beedi workers:

	N	Mean	Median	Mode	S. D.	Range	Min.	Max.
Age	151	46.48	45	45	12.411	54	21	75

The most common age is found is 45 years.



Graph No. 1: Age wise summary of female beedi workers

Graph No. 1, It shows 45.64% female beedi workers belong to age group between 36 to 50 year, while 27.52% female workers are between 51 to 65 years. And 20.81% fall in the 20 to 35 year age group and 6.01% female workers are above 66 years.

Average work experience:

Beedi manufacturing factories officially assert that there is no any child labors involved in beedi making process as each factory officially maintaining an employment card. There is proper recording of beedi workers and officially the starting age of beedi worker is 18 years and end at year 60 that is the age of retirement. However in survey it is observed that family members of female beedi workers, who are above 60 years and girls below 15 years are indirectly involved in the beedi making process in order to fulfill daily quota. On an average since from last 28 years females are performing this beedi rolling work to support their family income, now a day in most of family's next their generation female member of family is involved in beedi making process. That means it become a traditional home base business for many families in Solapur city.

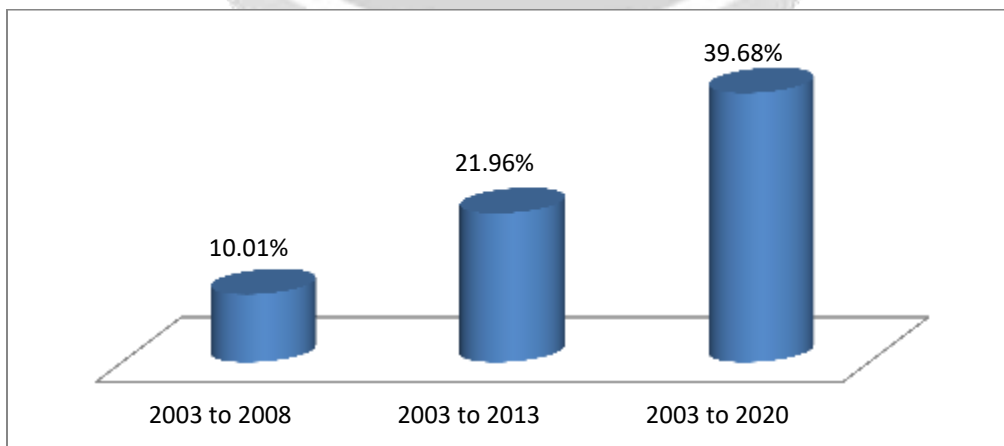
Summary of daily wages:

At present days, the beedi workers in Solapur city are getting Rs. 140 to Rs. 160 as a wages for making 1000 beedi's. The female beedi workers are earning Rs.200 to Rs. 250 per day on an average by rolling beedi. However this flow of beedi is not consistent, it depends on demand of beedi in market. Therefore the female beedi workers are unable to acquire fixed income every week.

Table No. 2: Descriptive Statistics of per day beedi made by female beedi workers.

	Year 2020	Year 2013	Year 2008	Year 2003
Mean	866.67	1121.33	1293.06	1436.96
S.D	195.82	306.22	361.75	472.77
Mode	800.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Median	800.00	1000.00	1200.00	1300.00
Min.	500.00	500.00	800.00	800.00
Max.	1800.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
ANOVA F=54.76 and P-Value =0.0001				

The table 2 shows that the number of beedi rolled by female beedi workers in Solapur city is declining significantly. In year 2003 on an average 1436 beedi rolled by individual beedi workers, in 2008 it becomes on average 1293, in 2013 it further reduced to 1121 and by end to 2020 it significantly reduced to 866 beedi per day. The significance change in quantity of beedi rolling per day is tested with ANOVA (table No.2), the p-value is less than 0.05 that leads reject the null hypothesis that "there is no year wise significant difference in average beedi rolling per day " and to conclude that there is statistically significance decrease in the average amount of beedi rolling per day.



Graph No. 2: Average per day beedi making in Solapur city

The Graph No. 2 shows the average percentage change in the amount of beedi rolling available per day to the female beedi workers. The average percentage change is calculated by considering 2003 as year. From Graph No. 2 it is clearly observed that from 2003 to 2008 there is 10.01% drop in amount of beedi rolling per day by female beedi workers, while from 2003 to 2013 there is 21.96% drop in amount of beedi rolling per day by female beedi workers and its very serious concern that from 2003 to by the end of 2020 the total 39.68% of dropout observed in the daily amount of per day beedi rolling by workers. That indicates the significant declaiming in daily beedi rolling available to individual beedi workers, which directly affecting the daily income of beedi workers. The reduction of 40% in production is beedi work is serious indication, which raises the question on sustainability of beedi business and career of female beedi workers from Solapur city. This observed dropout the approximately 90% of beedi females workers are willing to find the alternative work, however most of beedi workers are not educated or skilled to transform on alternate profession. Hence its real time necessity that government have to develop some alternative for career opportunities minimum wages so that female beedi workers will sustained and their social economical conditions will be improve. If the same rate of declining is continue for next few years the soon the beedi production will be dropped out by 50%, which will result in unemployment of beedi workers.

Conclusions:

The findings of this study clearly show that the plight of female beedi workers in the Solapur city. The results indicates that beedi rolling is become a traditional source of income for many families in Solapur city. Most of female beedi workers entered in this profession to support the social economical conditions of family. It observed that average experience of beedi making is approximately from three decades, as this profession does not demand for any advances or other special professional skills. Also due to flexibility of work hours and home base work facility many females are enrolled into this beedi making business. However the study results indicating that there is significant declining in quantity of daily beedi rolling on hand to female beedi workers of Solapur city, which ultimate indication that beedi making business in Solapur city is started to follow downturn. As discussed before this decline in beedi business directly affecting the employment ability and due to this observed trend of beedi rolling most of female beedi workers are dissatisfaction with the current job and want to switchover to new jobs if they get relatively suitable opportunities. However, they regret that ample opportunities of switching over are missing in the Solapur city. These problems regarding beedi business is not only observed in Solapur city. There is various research studies from cities like Bandalkhund (Uttar Pradesh), Mangalore (Karnataka), Ahamednagar (Maharashtra), Trichirapalli (TamilNadu) has been reported same situation of beedi workers through their research study. Hence on the basis of research survey results its real time responsibility of local beedi entrepreneurs and government to setup some a sustainable approach while developing the policy either to overcome this downturn of beedi business or to develop some alternative career opportunities. Again it is advisable that, the education level and skills of beedi workers should be considered while establishment of new job opportunities. So that all beedi workers especially all female beedi workers will sustain and their social economical status will be enhanced.

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