

Brick Makers: Sociological Glance

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Abstract:

The contribution of workers in the informal sector is important in the Indian economy as the contribution of the informal sector to GDP is 50%. This research focuses on the economic and educational situation of brick kiln workers working in the informal sector of Kolhapur district. The respondents have been selected for this research under non-probability sampling by purposive sampling. Both the qualitative and quantitative methods have been used for the interpretation of data. The findings of this research are based on the fact, that the situation of the workers working in this brick making sector is circumstantial. The informal sector workers are mostly unaware of their rights and rights. Also, most of the workers working in the field of brick production are found to be educationally backward and insensitive to education.

Key words- unorganized sector, brick kiln workers, exploitation.

Introduction:

India has to face many problems in 21st of century, like unemployment, poverty, population growth, social conflict, terrorism, health problems and increasing workers in unorganized sector. Many occupation, trades are involved in unorganized sector i.e. field labour, private sector workers, building sectors, coolies, waiters, road rounder's and brick making workers etc. India is the second-largest brick producer in the world. The annual demand for clay bricks in India was over 200 billion units in 2016,

The Indian economy is characterized by the existence of a vast majority of informal or unorganized labour employment. As per a survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2009–10, the total employment in the country was of 46.5 crore comprising around 2.8 crore in the organized and the remaining 43.7 crore workers in the unorganized sector. Out of these workers in the unorganized sector, there are 24.6 crore workers employed in agricultural sector, about 4.4 crore in construction work and remaining in manufacturing and service.

In the unorganized sector, the work generally falls into four categories such as terms of occupation, terms of nature of employment, terms of especially distressed category and terms of service category.

Small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, share croppers, fishermen, those engaged in animal husbandry, beedi rolling, labeling and packing, building and construction workers, leather workers, weavers, artisans, salt workers, workers in brick kilns and stone quarries, workers in saw mills, oil mills, etc. come under this category.

Brick making industry is one of the important industries in unorganized sector. Brick making industry has played a vital role in the economy of district and also state, but it is suffering from innumerable problems. Therefore, it is important to study the workers of this occupation so the researcher has chosen this topic as research topic.

Objectives of the study:

- To study the socio-economic conditions of brick making workers.
- To study the wage pattern of brick makers.
- To study the educational status of brick makers.

Methodology:

Both the qualitative and quantitative methods have been used to understand proposed objectives of the research. Observations, formal discussions, participatory experiences are including in qualitative technique and data collected through interview schedule have been include in quantitative technique.

Sampling design:

There were 19 brick units in Peth-Vadgaon and 19 brick units in Wathar. The total workers in these 38 brick units were 232. The researcher has selected 25% workers from these brick units and so the total numbers of workers selected were 58. These workers were selected under non-probability sampling by purposive sampling.

Data collection:

The present research is based on the primary as well as secondary data. The primary data were collected from observation and personal interview of brick making workers and visiting all the brick making units in selected area. Secondary data are collected from various government reports, censuses report, journals, news papers, various articles and use of the internet.

Age group of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
0 to 20 years	4	6.9
21 to 40 years	35	60.3
41 to 60 years	18	31.0
61 to above	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

There is no age limit in the work of brick making. The above table shows that majority of the adult respondents. 31.0% workers have age of 41 to 60 years. 6.9% workers were under 20 age group and they were working as a child labour in this field and 1.7% workers are old and the age of these workers is more than 60 years. They are working this heavy work for their livelihood. Since brick production is a labor of physical activity, it shows workers in the young age group of 21-40 years as they are the only ones who can do the job.

Education level of brick makers

Education	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	12	20.7
Primary	34	58.6
High-school	11	19.0
Jr. collage	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

When we glance at education it is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents are

just primary educated. 20.7% respondents are illiterate. 19.0% respondents are high-school educated and just 1.7% respondents are higher secondary educated. The above table shows that most brick production workers have received primary education, so they do not do any other technical or skilled work, so they do this present job.

Caste category of respondents

Caste category	Frequency	Percent
O.B.C.	36	62.1
S.C.	13	22.4
N.T.-D.N.T.	9	15.5
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

There are different castes involved in the brick making work. The above table shows that majority of the respondents belong to O.B.C. class. 22.4% respondents are from S.C. and remaining 15.5% respondents belong to N.T. and D.N.T. class, so the respondents belonged to backward categories. The above table shows that the communities which were traditionally considered to be economically and educationally backward appear to be involved in this brick making occupation.

Type of the family of respondents

Type of the family	Frequency	Percent
Joint family	23	39.7
Nuclear family	35	60.3
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

This table shows the type of the family with reference to the joint and nuclear family. There are majority of the respondents staying in nuclear families and remaining 39.7% respondents live in the joint family. Because they are mainly migrants therefore, they live in a nuclear family.

Educational level of respondent's family members

Total literate members in the respondent's family			Total illiterate members in the respondent's family		
No. of members	Frequen cy	Per cent	No. of members	Frequen cy	Per cent
1.00	38	65.5	1.00	6	10.3
2.00	12	20.7	2.00	22	37.9
3.00	8	13.8	3.00	30	51.7
Total	58	100.0	Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

The literacy table shows the educational status of the respondent's family. The table shows majority of the respondents have one literate member in each respondent's family and remaining respondents have two literate members in each respondent's family.

The table also shows majority of the respondents have three illiterate members in each respondents family and remaining respondents have two illiterate members in each respondents family.

The above table shows that the proportion of educated people in the family of the respondents is lower than the proportion of illiterate people because they are not able to get education due to poor financial situation, and the result of this situation is reflected in their next generation.

Total income of the respondent family

Total income	Frequency	Percent
1000 to 3000/-Rs	1	1.7
3001 to 5000/-Rs	19	32.8
5001 to 10000/-Rs	22	37.9
10001 to above	16	27.6
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

The table shows that 37.9% respondents' monthly income of family is Rs.5000 to Rs.10000, 32.8% respondents families monthly income is Rs.3001 to Rs.5000, 27.6% respondents families have earn Rs.10000 above and one respondents family monthly income is Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 only.

Wage pattern

Wage pattern	Frequency	Percent
Per brick	36	62.2
Consolidated per day (Rs. 250)	14	24.1
Consolidated per month	8	13.7
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

The table shows that 62.2% respondents get their daily wage in the nature of 1 Rs. Per brick, 24.1% respondents get their daily wage in the nature of 250 Rs. Per day and remaining respondents get their wage consolidated per month.

The above table shows that the system of daily wage for workers is Injustice and that is the method of exploiting the workers financially. A laborer can produce an average of 250 to 300 bricks a day, therefore their daily wage is not more than Rs.300 so no matter how much work the workers do.

The information regarding beginning of the work by the respondents is presented in Table no. 5.2.

Working hours in kiln

Start of work	Frequency	Percent	End of work	Frequency	Percent
4 to 5 am	49	84.5	Evening 6.00 O'clock	6	10.3
5 to 6 am	9	15.5	Evening 7.00 O'clock	52	89.7
Total	58	100.0	Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

There is no time table for brick making work. The above table shows that majority of the respondents go to this work early at 4.00 to 5.00 O'clock in the morning and remaining 15.5% respondent's starts this work at 5.00 to 6.00 am early in morning.

The table indicates that majority of the respondents go their home after 7.00 O'clock in the evening that means they are working more than 13 hours in the day and remaining respondents finish their daily work at 6.00 O'clock in the evening.

The above table shows that most of the workers in this occupation work for 13 hours daily and do not get satisfactory wage, they get 250/- to 300/- rupees in exchange for 13 hours work and the benefit of the additional labor of the workers is paid to the brick kiln owner.

Education level of respondents children's

Children's to school	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	29.3
No	24	41.4
No children	10	17.2
Little children	7	12.1
Total	58	100.0

Source-Primary data

The above table shows 41.4% of the selected respondents told that their children do not go to the school because of low level of wages. 29.3% respondents told that their children go to school and remaining 29.3% respondents have no children or their children's are too little.

The table above shows that most of the workers children's in this profession do not attend school because the workers in this profession cannot afford the education for their children or their children help them in the work.

Observations:

Most of the brick kiln workers' homes were simple and lack of infrastructure, such as, electricity facility, toilet, garbage facility, proper sanitation, drinking water facility etc. The environment of the workplace where workers work is considered to be extremely hazardous.

Conclusion:

The situation of workers working in the unorganized sector especially in brick making industry is poor and vulnerable due to their exploitation. The workers from brick making industry are mostly unaware of their constitutional rights. Also, most of the workers working in the field of brick production are found to be educationally backward and insensitive towards education.

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