

Socio-Economic Conditions and Work Behavior of Coolie Workers with Special Reference to Pandikkad Grama Panchayat

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Abstract

This study examines the socio-economic condition and work behavior of coolie workers in Pandikkad Grama Panchayat. It explores factors such as income, education, family structure, and working conditions to understand their impact on work behavior and livelihood sustainability. The study employs both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, analyzing data collected through surveys and interviews. The findings indicate that despite their crucial contribution to the local economy, coolie workers face challenges like low wages, job insecurity, and inadequate social security. It also investigates their coping mechanisms and the influence of government welfare schemes on their well-being. The findings highlight the need for policy interventions to improve their living standard and ensure fair labour practices. This study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the socio-economic realities of coolie workers and advocate for measures that enhance their quality of life.

Key words: Coolie workers, Socio economic condition, Social welfare, Job security, Employment patterns

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I. INTRODUCTION

Coolie workers form a vital part of the labor force in India, particularly in rural areas. These workers are engaged in manual labor, contributing significantly to the local economy. This research aims to analyze their socio-economic conditions and work behavior with a special focus on Pandikkad Grama Panchayat. The study addresses key concerns such as wages, education, health, and job security. This study on the "**Socio economic condition and work behavior of coolie workers with special reference to Pandikkad gramapanchayat**" is an attempt to understand socio economic condition and work behavior of coolie workers.

The socio economic condition of coolie workers can vary significantly depending on the region, country, and specific industry they are involved in. In many developing countries, coolie workers often come from marginalized communities and face economic hardships. They may lack access to education, healthcare, and other basic amenities, and a lack of social security measures can further exacerbate their socio- economic challenges.

Coolie workers are known for their hard work, resilience, and adaptability. They often perform physically demanding tasks under challenging conditions. Due to the nature of their work, coolie workers may be exposed to health and safety risks, such as heavy lifting, exposure to hazardous materials, and long working hours. The work behavior of coolie workers is shaped by various factors, including the type of industry they work in, the level of job security, and the prevailing labor laws and regulations. Some coolie workers may be employed on a casual or temporary basis, which can lead to job insecurity and a lack of social benefits.

This study is an attempt to understand common problems faced by coolie workers. Coolie workers faced several problems. Some of which include, Physical Strain and Health Risks, Occupational Hazards, Exploitation and Low Wages, Lack of Social Security, Discrimination and Marginalization:

Coolie workers form an essential part of the labor force in many economies. Their socio-economic conditions and work behavior are influenced by a range of factors, including economic disparities, migration patterns, and labor market dynamics. While coolie workers demonstrate resilience and hard work, they often face challenges related to poverty, limited access to social security, and hazardous working conditions. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach that includes creating better job opportunities, ensuring fair labor practices, and providing social support to improve the overall well-being of coolie work.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

For a worthwhile study in any field of knowledge, the researcher needs to acquire adequate familiarity with the works that have already been done in his area of choice. The process of review involves identifying, locating and evaluating report of relevant researches, study of published article, going through related portions of encyclopedias, research abstracts, pertinent pages of book on the subjects, manuscripts if any and even non-book materials. Review presented below includes literature pertaining socio economic condition and work behavior of coolie workers.

Datt (2007) the author made a comprehensive study of socio economic aspects of the workers working in both organized and unorganized sectors. The article analyzed the NSS data to identify the specific socio economic aspects of the workers. Primarily among the total workforce, approximately 92% are working in to unorganized sector, while around 8% are working in the organized sector the study is divided between agricultural sectors and non agricultural sectors. Both the sectors have organized and unorganized sectors where working condition differ significantly. The author tried to understand the situation in terms of poverty as the criteria. It is observed that both in the agricultural sectors, incidents of poverty is more among the workers belongs to unorganized sector workers

Dolas (2010) the author conducted a study on the socio economic conditions of Bidi workers in Solapur district. Socio economic upliftment may be achieved if the people have adequate income in their hand after meeting the necessary expenditure for survival. Sometimes, due seasonal nature of the works and agricultural uncertainty it becomes difficult for most of the workers to earn substantially. Lack of availability of work in the present area is also another detrimental factor and this often forces the laborers to move out of the place. A worker working in any specific industry should get the basic facilities along with certain basic minimum wage. Though, the government has passed the Minimum Wage Act, still it has been implemented in very few areas. This type of trend can also be seen in bidi industry throughout the country. As it can be seen that most of the workers are women in nature so chance deprivation becomes more. There is a need to transform the sector into an organized sector with the help of government agencies. Sometimes, even if there is a chance to transform, promoters are not willing to do so because of tax liability and others. So, these problems should be addressed at the earliest to resolve it.

Kapur et al (2014) in this paper the researcher tries to make an effort to understand the working and living conditions of workers in the unorganized sector and tried to identify the gaps between organized and unorganized sector. Unorganized sectors are characterized by seasonal employment and contractual work situation. There are no social security and welfare legislations. In this sector people face problems like poor health conditions, substandard working life, and harassment at work, inadequate and unequal wage structure, long working hours, poor housing facilities, lack of safety measures, and no proper education for children of the workers. To improve the conditions of the workers in this sector Government should interfere and should take necessary action.

Indian Labour and Employment Report (2014), showed the labour market and employment condition in India. It has provided the analyses of the changes in the labour market and employment since the inception of economic reform. It has explored the dynamics of these changes, by looking at labour-market institutions, different types of employment, and labour market policies. A devastatingly large percentage of workers (about 92 per cent) are engaged in informal employment and a large majority of them have low earnings with limited or zero social protection. This is true for a considerable proportion of workers Foundation in the organized sector as well. Levels of education and professional and vocational skills are extremely low. There is considerable regional differentiation in access to good quality of employment. An initial Employment Situation Index (ESI) has been prepared for this report which shows that generally workers in the southern and western states of India have much better access to good quality of employment than central and eastern region. It has been stated in the report that regulatory interventions in informal enterprises should ensure that a minimum quality of employment is maintained and basic rights of workers are respected. Suitable policies and measures to address the issue of education and skills acquisition need to be urgently put in place.

Beevi (2014) the authors conducted a study on women workers in the textile sectors. Traditionally women workers are habituated to work in an unorganized working environment and most of the time they are underpaid. Being in the productive income generation field for a long period of time, they are denied their rights to earn more and right to engage in skilled workforce of the organization. The situation is not different in the textile sector as well. Though the sector is organized but it employs unorganized women workers mostly in sales job. This is more relevant in the industry as they do not possess much skill to work in a factory neither the employers are willing to invest in manpower training. Cost is also an important factor. As most of the unorganized workers are underpaid, that is added up to the profit of the organization. The study reveals that the women unorganized workers are apparently happy with their job though they are underpaid. This is because of the facilities that the organization is providing other than the regular wages. Continuous work pressure and seasonal demand for the job is also another area of concern faced by the women.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.To analyse the socio-economic status of coolie workers in Pandikkad panchayath.
- 2.To examine the work behaviour and challenges faced by these workers.
- 3.To evaluate the impact of income, education and job security on their livelihood.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **Research Design:** Descriptive research methodology
- **Data Collection:** Primary (surveys, interviews) and secondary (government reports, academic journals)
- **Sample Size:** 100 coolie workers from Pandikkad Grama Panchayat
- **Data Analysis Techniques:** Statistical methods including frequency distribution and correlation analysis

Data Analysis

Table 1: Income Distribution of Coolie Worker

Income Range (Rs.)	Percentage (%)
Below 8000	25%
8000-15000	50%
Above 15000	25%

Table 2: Educational Qualification

Qualification	Percentage (%)
No Education	30%
Primary Education	60%
Secondary Education	10%

Table 3: Health Issues

Health Problem	Percentage (%)
Back Pain	45%
Respiratory Diseases	30%
Fatigue &Exhaustion	25%

Table 4: Job Security Levels

Security Status	Percentage (%)
Regular Work	20%
Irregular work	80%

Table 5: Awareness and Access to Social Security Schemes

Access to Welfare Schemes	Percentage (%)
yes	15%
No	85%

Socio-Economic Conditions of Coolie Workers

- **Income Levels:** Majority earn between Rs. 8,000-15,000 per month
- **Education:** 60% have primary education, 30% have no formal education
- **Housing Conditions:** 70% live in rented or kutchha houses
- **Health Issues:** Common problems include back pain, respiratory diseases

Work Behavior and Challenges

- **Work Hours:** Average workday lasts 08-10 hours
- **Job Security:** 80% report irregular work opportunities
- **Working Conditions:** Physically demanding, exposure to extreme weather conditions

- **Social Security Benefits:** Only 15% have access to government welfare schemes
- This study provides valuable insights into the socio-economic realities of coolie workers and highlights the need for policy interventions to improve their living and working conditions.

IV. FINDINGS

The majority of coolie workers struggle with financial instability.

- Low education levels limit access to better-paying jobs.
- Lack of social security schemes leaves them vulnerable to economic shocks.
- Health concerns impact their productivity and quality of life
- Work conditions are physically strenuous with long hours and exposure to extreme environments
- The majority of respondents are living in their own house.
- Large numbers of respondents are faced the financial problem.
- Most of the respondents have been providing all the facilities for their children.
- Most of the respondents are moderately satisfied with their wage.
- Most of the respondents are working for 8 hours.

V. SUGGESTIONS

- Government make Policies to ensure minimum wages, health benefits, and job security
- Implement Educational Programs like Skill development initiatives to improve employability
- Ensure timely payment of fair wages matching their working standards
- Provide access to social security scheme and incentives to workers.
- Ensure safe working environment.
- Provide stable employment contracts.
- Workers done work assigned to them sincerely.
- Provide adequate health facilities including medical assistance.
- Government should invest in community development programmes
- Enhancing living standards and social well-being of workers.

VI. CONCLUSION

The study was conducted to find out the socio economic condition and work behaviour of coolie workers with special reference to Pandikkad Gramapanchayath. The socio-economic status of the workers showed that they were poor. They are daily wage earners and maintain their family with small income with difficulty. It was noted that most of them were literate. They did not consume adequate amount of nutritious food. In most of the cases it was found that they lived in small houses. Their monthly income was less due to which they had to borrow from relatives or neighbors for fulfillment of their needs. They were not aware of the different social security schemes. Awareness programmes including individual/ separate counseling was essential for overall upliftment. The current research looks at a variety of issues that affect in coolie workers. The issues such as casual employment, lack of social security, lack of labour welfare programs, erratic work schedules, unsafe working conditions, occupational diseases, injuries, wage exploitation and differentiation, noise, working at heights, lack of raw materials availability, labour mobility, lack of cohesion and satisfaction, and bad habits have an impact on the workers and lower their labour productivity in the coolie workers. To preserve the health and wealth of the coolie workers, efforts should be made to mitigate or eliminate such difficulties. Everyone has the right to work hard and enjoy life. Therefore, it is the government's duty to provide the facilities that safeguard construction workers and enhance their quality of life in every way.

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