



A Study on Problems Pertaining of Women Labourers in Fireworks Industry -With Special Reference to Sivakasi

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KEYWORDS :

Introduction

Fireworks industry produces all kinds of crackers for festival purpose. The word "Fireworks" is heard, everyone will think of Sivakasi. Sivakasi is an active town and a municipality in Virudhunagar district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the capital of India's firecracker industry with about 8,000 factories, big and small, producing 90 percent of the total fireworks output. It was given the nickname "Kutty Japan" ('Mini Japan' in English) by Jawaharlal Nehru. Fireworks is the world famous one because every celebration is carried out with burning crackers. We know only the enjoyment on burning them but many people are involved in preparation of such crackers. This work was a risky job because it may not assure guarantee to the life of the worker in such industry. Especially women are involved in such job. Women make half of the population and one third of the labour force in India's national economy. Jawaharlal Nehru said that "one can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women". Women are the heart of the family and play a vital role in upbringing the family. Such women face lot of Adjustmental problems. Thus this study has made a conscious effect in the problems faced by women working in fireworks industry. The research design used in this study is a descriptive one. The total number of samples taken for the study was 600 and they were selected using the Systematic random sampling method from Sivakasi, Virudhunagar district. The findings and implication of the study will be discussed in the full paper.

Statement of the Problem

In Sivakasi, fireworks industries are prevalent, especially in rural areas. The fireworks industry is one of the important industries. As this industry requires very little technical know-how, women are employed in considerable numbers. Many studies on the working and living conditions of organized labour are available in India. Labour laws in India cover organized industries. Unorganized labour has mostly been left out of their purview. Generally people are curious to know the problems faced by women working in fireworks industries and also to know how far their work is changing their culture of poverty. Hence a desire to know the problems of women workers in fireworks industries became a research issue for this study.

Need and Importance of the Study

This research is about the women workers engaged in fireworks industry in the particular place called Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, India. As far as Sivakasi Taluk is concerned, Crackers making is one of the major unorganized industries. A majority of the workers in this industry are women. The standard of living of the women workers' family depends on the earning of women in the family. Simultaneously women are facing social, economic, health, psychological and organization problems. The present study is undertaken to find out the problems faced by the women labourers in fireworks industries in Sivakasi.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio- economic problems of women workers in fireworks industries
2. To identify the safety problems in the fireworks industry among women workers in fireworks industries
3. To analyze the health and work life balance problems of women

- workers in fireworks industries
4. To understand the level of sexual harassment among women workers in fireworks industries
5. To analyze the welfare measures provided in the fireworks industries to the women workers.

Scope of the Study

The study would throw more light on the problems of the existing fireworks industry workers. Further, it may pave way for a betterment of socio - economic conditions, health problems, welfare measures, safety problems in the fireworks industry among the women workers in the study area. Both the factors, namely health problems, welfare measures and safety problems provided by the fireworks industry in the study are to be taken into consideration while trying to find out remedies for this malady. The scope of this study is wider. This may help to find out a satisfactory solution to this problem. The study is confined to evaluation of the women worker's problems in the fireworks industry in the study area. Hence, the study is imperative and necessary. It is true that it is a world phenomenon. But the magnitude of this problem in advanced and civilized countries is significant, whereas the problem has taken a significant dimension in developing countries. Hence, the study becomes important and relevant though there has been several studies earlier on this subject.

Methodology

The data were collected through personal investigation of the fireworks industry at different intervals. Data were also collected from secondary sources such as books, periodicals, news papers, website etc.,

For analysis, simple statistical tools like percentages and averages, garret ranking, multi dimensional scaling, factor analysis and chi-square test were employed.

Problems

TABLE - 1:NON-VERBAL SEX CUES PROBLEM

Sl.No.	Details	Non-verbal sex cues e.g. looking someone up and down in a sexual way)			Total
		Colleagues	Supervisor	Not Encountered	
1.	15-25 age	66	33	51	150
2.	25-35	95	27	81	201
3.	35-45	64	30	47	141
4.	45 and above	48	15	44	108
Total		273	105	222	222

TABLE – 2: ORAL/TEXTUAL RELATED SEX PROBLEMS

SL.No.	Details	Oral / textual / electronic messages (e.g. unwelcome dirty jokes related to sex, electronic requests for sexual favors)			Total
		Col-leagues	Supervi-sor	Not En-counterred	
1.	15-25 age	29	70	51	150
2.	25-35	38	82	81	201
3.	35-45	34	60	47	141
4.	45 and above	19	46	44	108
Total		120	258	222	222

TABLE – 3: PHYSICAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

SL.No.	Details	Physical (e.g. pulling someone’s clothing or inappropriate touching [e.g. patting, touching, kissing or pinching])			Total
		Col-leagues	Supervi-sor	Not En-counterred	
1.	15-25 age	54	45	51	150
2.	25-35	72	48	81	201
3.	35-45	55	39	47	141
4.	45 and above	39	26	44	108
Total		220	158	222	222

TABLE – 4: HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

SL.No.	Details	Hostile environment (e.g. showing sexually obscene or suggestive photographs on mobile phones)			Total
		Col-leagues	Supervi-sor	Not En-counterred	
1.	15-25 age	36	51	51	150
2.	25-35	41	79	81	201
3.	35-45	28	47	47	141
4.	45 and above	21	47	44	108
Total		126	252	222	600

Suggestions

- The management should come forward and increase the wages for their workers
- The management should regularize the work place security and organize women grievance committee
- Providing primary healthcare centers in the industries premises for Financial and administrative support.
- A holistic development plan should be evolved for women labourers.
- Government officials should strictly adopt the licensing of the fireworks industry.
- The management should create awareness to workers

Conclusions

This study conclude that, problems of women labourers working in fireworks industries are classified under five heads like , i) socio- economic problems, ii)health problems, iii) safety problems, iv) work life balance and v) sexual harassment problems. The suggestions offered by this study should be strictly followed by the fireworks industries means the problems may be overcome in the study area. The above said problems are rectified only with the help and support of the management and government in the study area.

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