



SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY MANGANESE MINE WORKERS IN NAGPUR DIVISION

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ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to find out socioeconomic problems of mining workers working in manganese mines in Nagpur division of Maharashtra State India. In the present study researcher, selected total 500 labors from six manganese mines in Nagpur Division. The primary information needed for study was collected by using interview schedule. It is evident from the study results significant percentage of workers are socioeconomically stands at satisfactory level. The manganese mineworkers faced various socioeconomic problems, which primarily include inadequate living space and income issues, which are followed by socio economic problems such as lack of social recognition, lack of easy approachable educational facility. It was suggested that mining agencies should consider problems of manganese mineworkers and provide adequate measures to them.

KEYWORDS : Manganese Mine; Workers; Socioeconomic Problem; Socioeconomic Status

INTRODUCTION

Mining is the second of humankind's earliest events after agriculture. As we consider fishing and lumbering as part of agriculture and oil and gas production as part of mining, then agriculture and mining continue to supply all the basic resources used by modern civilization. From prehistoric times to the present, mining has played an important part in human existence (Madigan, 1981). Today, mining is one of the essential industries, which involves both exploration and processing removal of minerals from the earth, economically, and with minimum damage to the environment. Mining is necessary for nations to have adequate and dependable supplies of minerals and materials to meet their economic and defense needs. The total workforce of the mining industry in India comprises more than one million workers. In terms of manpower involved and the capital amount invested in mining industry makes it to be in top five major industries in India.

Socioeconomic status (SES), measured by indicators such as education, income, and wealth, is often cited as an important determinant of health. In addition, social relationships, including social support and integration, have known influences on health. However, it remains unclear how these separate social domains jointly affects a variety of health outcomes. Clarification on this issue is needed in order to improve our understanding of how different health outcomes may be produced for those with different levels of socioeconomic status, social support, and social integration (Moneer, 2006).

In the light of above information, we decide to find out socioeconomic problems of mining workers working in manganese mines in Nagpur division of Maharashtra State India with the following objectives-

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.To find out socioeconomic status of workers
- 2.To find out Caste category and educational qualification of workers
- 3.To find out socio-economic problems faced by them

Review Of Literature

Fältholm and Abrahamsson (2015) elaborated and present a framework not only for understanding gender segregating mechanisms in mining, but also as a basis for change towards gender equal mining workplaces. Based on this framework, the aim is also to identify a number of research questions for our future research on gender in the mining.

Mathur (2015) reconfirmed the known facts that in a majority of mines, the mine owners and contractors have resorted to the unlawful practice of concealing the number of laborers working in their mines in order to bypass labour laws and to evade other restrictions and rules under Mines Act, 1952. Silva-Segovia and Salinas-Meruane (2016) analyzed emotional adjustments and imbalances experienced by female partners of Chilean mining workers, resulting from interacting demands of work, intimacy, family, and handling money, as well as tensions caused by miners' prolonged absences and dissimilar schedules, negatively impacting family encounters. Nancarrow et al (2017) provides a summary of research that examined the nature and prevalence of intimate partner abuse of women in Central Queensland's Bowen Basin region. A number of characteristics were found to be significantly associated with abuse. For example, depression was significantly associated with sexual assault and both depression and severe psychological symptoms were significantly correlated with all other forms of abuse. Omid et al., (2017) investigated the relationships between shift work and related health effects and shift work and workers' satisfaction in workers of mining industry located in south-west of Iran. They found that workers' personal and family life satisfaction has been affected by shift work.

Bowers et al., (2018) assessed the prevalence and correlates of psychological distress in a sample of remote mining and construction workers in Australia. They observed that Psychological distress is significantly more prevalent in the remote mining and construction workforce than in the overall Australian population. Nunfam (2019) assessed the social impacts of climate change and occupational heat stress and adaptation strategies of mining workers in Ghana. The findings suggest that the use of convergent mixed methods showed adequate corroboration and complementarity between the qualitative and quantitative data and helped to obtain credible data relevant for policy decisions on heat stress management, workplace health and safety, and adaptation strategies. Tambekar (2020) attempted to find out socioeconomic problems of unorganised sector workers in manganese mines. Unorganised labors working in manganese mines are addicted to bad habits such as tobacco/gutkha/pan/alcoholism etc. Unorganised labors working in manganese mines received income inadequate for fulfilling their family needs. Tambekar and Bhisikar (2020) addressed health problems faced by manganese mineworkers as well as health and medical facilities available to them. Study

evident that diseases and disorders such as partial deafness, asthma, allergy and cough were experienced by most of the mining workers in manganese ore mines of Nagpur division. They are satisfied with the health facilities made available to them by company as well as treatment received by them for medical problems.

METHODOLOGY

While studying socioeconomic problems of workers working in manganese mines, the nature of research method was decided by using scientific methods of research. Researcher follows descriptive research design for present study. Researcher follows survey methodology for present study. In the present study researcher, used purposive sampling method in probable sampling technique under this random sample selection was used to select respondents. By making use of above, technique researcher selected total 500 informal sector labors from six manganese mines in Nagpur Division. The primary information needed for study was collected by using interview schedule as well as observation technique. The socioeconomic status of workers was determined by knowing their income, expense, education, facilities available at home, no. of family member, no. of income sources, social recognition, social participation etc.

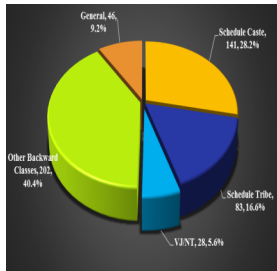


Fig. 1: Caste Category Wise Classification Of Manganese Mineworkers

Data Analysis

The Fig. 1 shows caste category wise classification of manganese mineworkers in Nagpur division. It is apparent that 40.4% workers belong to other backward classes whereas 28.2% belong to schedule caste category. Furthermore, percentage of manganese mineworkers belonging to schedule tribes, general and VJ/NT category was 16.6%, 9.2% and 5.6% respectively.

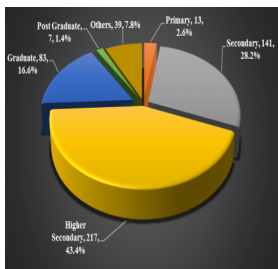


Fig.2: Educational Level Of Manganese Mine Workers

The Fig. 2 illustrates information pertaining to educational level of manganese mineworkers in Nagpur Division. It is evident that 43.4% workers were educated up to higher secondary level of education whereas 28.2% workers were educated up to secondary level of education. In addition to this, percentage of workers educated up to graduate, post-graduate and primary level was 16.6%, 1.4% and 7.8% respectively. Furthermore, 7.8% workers had completed their education in other fields such as ITI or basic technical skills at local levels.

Socioeconomic Status	N	Percent
Very High	00	00
High	24	4.8
Satisfactory	361	72.2
Not Satisfactory	94	18.8
Not at all Satisfactory	21	4.2
Total	500	100

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Total	500	100

The Table 1 illustrates information regarding socioeconomic status of manganese mineworkers in Nagpur Division. It is apparent that 72.2% mineworkers have satisfactory socioeconomic status whereas the socioeconomic status of 18.8% mineworkers is not satisfactory. Furthermore, 4.8% workers have high socioeconomic status however; the socioeconomic status of 4.2% worker is not at all satisfactory.

Social Problems	N	Percent
Income Issues	317	63.4
Familial Disputes	152	30.4
Less Social Participation	67	13.4
Lack of Social Recognition	261	52.2
Addiction	211	42.2
Inadequate Living Space	321	64.2
Lack of social development of children	79	15.8
Lack of easy approachable educational facility	257	51.4
Lack of Sanitation facility in the area	155	31
Lack of cultural Development	37	7.4

The table 2 illustrates information about socioeconomic problems faced by manganese mineworkers in Nagpur Division. It is evident from the information that 64.2% workers have problem of inadequate living space whereas 63.4% workers have income issues. In addition to this, 52.2% workers have problem of social recognition and 51.4% workers have problem of lack of easy approachable educational facility. Moreover, percentage of workers having socioeconomic problems such as addiction, lack of sanitation facility in the area, familial disputes, lack of social development of children, less social participation and lack of cultural development was 42.2%, 31.0%, 30.4%, 15.8%, 13.4% and 7.4% respectively.

CONCLUSION:

Present study is carried out with the objective to find out socioeconomic problems of mining workers working in manganese mines in Nagpur division of Maharashtra State India as well as to know their socioeconomic status. It is evident from the study results that most of the workers working in manganese mines in Nagpur division belong to OBC category followed by SC category. The education level of majority of workers is higher secondary, followed by secondary education. Significant percentage of workers is socioeconomically stands at satisfactory level. The manganese mineworkers faced various socioeconomic problems, which primarily include inadequate living space and income issues, which are followed by socio economic problems such as lack of social recognition, lack of easy approachable educational facility, addiction, lack of sanitation facility in the residential area and familial disputes. It was suggested that mining agencies should consider problems of manganese mineworkers and provide adequate measures to them.

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