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A STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WORKERS OF FIREWORKS IN SIVAKASI

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ABSTRACT

The development of any country depends upon its industrial development. Of course, the industrial development is the only main tool, for the image of any nation. The growth of industries in a country paves way for the effective utilization of its abundant resources like capital, material, men and Chemicals. In India, Fireworks occupy a predominant position in the industrial development of the country. The firework is one of the labour intensive industries. It has very high employment potential. Employee satisfaction is the terminology used to describe whether workers are happy and contented and fulfilling their desires and needs at work. This paper highlights the socio economic conditions relating fireworks industry in sivakasi.

KEYWORDS

fireworks, workers, industry.

INTRODUCTION

The development of any country depends upon its industrial development. Of course, the industrial development is the only main tool, for the image of any nation. The growth of industries in a country paves way for the effective utilization of its abundant resources like capital, material, men and Chemicals. In India, Fireworks occupy a predominant position in the industrial development of the country. The firework is one of the labour intensive industries. It has very high employment potential. Employee satisfaction is the terminology used to describe whether employees are happy and contented and fulfilling their desires and needs at work. This paper highlights the perception of the employees relating to the job satisfaction at standard fireworks industry in sivakasi.

"The worker is the principal instrument for the fulfillment of the targets of play and in the achievement of economic progress".² Generally, these labour problems comprises the problem of social security, minimum standard of living, working hours, working conditions, Accidents, sickness, old age benefits, health care, education, culture and recreational facilities. In brief, the scope of labour problems may be classified as socio-economic conditions, working conditions and welfare measures.

The government of India trying its level best to extend good working condition of factories to various employees, so that workers may not be exploited by the industrialists. Fireworks industry is the labour intensive industry. Fireworks are mostly used for pleasure. The art and science of making Fireworks is known as pyrotechnics. It is derived from the Greek words 'PYR' (FIRE) 'Techne' (an art).

The role of Fireworks industry in economic development has undergone a marked change over the years. But this will not reflect in the socio-economic conditions of workers in Fireworks. The living conditions of workers are being stagnant. The number of accidents in Fireworks industry is increasing every year. The accident results not only in the loss of materials but also in the loss of workers. Though the compensations are paid to the family of the worker, it does not give a complete solution for their family.

There is an urgent need to analyze the socio-economic conditions of workers in Fireworks. So, the researcher is trying to undertake research in this aspect.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Fireworks industry plays a vital role in the promotion and development of economy of Sivakasi. The large numbers of Fireworks factories in India particularly in Sivakasi, are unorganized units and hence, the Fireworks factories are mainly employing unskilled or semiskilled workers who are neither educationally qualified nor technically experienced. Sivakasi provides employment opportunity to the Fireworks workers throughout the year but development of their living condition does not grow. Some important facilities are not available for small scale Fireworks factories. Many accidents occurred in Fireworks factories due to uneducated labour and absence of facilities. The death of workers in an accident affects not only to their family but also the entire society. In this situation the researcher finds it necessary to analyze the socio-economic conditions of workers of Fireworks.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to undertake this research, the researcher has reviewed the following literature.

M. Balasubramanian³(1993) in his dissertation titled, "Socio-economic Conditions of Labourers in Fireworks Industry - A Study with Reference to Sivakasi Town" has made an attempt to study the socio-economic conditions of employees.

V. Alagappan⁴ (1997) in his study titled, "A Study of Fireworks Industry with Special Reference to Sivakasi" has made attempt to study the growth and development of Fireworks industry in Sivakasi.

S. Binthia⁵(1998) in her study titled, "A study on Working and Living Conditions of Workers in Sundaravel Fireworks Industry in Sivakasi" has noted that working conditions and Safety measures in the Fireworks factories.

Vignesh⁶(2001) in his study entitled, "A Study on the Growth and Problems of Fireworks Industry with Reference to J.K Fireworks" has analysed the growth of Fireworks. The study has also focused the problems of Fireworks units.

S. Sridhar⁷(2003) in his study on "A Study on the Working Conditions of Workers in Fireworks Industry in Sivakasi" has noted that the safety measures in the Fireworks factories.

S. Karuppasamy⁸(2005) in his study titled, "Workers Attitude Towards Fire Accidents in Fireworks Factories in Virudhunagar District" was made an attempt to study the growth of Fireworks and also he has focused the problem of Fire accident in Virudhunagar District.

S.Chandra Bose⁹(2006) in her study on "Socio-economic Conditions of Workers of Fireworks Industries in Virudhunagar District" has analysed the workers' socio economics conditions of the Fireworks industries in Virudhunagar District.

V. Revathi¹⁰(2011) in his study on "A Study on the Socio-economic Conditions of Printing Industry in Sivakasi" has made an attempt to study the socio-economic conditions of printing industry labourers.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

In Virudhunagar District, Sivakasi occupies a notable place in the industrial map of India. Because of the concentration of the Fireworks, match works and printing works. It is an industrial town and busy business town.

People from all over the country come to Virudhunagar District to have business contact. A number of business people come and stay to do their business here. The researcher is going to make an attempt to analyse the socio-economic conditions of workers in Fireworks industry. The study focuses on eliciting the living conditions of workers of Fireworks and their families. It also covers other areas like workers experience, working condition and economic conditions of Fireworks workers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study is undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the growth and development of Fireworks factories.
2. To analyse the profile of workers in Fireworks factories.
3. To analyse the socio-economic conditions of Fireworks workers.
4. To suggest measures to be taken to develop the socio-economic conditions of workers of Fireworks.

PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted from December 2014 to April 2015. The interview was conducted formally through natural conversation in the vernacular language (i.e.) Tamil and it was recorded by the researcher in the interview schedule.

METHODOLOGY

The study is empirical in nature. The study has used both primary data and secondary data.

PRIMARY DATA

In order to have an in-depth analysis of the research problem, the information is to be obtained from the Fireworks workers. Interview schedule has been used for this purpose.

SECONDARY DATA

The secondary data were collected from the standard books, research articles. Article published and Inspectors of factories.

SAMPLING DESIGN

In Sivakasi, there are 166 Fireworks factories. There is large number of Fireworks workers in Sivakasi. Therefore, the researcher undertakes a sample study of 150 workers selected conveniently from the Fireworks factories in Sivakasi.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The following are the limitations of the study:

1. The collected data from sample respondents are first hand information. In the source of field survey, a few respondents are little bit reluctant to come out openly.
2. The secondary data gathered from standard books and journals and agencies connected with fire industries might possess inherent limitations in respects of exact statistics.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The following are the major findings of survey conducted for this study:

- Majority of the respondents 62.67 percent are females.
- 44.67 per cent of the respondents are illiterate.
- 40.67 per cent of the informants are residing in rural area. The analysis of the total average income of the household respondents is up to Rs.1, 02,546.00 out of which the average income of the respondents is Rs.70, 574. 00 and the balance Rs.31, 972 is the average income of the household. Out of 15 industries, total average income of Arasan Fireworks Industry is higher.
- The overall per capita income of the study area comes to Rs.26, 339.00. In this regard, the researcher brings to the picture that per capita income of Sun Fireworks is higher and per capita income of Rajarathinam Fireworks is lower.
- Regarding this, the researcher pointed out, the Engel's Law of Family Expenditure has been proved in practice undoubtedly. Because lower income groups and workers spend more on necessities like food, clothing and shelter and a little amount on non-necessary items. The survey reveals the fact that the consumption expenditure of food alone comes to 69.8 per cent of the total expenditure in the study area. When we analyse the industry-wise consumption expenditure on food, majority of the respondents in Krishnasamy Fireworks and Sri Ram Fireworks spend 77.4 per cent and 77.5 per cent of income respectively. Only a smaller percentage of income is spent on rent, education, medical, social ceremonies, clothing, fuel and lighting and entertainment namely 3.4 per cent, 7.7 per cent, 2.3 per cent, 1.8 per cent 7.2 per cent, 5.7 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively in the study area.
- As far as asset position considered that decides the financial status of the respondents in Sivakasi town. Some 126 respondents possess consumer durables like T.V., Furniture and Audio system at home for entertainment purpose. About 124 respondents own utensils, 114 respondents own building and only 21 respondents own land. Respondents do not possess more cattle and poultry as they are not able to look after. More than 141 respondents own assets like jewels.
- Most of the workers (93.33%) are worked under contractual basis.
- One third of the respondents (74.67%) are earning between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000.

SUGGESIONS

1. As far as the safety measures are concerned, the risk of fire and explosion is ever present in the fireworks industry besides health hazards.
2. Installation of emergency doors, fire resistance, warning siren and training in using them are necessary to minimize the damages of fire.
3. Loan facilities for emergency requirement and for marriage occasion may also be instituted by the industry.

CONCLUSION

The fireworks industries in Sivakasi of Virudhunagar District, all economic backwardness of workers are under estimated for their development. This area is remaining economically backward due to low rainfall and dry climatic lands which affect the rural places of Sivakasi, and the another side is a suitable climate for the production of crackers, therefore, many fireworks industries are situated in and around Sivakasi. Even though these industries are helps to improve the economic status of an employer and the country, but it fails to develop the economic status and living conditions of fireworks workers due to the lack of strict enforcement of rules and regulations of Government, unawareness of the workers and no separate union for claiming their rights. Fireworks industry creates more employment potential for the economic prosperity to their workers in this study area. Then only this block can claim success. Even though fireworks industry cannot claim complete success in this area, it can definitely offer something to the well being of the worker's life. Owning to the socio-economic significance of such concern, the existence of the fireworks is greatly justified in the study area.

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