



A STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WORKERS WORKING IN THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES OF NAGPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:-

In order to overcome the downslide and put the economy back on the growth path the country adopted the New Economic Reforms in 1991. Over the years different sectors have experienced the benefits/losses due to the reform measures. These effects have been documented in the literature of economics. This study attempt to study the impact of these reform measures on the industrial workers in Small and Medium Scale Industries in Nagpur. This study focuses on the effect of reforms on the industrial labour of the Nagpur.

Keywords : economy back , literature of economics.

INTRODUCTION

The nineteenth century brought about different conditions. Trade with industrializing Europe destroyed a great deal of artisan livelihood in India. At the same time, the 'globalization' of the Indian economy through trade, investment and colonial rule initiated a limited growth of mechanized factory-based industries in India. These were usually industries that used abundant natural resources intensively. Examples are cotton textiles, jute textiles, sugar, paper, iron and steel, etc.. The latter type of enterprise has been called 'large-scale industry'. All other forms of enterprise can be termed 'small-scale industry'.

Mainstream labour history in India has been concerned almost exclusively with labour in large-scale industry and more or less ignored labour in small-scale industry. Implicitly, there has been a belief that large-scale industry is what defines 'industrialization', whereas small-scale industry ceased to matter in industrialization. The former was expanding in income and employment, whereas the later was in decline in competition with large-scale industry. As a result of such beliefs, anyone reading mainstream labour history is likely to form an exaggerated view of the change in industrial labour in colonial India.

Recent works on small-scale industry have called for a more balanced reading. These works have pointed out that small-scale industry survived on a very large scale, and that segments within it modernized in the colonial period. Labour in modernizing small-scale industry must have changed more gradually and in different ways than did mill labour. This perspective raises the following question. How do we conceptualize 'work' and 'workers' in modernizing small-scale industry? The present essay is mainly an attempt to answer this question.

Standard histories of Indian industrialization deal mainly with a type of firms described as 'modern industry' or 'large-scale industry'. Large-scale industry can be defined by three basic characteristics, relating to technology, organization, and government regulation. First, large-scale industry used machinery and steam-powered technology. It was the relatively more capital-intensive

sector in manufacturing. Second, it was organized in large factories sometimes employing several thousand persons, rather than in small factories or in 'households'. Households are defined as units where members of the owner's family were the main workers. Third, these large factories satisfied the official definition of a 'factory'. This definition has changed over time. Today it applies to any unit employing 10 or more workers and using electricity or 20 or more workers and not using electricity. Once such a unit is registered officially as a 'factory', it becomes subject to government regulations under the Factories Act concerning the wages and welfare of the workers. A unit officially registered as factory can sometimes escape implementing these regulations. But overall, the Factories Act has quite strongly influenced employer-employee contracts inside large factories in India.

In this study the researcher will perform the field survey results which throw the light on the change in the Economic conditions of selected manufacturing workers. The new economic policy affected certain sections adversely and benefited some sections of the society. The process of the economic reforms has affected industrial sector too. The workers who have left the industry are studied. If the reform process would have benefited the unorganized sector workers, then the claim of the industry that flexibility in the labour market will improve the productivity and wages of the workers can be accepted and on the other hand if the result shows that they are suffered due to reforms then validity of flexibility labour marker is suspicious.

With the help of above factor, need, and serious issues, this project intend to make an in-depth analytical and comprehensive study of Socio-economic conditions of workers working in the Small and Medium Scale Industries of Nagpur District. The study is mainly focuses on the socially and economical deprived class of labors.

Table 1: Employment of family members in different sector

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Unemployed	28	14
2	Government	0	0
3	Farmer	10	5
4	Industrial labour	64	32
5	Other labour	50	25
6	Self Employed	32	16
7	Private Job	19	8
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the number of family members working in different sectors. (14%) family members of workers are unemployed; (0.40%) family members has government job; (5%) family members are farmer; (32%) family members are industrial labour; (25%) family members are working as labour in different sector, (16%) are doing their own business while (8%) are doing private job with different role.

Thus; family members of workers working in the SME of Nagpur District are working as industrial labour as well as labour in other sector.

Table 2: Combined annual income of family

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	500-1000	06	3
2	1001-2500	12	6
3	2501-4000	40	20
4	4001-5000	40	20
5	5001-10000	74	37
6	Above 10000	28	14
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the combined family income of workers'. Out of 200 workers; (3%) workers has overall family income between 500-1000; (6%) has income ranging from 1001-2500; (20%) has income ranging from 2501-4000; (20.4%) has income ranging from 4001-5000; (37%) has income ranging from 5001-10000 and (14%) has income above 10000.

Thus; most of the workers' combined family income per month is below Rs. 10000/-. That means they are earning less amount than the expenditure.

Table 3 : Participation in social activities in the region

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	136	68
2	No	64	32
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the participation of workers in social activities in the region. Out of 200 workers; (68%) workers are participating in the social activities in the region while (32%) workers are not participating in the social activities.

Thus; most of the workers' 68% are participating in the social activities in the region.

Table 4: Involvement of women' in decision making

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Domestic work	50	25
2	Domestic expenses	40	20
3	Contribution in income	86	43
4	Other	24	12
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the involvement of women's in various decision making process. (25%) are participating in domestic work decision; (20%) are involved in decision related to domestic expenses; (43%) are participating in income generation while (12%) are involved in other decision making process.

Thus; most of the womens' in the family of workers' are participating in income generation while some are involved in other decision making like domestic work or expenses.

Table 5 : Use of energy for preparation of food items.

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Wood	40	20
2	Charcoal	18	9
3	Kerosene	58	29
4	Electricity	06	3
5	LPG	80	40
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the use of various energy sources for preparation of food items. (20%) are using wood for preparation of food; (9%) are using Charcoal; (29%) are using Kerosene; (3%) are using electricity while (40%) are using LPG for preparation of food.

Thus; most of the families of workers' working in SME are using LPG and Kerosene as source of energy for the preparation of food.

Table 6: Follower of blind faith (Orthodox).

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	76	38
2	No	124	62
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the follower of conventional traditions (Orthodox follower). Out of 200 respondents; (38%) respondents follow blind faith while (62%) are not following blind faith.

Thus; most of the families of workers' do not believe in the orthodox system.

Table 7: Types of addiction.

Sr. No	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Smoking	22	11
2	Alcohol	18	9
3	Tobacco	26	13
4	Tea	120	60
5	Any other	14	7
	Total	200	100

The above chart shows the different addiction of workers. Out of 200 respondents, (60%) are consuming tea; (13%) are consuming tobacco; (11%) do smoking; (9%) taking alcohol; (7%) are addicted with other type of addiction.

Thus; most of the workers' working in SME are addicted with the Tea and some of them are addicted with tobacco, alcohol and smoking.

CONCLUSION

- Majority of labour working in SMEs of Nagpur District belongs to backward communities and on the other hand most of them have been migrating year after year, yet they do not enjoy employment rights to the same contractor / owner. Most of them still live in mudstone and thatched houses.
- They remain unemployed for more that 100 days in a year on an average.
- The average income of most of the worker households is below the poverty line and hence they are subject to large extent of economic exploitation.
- The average expenditure of workers households is low and major share of expenditure has been spent on food.

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