



Family and Social Status of Contract Workers in Majri Coal Mines of Chandrapur District: A Study

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Summary:

A web of many kinds of family and social problems is prevalent in the Indian industrial sector today. Industrial areas usually witness various crime scenarios. A coal mining project falls under the industrial sector. Coal mining project runs for decades. Most of the problems seen in the coal mining area are a reflection of the family and social conditions in that area. The family and social status of the laborers working in the coal mining sector has an effect on their performance. The family and social status of the workers has been studied through various schemes provided by the management at Majri Coal Mine in Bhadravati Taluka of Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State under 'Western Coalfields Limited'. For this, it is envisaged to study crime, accidents, job satisfaction, absenteeism, eviction rate, level of production, lifestyle, etc. Usually in coal mines there are large number of contract workers working in private management. These contract workers have more family and social problems. At the end of this study, it is realized that counseling, physical facilities, health facilities, education, training, women and child welfare activities, financial stability etc. facilities should be made available in a large amount in order to bring about positive changes in the family and social life of contract workers in industrial and especially mining areas.

Key Words : industrial sector, coal mines, Western Coalfields Limited, contract workers, family and social Status, absenteeism, eviction rate, level of production, lifestyle, counseling, women and child welfare

Introduction:

Research is an intellectual process. When doing family and social research it is important to have a problem or event. So that by finding the causes of that problem and studying the factors that are responsible for the creation of those causes, efforts can be made to prevent or suggest solutions to that problem. Before starting the research process the entire nature of the concerned problem has to be understood.

Chandrapur district is blessed with natural mineral wealth. Therefore, there are many factories and coal mines in the district. Chandrapur district is industrially developed. A network of coal mines has been created in the district. There are also several privately owned mines including Western Coal Fields Limited. Many works in this mine are done on contract basis. Contract workers work under private contractors. They live in mining areas. There are many family and social problems of contract workers. These problems affect efficiency and productivity. In this research article, the family and social status of the contract workers in Majri coal mine in Bhadravati taluka of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra State under 'Western Coalfields Limited' is studied.

Definition:

The progress of any country or society depends on the morals of its citizens. The importance of family and society has always been in the formation of Indian nation. However, by clarifying the concepts of research, society, family, the direction of further research work can be determined.

1. J.W.Watt: Research is a well-organized and systematic study process of actual application of the scientific method.
2. Bogardus: Social research is the study of the internal processes active in the lives of people living together.
3. G. P. Murdock : A family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more of their children of their own or adopted by the sexually cohabiting adults.

Family and Social Information of Contract Workers:

Due to the rapid growth of coal mines due to industrialization, various problems also started to arise in the mining area. Earlier, due to low inflation and needs, the working class used to be happy with whatever remuneration the workers got, but now due to increasing needs, inflation, efforts to raise the standard of living, financial and material needs have increased. They do not get financial compensation to that extent. As a result the working class is not happy. Many family problems have arisen. This has affected the society there. So it becomes necessary to know the information of contract workers. This information helps in determining the status and role of contract workers. Personal, family information of contract workers is usually studied. Personal and family information of contract workers like age, religion, educational status, marital status, mother tongue, native place of residence, number of family members, monthly income is considered. All these have an overall effect on their social life. The individual, family and social status of the contract workers has been analyzed as follows. For this, 100 workers have been studied.

1) Interpretation of religion of contract workers:

Sr.No.	Religion	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	Hindu	34	34%
2	Bauddh	30	30%

3	Muslim	28	28%
4	Christian	08	08%
	Total	100	100%

2) **Marital Status of contract workers:**

Sr.No.	Option	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	Single	19	19%
2	Married	68	68%
3	Widow/Widower	13	13%
4	Total	100	100%

3) **Technical Education of contract workers:**

Sr.No.	Option	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	Yes	13	13%
2	No	87	87%

4) **Monthly Salary of contract workers:**

Sr.No.	Remuneration (Monthly)	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	6000 To 8000	56	56%
2	8001 To 12000	24	24%
3	12001 To more	20	20%
		100	100%

5) **Number of Family Members:**

Sr.No.	Numbers	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	2	12	12%
2	3	31	31%
3	4	39	39%
4	5 Or more	18	18%

6) **Native Residence of contract workers:**

Sr.No.	State	Contract Workers	Percentage
1	Maharashtra	24	24%
2	MadhyaPradesh	21	21%
3	Bihar	43	43%
4	AndhraPradesh	10	10%

5	Other	02	02%
	Total	100	100%

From the above analysis, it can be seen that the family and social conditions of contract workers have an effect on their efficiency and productivity. such as,

1) Followers of many religions are living in the coal mining area. People of every religion respect their own religion and consider the religion of others as inferior. Due to extreme bigotry, peace in the society is sometimes disturbed. (eg. religious riots) No matter how good the efficiency, bigotry creates alienation between individuals.

2) Marriage is necessary for maturity and responsibility in a person. Marriage gives a person a sense of responsibility along with happiness, since most of the contract workers are married, it has a positive effect on their efficiency and regularity.

3) Technical education is a must while working in coal mines. Technical education creates skills in workers. Due to this education, workers have to handle many types of machines while working in an industrial establishment, so it is necessary to have proper education to handle those machines. Accordingly more financial reward is also available. However, most of the contract workers lack technical skills, which affects work efficiency, productivity and income.

4) Since coal mining is an industrial establishment, technical education here can enable maximum production or performance in a short period of time.

5) Human affairs in every society and mutual correlation between them is done through the common and popular language of their community. But the correlation is affected by the large number of migrant contract workers.

6) Wage gap often affects labor productivity. Salary of contract workers depends on factors like tenure, experience, education etc.

7) The wage scale of the laborer and his total income lays the foundation for the development of his family. Economic status determines the position of a person in the labor society. Financial matters play an important role in his mental satisfaction. Contract workers are not getting enough wages to meet their needs, which is adversely affecting their morale.

8) It is said that 'small family is happy family'. The smaller the family, the more opportunities for development. As the family is small, the needs are also limited. There is financial prosperity. In this sense, the number of members in the family of workers is effective in raising the standard of living. But since the family of contract workers is big, it affects their progress.

Conclusion:

The following measures must be taken to bring positive changes in the family and social life of contract workers.

1) Counseling should be done by NGOs and experts to bring about positive changes in the family and social life of the contract workers in the mining area.

2) Facilities such as physical facilities, health facilities, education, skill training, women and child welfare activities, salary increase etc. should be made available in large quantities.

- 3) Local unemployed should be given priority for employment.
- 4) The importance of small family should be emphasized and contraceptives should be made available free of cost.
- 5) In order to maintain religious harmony, the values of fraternity, equality and freedom should be inculcated by inculcating patriotism. Management and NGOs should take the initiative for this.
- 6) Regular cleanliness drives should be carried out in settlements where contract workers live.

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