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## Status of Health and Health Hazards of Snake Charmers – A Sociological Perspective

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### Abstract

Health is wealth. It is an essential requirement of every individual and also a society. In order to achieve sustainable development of a society, health plays a very important role. The Social, Economical, Cultural, and Political fabrics which are changing very fast, have their impact on achievements of health need in society. The community of healthy persons only possible to create a healthy society. But in our studies we are focussing on the status of health and the health hazards of a very sensitive group or the community of snake charmers in which how they are facing the challenges particularly pertaining to their health as well about the health hazards facing by them is because of their a very risky occupation of snake charming which is having a adverse effects on their health.

**Keywords:** Health Hazards, Snake Charmers, Sociological Perspective

### Introduction

Health is the most precious possession of mankind. It is an important component of social wellbeing, without which there can be no solid foundation for human happiness. Therefore it is rightly said that the health is wealth. Health and health status are an integral part of general socio economic development and was made a part of it. It is regarded as the index of social development.

Snake charming is the practice of pretending to hypnotize a snake by playing an instrument Snake charming is today in danger of dying out due to various factors, as well chief among them was the enforcement of a 1972 law in India banning ownership of serpents, Animal rights groups have also made impact by decrying what they deem to be the abuse of a number of endangered species. Other factors are urbanisation and deforestation, which have made the snakes upon which the charmers rely increasingly rare. This has in turn given rise to single most important reason snake charming is declining.

Historically snake charmers were belonged to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of Hindu religion. Later they were converted to Islamic religion. They were believed to be the offspring's of Raj put-father and Muslim mother. Now their identity is in sayyiad sect of Muslim religion, who are recognized them as sapersa Muslims community, but they can have the opportunity to identify themselves as Madari tribe.

The Indian Government and various animals-rights groups have now acknowledged the problem. One suggestion is to train the performers to be snake caretakers and educators. In return, they could sell their traditional medicines as souvenirs. Another proposal would try to focus attention on the snake charmer's music; the charmer would be like other street musicians. The Indian Government has also begun allowing a limited number of snake charmers to perform at specified tourists places.

### Research Methodology

#### Objectives of the study

- To study the personal profile of the respondents
- To know about the health status and health hazards in the snake charming occupation

### Research Design

The study adopted a simple random sampling method to know about their conditions, 50 respondents were selected by this method. This study was conducted on snake charmers of laggerre, and shivajinagar railway station (Bangalore city, Karnataka).

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### Source and Tools of Data Collection

The data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data was collected by personally meeting the respondents by using an interview guide. The secondary sources were collected from various books, articles, journals, magazines, and websites.

### Limitations of the study

- The study is limited to laggerre and shivajinagar area of Bangalore city.
- Some of the respondents did not gave reliable and accurate data relative to their occupation, Performance technique, about the health problems due to this occupation

### Results and Discussions

As far as the age distribution of the respondents is concerned, 10 respondents belongs to the age category of 20-29, 20 respondents belongs to the age category of 30-39, 10 belongs to 40-49 age group, 05 respondents belongs to 50-59 age group and 05 respondents belongs to the age group of above 60.

As per the religion is considered the selected 50 respondents belongs to the Islamic religion in that they were identified them as sayyids.

With regard to the educational background of the respondents it is revealed that majority of the respondents i.e., 25 respondents are illiterates they don't have any formal education by going to school or educational institutions. 20 respondents had primary school education & the remaining 05 respondents got high school education.

Concerning to the marital status 40 respondents in our study belongs to married group and 10 respondents belong to the unmarried group.

The house structure of the respondents is concerned 20 respondents consists of own houses which was provided for them by Government 05 respondents are living in rent houses & 25 respondents don't have any houses they stay in huts which is considered as their houses.

As per concerned to their monthly income 20 respondents have 1001 to 2000 of income per month, 25 respondents have 2001-3000 of income 05 respondents have 2001-4000 income per month.

As according to their occupations is considered all 50 respondents opined that their main occupation is snake charming and apart from that there is no other occupation.

As because of their occupation the health status of snake charmers is not good is because of their occupation, living conditions, age, habits, and etc., and due to this they are suffering from various health hazards.

As according to 45 respondents they are suffering from health problems because of their occupation that the handling of snakes is not an easy task, while handling the snakes snake bites may happens, skin allergies will occur which sometimes leads to lose their body parts, as well at this condition they won't provide suitable treatment and they won't prefer hospitals for their problems usually they prefer some plants, hurbs and shrubs. 05 respondents opined that they don't have health problems but sometimes it will happens.

As according to the 25 respondents they prefer government hospitals for their treatment and another 25 respondents prefer both hospital as well some ayurvedic medicines

All 50 respondents dwelling in slums as well some were living in huts who are not having any basic amenities which is very necessary in our day today life and the area where uncleanliness is become a part and parcel of their life where they live So it also show their bad health status

Not only this among 20 of respondents have some bad habits like consuming alcohol, smoking, chewing pan, and etc.,, so it also creates some hazardous effect an health.

Age factor is also one of the prime fact that, group of at majority of the respondents belongs to the age group of 40-60, so they are going to suffer with so many health problems. So all these factors leads to show that their status of health is not good and they have health hazards.

### Suggestions

- Proper awareness and support should be provided for snake charmers to solve their health problems by government, Resource persons, publics & etc.
- Proper education should be provided by the government and it should be reach the people to maintain good status of health.
- More and more health check-up camps should be conducted by government to maintain good health status.
- Awareness should be creating to choose other occupations with this to come out from health hazards.
- Awareness should be creating among them about to maintain cleanliness in their living premises and in their houses also.
- Their standard of living should be reform.

### Conclusion

Occupation is the basic biological mechanism for healthy survival, because importance of any occupation in life is biological and social in nature. In the modern complex world people struggle hard to earn their bread to survive. So they engage in occupations like this. in their routine life so as a occupation of snake charming snake charmers are having some distractions pertaining to their health. So the study focuses on the health status and the hazards were facing by them which should be reform and efforts by the government, publics, from themselves also to maintain good standards of health.

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