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A sociological study on the economic challenges of saw mill labourers

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Abstract

The working condition of saw mill labourers at workplace is not satisfactory in India. Saw mill labourers are always in frustration and motivation level of workers is not good. Now a day's saw mill labourers facing problems related to their occupation. Socio-economic problems are the main challenges faced by them. The research paper presents the qualitative analysis of Economic challenges of saw mill labourers. A study was carried out with the sample of 25 saw mills in Hassan city of Hassan district of Karnataka state. For this study, qualitative method was used. The analysis has been done on the basis of in-depth interviews with those who are saw mill labourers in Hassan city. For this study, data was collected from 100 saw mill labourers by using simple random sampling. The present paper aims to find out the economic challenges of saw mill labourers. The main findings of the study shown that some economic challenges of saw mill labourers likewise, working overtime, inadequate salary, housing problems, lack of Holidays, lack of bonus, no labour organization, negligence of labour department, lack of occupational stability, no pension facility, lack of loan facility, lack of accidental remedies by owners and dissatisfaction with fulfilling the family needs.

Keywords: Economic Challenges and Saw Mill Labourers

Introduction

Industrialization is the process of manufacturing consumer goods and capital goods and of building infrastructure in order to provide goods and services to both individuals and business. As such industrialization plays a major role in the economic development of developing countries like India with vast manpower and varied recourses. During 18th century, in all over world the process take place is Industrialization. Due to the industrialization process, many industries and new system were developed. Saw mill is also one of the small scale industry developed in India through Industrialization.

Saw mill is a place or building in which timber is sawed into planks, boards, etc. by machinery. The concept of a small locally owned sawmill run by a family that provide lumber to the local economy has all but vanished. Saw mills like most aspects of the lumber industry in the United States have changed and grown into large capital-intensive operations that have forced many of the smaller less competitive mills out of business. To survive in today's economy, sawmills have had to become larger and more competitive on the world market. Sawmills were the first local industries established in semi subsistence economies of the newly settled areas. Sawmills located in the early colonies were often very small and run by individual farmers or families. They required little labor, often only two men, but were vastly important to the survival of the communities.

The sawmill industry began to change during the 1850s and 1860s. As the country developed the lumber industry began to change from one and two man operations to large industrialized operations employing 20 to 100 men. There were four technological and social changes, which developed the industry that moved across the country. The first were the technological advancements in saws, machinery, and the introduction of the steam engine. The second was the development of local transportation with the use of the log drive. The third was the development of a national transportation system connecting areas with timber surplus and those with timber demand. The fourth and last reason was the development of wholesale centers at focal points in the transport system, which held together a multitude of movements between forests and markets.

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Labourers are the main resource to develop our country. In India more labourers are involving in agricultural and industrial sectors. According to the Oxford dictionary, Labour means bodily or mental work, exertion, toil leading to supply wants of the community body of those who contribute by toil to production, labourers and the labour group etc.

The working condition of saw mill labourers at workplace is not satisfactory in India. Saw mill labourers are always in frustration and motivation level of workers is not good. Now a day's saw mill labourers are facing problems related to their occupation. Socio-economic problems are the main challenges faced by them. This study is about economic challenges of saw mill labourers.

Objectives of the study

1. To know about demographic profile of the respondents.
2. To study about the economic challenges of the saw mill labourers.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on the primary data which is collected from the 25 saw mills in Hassan city of Karnataka state. Through the simple random sampling methods 100 saw

mill labourers were selected to generate primary data. Detailed information of the attitudes and opinions of the respondents were collected through pre-tested structured interview schedule which is comprised of pre-coded and open – ended questions regarding objectives of the research. The primary data was collected employing interview schedule directly from the respondents and the secondary data were collected from books, journals related to saw mills and industrial labourers. The data collections are processed in a systematic way. The data are edited for checking their completeness and accuracy. The data is tabulated and processed in the table by using computer.

Limitation of the study

The present study had some limitations. It exposed to a difficulty of getting most reliable information about economic challenges of saw mill labourers. The respondents were not fully aware about the research being conducted on them which resulted are fewer co-operations by them. Moreover observations of this study were based on the research field study of only a few small scale saw mills of Hassan city which is a small part of Karnataka.

Results and Discussion

Table: 1: Demographic Profile of the Saw Mill Labourers

		Age	
01.	21-30	10	10
	31-40	52	52
	41-50	30	30
	Above 51	08	08
		Gender	
02.	Male	100	100
	Female	00	00
		Educational Qualification	
03.	Literates	42	42
	Illiterates	58	58
		Marital Status	
04.	Unmarried	15	15
	Married	80	80
	Widow	05	05
		Religion	
05.	Hindu	78	78
	Muslim	17	17
	Christian	05	05
		Caste	
06.	Acharis	28	28
	Vokkaliga	22	22
	SC	24	24
	ST	04	04
	Others	22	22
		Monthly Income	
07.	2,001-3,000	21	42
	3,001-4,000	17	34
	4,001-5,000	08	16
	Above 5,001	04	08

The result pertaining to demographic profile of the saw mill labourers are depicted in table 01. The data revealed that the majority of the respondents are in the age group of 31-40 years. It was found that all saw mill labourers are in the male group. It was noticed that majority of the respondents are illiterates. This study also found that the majority of the respondents are married. It was observed that 78% of respondents are belongs to Hindu religion, 17% of respondents are Muslims and 05% of respondents are

Christian. This study result shows that 28% of respondents are Acharis, 22% of respondents are vokkaliga, 24% of respondents belongs to SC, 04% of respondents are ST caste and remaining 22% of respondents are belongs to other caste. This study observed that majority of the respondents monthly income is 2001-3000.

Table 2: Economic challenges of Saw Mill Labourers

Aspects	Percent	
	Yes	No
Low wages	98	02
Heavy work	98	02
Housing problems	74	26
Holidays facility	06	96
Bonus facility	10	90
Labour organization	00	100
Negligence of Labour department	00	100
Occupation stability	00	100
Pension facility	00	100
Loan facility	10	90
Insurance policy	78	22
Accidental remedy by owners	08	92
Satisfaction in fulfillment of family needs	17	83

Main Findings of the study

The present study is deals with the economic challenges of saw mill labourers. This study found that the majority of saw mill labourers are facing the problem of low wages, due to low wages saw mill labourers are do not enjoy their livelihood. This study also found that majority of labourers are facing the problem of heavy work in sawmills; due to this heavy work labourers had unhealthy conditions. This study result shows that majority of labourers facing the problem of housing facility. This study revealed that the majority of respondents are facing the problem of holidays due to heavy works in saw mill. It was noticed that majority of the respondents felt that there is no bonus facility to them in the year end or special occasion. This study examined that there is no labour organization for saw mill labourers because saw mill is a small scale industry. Saw mill labourers also neglected by labour department. Due to all these problems saw mill labourers facing the challenge of occupational stability. Majority of labourers felt that there is no pension facility and loan facility in their occupation. It was observed that majority of labourers don't have any life insurance policies due to the lack of awareness. Saw mill works are very challenging work because by working with machines they may lose their body parts like fingers, hands or some injuries. Majority of the respondents felt that there is no accidental remedy by their owners. This study also noticed that due to these all economic challenges saw mill laborers are not satisfaction with fulfilling their family needs.

Suggestions

- Saw mill owners must provide with immediate medical treatment whenever labourers face the occupational accidents.
- For each and every saw mill labourers life insurance should be made if they had any problem with regard to their life. And also insurance for their fingers, hands, leg, eyes etc.
- Proper schedule time must be fixed to labourers to work within that time only.
- Provision must be given to enforce compulsory labour acts. Laour act should be implementing to this labourers.
- Unequal distribution of wages should be eradicated from saw mills.
- Training facilities should be given to them by government.

Conclusion

The present study is focused on saw mill labourers and their challenges. It is an attempt to find out the economic challenges of saw mill labourers in Hassan city of Hassan district of Karnataka state. Through this study we can find out some economic challenges of saw mill labourers likewise, working overtime, inadequate salary, housing problems, lack of Holidays, lack of bonus, no labour organization, negligence of labour department, lack of occupational stability, no pension facility, lack of loan facility, lack of accidental remedies by owners and dissatisfaction with fulfilling the family needs. The saw mill labourers are not recognized by the society, they need adequate salary, decreasing working hours, training facilities, implementation of labour acts etc, so that saw mill labourers enjoy their livelihood and live their economical life effectively in the society.

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