CHAPTER - VII
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF BIDI MAKING INDUSTRY
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Environment in general means whatever surrounds the individual constituents his environment, so even one person is included in the environment of the other person. This environment is the external environment and includes the Air, Water, Soil, Noise and Solar radiation etc. Every one has an internal environment which consists of his body, internal system and their functions. In a restricted physical sense, environment is what stimulates a variety of responses in the five human sense of Sight Audition, Taste, Smell, Touch and Visual response. These sensory responses would vary, accordingly as the environment is spiritually, psychologically, emotionally and culturally changes.¹

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS IN THE BIDI MAKING AREAS

Though Bidi making industry provides employment to about 63.91 per cent population of the region under study and to about 91.64 per cent of its rural population. But the process of bidi making directly influences the general environment of the localities and the life style of the bidi workers.

The Bidi industry neither requires trained and skilled labour nor a major investment that is why the majority of the socially and economically poor classes in the region are being forced to join bidi making as their main profession for their livelihood. The major proportion of the total bidi workers belong to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe categories. Process of bidi making activity generates the huge waste and normally is being disposed off at a doorsteps in the residential areas of the workers and this not only creates pollution but also creates unhygienic conditions in and around their residences which ultimately affects the working capacity of the bidi workers.

¹. Kumar (1951) Environmental pollution and Health Hazards in India, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
as well as their (biological) resistance capacity.

Out of 245 respondents interviewed from the 22 sample villages while answering the question whether bidi making in their respective localities has created or is creating environmental problems? 23.63 per cent respondents answered in affirmative while 47.43 per cent respondents expressed their disagreement. Surprisingly more than one fourth (28.94 per cent) respondents remained non committal. This clearly indicates the lack of awareness among the bidi workers not only due to illiteracy but also due to their indifferent attitude towards the prevailing problems.

Since most of the bidi workers belong to the backward and low income groups of the society they are normally residing in the isolated but densely populated areas. Most of these areas badly lack in civic amenities specially in reference to the number of people accommodated in these areas. Most of the drains not only remain open but are poorly maintained. As a result, during the rainy season with overflowing of water most of the localities face the problem of waterlogging on one hand but residential areas belonging to the bidi workers which are normally densely populated areas with minimum civic amenities also face the problem of unhygienic conditions in the surrounding areas. On the otherhand, most of the houses lack proper ventilation, lightings and suffer with dampness. These residential areas hardly have any well marked point, to be used by the residents for dumping the industrial as well as domestic wastes. During the rainy season due to the frequent waterlogging, gradually decay of waste starts and further pollutes the environment of the locality while during the remaining period with the burning of waste the problem continue smoke is produced. Due to the per room high density all activities from cooking of food to bidi making
is done within the same space, which during the night hours is also used for sleeping. And hence the inside and outside environment of the residential areas belong to the bidi workers remain unhealthy and unhygienic.

Man's environment is the combination of all these physical circumstances in which he lives, which are essential not only for his health and enjoyment of life but also provides an opportunity to develop his individuality in life. The air which he breathes is essential for his existence and should remain free from toxic or noxious material which will help to avoid respiratory and other elements responsible for shortening the life span. An environment free from toxic materials is very essential because they are harmless for human health but are also offensive to taste and smell. Polluted air and water has an adverse effect on the crops and livestock. These are the two requirements of life. The term environment entomologically means surroundings, and surrounding may be natural or man-made. The environment thus consists of so many things surrounding an organism that interact not only with the organism but also among themselves.²

The natural environment comprises of lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere. The biosphere essentially consists of plants and animals of earth along with the air and water for sustaining life on the earth supported by the components of the environment.

WATER POLLUTION

Availability of safe drinking water is the main important cause of the ill health in the country. Water containing infective and parasitic agents, poisonous chemical substances, industrial or other wastes of sewage is said to be contaminated or polluted.³ The availability of water remains

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uncertain during the summer. Specially the supply of sufficient quantity of drinking water properly treated remains the serious problem in the study region. In certain remote and inaccessible villages to procure sufficient and safe drinking water is like a dream.

Most of the population residing in the rural areas of the region depend on the open dug wells, rivers, ponds and hand pumps for the supply of drinking water. More than one third (34.31 per cent) of the total sample respondents in the region use open dug wells while more than 60 per cent respondents depend on handpumps. Only 2.86 per cent respondents depend on rivers and hardly 2 per cent get tap water for drinking and other purposes. More than 95.00 per cent sources of water in the region are polluted of course in varying proportion. About 75.00 per cent population of the region uses the raw water or the polluted water for drinking. Water from ponds have high percentage of pollutants present in it. Animals drink water directly from the ponds and also use these ponds for bathing during summers. Clothes are also washed on stones around the pond and even rinsed in the same water. Hence, the respondents are more susceptible to water-borne diseases caused due to the presence of numerous infective agents. Causes many disorders like viral hepatitis, cholera, typhoid and amoebians etc.

**DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTES**

Solid wastes refers to discarded waste material from houses, street, sweeping, commercial, industrial and agricultural operations. It comprises of dust, ash, vegetables and putrescible matter, paper and packing material of all kinds, rags and other fabrics, glass along with other combustible and noncombustible debris. In cities it is called refuse, in the country side it is called litter and in general it is known as solid wastes.

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During the field work it has been observed that there are no proper dumping sites with sufficient areas to be used for disposing the waste of bidi units along with other materials to be demarcated. It has been noticed that due to this very fact most of the workers throw the wastes related to bidi industry at the nearest point without considering its possible adverse affects and closeness to the water point i.e. handpumps and dugwells, in the drains. Tendu leaves dumped near to the water points get decayed and causes environmental pollution. Analysis of the questionnaire suggests that about 47.3 per cent respondents are in habit of throwing the waste materials close to their houses or in any place or near water source. More than 60 per cent villagers prefer to throw the waste materials at their convenient points and presents a very ugly scene. In Bandar Kola, Chainpura, Chhirkona, Kotatala, Lukayan, Nimarmunda, Sheikhpura and Vijay Sagar villages 79.67, 76.33, 72.36, 60.23, 58.61, 58.38, 58.00 and 50.00 per cent respondents prefer to throw the waste materials anywhere in village without considering the effects which causes pollution in villages. Only 38.96 per cent of the total sample households in the region mentioned that waste materials are thrown at the door step of their houses.

During the rainy season due to the water logging the decaying of tendu leaves produces nauseous smell and causes environmental pollution. The organic matter of solid wastes ferments and favours the breeding of flies. The garbage in the litter attracts rats and pigs. Pathogens from litter are being carried by the flies to the residential areas and human health is being adversely affected.

**DRAINAGE SYSTEM**

Developed drainage system is used for the disposal of waste
water from all places i.e. houses, industries and commercial establishments.
During the field work it was observed that most of the sample villages do not have the proper drainage system. Similarly due to lack of proper outlets for water around the wells and handpumps regularly used for drinking water causing a lot of slush. It has been observed that the polluted water gradually percolates through the soil and ultimately reaches to the ground water level, and pollutes the reserve source of water.

It has also been observed that the people residing in the slum areas wash their eatables in the nearby drainage and even washing of cloths in the water collected due to such drains is very common feature. In the absence of proper drainage system and nonavailability of treated drinking water the dependence on such polluted water sources in various sample villages of the study area will remain reality.

AIR POLLUTION

All forms of life depend on fresh air which constitute the immediate environment of man. In addition to the supply of lifegiving oxygen, air and atmospheric conditions serve many other functions. The human body is cooled by the contact with air, and the special senses of hearing and smelling function through air transmitted stimuli. On the other hand the disease producing agents and microorganisms are also carried by the air. Pollution of air by dust, smoke, toxic gases and chemical vapours can result in sickness and death. The term air pollution is applied when there is an excessive concentration of foreign matter in the outer atmosphere which is harmful to man or his environment.

Sources of air pollution are generally classified as:

1. Industrial outlets: Chemical industries, textile industries, oil refineries and fertilizer unit;\(^6\)

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2. Combustion : Industrial and domestic combustion of coal, oil, and other fuels, smoking habits;

3. Transport system : Trains, trucks, buses, two wheelers and other modes using mineral fuels etc. and

4. Miscellaneous : Chemical fertilizers and spraying of pesticides etc. to control the pest in agricultural activities.

In the study region tobacco smoking is one of the most common cause of air which everyone breathes. Damoh being one of the main bidi producing region in the state and bidi smoking is also a very common habit among the local people specially in the rural areas, respondents of all age groups i.e. Old, Young and Children (usually above the age of 8 years) are habitual smokers. Those respondents, who do not smoke are subjected to passive smoking due to the large amount of pollutants air has been polluted in the region. Smoke from tobacco in the form of bidi has many dangerous pollutants such as nicotine, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and ammonia sulphide etc.

73.99 per cent of the total respondents in the study region burn the waste material dumped at the doorsteps of their residences causing air pollution. In Biltara, Kundalpur and Rajwans villages 100 per cent respondents prefer to burn the waste materials, followed by Madiya Devisingh, Bansni, Ajeetpur and Umari villages where 81.36, 79.33, 78.98 and 70.37 per cent respondents, respectively burn the waste materials. In Arthkheda, Deoran, Kaushalpur, Nagmadi, Lukayan and Ghogra 67.89, 67.18, 65.63 63.35, 60.86 and 60.00 per cent of respondents burn the waste materials. This clearly shows that burning of the waste is a common practice in the rural areas of the region with varying proportion. During the winter
season majority of respondents burn waste materials inside the house to keep the house warm. The smoke of this, adversely affects to all the persons who live in it. Hence, most of the respondents in the area are more susceptible to the diseases related to respiratory system.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND HEALTH HAZARDS

Environmental Degradation or pollution is favourable alteration in our surroundings wholly or largely as a by-product of man's action. All these activities of man which disturbs the ecological balance by deteriorating the environmental conditions suitable to sustain life cause pollution. Any undesirable change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of air, water and soil may create hazard or potential hazard to the health and/or welfare of any living being. Degradation of environment due to pollution has damaged all our resources. At times, renewable resources like air, water and soil have turned worthless because of pollution. For example, it can convert the most pure form of fresh water into polluted forms which is harmful to plants and animals. Pollution has the capacity of even damaging the ozone layer of the upper atmosphere which protects the life on the earth from harmful effects of ultraviolet radiations from the sun. Pollution can alter climatic condition by affecting the heat balance of the earth. At times, pollutants have entered the food chain and have harmed several living organisms. DDT, for example has entered in almost all the major food chain.

On the basis of the information collected during the fieldwork regarding the prevailing diseases among the bidi workers and their causes. It is concluded that the diseases of respiratory system are the leading disorder among the total sick respondents in the region. Followed by gastritis, chronic dysentery, deficiency disorder and anaemia among females.
In most of the cases the respondents suffering from disorders of respiratory system either have one or all the five symptoms present in individuals or in groups, i.e. cough, expectoration, pulmonary haemorrhage and pain in the chest. Tuberculosis, trouble in breathing, viral pneumonia, bronchitis, tonsils, abscess of lungs, influenza and common cold, etc. are the diseases commonly attacking bidi workers and their dependants suffer from respiratory disorders. These respiratory disorders are mainly due to crowded atmosphere, polluted drinking water, poor sanitary conditions, open and poorly maintained drains, poor ventilation and insufficient diet and malnutrition.

A major disadvantage in bidi making activity is the occurrence of tobacco born diseases among the workers. It has been noticed that due to the continuous bidi making defects in the eyesight of the bidi workers have been reported and also resulted in many cases of Tuberculosis and other severe health complications. It has been shocking that only 28.74 per cent of the respondents reported normal health from the area. While from Bandar Kola sample village 100 per cent of the households reported one or more cases of T.B. from each household. In Biltara, Ghogri Gulal, Kotatala, Kundalpur and Nimarmunda sample villages more than 20 per cent of the households have reported one or more cases of Tuberculosis from each household and about 10 per cent of the total households have reported the chronic health problems. The full time bidi workers are exposed to severe health problems due to inhaling of polluted air mainly containing tobacco particles and also of tendu leaves. Constant sitting for long hours for making bidies causes number of physical (body) disorders. It was found that about 85.00 per cent of people interviewed had T.B., Filariasis and other related problems. The intensity of the diseases was equally distributed among the

males and females. In some cases of bidi branches, it could be seen that these are badly lacking in proper ventilation and other related facilities. The labourers engaged in drying the bidies through hot air treatment continue to work in very unhealthy environment. A large number of children and workers suffer from respiratory diseases such as Asthma and even eye problems.

The economic conditions of the bidi workers in general are also found to be poor and hence they are unable to take a balanced diet to improve their resistance power. Various diseases related to gasterointestinal tract are also widely reported and the most common is the inflammation of stomach and small intestine.

Teeth and gum diseases are also common among the bidi workers because of their casual attitude towards their teeths and regular consumption of tobacco. Anaemia among female workers is very common due to poor diet, multiple deliveries and rigid social system i.e. parda system etc. Unhygienic living conditions due to the lack of awareness and inability to afford the hygienic conditions leads to the skin diseases. On one hand most of the food consumed by bidi workers do not provide the required nutrition essential to them, looking to their working conditions, working hours, and to maintain their working capacity\(^8\). On the other hand, during the survey it has also been observed that the cooking methods adopted by the workers are unhygienic, defective and in most of the cases the food prepared is either in a place adjacent to a open drain or in a dark corner of the house, which accelerates the loss of nutrients from food.

**ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

The relationship between human health and his environment is a two-way process. We improve our living conditions and increase our comforts

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but the alterations in the environment may be harmful to our own health. Industrialisation has improved our well-being beyond our expectation by the goods which it makes so readily available, while the fumes from partly consumed oil and coal, which the factory emits from its chimneys, poison the atmosphere with sulphur-dioxide and other noxious chemicals, causing chronic bronchitis and adding to the risk of lung cancer. This dynamic process can be seen at work in agriculture, when pesticides, essential to healthy plant life used excessively becomes harmful to food, water and air, which the human ingests. Irrigation and dam building, upon which improved food supplies depend, creates condition favourable for the growth of vectors of diseases, e.g., for the mosquito carrying malaria and the snail, the intermediate host of bilharzia.  

It is well known that the earth's surface and the environmental surroundings are very important to human health. The nature of the soil, air, water, temperature, barometric pressure, wind, sunshine, cloud, rainfall, humidity and latitude, must all in the last resort have determined man's health and welfare. By controlling animal and vegetable life, man supplied himself with the essentials of life, including clothing, housing and food.

The body maintains an equilibrium between the external and internal environment but sometimes the state of equilibrium is disturbed and diseases are caused. Diseases are caused by the combined activity of Agent, Host and Environment. Out of these, agents are clearly identified, host is also known but environment usually remains unknown which is an important link between the agent and host and helps in the transmission of diseases. If environmental factors are controlled they may bring about long lasting and substantial changes in the magnitude of the diseases. The control of environmental factors in disease causation is called environmental

sanitation which means the science of safe guarding our health. It includes cleanliness in living, business, farming etc. and not only water treatment or excreta disposal as it was considered earlier. Everything which can contribute to disease control and prevention in any way is included in environmental sanitation. Many infectious disease problems are brought under control by initiating simple measure of environmental sanitation but as older problems are reduced or checked new problems are noticed. The newer problems like malignancies and other non infectious diseases are comparatively difficult to control because complex environmental factors play vital role in their causation. If we want to prevent these diseases then we should try to control our environmental pollution but it is becoming a difficult task in present time. The term environmental sanitation is now replaced by environmental health. In a country like India, if everyone is provided with safe drinking water and excreta disposed off in a proper (sanitary) manner majority of the infectious diseases can be prevented. Environment is important in the causation of infectious and non infectious disease but its role is clearly seen specially in the causation of infectious diseases. The widely accepted definition of health given by W.H.O. in 1948 clearly states, "health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity".  

Health signifies a wholeness or soundness of our body and mind, but we are confronted with the difficulty of determining its relationship to 'disease'. Health and disease must be intimately related for if disease did not exit it would be irrelevant to talk of health. If anyone should say that only those are healthy, who work perfectly in all activities and that others who can not work are not healthy, one is over simplifying the definition of health.

Nowadays polluted environment is one of the main causes of ill health of the mankind. Our respiratory system is directly affected by polluted air. When we breathe polluted air, a host of poisonous gases and particles enter in our blood streams and reaches our lungs, heart and nervous system, causing many chronic diseases.

It is believed that statistical association between smoking and cancer is well-established but the cause and affect relationship might not be. The data from various sources has been examined and it is claimed that smoking causes lung cancer or coronary heart diseases is not established and rest on inadequate evidences. The concept of passive smoking is also proved to be a low health hazard but due to its dangerous effects smoking is called "sweet slow poison" passive smoking or indirect smoking. It is being increasingly recognized that tobacco smoke not only affects the smokers but also to those who live in the company of the smoker. This is called "second hand" (indirect) or passive smoking. Respiratory infections are much more frequent in children than in adults but are low in children of non-smokers. Exposure to side stream smoke causes cough and breathlessness in non-smoking specially in the patients of asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Tobacco smoking is rather common and mostly inhabited even at public places, it effects the health of all who are exposed to this environment.

**WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE BIDI MAKING INDUSTRY**

Normally bidi making is done in small houses, sheds and verandahs where the workers live both in town and villages, majority of output being contributed from the villages. Though the Bidi companies of the state come under the Local Unregulated Factories Act, their conditions are pitiable especially in rural areas where workers sit in their kuccha houses with mud
flooring and without any proper arrangements for urinals and latrines\(^{11}\). Conditions of their houses specially light, ventilation and sanitation are critical and are well below the standard. These are dark dingy places with very few, if any windows and with approaches that are ugly and insanitary. Men, women and children are huddled together and their is hardly any space for any worker to move about. Bidi Companies are rarely provide many windows for proper ventilation and very often the entrance is also through a narrow door; hence, light and fresh air remains inadequate in the working place. As a result many chronic diseases like, lung tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, headache and loss of eyesight, etc. that are caused due to inadequate light and polluted air are very common at the work place where bidi workers work for hours for many days.

**RESIDENTIAL AREAS:**

Man is related to his environment for his well being. Housing is one of the prime requirement of man after fresh air. Food and clothes is required for the physical, mental health and for the social status. Human being spends maximum proportion of his life in a house. Thus, living space and living environment becomes one of the main determinants of their health and disease. A house with good living conditions provide the inhabitant protection from injury, illness, threats and incapacity.

During the field work it has been observed that the general condition of the houses where bidi workers are living not only are insufficient but are also presents a unhealthy surroundings. About 70.00 per cent of the respondents are living in kuccha houses and more than 80.00 per cent houses have less than 2 small rooms. Majority of rural houses have only one door that too without proper ventilation system and the occupants are rarely in the position to have the direct sun light, a valuable source of

vitamin D. During the sowing seasons most of the bidi workers prefer to make bidies during night even if they are tired.

Over crowding also cause accelerated intellectual and physical deterioration of older people, increased aggression, withdrawal and sexual abnormalities among young adolescents and adverse affect on the general mental health of an adult. Slums are pockets of poor houses occupied by the poor bidi workers with poor environment.

ENVIRONMENT OF SLUMS:

The environment in the slum areas remains conductive to spread of several ailments, viz. communicable diseases, malnutrition, mental and physical retardation and behavioural problems. The victims of slum environment are no more fortunate than those of natural disasters, viz. floods, fire, famine, epidemics or terrorism. But these human beings get less sympathy or support than the others because slum environment is a slow, almost insidious poisoning and it does not cause ripples in the conscious of our political and other managers.

During the field survey it has been observed that most of the slum dwellers migrate from the nearby villages of the study region. Oldest slum of the Damoh city is located in the Futera Mohalla at a distance of two-and-a-half Kilometres from the heart of the (Ghantaghar) city. Most of the slum dwellers living in the Futera Mohalla belong to the Schedule Caste and/or Muslim communities. The majority of the residents of this slum area are engaged in bidi making industry. Health of the bidi workers also suffer due to long and constant sittings and because of involuntary inhalation of tobacco dust. In many cases children also joins this activity and suffer due to malnutrition and from respiratory problems. It has been noticed that most of the people have become the patient of Tuberculosis
and/or victims of Asthma from the very early age.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

The term hygiene includes bathing and washing, care of clothing, care of posture. Cultivation of good habits regarding eating, diet, exercise, sleep, smoking, drinking and positive attitudes towards the life. Very oftenly discontinuation of these activities impair their health, for example, neglect of oral hygiene may predispose to tooth and gum ailments, neglect of personal cleanliness may predispose to scabies, eczema and fungal infections, excessive smoking may lead to chronic bronchitis and lung cancer, and overeating leads to obesity. The practice of personal hygiene is largely a matter of individual responsibility and depends on their attitude and awareness. If an individual is making his surroundings filthy, then it is his or her health which is affected. Illiteracy is another important factor due to which most of the workers are not aware about the importance of their personal hygiene.

PROBLEMS OF DISEASES

The occurrence of many diseases is closely related to the environmental conditions. The aggregate impact of the physical and social environment of the poor, including their housing, occupation, living style together result in term of many environmental diseases.

An attempt has been made to present a brief account of the various environmental diseases in the following section. The data related to diseases from the rural and urban areas have been collected during the field work. It has been noticed that most of the health hazards in the area are due to the combined effect of working conditions, residential, air, water and social pollution. Among the various environmental diseases some are:

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whooping cough, bronchitis, asthma, tuberculosis, respiratory infections, eye irritation, malaria and common cold.

**DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**: The diseases of respiratory system are of common occurrence due to the viral and bacterial infections in different areas of the study region. The primary common symptoms of these diseases are cough, cold, irritation in throat, fever and pain in the chest, etc. Among the various diseases of respiratory system some are very common i.e. cold, whooping cough, bronchitis, asthma and tuberculosis etc.

Whooping cough is a highly infectious disease, causing inflammation of the respiratory passage with several attacks of cough. The children are the main patients of this disease. The official data for this disease are not available but during field survey it has been noticed that more than 25 per cent children in rural areas are affected by this disease.

**Bronchitis** is very common in the region under study. Bronchitis is caused by atmospheric pollution such as smoke, dust, etc. The main symptoms include complaint of cold, headache, pain in the backbone and cough with or without sputum.

**Asthma** is caused by dust and air pollution. **Tuberculosis** is the mixed effect of environmental pollution as well as malnutrition. It is a communicable disease and due to over crowding this is being communicated from one person to another due to direct close contact and even has not spared the youngers.

**VIRAL DISEASES**: Due to poor sanitation, polluted environment and low resistance power many viral diseases may occur in the body. The virus present in the atmosphere enters into human body through air, water, food, the bite of insects and wounds of the skin, and further cause many diseases
like poliomyelitis, Influenza and chicken pox etc.

**MALARIA**: Malaria is the most common disease in the Damoh region. The study area is seriously affected by this disease especially during summer and rainy season. Malaria is prevailing due to the combined effects of air and water pollution in the area. The poor sewage system in the residential areas provide best opportunity for the growth and development of mosquitoes, which spread this disease.

**EYE DISEASES**: The eye diseases occur due to the combined effects of polluted air, fumes of tobacco, infections, injuries, malnutrition and insufficient or dazzling light. Health of an individual and a society is directly related to the living conditions to which it is subjected. And health of the eyes is no exception with regard crowding in the living space, disposal of waste tendu leaves in the available open areas, open drains, nonavailability of sufficient and clean water for drinking and washing of clothes are some of the major factor which directly influence the prevalence and propagation of infectious diseases such as the communicable ophthalmia in the society.\(^\text{13}\)

The correlation of the general distribution of diseases with the prevailing general environmental conditions where bidi making is done, dietary habits and social background is indispensable in the present context. Illiteracy among females is also one of the main factor affecting the living pattern, the dietary habits, etc., for instance, if the house-wife is not familiar with the proper methods of cooking much loss of the nutrients will occur during the preparations in the kitchen itself. It is thus, clear that most of the disorders which have been reported directly or indirectly by the respondents are influenced by the natural and cultural environment of the region.

To improve the working conditions and also to reduce the frequency

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have been formulated by the government. But witnessing these facts and listening to the residents and bidi workers one is convinced that probably the schemes which have been drafted by the government, have failed in delivering the required goods due to the improper implemental without proper sincerity. To reduce the monopoly of the bidi companies and to improve the working conditions, efforts are to make for establishing large scale industries in the area, so that job opportunities are ensured and to create competition with bidi making, will be necessary without which, the present situation will continue. It is also desirable to start nutrition and environment oriented education programmes among the bidi workers, so that they will be aware of their ill health which will help to improve their health conditions.