CHAPTER - VIII
CONCLUSION
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Astronomically, Damoh region lies between 23° 09' and 24° 26' north latitudes and 79° 03' and 79° 57' east longitudes. Damoh has a central location in the country with 1.64 per cent of the state's total area. Administratively, the region is divided into six tahsil's i.e. Damoh, Hatta, Batiagarh, Pathariya, Jabera and Tendukheda and is further divided into seven blocks. The region has 1,174 villages. According to the 1991 census region accommodates 734,634 out of which 384,959 are males and 349,675 are females.

Geologically, Damoh region is the eastern most part of the great Vindhyan Plateau, consisting of the valley of river sonar in the centre of the region. The sonar valley is the principal agricultural area of the region which is completely devoid of forests. The climate of the region is generally pleasant salubrious. The forest in the region is mainly Tropical Dry Deciduous type but mixed forest and teak forest are also found in the region.

The region under study enjoys the direct accessibility through transport network with different parts of the state as well as of the country. The region is accessible by rail and is traverses by state highways which connect it with all important towns like Jabalpur on the east, Jhansi, Gwalior on the north and Bhopal on southwest. Damoh railway station lies on the Bina - Katni section of the central railways and provide direct accessibility to Delhi, Mumbai and Hawrah.

In recent times, development has assumed the role of the "leading sector" in economic development. This is due to the fact that other sectors have not been able to support it integratively. The task of
rural development as a process is manifold. It has to place a sizeable proportion of population above the poverty line. It has to emphasise on the underdeveloped sub-sectors of our rural system. Above all it has to bring in an awareness among policy-makers, institutional agencies and the people at large proportion as to the immediacy of abating poverty, inequality and inefficiency.

This study purports to highlight the role played by a specific rural sector like bidi making industry with reference to its contribution towards the diversification of rural activities, enhancing the prosperity, assuring the employment and to the growth potential of the particular economic system.

In India tobacco chewing, snuff taking and smoking by Hookka or Chilam are the popular ways of consuming tobacco from the very beginning. Generally speaking, Cigarette become popular among the educated and well off classes of the urban society, whereas the bidi remained the poor man's option in place of cigarette. The introduction of bidi making industry in India dates back only to the earlier part of the 20th century. During the period of first World War, the bidi industry did very well as there were difficulties in importing cheap foreign cigarettes. By the year 1939, there was practically no area in India where bidies were not produced of course in varying quantity.

The bidi industry has a wide spread network in the country. But bidi making is not uniform in terms of capital invested, number of persons employed, the quantity of bidies produced, spatial coverage and also in terms of its concentration. Only few bidi units are in the organised sector, while most of the bidi units are unorganised as household industry. The bidi industry does not require any power, machineries and any planned and fixed premises as in most cases workers prefer to do it at their own place.
The only tools that are required for the bidi rolling are a scissor for cutting the wrapper, a small hand-knife and a tray to keep the raw materials. The process of bidi rolling is very simple but it does require perfection for a neat and even turnout to avoid the wastage.

Tobacco and tendu leaves are the two main raw materials used by the bidi industry. The other materials used are cotton thread, maida for glue making, coal is used in bhatti (furnace) for drying the bidies and other packing materials.

Working of the bidi industry is organised in three different stages. At the first stage bidi making is done at the factory (branch and/or sub branch) level of course in limited quantity. At the second stage required raw material is provided to the contractors or sattedars, covering a well demarcated area and bidi workers from different villages are enrolled with respective sattedars for whom bidies are rolled by them staying at their own places. And at the third stage workers engaged in bidi making, after covering long distances collect the required raw materials from the sattedars or their representatives known as patidars (middle men) as per their working capacity and the bidies can be rolled by them and their family members by working at their own residence.

The growth of bidi industry during the last few decades has revolutionised the rural economy of the Damoh region. The major portion of the population residing in the rural areas as well as urban areas is underemployed as agriculture being their main occupation. Most of the agricultural labourers particularly the women have learnt the art of bidi making and now most of them have also adopted it as part time and/or casual workers to supplement their income. The bidi industry has a certain advantage, firstly it does not require any special training or skill, secondly,
it needs no tools, thirdly the work can be discontinued as and when required, without creating any adverse effect. That is why it is done as a part time job also to supplement the income. Pattern of their working hours and working days too are irregular and they work according to their own convenience and whenever they have time and when they are inclined to do so. Thus this industry is essentially a household industry which is borne out from the output figures from rural areas, who are always engaged even at the time of harvesting. Normally, village population by utilising their spare time they work at their own residence and this acts as an important stabiliser for the economy of the rural workers engaged in this activity. They also have an advantage to work by staying at their place avoiding any movement. Rolling of bidi in Madhya Pradesh was introduced during the first decade of the present century. Beginning of the bidi industry in the state was initiated with the establishment of Messars. Mohanlal Hargovind Das Company in 1902 at Jabalpur. That is how the bidi making industry is one of the oldest industries of the state. It ranks second after agriculture in its spatial coverage and employment. According to the list of Industrial establishments in Madhya Pradesh, one can say that the region under study has about 1.2 per cent of the total Industrial establishments in the form of bidi companies and the participation of their workers engaged in bidi making is about 5.4 per cent of the total industrial workers. In Madhya Pradesh, out of 45 districts, 22 districts are well known for bidi industries and Damoh region ranks second after Sagar considering the production of bidies and employment.

Damoh region occupies an important place in the bidi making industry of Madhya Pradesh. The industry is nearly 75 years old as far as Damoh is concerned. In the year 1922-23, the first bidi making industry
was established in the area. Initially, the industry was confined only in the Damoh town and was employing very few workers. Gradually, it made its entry in the rural areas which were facing problems of underemployment, half fed agricultural labourers joined the industry instinctively. Today bidi making industry has spread even to the remotest villages of the region and has virtually proved to be a boon to the unskilled male and female residing in these rural areas. In the study region, the people from rural and urban areas are engaged in the bidi making industry.

Bidi making industry has a very wide systematic network throughout the region except in the Batiagarh block. The main reason for such a lower proportion is that, about 20 per cent villages are inhabited and the majority of the people living in these areas are mainly interested to work as wood cutters. They collect the fuel wood from the adjoining forests and the same is being sold at block headquarters and in other nearby villages.

The bidi making companies of the region are 75 years old. The first bidi company was established by Mohammed Khan in 1922-23 at Damoh. At that time he himself used to make bideos and started the first firm in the region with the brand name of "Photo Chhap Bidi" and the same was marketed in the local and adjoining areas. In 1927-28, three more firms were started by Karim, Devidas Halkudas and Babulal Ganesh. During the period of second world war and specially during the postwar period bidi making acquired a very big market and consequently a large number of bidi companies were established, and steep rise in the production of bideos from the region was also recorded. But a comparison between 1984 and 1995 shows that by the year 1995 though the number of bidi workers has substantially increased but the production of bideos has gradually declined. The number of bidi workers was about 90,000 in the year 1984 and rose
to 1,15,000 by the year 1994 and recorded an increase of 41 per cent, whereas, during the same period the production of bidi declined from 1480 crores to 998 crores i.e. decline of 35 per cent has recorded.

Jaswant Lal Prahlad Bhai company was the first company started by the Gujrati family in the region. Gradually, many more firms were added and at present about 19 firms in the town are engaged in the bidi making industry.

In the initial years of the bidi making mostly Muslims were engaged in this industry. Participation of scheduled caste (Kori) in the occupation of bidi making in the firm of Devidas Halkudas was recorded in 1927-28. Later on, chamars and harijans also joined this industry after the arrival of Gujrati’s. Gradually, bidi making became a common occupation of every one and in due course of time the consideration of caste and creed disappeared.

The spatial pattern of bidi making centres presents a very uneven picture in the region. Most of the bidi companies are mainly concentrated in Damoh town and in Hatta block. Whereas some companies are located in Batiagarh, Pathariya and Jabera blocks. Damoh being the district headquarters with adequate transport facilities has direct links with various parts of the state and as well as of country. Due to this very fact most of the companies are established with their headoffices at Damoh. While the highest percentage of bidi making villages are from Damoh and Patera blocks with 100 per cent and 98.99 per cent, respectively.

Analysis of blockwise and castewise households engaged in the bidi making industry Damoh block ranks first with 22.31 per cent of households participation in the bidi making industry while the Hatta block has been placed in the last with the lowest percentage (8.46 per cent) of
households participation in bidi making industry. The maximum number of households belong to Other Backward Class and Schedule Caste categories are actively participating in the bidi making industry of the region.

The number of branches, sub-branches and spatial coverage (number of villages) of P. K. Tobacco Product Ltd., Damoh and J.P. Tobacco Product Ltd., Damoh are in leading position as compared to the other companies engaged in bidi industry of the region under study.

Rural Development has been the focus of various developmental activities initiated by the government from the beginning. Efforts have been stirred to provide opportunities of employment of minimum wages with proper and sufficient facilities related to education, health, childcare and other services for the rural masses.

District level agencies have been monitoring the implementation of various rural development programmes and have been the main hub to transfer the required funds to respective Panchayats and to the village level committees as per the policies of the state government. Whereas, limit has been set up for the effective use of resources. There are some important problems as grow more food to grow more wood for fuel, to raise their status and to make the provisions of water, fodders, farm work and transport.

2nd October 1953, is an epochmaking date when community development programme was initiated with the formation of Pathariya and Tendukheda as the first blocks for improving the earnings and living conditions of the rural poor and by 2nd October 1962, spatial coverage of Community Development Programme was completed with the formation of seven blocks to ensure the speedy implementation of various rural development schemes specially designed for the upliftment of the rural
masses residing in the rural areas of the study region.

In designing the sample, an element of purposiveness has been deliberately introduced, at some stages, to have a meaningful analysis of the problem. 22 villages from the region under study were selected as sample villages to undertake the present study. At least three villages were selected from each block of the study region and wider representation has been ensured.

More than 30 per cent sample villages in the region are located within a radius of 20 to 55 kms. from their block headquarters. Remaining sample villages lie within a radius of 20 kms. Proportion of pucca roads in the region is very limited. Condition of the buses operating in the region and their low frequency on these roads has further restricted the inter and intra regional movement of the villagers. Apart from transport facilities, levels of awareness among the respondents of the area enables them to think in terms of new ventures to claim for their rights.

For the present study household was the actual unit. In view of the limitations about 10 per cent households (243), representing all categories, were randomly selected from the sample villages were interviewed. However, some selectivity was also introduced. The proportion of households from the selected sample villages are classified into three categories i.e. 'villages with highest proportion of households', 'villages with moderate proportion of households' and 'villages with low proportion of households' and 9.09 per cent of sample villages accommodate 18.95 per cent households, 31.82 per cent of the sample villages accommodate 40.76 per cent households and in the last category 58.09 per cent villages accommodate 39.86 per cent households,
respectively. Among the sample households, Hindus swell the number with 88.36 per cent followed by Muslims. Caste is a significant factor in rural areas and many economic activities are identified with one or the other.

Average sex ratio in the study region comes to 898 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of households belonging to the Other Backward Class with 958 females per 1000 males is higher than the average sex ratio of the study region.

The range of annual income of the selected households in the region is divided into two groups: first, 'Households above the poverty line' with only 14.38 per cent of the total households in the region are living in this category and second, 'Households below the poverty line' with 85.62 per cent of the total households residing in the sample villages of the study region.

The major proportion of the households residing in the category of 'below poverty line' has the largest proportion of 'kuccha' houses i.e. 82.02 per cent of the total households in the sample villages. On the other hand, the proportion of the 'mixed' and 'pucca' houses are very low i.e. 14.98 and 3.0 per cent, respectively of the total households in the sample villages.

Availability of dependable and fast transport provide the better linkage with different areas and assures the overall development of the concern areas. The important means of transport available in the sample villages of region under study include Bullock carts, Bicycles, Tractor-trolleys, Motorcycles, Scooters, Jeeps, Buses and Trains.

The total households of the sample villages, 69.89 per cent households in the region belong to the category of marginal farmers, but the size of their landholding is very low i.e. less than 2 hectares.
27.96 per cent households are small farmers with a size of landholding ranging from 2 to 10 hectares and only 2.15 per cent households are owning landholding with more than 10 hectares.

The largest proportion of the agricultural land i.e. 58.16 per cent in the sample villages is being operated by Bullock-carts. Only 30.03 per cent of agricultural land is operated by Tractors.

Wide variation in the availability of educational facilities and participation of students from the villages has been noticed in the sample villages. With the growing distances automatically has restricted the participation of girl students. Most of the schools lack basic amenities at different levels. All the 22 sample villages have at least one primary school, and these villages are deprived of middle schools as well as colleges.

Electric power in the rural areas is an important and necessary infrastructure. Rural electrification brings significant changes in the domestic, irrigation, commercial and industrial sectors of the rural areas. With the electrification not only an individual family is benefited but its impact is also recorded on the entire village. Only 18.18 per cent of the sample villages do not have electricity. Generally in the rural areas electricity is used for domestic and irrigational purposes. More than 55 per cent of the total households from the sample villages are having the electric connections.

During the field work it has been observed that availability of other facilities in most of the sample villages are badly lacking in reference to the medical services, veterinary services, postal services, market facility, Gram Panchayat and Gram Sachivalaya are the basic needs of human being who are living in a society. While for the smooth living some of these facilities are to be available in the villages itself. Analysis of the household
questionnaires clearly shows that except few villages most of the villages do not have the direct accessibility to these facilities. For example, to avail the medical facilities villagers have to cover the distance ranging from 1 to 15 kms.; for the veterinary services 1 to 10 kms.; for postal services 1 to 20 kms.; for market facilities 1 to 15 kms. and for Gram Sachivalaya 1 to 20 kms from their respective villages.

In the sample villages, wide variation in respect to population and household distribution was recorded. For example, Deoran village with 2,500 persons ranks first while Bandar Kola ranks last with 167 persons. Similar variation in the number of households was also recorded and Bandar Kola village with 28 households ranked last while with 235 in Deoran village ranks first.

Caste is a significant factor in rural areas and many economic activities are identified broadly with one caste or the other. Castewise analysis clearly shows that among the 243 households interviewed during the field work 34.79 per cent belong to the Other Backward Classes followed by Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and General category with 26.56, 21.69 and 16.96 per cent households, respectively.

Among the sample households 88.36 per cent belong to Hindus, followed by Muslims with 11.64 per cent. In the study area, majority of the sample households belonging to the Muslim community in 22.72 per cent (Bandar Kola, Kotatala, Nimarmunda, Rajwans and Sheikhpura) villages.

The age of the respondents is very important because awareness and age are closely associated. The age of the respondents covered during the field work varies from 21 to 70 years and are classified into five categories.

In about 18.18 per cent of the sample villages sex ratio comes within the range of 700 to 800 females per 1000 males and 40.91 per cent
villages comes under the range of 800 to 900 females per 1000 males. While 40.91 percent villages comes within the range of above 900 females per 1000 males, and average of sex ratio in the total study area is 890. Chhirkona village has the lowest proportion i.e. 745 females per 1000 males whereas, Nagmadi shows the highest proportion i.e. 1270 females per 1000 males.

The household analysis clearly shows that only 30.25 per cent respondents are owning the land. 94.44 per cent of the total land owners belong to the category of small farmers owning the land of 2.5 hectares.

Income of the respondents has a direct bearing on the awareness and adoption of innovations and the living conditions. On the basis of the annual income, the respondents are divided into two groups: first, 'Households living below the poverty line' considering the wide variations in the income group of the families placed under the category of households living below the poverty line are further divided into four subgroups i.e. Deenheen with 5.28 per cent, Atyadhhik Nirdhan with 12.78 per cent, Ati Nirdhan with 24.34 per cent and Nirdhan with 28.02 per cent of the total sample respondent households belong to this income group. On the other hand, 'Households living above the poverty line' have been divided into three subgroups, Middle Income Group with 20.12 per cent, High Income Group with 4.49 per cent and Very High Income Group with 5.41 per cent sample respondent households in the region belong to this income group.

89.06 per cent respondents in the region are residing in 'kuccha' houses followed by 'mixed' and 'pucca' houses with 9.02 and 1.82 per cent, respectively.

52.53 per cent of the respondents in the region are literate. The proportion of literate respondents shows that about one third (33.16 per cent) of the total respondents have completed their education
only upto primary level.

Making a quick appraisal of the Socioeconomic profile of the villagers from the study region clearly shows that infrastructural facilities in the villages, in the form of education, health and irrigational system, are non communicable owing to inadequacy of transport facilities and the high degree of illiteracy.

The importance of agriculture in the economy of Damoh region can hardly be overemphasized. About 50 per cent of the total population of the region belongs to the agriculture class. In Damoh region, employment opportunities are not certain due to the uncertainty of agriculture and proportion of small farmer in the region is very high. This restricts the availability of agricultural land. As a result, not only the output has declined but the prospects for employment too have declined. Due to these prevailing conditions in the region people are forced to think for the alternatives and people here have gradually adopted bidi making as a profession on the regular or part time basis to supplement their income, especially by economically weaker sections residing in the rural as well as urban areas. The impact of bidi industry on the rural economy has been noteworthy. The bidi industry has provided the supplementary source of income to the peasantry, especially to the agricultural labourers. The number of agricultural labourers have shown a declining trend due to the uncertainty of employment, low wages and their dependency on rainfed agriculture. There is no certainty of employment. Only during the sowing and harvesting season work is available. That is why most of the agricultural labourers have adopted the bidi making as full-time or as additional work to enhance their income.

The proportion of working population engaged in household industry has been continuously increasing since independence due to the
above mentioned conditions in the region. The proportion of working population engaged in the household industries has recorded substantial increase from 6.24 per cent in 1971 to 21.9 per cent in 1991.

62.81 per cent population from the sample villages is engaged in the bidi making industry of the region. The extent of encouragement on agricultural labourers, by the bidi industry, mostly depend upon the uncertainty of agriculture and the absence of better alternative for employment opportunities in the villages. Families engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural activities have also preferred to adopt the bidi making to further enhance their income. Bidi Industry has been reducing and is still reducing the quantum of rural unemployment and their dependence on rainfed agriculture, by providing the opportunities with greater flexibility widely suited to the conditions of the majority.

Analysis of the data collected during the field work from the region clearly states that 62.81 per cent population has joined the bidi making industry because of the lack of job opportunities, uncertainty of agriculture, and other related activities and to finally enhance their income.

The analysis of age-wise participation of the population clearly shows that the highest proportion of population engaged in bidi making belongs to the 15-25 year age-group i.e. 34.27 per cent, in the bidi making industry of the study region. Followed by age group of 26-45 years, above 45 years and below about 10 per cent respectively. It has been observed that 68.28 per cent population engaged in the bidi making industry belongs to 15-45 years of age-group in the study region. It clearly shows that about 68.28 per cent of the total population is dependent on various working activities and is considered to be economically active.

The analysis of families engaged in the bidi industry shows that
the participation of female labourers is high and they share the major burden of work. The proportion of male-female participation in the industry comes to 51.01 and 48.99 per cent in the bidi making industry of study region. Thus, it could be established that labour absorption by the bidi making industry is significant (especially female labourers) and the conditions demand augmentation of that labour so as to increase productivity, employment and to improve their living conditions.

The analysis pertaining to classification indicates that the people are working as full time bidi making families, seasonwise participation of males, females and children in the bidi making industry. It also reveals that the first season refers to monsoon months i.e. June to September, the second season September to December and the third season February to May. During the first season, few of the bidi workers finds employment in other activities like agriculture and they return back to bidi making after the monsoon season. Population engaged in the bidi industry with 24.23 per cent remains very low during the first season when bulk of the labourers are absorbed for agricultural activities. During the second season, the proportion of population engaged in agricultural activities increases to 34.43 per cent which is tremendous and in the next season it further improves and reaches to 40.34 per cent.

Environment in general means whatever surrounds the individual constitutes his environment, so even a person is included in the environment of the other person. Environmental pollution has become a serious problem and the study of this aspect has assumed unusual significance to the ecology. The air, water, light, temperature, soil, mineral resources, industrial processes, conditions of dwellings, crops, grass lands, forests and other useful plants, domestic cattle, poultry, fisheries and other
animals, etc. together constitute the human environment. Pollution means the direct or indirect changes (usually but not always brought about by man) in one or more components of the ecosystem which are harmful to the system or atleast undesirable for man. There are several kinds of pollution and their causes are also many.

The general environment and the daily routine of a bidi worker, to a great extent, is being influenced by the process of bidi making, by the material used, and the quantity of solid waste disposed off at a door steps. The industry neither requires trained labour nor a major investment. Hence, the majority of poor classes of the worker under study, have been forced to opt for the bidi making as a main base for their livelihood. The disposal of waste at doorstep causes a polluted and unhygienic environment around their residence. As a contrary to this, their capacity to under take the hard physical job as well as their biological resistance gradually declines and they start avoiding other jobs.

Man's environment is the combination of a number of physical circumstances in which he lives. The air which he breathes is essential for his existence and should remain free from toxic materials which will help to avoid respiratory and other ailments. The polluted air and water have an adverse effect on livestock. The environmental surroundings may be man-made or natural. The environment consists of many things that surrounds an organism. The natural environment comprises lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere.

Most of the bidi workers are living in the densely populated areas. Their residential areas are surrounded by unhygienic conditions. Due to lack of proper ventilation and lights their houses remain dump. The residential areas do not have any marked or fixed point for dumping the industrial and
domestic wastes. During the rainy season, due to the waterlogging decay of the waste materials, a bad smell is created and during the dry season, the burning of the waste produces smoke, polluting the environment in either ways. Due to the per room high density all activities i.e., from bidi making to cooking is done within the same space leading to unhygienic and unhealthy condition causing environmental degradation.

An analysis of the data collected during the field work, regarding the prevailing diseases pertaining to respiratory system are leading disorders among the total sick respondents followed by gastritis, chronic dysentery, deficiency disorder and anaemia specially among female workers. The respiratory disorders like cough, expectoration, Pulmonary haemorrhage, chestpain, Tuberculosis, breathing trouble, Viral Pneumonia, Bronchities, Tonsils, abscess of lungs, Influenza and common cold occur mainly due to over crowding and degraded atmosphere, polluted drinking water, poor sanitation, open drains, poor ventilation, insufficient diet and during the heating of moist tobacco leaves in the residential area.

Majority of the bidi workers suffer from tobacco induced diseases. The continuous bidi rolling affects their eyesight and causes other severe health complications. In the study area, only 28.74 per cent of the respondents reported normal health. The Bandar Kola sample village has reported one or more cases of TB practically from every household.

Damoh is one of the well-known leading bidi producing region of Madhya Pradesh. A pattern of constant demand has given a strong position to the bidi industry of the region. The bidi industry of the Damoh region plays an important role in the overall economic development of the rural areas in the region. Though bidi making industry has a bright future and it is playing a significant role in rural development of the region, yet the industry is facing number of economic, social, environmental, and health problems creating hurdles
in the way of its further expansion with rapid growth and development.

**PROBLEMS**

The bidi making industry in Damoh region has flourished well. The production trend of the bidi making industry in the region indicates a definite progress. In last 75 years, number of bidi companies have been added along with their new branches and sub branches in the region. About 62.81 per cent of the total population in the region has been employed by the bidi industry either as full time or as part time workers.

The working conditions of bidi workers vary from company to company and from one place to the other place within the region. In the feudal setup the workers have a little bargaining power, that is why, their conditions remain exploitative. Nowadays, several new steps and movements like better labour participation to bring different categories of labourers into the organised setup and their participation in the decision making process, have been introduced for the overall development of the rural labourers. Even then the condition of rural labourers has remained precarious since labourers engaged in bidi industry are not thoroughly emancipated from exploitation.

In the study region about 95.56 per cent labourers are involved as full time and part time workers in the bidi making industry. A sizable number of bidi workers comprises of marginal farmers and agricultural and other class of labourers that is why bidi rolling has proved to be next major activity after agriculture in the rural areas. The share of women and their children engaged in the bidi rolling comes to 75.0 per cent.

Damoh is a major bidi producing region of the state. The bidi making industry has given major boost to the overall economic development of the rural areas of the region. Due to the constant upward pattern of
demand the bidi industry has a bright future. Even then the bidi industry is infested with number of problems. Some of the major problems are as follows:

1. **ECONOMIC PROBLEMS**

   Economically weaker sections of our rural as well as urban areas have opted to join bidi making to enhance their income. Even working for more than 10-12 hours in a day does not provide them enough money to suffice their family needs. Therefore, in order to enhance their income they prefer to work for longer time by cutting short their other important daily chores like cooking, serving, washing, collecting fuel, water fetching and shopping etc. This type of continuous hard work without proper nutrition adversely affects the health of the bidi workers.

2. **PROBLEM OF WAGES**

   The bidi workers are paid at the rate of per 1,000 bidies rolled by them i.e., their wage is determined not by working hours but by the quantity produced by them. And even the quantity based wages are not uniform in the region. The wages paid to the bidi workers are not sufficient in comparison to their working hours.

3. **PROBLEM OF REJECTED BIDIES**

   The sattedars, while sorting the bidies, reject a sizable number of bidies as substandard. The workers are not paid for such rejected bidies and the cost of tobacco and tendu leaf used in the making of such substandard bidies too is deducted from their wages without considering the reasons. On the otherhand, they make profits by selling these rejected bidies at a low price, without making any payment to the workers for such bidies. Moreover, many times the workers themselves also bear the cost of thread used in the bidi rolling. Being hired as labourer thread has to be
provided to the workers along with other raw materials.

4. **UNCERTAINTY OF EMPLOYMENT**

There is no certainty of employment in the bidi industry as the workers are employed by sattedars and are given raw materials on the verbal recommendation of the senior workers working with the company or sattedars. Thus, workers hardly have any direct contact with the company or sattedars. Most of the workers are engaged temporarily without any commitment. Due to prevailing situation the workers rarely think of raising their voice against their exploitation with fear that they may be removed from the list of the sattedars.

5. **SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

During the field work it has been observed that in most of the households, children are also involved in the bidi rolling probably to enhance their income and the girl child looks after the little ones of the family and shares the domestic work also as their mothers continue to work for long duration gradually depending on them. That is how they are discouraged by parents and they start avoiding to go to the school. Efforts are to be made to create awareness that their education is essential and they must be sent to school regularly.

The houses allotted to the bidi workers under the Gramin Awas Yojana are usually located on the outskirts of villages/locality without proper civic amenities. This leads to their segregation from the remaining communities. Sometimes they have to cover long distances to fetch the required quantity of water.

6. **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Working conditions like ventilation, light, sanitation, dust and dirt, availability of drinking water, working hours etc. have a direct effect on the
health of the bidi workers, their efficiency, psychology of the worker and also the quality and quantity of the work done by them. Due to carelessness towards the improvement of their working and domestic environment the workers dispose of the waste materials at their doorstep and most of the workers consume tobacco. All this together badly effects the environment of the locality and the health of the person concerned.

7. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Bidi workers are exposed to tobacco flakes and particles which leads to tobacco-induced diseases. Sitting constantly for long hours leads to serious health disorders; continuous bidi rolling for long period adversely affects the eye sight of the workers. Poverty, socioeconomic status and illiteracy etc. together also affect the physical health of the bidi workers.

8. SATTEDARI SYSTEM

Sattedars work like intermediates between the bidi companies and the workers. This system is quite prevalent in the bidi making industry of the region. This system provides workers their employment at their doorstep. But advantages of the system are less as compared to disadvantages of the system. The sattedars withhold a large amount of money advanced by the manufacturers and spare only a small part of it to the recruited bidi workers. The sattedars also make unwanted deduction from the wages of the workers. The workers do not resist against this exploitation because sattedars enrol them as bidi workers and provide raw materials as per their rolling capacity. Therefore, any protest against them would lead to their unemployment and the loss of income will lead to financial crisis. The system is very harmful for proper and prosperous life of the bidi workers.

But in several villages, where the sattedari system does not prevail,
the workers face some problems. In the absence of the middleman the villagers sometimes have to cover a long distance even upto ten kilometres to collect the required raw materials and to deposit the prepared bidies. During the rainy season, villages located in the interior areas are very often marooned, thus, restricts the mobility of the bidi workers and causes financial hardships.

In order to provide better working conditions and social safety to the bidi workers Bidi Cigar Act was introduced in 1966. The state government has made many legal provisions to ensure the medical facilities to the bidi workers and their families along with the provision of Provident Fund and Bonus to the workers. But due to illiteracy and lack of awakening most of the workers are ignorant of all these schemes specially designed for their betterment.

SUGGESTIONS

Usually bidi workers work for about 10-12 hours a day. As a corollary to this they do not get sufficient time for other necessary activities even for their personal health and domestic activities specially by the female workers. In most of the cases after adopting the bidi making gradually involve in other possible activities have been withdrawn by the bidi workers. Majority of the bidi workers normally avoid to accept any domestic works or activities related with agriculture and prefers to work on their own. As a result, shortage of domestic workers and workers for various other activities have been felt specially in the urban areas and rural areas are not exception to this. Due to this very fact most of the bidi workers have been socially isolated.

Bidi making is a time consuming activity and most of the workers try to work for long duration to enhance their income on the cost of their
health. The bidi workers residing in the interior areas do not get required raw materials like tendu leaves and tobacco directly from the companies. All this reaches to them after passing through several stages i.e. branch, sub-branch, sattedar and petidar. As a result, quantity of raw material that reaches to them always is less than the required quantity for the requisite bidies to be rolled by them with a provided material. In most of the cases workers fail to produce required number of bidies for which the raw material was provided. Secondly, at the later stage the sorting of bidies is done considering the size and the quantity of tobacco being filled in the bidies. The differences are being adjusted out of their wages. In turn bidi workers further try to increase the quantity to ensure the increase in their earnings as per the provisions of the account of bidies rolled by the worker is maintained. Observing all these working problems provisions are be made for the proper entry of raw materials and their quantity issued to the workers to avoid and to minimise the exploitation of the bidi workers.

Keeping in mind the above mentioned problems the government should initiate to increase the wages of bidi workers and effective provisions and steps are to be made so that the bidi workers specially those living in the interior areas are able to get the benefits. Apart from the quantity the quality of raw material supplied for making a 1,000 bidies have to be properly checked. During the field work 60 per cent bidi workers complained that the quantity of raw materials supplied to them for making a 1,000 bidies rarely is sufficient. Since efforts are to be made in this direction considering the interest of the workers. The tendu leaves provided to the bidi workers should first be sorted out specially of small size from which even a single bidi could be made, should be removed from the lot. And also to avoid these losses to the management, such leaves should be rejected at the initial stage.
In the study area, collection of tendu leaves is done under the supervision of the government. One of the main drawbacks of the prevailing system of the collection of tendu leaves is that it is done within a period of two months scheduled by the representatives of the government. And during the collection of tendu leaves little attention is paid towards the size and nature of leaves considering size required for the bidi making. Initially, collection of tendu leaves use to be done by the bidi companies and they were caring for the size and type of the leaves to be collected. Efforts are to be made to ensure the quality of leaves not only to avoid the wastage but also to protect the interests of the bidi workers.

When the bidi workers deposit the bidies rolled by them, most of the time, 20-30 per cent of the bidies are rejected during the sorting process. These rejected bidies are not given back to the workers. Therefore, in order to deposit 1,000 bidies they have to make 1,200 to 1,300 bidies. And the raw materials supplied to them is not even sufficient for 1,000 bidies. As a result, cost of 200-300 bidies is adjusted out of the wages of the worker.

Availability of good quality tendu leaves will ensure the quality of bidies rolled and will help in minimising the exploitation of the workers. Moreover, one member from each bidi making family should be given training for 10-15 days (for the proper method of rolling bidi) at the factory premises so that he could train other members of family.

Number of programmes and schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Gramin Awas Yojana, Suniyojit Rozgar Yojana, 100 days wages scheme etc. are being implemented through district rural development agency for the upliftment of the rural masses and rural areas. Implementation of these programmes have shown positive results and are being monitored
at the block level. If these schemes are implemented at the village or even at panchayat level selection of the more needy people will become possible. Job oriented schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, under which the beneficiaries are given training, should be implemented on large scale and should be given prime importance. On the other hand, efforts are to be made to create the awareness in rural areas by means of various programmes such as poster presentations, documentaries, exhibitions etc. These efforts will give them opportunity to take the maximum advantage of the available programmes.

The scheme of 100 days work under which people are employed during the summer season for 100 days and labourers are engaged in works like construction of roads, small bridges and other construction works. Thus, such schemes should be implemented twice or thrice in year. This programme should specially be implemented during the time when poor people do not get any other work.

The house allotted to bidis workers under different Awas Yojana, like Indira Awas Yojana, Gramin Awas Yojana are usually located on the outskirts of the locality. And these localities are usually devoid of basic civic amenities like proper roads, drainage system, drinking water and proper lighting etc. Therefore, while developing such residential areas basic civic amenities too, are to be provided.

Because of illiteracy, rural people are not aware of the possible benefits of various schemes of IRDP. Therefore, attempts are to be made to educate rural people by ensuring their participation and should be made aware of such beneficial programmes and schemes. Implementation process of the education schemes which has been framed by the government for the children of the rural poor should be improved. Moreover, professional
education should be encouraged to make the rural children self-dependent.

Loans to the educated youths are to be made available for various activities like shops, household industry and for other small scale industry etc. Procedure to seek such loans is to be simplified to avoid the discouragement and to save time. Apart from providing the primary education to the children of the families engaged in bidi making they are also to be motivated to ensure the active participation of their children.

Efforts are to be made to provide scholarships, financial assistance and distribution of free books to the children of bidi workers. Awareness is to be created among the workers to avail these facilities designed for the upliftment of their children. On the otherhand, through informal education or adult education attempts are to be made to educate the adult males and females.

Most of the rural people are very careless about their health and do not care about their surroundings in which they live, reason for this negligence is poverty and the distant location of health centres. Bidi workers working for years for about 10-12 hours are suffering from number of diseases i.e. Tuberculosis, Lung diseases, Anaemia, Respiratory problems, Eye diseases, Viral infections and Back bone problem etc. Due to financial constrains most of the workers neglect their illness and as a result, the effect of diseases spread and ultimately affect their working capacity and in turn their income declines. Network of hospital facilities meant for the bidi workers in the region is to be enhanced to have the better coverage and attempt to improve the accessibility to such hospital facilities are being made.

Bidi workers specially female workers are to be educated about health problems personal hygiene and network of primary health centre has further to be improved by minimising the existing distances and enhancing the available facilities so that needy people could reach to these
places at the time of emergency. In primary health centres special medical facilities should be provided and special camps should be organised where free health check-ups are arranged and rural people are to be educated about contagious disease and are to be taught to keep their surroundings neat and clean to lead the healthy life.