REVIEW OF LITERATURE
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of Literature is an important part of the study and this serves as a background for the researcher to have a knowledge about covered and uncovered factors in the previous studies. This chapter presents a brief resume of the findings of the research works related to the socio-economic conditions of beedi workers.

Manohar et al,¹ in his book “Socio – Economic Status of Indian Women” has made a study on socio-economic background of women beedi workers in Nizamabad and warangal districts of Andhra Pradesh. He found 15 beedi industries are the main and largest sources of employment for women since more than ninety percent of the labour force in the beedi industry was home – based. He also points out that women in beedi industry are invariably drawn from low-cook, low- class and un-educated sections of the society. Unpredictable job situation, irregular, wages, high rate of indebtedness, etc. were other factors affecting the working conditions of women. Significantly the factors affecting the working conditions of women were just similar both in Nizamabad and Warangal.

Jeya singh\(^2\) in his article “Women Beedi Workers of Vellore in North Arcot District” observed that beedi work was a major source of employment to the rural poor and the urban poor of this district.

He found that 63 percent of the beedi workers were illiterates. Poverty was the major reason for drop out of children from school. They supplemented income to their family. The majority of the families were in debt ranging from Rs.500/- to Rs.6000/ Only 6 percent of families has some kind of savings. He also observed that the agents who recruited the beedi workers for job exploited them by demanding large commission; unless the demand was fulfilled, the agent would deny them job. There was no definite hours of work; they worked day and night to produce large quantity of beedis for meagre wages.

Metha in his paper “Home Workers in Beedi Industry” expressed the view that passing of more laws was not a guarantee for effective protection to the beedi workers. He suggested that voluntary agencies, social institutions and also trade unions should play a vital role in effective implementation of the legislation.

Jeya Arunachalam in her study “Problems of Home based Workers in India – Experiment of “National Union of Working Women” has attempted to study the ways in which the women beedi workers in Vellore were subjected to exploitation in various activities related to beedi making. According to her study, a beedi worker, on an average, had to pay for the deficit of 300 beedies per kg. of ‘Tendu’ leaves supplied to the worker for rolling beedies. There were many bonded child labourers. Although the productivity of child workers in beedi making was as high as that of adult workers. Child labour swere paid a much lower wage than the adult workers. In fact the employers or contractors exploited child labourers for achieving higher productivity by paying lower wages.

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Hussian\textsuperscript{5} conducted a study on the exploitation of women and child labour in beedi industry in Sameerganj. According to this study, women and child labour were most widespread in the beedi industry where the children were seen at work both at home and workshop. Though the income of the Child workers supplement the family income, the working conditions were deplorably bad.

He also found that women workers constituted 60 percent of the labour force in the beedi industry and they worked mostly in houses for long hours. Since they were not able to get any kind of nutritious food, their health was as bad as the chilled labourers. The incidence of T.B. was high among them. The miserable working conditions of the poor women and children affected the health of every family and ultimately their income.

Giriappa\textsuperscript{6} highlighted the role played by a specific rural sector with beedi-rolling with particular reference to its rural diversification. A study was undertaken by him to evaluate the labour conditions of beedi workers in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka, with respect to their working conditions, production capacity, consumption pattern and standard of living.

\textsuperscript{6} Giriappa, “Beedi Rolling in Rural Development”, Daya Publishing House, Delhi, 1987, pp.118-126
His study revealed that part-time beedi workers had earned higher income and turned out higher productivity. But the full-time workers had better consumption pattern and higher saving rates. Taking per capital income and expenditure into consideration, all the workers seemed to be above the poverty line. It would be inconsistent to relate the quality of life to beedi-making as such because there was no relation between income and consumption levels and between part-time and full-time beedi workers.

Pitchaimuthu S.\(^7\) conducted a study on child labour in beedi industry in some villages of Tenkasi Taluk in Tirunelveli District. His study revealed that majority of the women were engaged in beedi-making after attending their household duties. School-going male and female children assisted them in this work. The female beedi workers earned between Rs.750/- and Rs.900/- which was greater than the income of the male members who earned between Rs.300/- and Rs.400/- from agricultural work per month. The study also revealed that the beedi making added considerable income to the households.

Karunanidhi\(^8\) has studied about the child labour involved in beedi-rolling in Melapalayam in Tirunelveli District. He observed that a large number of

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\(^7\) Pitchaimuthu S. “Child Labour in Beedi making Industries” Peninsular Economist, Association of Economists” Tiruchirapalli 1987- 88,p.79

female workers were engaged in beedi-rolling. According to his study out of 112 respondents 92 respondents (82.4%) were female children. The children were compelled to work for 10 to 12 hours per day to complete about 500 beedies.

Koil⁹ has made an analytical study of the socio economic conditions of female beedi workers in the Barsi Town of Solapur District in Madhya Pradesh. This study highlighted that the monthly income of the families of many beedi workers was not more than Rs.700/- whereas 50 percent of the families was living within the monthly income Rs.300/- Due to the excessively long hours (12 hours of work) they were victims of physical and mental fatigue.

This study revealed the fact that 75 percent of the total workers were illiterate and 25 percent were educated up to eighth standard. Most of the workers were from Muslim community. The beedi workers were exploited largely. To save the beedi workers from exploitation, he suggested the formation of worker’s cooperative beedi factories as found in Kerala.

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Jeya Raman et al., observed in their study that women, young and old, worked for 10 hours per day, six days in a week and earned up to Rs.61 percentage a day in beedi industry in Thiruchirapalli district. The female beedi workers were exposed to nicotine early in the childhood and become prone to bronchitis and sinus problems.

According to Krishnakumar, “Our constitution provides protection to child workers. Article 24 lays down “No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in any factory or mine engaged in any other hazardous employment. The recent order issued by the Supreme Court banning child labour in beedi manufacturing units, highlights the oppression of child workers. These efforts included studies of conditions of child workers and also legal actions initiated by concerned individual and groups.

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Mohandas et al\textsuperscript{12} conducted a study in the two districts of Cannanore and Budagara taluk of Calicut in Kerala. This study examined the effectiveness of cooperativisation on wage rates, real wages, non-wage benefits and the working environment. According to this study, the payment of wage under all the systems of work was made by the piece rate for rolling 1000 beedies. The piece rate system was necessitated by the wide variation in productivity per workers.

The study also revealed that the workers in co-operative sector worked for 8 hours daily whereas in home based sector worked for 12 hours per day. It appeared paradoxical that the average income was the lowest in the home based sector despite more working hours per day.

Dharmalingam\textsuperscript{13} conducted a study to collect social, economic and demographic features of women. This study showed that beedi making provided full time employment and some degree of economic and sexual exploitation and exposure to several health hazards, Further, exploitation in beedi making had given rise to conflicts at both at the family and at the society level.

\textsuperscript{13} Dharmalingam A. “Female Beedi Workers in a South Indian Village”, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.XXXXVIII, (27-28), 1993, PP.1461-68
This study revealed that more than 82 percent of the workers worked through out the year except the period in which there were constraints on the supply of raw materials. On an average a beedi worker could be able to make 800 beedies a day at the piece rate of Rs.10/- per 1000 beedis a day at the piece rate of Rs.10/- per 100 beedis. Most of the beedi workers families became the scapegoats for the economic and social injustices in the society.

George Gomez\(^\text{14}\) in his article “Beedi Workers in Big Business” he analysed the beedi industry which is highly labour-intensive provides employment to one crores people in India, the large majority of whom are women and children. Those directly employed number about 70 lakh whilst the rest are engaged in related activities like collection of tendu leaves and tobacco, packaging, distribution, and administration. The wage rates for rolling 1,000 beedis in the leading states in the beedi industry wages are different from State to State of Course, most beedi workers paid much below this minimum wage rate fixed by the government, sometimes even less than half this rate. Passbooks, provident fund, bonus, leave wages and enforcing the laws are given to the beedi workers.

Singh Mor\textsuperscript{15} in his article ‘Women and the Unorganized Sector’ has analysed that India has 22.73 percent of female population as workers; of these, 34.6% work in cultivation, 44.2% in agricultural labour, 5.9% in household industries and 15.3 in other professions. According to the 1991 census, the female work participation rate an registered has increase from 14.2 percent in 1971 to 22.3 percent in 1991. According to an estimate by the National Commission on Self Employed Women, of the total women workers about 94% are in informal or unorganized sector alone, whereas just 6% of them are in the organized or formal sector.

Meena Gopal\textsuperscript{16} made an article on women workers in beedi industry in Tamil Nadu especially Tirunelveli District. In her study in Tirunelveli District, Melappalayam area of Tirunelveli town and Makkudal in the rural Ambasamudram Taluk were the oldest centers of the beedi industry. In the district today, the system of making beedi in the factories or workshop is totally non-existent, instead, the system of manufacturing beedi through contractors and subcontractors employing home-based workers was more prevalent.


The beedi manufacturing companies possessed the trade mark to manufacture and sell beedies. They in turn carried out the production through contractors and sub-contractors. At present there were more than 40 such trade mark holding companies and around 1,100 contractors and such contractors operating in Tirunelveli State confirmed that the beedi industry was able to gain tremendous profit with little in parts infrastructure and comprehence profit to labour by employing system of production contractors and home-based workers.

Velayutham Saravanan¹⁷ has made a study on Women Beedi Workers in rural especially Vellore and other towns in North Arcot. He observed that empowerment of women is an essential pre-condition for socio-economic development and for the eradication of social scourges like child labour. He analyzed the socio-economic conditions are- housing land detail, sources of income, indebtedness, education and fertility, behaviour of the beedi household.

According to his study 707 beedi industries were functioning in Arcot as on 1961 Census. Of this 217 were located in rural areas and 490 in urban areas. 28,231 workers were engaged in beedi manufacturity, of whom 24,367 were male and 3,864 were females.

Piush Antony V. Gayathri\textsuperscript{18} presented an article on “Child Labour: A Perspective of Locate and Contest”. This article attempted to locate the issues in the large context of child right by reviewing policies and also to detail the construct of childhood in India mapping the ambiguities regarding children’s work and education. He analysed the various problems relating to the issue of child labour, problem in child right by reviewing some of the state policies, construct of childhood in India, and relates it to the ambiguities regarding children’s work and education.

G.K. Lieten\textsuperscript{19} presented an article on “Child Labour in India: Disentangling Essence and Solutions” He has analysed the changing definition of child labour in the context of the Labour Commission Report 2001. He also objected the statement that all children not in school have been subsumed as working children in the drive for universal education.


A lakh N.Sharma\textsuperscript{20} made an article on “Impact of Social Labelling on Child Labour in Carpet Industry”. in which, he discussed with the four labelling programmes Viz, Rugmark, Kaleen, Step and Fair being undertaken with a view to eliminating the exploitation of child labour in carpet production in India.

According to his survey the carpet industry in India has spread out from Mizapur-Bhadohi and Varanasi in Eastern Uttar Pradesh to Allahabad and Koshambi Districts in the same State as well as some new areas in Bihar.

He observed that there is a decline in the carpet industry in India in term of shifting of occupation like beedi making, agriculture, roadside hotels and restaurants.

Rekha Wazir\textsuperscript{21} made a study on “Not to Child Labour Yes to Education of Eradication of Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh”. According to his study, in large parts of Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh entire village communities were saying a form “No” to child labour and opting to put their


\textsuperscript{21} Rekha Wazir, “No to child Labour Yes to Education” Unfolding of a grass roots movement in Andhra Pradesh”, Economic and Political Weekly Vol.XXXVIII, No.52, 2002 p.p.5225-5229
children in school united. Mamudipudi Van Kataeanguiya Foundation (MV Foundation) – a local NGO in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh had been working since 1991 to eradicate child labour considerably. By 1999, its presence was family established in 500 villages. Covering more than half the district, in 400 of these villages, every child in the 5-11 age group was in school, Nearly 1,50,000 children had been enrolled and retained in schools, more than 4,000 bonded child labourers had been released and 168 villages were child labour free. As at end of 2001. MV Foundation was active in a total of eight districts and 2,500 villages in Andhra Pradesh State.