Chapter 2

Review of literature and Socio Economic Conditions and Health Problems of Women Beedi Rollers and Their Children.

2.A. Review Of Literature.

2.A.1 Introduction

2.A.2 Review of literature pertaining to the women labours in unorganised sector

2.A.3 Review of literature pertaining to socio-economic conditions of women beedi rollers

2.A.4 Review of Literature Pertaining to Health Issues or Problems of Women Beedi Rollers

2.A.5 Conclusion

Reference

2.B: Socio-Economic Conditions and Health Problems of Women Beedi Rollers and Their Children

2.B.1 Introduction

2.B.2 Process of Beedi manufacturing

2.B.3 Problematic issues related to monetary compensation

2.B.4 Condition of women Beedi rollers

2.B.5 Rights of Beedi rollers

2.B.6 Status of child labour in Beedi manufacturing industry

2.B.7 Socio-economic and working conditions of women Beedi rollers in selected
study areas

2.B.8  Health problems faced by women Beedi rollers

2.B.9  Conclusion

References
Chapter 2

2.A. Review of literature

2.A.1 Introduction

Literature review is broadly comprehensive in-depth. Systematic and critical review of scholarly publications such as study papers, study articles, books etc. Review of literature is a key step in the research process. It refers to an extensive, exhaustive and systematic examination of publications relevant to the research study.

A literature review is designed to identify related study research, the current study research, within a conceptual and theoretical context. Literature reviews are academic document that researcher writes in order to provide a critique of an element of library work. Every research study ease built on past knowledge. It is an outcome of constant human endeavours. No research study can progress in isolation of other studies done in similar field. Review of related literature addresses the important need to inform the researcher as to main findings, trends, areas of debate and controversial areas of neglected and suggestions for additional research. It can also help in organising thoughts, giving shape to ideas and achieving new insights. It is not enough to test one's own ideas. Therefore, given a chance to access researchers in the context of the others and click it external or modify them in terms of establishing thinking. On this background researcher has reviewed some published study papers, articles, books etc. From these resources various information on different facets of women beedi rollers (employees), are collected and assessed for the study purpose. The reviewed literature is grouped into following facets.

i) women employees in unorganised sector

ii) socio-economic conditions of women beedi rollers

iii) health issues or problems of women beedi rollers
2.A.2 Review of literature pertaining to the women labours in unorganised sector

1) **Velayutham S., (2001)**, has attempted to analyse the intent of Government sponsored Social Security initiatives of the women beedi workers in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. Author has stated that, in the Indian economy, about 90% of the workforce are in the un-organised sector despite low wages, uncertainty of employment and under employment and lack of other benefits like provident fund, the dearness allowance, wages during holidays, maternity benefits, credit facilities etc. The author has further stated that, since independence, the Government of India has in the trade many legislations to protect these workers and has implemented various social security schemes for the betterment of the women beedi rollers. According to the author, the existing schemes are mostly confined to providing old age pensions, maternity benefits and assistance to the labours of unorganised sector and destitute women. Through the study author has pointed out that, the acts and the state sponsored Social Security programs have not produced the expected results, particularly in the case of the women in the unorganised sector.

2) **S. V. Kumar and, G. Subbayamma, (2008)**, have stated that, in the wake of globalisation process, the Indian economy is experiencing several sectoral and structural changes. Through the study author have highlighted the fact that, most of formal sector operations are gradually turning into informal sector. The downsizing of formal sector employment is gaining momentum. In the opinion of the authors these changes will affect the labour and their relations with the employer. According to the authors, the task of providing Social Security to the proportionately large number of labour force in the unorganised sector, is becoming a big challenge to the government. Experiences from other countries suggest the need for reforming the existing old Social Security mechanism. Keeping these facts in mind, the authors have presented a critical review of the existing social security systems for unorganised sector and suggested certain issues, which require thorough investigation to form an effective Social Security policy for the labours of unorganised sector in India.
3) **H. K. Mishra, (2010),** holds that the Social Security program in India has been a mixture of variety or schemes covering only less than 10% of its working force in the organised sector, and therefore, the unorganised sector remains unprotected and it hardly comes under the purview of any of the labour legislations. Pertaining to the provisions of the Social Security, author has opined that, it is highly difficult to provide to the unorganised sector owing to various financial and administrative constraints. Author has suggested that, the government should accord priority to ensure national food security and it should also prepare proper plans and policies for the employment of women every other aspect of Social Security. Author has further opined that, unorganised workers, especially women workers, must be organised, which may help them staying off from woes and miseries.

4) **S. N. Tripathy and P. D. Pradhan, (2009),** discussed the problems of women labours working in unorganised sector, in the light of inadequacy of Social Security majors. The study was conducted in Behrampur city of Orissa state. Through the study authors have observed that, the difficulties of women labours in unorganised sector are multi-dimensional. Authors have also observed that, the large size of the family is the most important cause which breeds poverty and compare them to accept a job, whatever the wage may be. Apart from these, illiteracy among the large number of working women is responsible for their immobility, exploitation, misery and poverty. Besides, women labours are exploited at workplace and also at home. Authors have pointed out that, majority of working women are unaware of being exploited and at the same time, lack of unionisation, illiteracy and grinding poverty leads to further exploitation. Study holds that no serious attempt has been made by Government to enforce various laws and regulations. Authors have opined that, stern steps on the part of government is urgently required to ameliorate the pathetic condition of women labours in unorganised sector.

5) **Santosh Mehrotra, (2011),** has opined that, there is a need of a comprehensive social insurance system of old age pension, death/disability insurance, health insurance and maternity benefits for women labours in the unorganised sector. Author has further
stated that, this system should be confined to those women labours who are below poverty line, which will fiscal costs down. In the opinion of author, keeping fiscal costs down initially would be politically astute, as it could help in limiting the opposition to such social insurance on fiscal grounds. Over time, it should be expanded to incorporate those above the poverty line; in the unorganised sector will be required to bear an increasing share of the total costs through own contributions; with contributors in the higher income deciles paying the larger share of the total premium costs. Author has lays out the case for, and the cost of such a below poverty line focused social insurance system.

6) **D. B. Laxuman, (2009),** has pointed out that, women working in unorganised sector, are under severe stress to and exploitative conditions. Unorganised women workers earn less than that of the urban workers. Author has pointed out that, women workers, especially those who are the earning person in the households, are affected by the fluctuating income. Author has observed that, they have sandwiched between the need to contribute to their household income and being marginalised at the hands of the employers and the government. Author has focused on the fact that, the labour laws of the government are not monitored rigorously. In the opinion of author, this situation exists due to the interplay of those factors like unemployment caused by drought, and the pull factors where the industry requires large number of labourers. Author has opined that, since the livelihoods in unorganised sector predominant households is maintained by its women, there is urgent need to look for alternative employment opportunities for absorbing women workforce.

7) **A. Kundu and A. N. Sharma,(2001),** have focused on the status of women workers in unorganised sector. The book is based on the survey data gathered from 300 working women and their households living in slums areas of Mumbai. Author have analysed the differential impact of economic reforms on different groups of women workers in unorganised sector. It is reported that, uncertainty, with respect to work and income, has increased in the labour market in the wake of the reforms, i.e. the labour market has become more and more flexible. Authors have also discussed on
the social protection and organisation together with those on emerging policy directions, and have suggested pertinent majors for improving the conditions of women workers in unorganised sector; who are under-represented, unprotected, unorganised and unrecognised. The policies suggested in the book fall into two groups i.e. - emanating from the government and the other, stressing the need for organising the unorganised women workers to increase their bargaining power.

8) **K. Anupama, (2008),** has tried to explore the extent and quality of women's employment in the unorganised sector of India during the liberalisation/globalisation. It is found that, though the share of women in total employment has increased, they still remain under represented in jobs with positive qualities and over represented in jobs with negative qualities. Through the study author has also found that, the average wage and productivity in the unorganised sector of India, fall as the share offer men in total employment increases. Author has stated that the share of wages and productivity is high in women dominated occupations when compared to the male dominated ones. Author has observed that, the average productivity however continues to be the lowest in women dominated occupations. This calls for an emphasis on skill enhancing programs for women workers so that the gender segregation can be reduced.

9) **Swapana Mukhopadhya, (2007),** has provided some of her teammates of unorganised sector employment and the incidence of the women employment within the unorganised sector. Author has also discussed on the structure of woman's employment in unorganised sector. In this context author has observed that, almost, without exception, the intensity of women employment is much higher in smallest units, that is in own account enterprises which are run primarily with family labour and presumably at low earnings, low productivity levels. While discussing about the working conditions in unorganised sector, author has focused on the women beedi workers. Author has stated that, a number of ways in which women beedi workers are exploited in the beedi manufacturing industry. Through this study paper author has touched upon a range of issues and data sources on women workers in the unorganised sector. Author has also focused on the instances of substandard and inadequate raw
material supplies and unfair and ad-hoc rejection processes are many. An overwhelming percentage of home based beedi rollers are women, this underscores the vulnerability of women workers in the industry.

10) **R. Dutta, (2000)**, has stated that, considering the annual plight of the workers, in the unorganised sector in terms of acute underemployment, scattered nature of workplace, home-based work, lack of integration and consequently low collective bargaining power, low level of unionisation and lack of concrete employer-employee relationships, the need for 'organising the unorganised' assumes paramount importance. Through this book author has presented statistical information on the structure of workforce including estimates of organised and unorganised workers, outlines the broad characteristics of the unorganised labour as well as attempts to organise the unorganised workers-urban, rural and also women workers. Analysing the impact of the new economic policies author has concluded that, unorganised labour is not a transitory problem in an underdeveloped country like India; that will continue for a very long period. Through the book author has presented trends in women's employment in various unorganised sector like agriculture, forestry, beedi manufacturing, fisheries, construction, home-based works etc. In the opinion of author, the new economic policy may help the growth of the corporate sector but would not be able to reduce the number of unorganised workers in future.
2.A.3 Review of literature pertaining to socio-economic conditions of women beedi rollers

1) G, Anuradha and, K.V. Eswar Prasad, (1985), have presented an account of the action research program for women employees in the beedi industry. The study was connected in Vellore town of North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu state. Through the study paper authors have presented a comprehensive picture of the structure of production in the beedi manufacturing industry. Through this study paper authors have outlined the features of the action programme. The nature and type of follow up action that should be taken is also suggested in this study paper. Authors have focused on the wages and working conditions, living conditions, and over all socio-economic conditions of beedi rolling workers. Authors have also highlighted on the medical benefits, insurance compensation etc. The authors have observed the following which are related to socio-economic conditions of beedi workers, especially women workers.
   i) The weak bargaining power of the workers and women home workers in particular involved in the various stages of production of beedi.
   ii) Non-recognition of women as an important segment of the labour force contributing substantially to production by the employer and the trade union.
   iii) Total lack of organisation of any kind among the women workers to fight for or protect their interests.
   iv) High incidence of alcohol abuse by their men thereby adding greater misery to the women workers

2) Meena Gopal, (2000), has stated that, low income women workers, especially in informal sector, form one of the most valuable groups in Indian economy. Author has highlighted the reasons for that. In the opinion of author, irregular nature of work, low economic status, lack of bargaining power, lack of control over earnings etc. are the major reasons of low economic conditions of women employees in beedi industry. Author has further stated that, there is a need to balance, paid work, care of children
and homework. Through the study author has pointed out that, there is little or no access to institutional credit, training and information and lack of assets. Author has found that, an equal gender relations play a very important role in defining their insecurities. In the opinion of author, given their valuable status, at home and at work, income generation alone may not improve the socio-economic status of women attached to the informal sector.

3) **S. Giriappa, (1987)**, has highlighted the socio-economic conditions of women workers in beedi industry of Ullal town of Dakshin Kannada district of Karnataka. This study paper is based on the survey. Through the study surveyed author has observed that, about 20% of the female heads where in different to their husbands or other males and in turn they reported that their husbands where indifferent towards them in about 33% of the cases. Author has also found that, the indifference towards children and other females was greater. About 40% of the families leave in Kutcha houses and 20% of the houses had less than two rooms. It is also found that, in some cases, the diseases were chronic and disabled the workers such that they could not undertake any other work other than beedi rolling. It was observed that, in certain cases, male members of the families, smoked off the sizeable quantity of beedies that they rolled. This aspect put them in ever deficit with the contractors who would debit to their account the difference in actual and should be production.

4) **A report of sectoral activities program, (2003)**, “Making Ends Meet: Beedi Workers in India Today: A study of four states”, as indicated the socio-economic conditions of beedi workers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The study report proposed was intended to throw more light on how this category of vulnerable beedi workers where fairing more so since there appear to be mounting evidence that the employment was in jeopardy. This report throw light on the system of wages and earnings, socio-economic conditions and exploitative practices in beedi industry. The major objectives of the report where to focus on the conditions, working conditions, health problems of home-based beedi workers. This report based on the theme improving working and socio-economic conditions and employment
opportunities for women workers in the beedi industry. The study also addressed issues such as living and working conditions, organising and the reasons leading to a decline in employment in the beedi industry as well as the impact of such decline on workers. This report has only indicated the broad areas for intervention, and it is recommended that, a more rigorous study be carried out in this regard.

5) **M. S. Ansari, and Aparna Raj, (2015)**, have explored the link between socio-economic positions of women working in unorganised sector like bidi rolling industry. Authors have stated that, women are having inherent advantage in beedi industry, due to cleft fingers. Authors have observed that, there is yet sufficient gender bias exists, and job is mainly done by weaker economic section of the society; who do not have adequate education and skills to look for alternate job. Authors have also found that, the beedi rolling job is preferred by the women because it can be carried out from home along with the domestic chores. Thus they can supplement the family income along with managing the household works. In the opinion of authors, in the recent years the trade of beedi in India is shrinking, thus there is situation of under employment. The results of the study shows that the plight of women beedi employees in the Bundelkhand region, is never ending process. Authors have found that, the socio-economic conditions of women beedi workers are very poor and they are barred from facilities for which they are legally entitled.

6) **D. Rajshekhar, and T. P. Shridhar, (2002)**, have excise concessions provided to small manufacturers and constant endeavour on the part of a large is manufacturers to weaker, the collection bargaining of workers resulted in proliferation of informal and unregistered organisations, indirect relationship between manufacturers and employees and growing unorganised components. According to the authors, the act has limited coverage as it prescribes some measures to improve the socio-economic and working conditions of women beedi employees. This study reveals that, almost all the workers were rolling beedies at home, thus implying that the act did not have much relevance to the employees socio-economic conditions and working conditions in beedi industry, who were predominantly home-based; beedi
rolling at home did not mean that the workers were having good working conditions. The main objective of this study is to focus on the socio-economic problems faced by women beedi rollers. Through the study authors have observed that, nearly 40% of the women workers worked 12 hours a day, and nearly 97% women workers earn less than Rs. 100 per day by rolling beedies. It is also found that 90% beedi rollers are suffering from one or the other minor diseases.

7) **S. Srinivasan and P. Hango, (2012)**, has stated that, beedi employees are vulnerable segments of the labour force, which has increased involvement of women and child in beedi rolling activity. According to the authors, the socio-economic conditions of beedi employees at present as well as in the past have not been conducive. Through the study authors have aimed at gaining insight to the socio-economic conditions of women beedi employee. The main objective of the study is to understand the socio-economic conditions of women employees in beedi industry of Wajamalai town of Trichy. Through the study authors have of the opinion that, 98% of the women beedi employees are belong to the marginalised sections of the society; and thus, they were socially and economically backward. Poverty is the main reason that induced the women employees to take up beedi rolling work as an occupation. It is also found that 22% women employees are working for contractors indicate that they are subjected to exploitation; and 64% women employees earn less than Rs. 2000 per month which is not adequate to maintain the families.

8) **V. S. Deshmane, (2008)**, has stated that, women employees play an important role in beedi industry; therefore, to safeguard the interests, proper health education has to be imparted. Author has observed that, a majority of women beedi rollers are illiterate. Therefore, health care should be started with basic education. Through the study author has observed that, compared to male headed beedi rollers households, female beedi rollers do participate substantially or equally in some of the household and work conditions. Woman's seems to take active decisions on family maintenance, family expenditure, education of children, festivals and the creation etc. Through the study author has attempted to impute the total labour time of women beedi rollers,
spent on various household chores, such as cooking, serving, washing, shopping etc. In this context it is observed that, the contribution of women beedi rollers is substantial. Self and household income have been compared and also expenditure on food and other items. In this study paper, some socio-economic variables like housing, health problems etc. are considered where in the situation demands substantial improvements.

9) **Preet Rastugi, P. Srivastav, M. Saha and P. Bharadwaj, (2005),** has stated that, most of the beedi making work is carried out under the contractual, home-based, piece rate system. Authors have observed that women and children predominate, constituting around 90% of all home-based workers. Through the study authors have found that, employed for the proficiency, yet ironically paid lower wages, these women and children involved in beedi rolling tasks are discriminated. Through the study survey authors have explored the socio-economic and working conditions of woman and children who are beedi workers; and brings out the plight of women and children employees in particular. This report also highlights the associated issues of health hazards. Authors have observed that the raw materials together with discarded leaves, cut pieces of the leaf, tobacco dust and so on would lie scattered around in the home of beedi rollers. The households being poor, generally, inhabit one room houses or small herds, which are ill equipped with respect to a, light and water. Most dwellings are reported to be poorly maintained unclean surroundings.

10) **Sudarshan Ratna and Rupindar Kaur, (1999),** has stated that, the existing studies related to socio-economic situations of woman beedi rollers, narrate the stories of the continuous struggle. According to the authors, woman constitute 78% of the total employment in beedi manufacturing industry of India. Authors have observed that illiteracy, poverty, poor mobility and almost zero job opportunities for unskilled-untrained woman, ensure their high levels of participation in the beedi rolling activity. Authors have further stated that, these features associated with the weaker socio-economic class of women workforce; reduce their bargaining power and always put the beedi making manufacturers or commission agents at an advantageous situation.
Authors have opined that, there are excessive legislations but implementation could be held responsible for plight of women beedi rollers. Through the study authors have observed that, on account of low level of earning, accompanied by situation of underemployment, the women beedi rollers are unable to meet their basic requirements.

11) **P. P. Koli, (2001)**, has highlighted the extremely adverse socio-economic conditions of the female beedi workers in Barshi town of Solapur district. Author has found that, women beedi rollers were exploited both by the employers in the factories and by their husbands at home. Through the study author has found that, beedi rollers had a very low standard of living and the socio-economic condition is hopeless. Author has also observed that, women beedi rollers are mainly came from the illiterate class of society; who were financially poor. According to the survey 76% of the women beedi employees were illiterate, and due to this they have failed to solve their problems. Most of the women beedi rollers are belonging to the Muslim religion, and mainly because of their ‘Ghosha’ system, they are unable to go out for work. It is observed that their wages are also very low and that the women workers were unable to cater to their basic needs, let alone maintain a decent standard of living.

12) **B. Duraysami and D. Satyawan, (2006)**, examined the impact on status of wages and labour supply of women within the labour-leisure choice theoretic framework, using the primary survey data from the women beedi rollers in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Empirical evidence shows that, the association between good health and daily wage rate and annual days worked it positive. The regression analyses reveal that a 10% increase in body mass index increases the daily wage rate of women employees by 2%. The results of the study also indicated that, a 10% increase in body mass index would increase the supply of the women beedi rollers by 11% in the beedi manufacturing industry of Chennai. The findings of the study clearly shows that, good health and physical strength are important actors in data mining wages and women labour supply in beedi manufacturing industry; besides the conventional variables like wages and income.
13) **D. M. Patric, (2006),** has highlighted the problems of the beedi rolling women workers; by analysing the aspects of discrimination, time allocation and migration. Labour market discrimination, analysed in terms of wages, is revealed that, the women beedi rollers not only received low wages, but were also discriminated against in relation to men of the same category. The time allocation of beedi rolling women workers analysed in context of the theory of time allocation, discusses the problem of allocation with regard to non-market time. The value of housework quantified with the help of wage earning function and opportunity cost of time approach exposes the household level discrimination. Through the study author has found that, the analyses of migration aspect leads to the conclusion that it is the push factor rather than the pool factor which played a major role.

14) **V. Saravanan, (2006),** has attempted to analyse the impact of government sponsored social security initiatives for the event beedi workers in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. Through the study author has found that, in the unorganised sector like beedi Manufacturing, provides employment opportunities, for women. The Government has enacted many Acts and implemented many social security schemes such as, minimum wages, pensions, medical facilities, dearness allowances, bonus for the women beedi employees; but the benefits have not reached. Author has also noticed that, majority of the female workers do not have direct contact with the agents. Even if they have, they are unable to set their rights, not only due to the ignorance about the available social security schemes, but also because of non-availability of other employment opportunities. Author has suggested that, existing contract system should be abolished, because contractors keep them away from availing the benefits from Government's social security initiatives, government should recognise women beedi workers.

15) **T. Basu, (2008),** has found that the condition of beedi women workers already languishing in poverty, had further deteriorated due to prevalence of low wage rate and growing clutches of money lenders. Author has also found that, women beedi employees were being exploited not only economically but also sexually. Author has
opined that, since the beedi manufacturers and political patronage, the role of the Labour Minister/Department always remained ineffective. Author has observed that, a vast majority of the men beedi rollers where not getting most of the benefits conferred by the different Acts. Through the study author has also found that, wage and other non-monetary benefits of the women beedi workers at the cooperative beedi manufacturing units are much higher than those engaged in a factory or house based production.

16) S. M. Deva, (1995), has examined the Social Security programs in the unorganised sector like beedi manufacturing in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Author has raised questions like, what are the promotional and protective social security measures in the unorganised sector like beedi manufacturing industry. Author has concluded that, other states in India and other developing country can learn many lessons from the experiences of Kerala and Tamil Nadu as what can we do in the area of protective social security measures at reasonable cost to health chronically poor women beedi workers, who cannot afford the loss of earning.

17) S. Madheswarn, D. Rajshekhar and K. Gayatri, (2005), have stated that wages and availability of work to beedi rollers have become contentious issues in the States as the manufacturers and trade unions have separate commissions on this issue. Authors have focused on the role of NGOs. According to them, the role of NGOs is justified on the grounds that they can counteract the power of the state and market, and restore all the balance in favour of the poor. Authors have observed that, given beedi rollers are working under severe stress and exploitative conditions. The Labour laws of the government are not monitored rigorously. Authors have found that, there are health hazards in this sector, women beedi rollers hasten impose cess on the production of beedies by small and un-registered organisations and contractors to arrest the decline in the total amount of cess collected within the state. Authors have also suggested that, there is a need for cultivated employment opportunities at least on the young women of the beedi rolling households.
18) **S. Bhattacharya and M. Bhattacharya, (2000),** and analysed that, beedi manufacturers are constantly found the wages and means to avoid the registration of workers. The government responded to the situation by declaring that identity cards issued by the local authorities, when the commissioners or other officers implementing the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund would be valid for eligibility to welfare schemes even then the issue of identity cards was progressing slowly.

19) **M. Raghunath, (2001),** has highlighted the working and living conditions of the workers in beedi industry of India. Author has stated that, the growing nature of unstructured production (mainly subcontracting), beedi industry requires greater collective action on the part of the beedi workers, especially the men beedi workers to fight for their rights in the opinion of author, the nature and the practices of beedi manufacturing industry are so exploitative that it is valid to raise concerns about the welfare of labour in the industry. Author has further opined that, if beedi industry fails to survive it can eventually lead to the unemployment of millions of workers and that can potentially lead to disastrous conditions in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. According to the author the biggest inadequacy of the beedi industry is lack of regulations and the implementation of minimum wages for unorganised sector workers like beedi industry, is very difficult. The government alone cannot do it. Therefore, it requires qualitative effort by the government, trade unions, NGOs, politicians and beedi workers.

20) **R. Iqbal, P. C. Ghosh, (2005),** have conducted a study survey on beedi workers. The study survey was conducted all over India states in which beedi workers are densely populated like, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. The study survey was undertaken with a view to study the occupational health hazards of beedi workers and to improve the socio economic conditions and working conditions of women beedi workers. Through the study authors have found that, women beedi workers began the work at tender age. It is found that, the tobacco is handled with bare hands which resulted directly at action of Nicotine into the blood of workers and the existence of occupational hazards neck pain, back pain, chest pain,
elbow pain etc. It is also observed that, beedi rollers are not using personal protective equipment, and there is dust of tobacco in high concentration in the working environment and directly inhaled by the beedi workers.

2.A.4 Review of Literature Pertaining to Health Issues or Problems of Women Beedi Rollers

1) **P. Arjun Rao, (2004)**, had stated that, women are exploited in many ways in backward region of Telangana. Through the study author has examined the wage structure, health problems pertaining to women beedi rollers in the three districts of Telangana i.e. Medak, Mahboobnagar and Nizamabad, and the overall situation in the beedi manufacturing organisations and commission agents. The study covers a gamut of issues related to health and hazards of women beedi rollers. Author has also focused on the issues in terms of discrimination in wage payments, factory workers versus non-factory worker, impact of process of beedi making on the health of women workers, medical facilities or health care facilities provided by the employer. Author has also discussed the collusion between management and workers, indifference of inspecting authority, fear psychosis among workers etc.

2) **Siddharth Sarkar, (2006)**, has stated that, women beedi workers are continued to struggle for survival despite health problems, low wages, hazardous health situation, steady exploitation by middlemen and agents, lack of education and health-medical facilities and neglect in government policies related to wages, health, duration of work etc. Author has opined that most of the beedi workers are women who operate from their homes, and are isolated from the rest of the industrial workforce and therefore, are easy targets for gross exploitation. Through the study paper, author has portrayed the working and living conditions and health conditions of women beedi workers in Cooch Bihar district of West Bengal. Author has observed that, the women beedi rollers, are facing acute health problems due to inhalation of tobacco dust, and also suffering from asthma and the problem like tuberculosis, and the problem of
eyesight. Author has suggested that, there should be efforts by government, NGOs to create awareness of different beedi welfare schemes and locating health dispensaries at far-off places among the workers.

3) **Jeetendra Kumar and Poonam Sing, (2015),** have stated that, the beedi industry is traditionally a woman dominated informal sector, specifically into tobacco processing and beedi rolling. Authors have observed that, beedi rolling is household occupation engage a large number of women workers on a daily wage basis; and these women workers are constantly exposed to many types of hazardous substances, which have the potential to cause occupational diseases to the women workers and their families. In the opinions of authors very few study research has been done on the occupational health hazards and psychological problems of women workers especially in beedi manufacturing industry. Through the study authors have focused on the serious concerns regarding the health condition, working condition, occupational health problems of women beedi rollers. Through the study authors have pointed out that, there is a great need for a comprehensive occupational and environmental health management strategy; and there is a need to impart education to the woman beedi rollers regarding the health hazards caused by tobacco and urgent need to minimise tobacco exposure among the processors and to use protecting equipment such as gloves, masks, first aid facility etc.

4) **S. Srinivasan, (2013),** has aimed at gaining insight to the occupational health problems faced by women beedi rollers. Author has found that 76% women beedi rollers face some health problems like respiratory problem, heart problem, body pain, asthma etc; which possibly due to the nature of occupation. Through the study, author has found that, women beedi rollers are working under conditions that are harmful to the health. Author has observed that, women beedi rollers spend hours blending or rolling tobacco in unhygienic, dengi and overcrowded places having little health facilities and retail facilities like pure drinking water, toilet, washing room etc. Author has also pointed out that, rolling beedies fun turn the blind eye to the plight of the women workers. Through the study author has also observed that, the workshops are
very small and airless, without Windows, which is adversely affected on the health of women beedi rollers.

5) **Sanat Kumar P. and B. K. Sardar, (2015)**, have portrayed the causes and also the remedial measures such as awareness program, health education, proper implementation of different schemes to mitigate the health problems of women beedi rollers. A large number of health problems have observed by authors among the woman beedi workers. Authors have observed that, the most common problems which offer are due to the inhalation of tobacco and secondly, to the post your reach requires sitting at same place and in the same position for hours at a time. These problems includes headache, backache, neck ache, back strain, spondylitis, swelling of lower limbs and digestive problems as well as the asthma, tuberculosis, cancer etc. To overcome these health problems, authors have suggested that, health dispensaries should be settled in beedi workers concentrated blocks; imparting proper health education and awareness among women beedi workers etc.

6) **D. S. Parkhi, (2009)**, has conducted a study survey with a view to examine the health conditions of women workers in beedi industry of Sangamner. Through the study author has observed many health complications among the women beedi rollers; the common complaint being asthma and in some cases tuberculosis. To overcome these problems, author has suggested some suggestions such as, health workers should frequently visit the women beedi rollers and their families with a view to help them to achieve better health condition. Author has further stated that, they should also appraised of better nutrition besides sanitation. Apart from this, author has suggested that, the beedi manufacturers may start some more health clinics or revitalise the existing ones and appoint health personnel to give frequent visits to the beedi rollers households. Author has opined that they should be carried out especially in urban areas, where the health problem demands much attention. The beedi rollers may also be given a stipulated sum by the employers as a medical allowance.
7) **A. N. Burge and Bhisey, R. A., (1995)**, have reported that, significantly higher levels of total suspended particulate matter and inspirable dust in the ambient air of tobacco processing factories and in the breathing zone of the workers when compared with the general environment outside. Authors have found that, the mean concentration of inspirable dust particulates was 241.5 mg/m³ of air is inside the factory and 1.6 mg/m³ of air in the control environment which is 150 fold higher in the tobacco processing units than in the general environment and causes chronic bronchitis among tobacco processors. Through the study authors have investigated that, the beedi rollers seem to be facing the occupational hazards of genotoxicity due to handling beedi tobacco and inhalation of tobacco dust. The authors have pointed out that, occupational exposure to tobacco dust in beedi workers was indicated that there is a association with and increased continue level and urinary mutagenicity as well increased chromosomal aberrations.

8) **D. M. Chaudhari, (2005)**, has stated that, the nature of job, involves, long time sitting with forward trunk bent, the excessive utilisation of fingers and the constant high tension levels to meet the targets cause a severe health issues. Author has observed that, the sitting position leads to a static construction of back muscle, resulting in head, neck, Legs, and back aches as there is no any movement of body. Author has also observed that, many women beedi rollers, are suffer from piles and rheumatism. Apart from this, anaemia and malnutrition are also common among the women beedi rollers. Exposure to dust of tobacco and working conditions in the beedi factory, beedi rollers are known to have caused intestinal and reproductive problems.

9) **A. J. Rajatsingh and C. Padmalata, (1995)**, have found that, women bidi workers were affected by respiratory disorder, gastrointestinal illness and gynaecological issues and are susceptible to fungal diseases, peptic ulcer and diarrhoea; and they also have a high degree of the leucorrhoea. Through the survey study authors have also found that, about 60% of women workers are suffer from one or more diseases and 95% believed that, it was caused by tobacco dust. Authors have
further stated that, expecting the women beedi rollers, the family members, even the children are being affected by various beedi related diseases.

10) **A. D. Gupta, (2003)**, has attempted to focus on the health hazards of women beedi rollers in Karnataka. Author has also attempted to find as to why the women workers are attracted towards beedi rolling job as an earning source. Through the study author has found that, the women beedi rollers have faced numerous health problems. They suffer from lung infection and bronchial problems; contact dermatitis and other health hazards. Author has observed that, a large number of women beedi rollers are illiterate and they do not have any medical and health facility in their organisations. Their miseries are doubled when they do not have any provision for their livelihood during illness. Author has further stated that, barring a few basic obedience which the woman beedi rollers would have received as members of organised sector labour force, there is nothing special with the women beedi workers seems to be receiving from their employers. Author has opined that, better quality of health through proper medical facilities, etc., are the vital issues which require immediate attention.

### 2.A.5 Conclusion

The present chapter exhibited the studies related to women workers in the unorganised sector and socio-economic and health conditions of women beedi rollers. All the studies conducted by various social experts. Some books pertaining to unorganised labours and women working in unorganised sector also have been reviewed by the researcher. To some extent, the review of literature has provided the current socio-economic scenario of women workers working in unorganised sector in India.

While reviewing the available literature pertaining to the labours in unorganised sector, research has identified some deficiencies in the literature. There are relatively very few studies regarding women workers in unorganised sector. Through this chapter researcher has highlighted the socio-economic and health conditions of women beedi rollers and the characteristics of their livelihood. This chapter builds on some research studies which are related to unorganised labour, especially to women labours. It also
endeavours to review briefly the related literature to substantiate the views of social experts. Researcher does not claim to review all the related literature in the context of the topic selected for the study. It is just an attempt to take a glance at some important case studies done in the context of socio-economic and health conditions of women beedi workers.

Through the literature review, researcher has observed that, it is widely acknowledged among the sociology experts and academicians that, being unorganised sector beedi industry labours, especially women labours are faced several problems. Researcher has also observed that, there are some studies on socio-economic conditions of the beedi workers in various parts of the country; but very few of them are related to women beedi rollers; particularly in the context of Maharashtra. Researcher has also observed that, majority of authors, social experts and academicians have focused on the continuous struggle of unorganised women beedi rollers for survival while sustaining in this occupation, despite low wages, irregular employment and different forms of exploitation by the middlemen and agents; lack of financial credit, education, medical facilities and negligence in government policies.

By reviewing this available literature, researcher has observed that, every expert have opined that the condition has not improved remarkably, in spite of a number of legislations and the efforts of trade Unions. Some experts pointed out that, the diseases were chronic and disabled the unorganised women workers such that they could not undertake any other work other than beedi rolling. Apart from these illiteracy and large size of family are the most important causes which breads poverty and compel the woman member of the family to accept a job of beedi rolling; whatever the wages may be. Some authors have attempted to focus on the health hazards of women beedi rollers. Women beedi rollers faced the health problems like respiratory disorder, gastrointestinal illness and gynaecological issues and some fungal diseases; peptic ulcer and diarrhoea etc. Through the reviews of literature researcher has found that very few of experts suggested remedies to overcome the socio-economic and health
problems of women beedi rollers. Some experts opined that, there is a need for a comprehensive occupational and environmental health management strategy.

Many experts have pointed out that, although the Government had fixed the minimum wage for the women beedi rollers, they never realised it and continue to be exploited by the employers. Though the minimum wages act provided for payment or weekly holidays, annual leave, maternity leave, sick leave and medical benefits, women beedi workers are yet to get these benefits. Further, they remain in a precarious situation where there is no job security. Some experts have pointed out that, the beedi manufacturers by influencing the Government had prevented the implementation of many acts. According to some experts, the efforts of trade union have proved to be unsuccessful. Some experts discuss on the impacts of liberalisation and globalisation on unorganised workers. In the opinion, the former sector or organised sector operations are gradually turning into informal or unorganised sector; and the task of providing social security to the proportionately large number of labour force in the unorganised sector is becoming very big challenge to the Government.
2.B: Socio-Economic Conditions and Health Problems of Women Beedi Rollers and their Children.

2.B.1 Introduction-

Beedi is a typical Indian tobacco product which offered a very cheap and convenient form of smoking to the lower and lower middle class population. In India, beedi industry is located in almost all parts of the country, and mostly concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka etc; and relatively small number of beedi manufacturing units located in the states like Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, and Orissa etc. The availability of cheap labour and raw material are the major factors which helped beedi industry to develop rapidly. As there are no machines used for the production of beedies, it provides the opportunity to lakhs of people in the country. It is mainly a cottage and home industry, especially spread in the rural and semi-urban areas.

Beedi industry is considered as important labour intensive industry. It provides employment to lakhs of people, especially to women, in view of the easy nature of work. In the beginning women had taken up this work just to supplement the low earning of their families. But the nature of work concerned with beedi making is such that, on account of their elected fingers, and it is well suited to the women workers and therefore, became their monopoly. In addition to the large number of female workers working in the beedi industry as today, they are widespread system of "Gharkhata" in which work is allowed to women at their home.

The present chapter provides a comprehensive scenario of the production structure in the beedi industry of Sangamner and Akole talukas of Ahmednagar district. In the following researcher has explained the process of beedi manufacturing; which is useful to understand the socio-economic, health and working condition of women beedi workers of above stated talukas of Ahmednagar district.
2.B.2 Process of beedi manufacturing-

Beedi manufacturing is labour intensive and is done in various stages and at various levels. Usually, a factory employs very few workers while a major portion of the beedi production is done typically outside the factory in the worker's home. The different stages of beedi making have been explained in the following.

i) Rolling: The out workers brings the raw material at home and complete this work with the members in the family, including children and at times with the other outside workers. This is necessary because the process of rolling beedies involves several steps all of which are time consuming and it is not possible for one worker to perform all the work alone and produce the required number of beedies in a day. One bundle of leaves required to roll 1000 beedies. Secondly clean leaves are cut according to the size required by the brands of beedies to be rolled. This is also done by old women or children. For the purpose of beedi rolling first of all the leaves are cleaned, soaked, and dried. After cutting of leaves as per the required size, the beedi is rolled using the tobacco and the leaf. This is done by men women and children. After this, the edges of rolled beedies are folded in; and is either done by the rollers themselves or by another set of workers who are generally women and children.

Finally, the rolled beedies are tied in bundles of 24 or 12 beedies as per the requirement of the contractor. Therefore, the raw materials are converted into rolled finished beedies and return to contractor. The wage rate per thousand bides rolled is usually shared by a minimum 3 to 5 members of the family.

Given the fact that, each contactor has hundreds of outside workers, employed by him, large number of beedies pour in every day. Therefore, physical counting of the beedies brought in by the outside workers is the laborious task for the employer, for which they have designed their own methods of counting. This counting is done in two steps-

a) 42 bundles of 24 beedies will make 1000 beedies (or variations of this)

b) The bundles are stacked in place of certain size which are designed to hold a definite
number of bundles. For example, a tray may be designed to hold 14X15 rows of beedi bundles, which would amount to 5000 beedies. Therefore, the contractor counts the bundles by stacking them in the trays. The cost of any shortage in the number of beedies rolled by the beedi roller is deducted from the wages, which is the first depending on the brand. After the counting of beedies, the beedies are sent either to the factory or to another branch from where they are distributed to a different set of outside workers for the further process; that is labelling.

ii) Labelling: The finished beedies are given in large number to outside workers for labelling. They are provided large sheets of labels. The sheets have to be cut into thin strips prior to labelling on beedies. The cost of gum and yarn/thread for making bundles of beedies is borne by the workers. The cost for labelling 100 beedies is depends on the brands of beedies. The women usually are supplied with thousands of beedies and they share the labelling work similar to beedi rolling; with other members of the family or sub-contract the work to others. Thereafter labelled and wondered beedies are returned to the branch where in day are counted as explained above. It must be mentioned once again that the cost of any shortage incurred in the number of beedies labelled is deducted from the wages of the worker. In the branch, the bundles are stacked in mesh trays and cured. The cured bundles are individually labelled and replaced in large cartons of 20 bundles. These bags of beedies are sent to the factory from where they are dispatched to various market places in India.

The beedi leaves tied into bundles are given to the workers, roughly to the extent that they are sufficient for making 1000 beedies or the quota allotted to each of the workers. In a few beedi factories, even greater number of beedies are sorted out. The payment for such beedies are of course deducted. In a major city of factories, these beedies are destroyed, but there are a few were rejected beedies are sold either separately or mixed up with the accepted ones.

From the factory management, each worker is provided with a printed form or a card to last for a fortnight or more on which is recorded the date, number of beedies made
in a day. The quantity of tobacco, leaf and thread consumed and the wages to be paid in separate column, and payments are made every week or fortnight or month at the rate fixed for 1000 beedies. The systems of making payment delay is also in vogue in some factories. In some factories, no such forms or cards are provided and there is no entries of production made. Production entries are made only in the register, and pedestal escaped with the owner of beedi manufacturing organisation. In some places it is found that, the workers themselves are required to bring a notebook in which entries about their manufactured beedies or that of the entire party are made.

In the factory systems, beedi manufacturing is carried out under the direct supervision of managers or owners. All the manufacturing works are performed in factory premises most of the formal production, beginning in late 19th and early 20th century was under this system. Contracting out beedi rolling task to branches or factories which operate on behalf of the factory owners is another System or method of manufacturing beedies followed. Generally, the branches hire workers either in common work sheds or in localities where work is taken home and the rolled beedies are returned to the factories, where, sorting, grading, roasting, labelling, bundling and packaging are done. Male workers, generally perform these tasks; while most of the beedi rolling task is performed by women and children. In some of the beedi manufacturing factories, the latter tasks are also performed, and only marketing responsibility lie on the factory owners.

The main objective of this chapter is to highlight the socio-economic and health problems faced by beedi workers. Apart from the socio-economic and health problems there are certain problems which are directly related to the monetary compensation of beedi workers or beedi rollers. In the subsequent paragraphs, researcher has focused on these problematic issues.
2.B.3 Problematic issues related to monetary compensation-

Problematic issues related to monetary compensation comprise-

i) Shortage of raw materials
ii) Improper counting of bundles of beedies
iii) Incorrect entries in the notebook
iv) Irregularity of work
v) Seasonality of work
vi) No payment of bonus to beedi rollers/workers
vii) Indebtedness and pledging of children

i) Shortage of raw materials - It is an accepted fact that, 800 grams, of leaves and 350 grams of tobacco required to roll 1000 beedies provided the tendu leaves are not defective. Usually, the tendu leaves are given to the workers without weighing them or checking for their quality. Poor quality or damaged leaves in the bundle, given to the worker, would necessarily mean shortage of leave to roll beedies. Sometime it may happen that, gust of wind may blow away some amount of tobacco from the open trays, the workers use which would once again result in shortage of tobacco needed for filling up beedies. In either case the outworker is held responsible for the number of beedies that fall short of the required quantity specified by the contractor and wages are cut accordingly. By and large workers usually fall short of leaves and tobacco and preferred to buy raw materials on their own to replenish the shortage in order to avoid large wage cuts.

ii) Improper counting of bundles of beedies - In some factories outworkers allotted a number and provided a small notebook containing the number of beedies, the outworkers have turned in and the wages payable to the workers. This notebook is attested by the inspector of excise. In all cases the details of wage cuts, due to shortage or in other words the details of actual wages paid is never entered in the notebook. The details of shortage of beedies are maintained in a separate paper. The details of wages
entered in the book do not necessarily mean that the said wage has been paid to the worker.

iii) Irregularity of work - The supply of raw material in a number of branches is reported to be only for four days a week. Furthermore, the amount of work given to the workers depends on the will of the contractor and thus the worker doesn't get sufficient work, as per her capacity. In either case the worker is put to a lot of hardship.

iv) Seasonality of work - During monsoon there is no beedi manufacturing process; therefore, workers do not get any wages.

v) No payment of bonus to workers - There is no system of bonus payment to the beedi workers; because, beedi manufacturing sector is unorganised sector.

vi) Indebtedness - The shortage of raw material, seasonality of work and intermittent layoffs force the workers to seek loans at very high rate of interest from local moneylenders. The result of this situation is that most of the beedi workers are chronically indebted.

vii) Pledging of children - Currents of any religious and social functions, acrobatically involves additional expenditures for the beedi workers. In order to meet this requirement, the beedi workers often resort to borrowing from their employers by pledging their children to work for them. The child is forced to work for the employer for a very low wage till such time the parent is able to repay the amount borrowed and stop although a small portion of the way this is paid to the child, the remaining money is treated as interest on the loan and not as payment towards the principal. If the beedi worker wants to release his/her child, he/she can only do so by repaying the full amount.
2.B.4 Condition of women beedi rollers-

Many beedi manufacturing factories remain open from 8 AM to 8 PM, but there are no fixed hours of work for the actual beedi workers/rollers. As they consist of mostly women, they attend and work in there, only in the day time and as it suits their convenience. The women workers have to complete their routine work before they can go to the factory. Usual hours of work appear to be between 10 AM to 6 PM and stop in this period of eight hours, they do not only make beedies as their time is also taken away by other miscellaneous activities. Women beedi workers have to stand in queue for getting tobacco in the morning before they can start their work; and before they get back to their homes in the evening, they have to stand in a queue again, to submit the finished beedies to the beedi sorter or supervisor and to take entries in a form about the raw material consumed and the output of Beedies as also to take the beedi leaves for the next day from the supplier. In any case, the beedi rollers can sit for 7 to 9 hours, and they like to do it at a stretch as it given them both concentration and speed. The time taken at home for the preparation of wrappers by soaking the leaves and cutting them into shape is always besides the time spent at the factory. It is found that, three or four hours are required for cutting leaves for 1000 beedies, but actually they should not take more than two hours or so if they are adopt enough in this work. The longer hours taken for cutting may be on account of the lack of practice on the part of the women workers, or because they do these work while attending to their cooking and other domestic works.

Besides the beedi workers/rollers, the entire category of workers likely to be employed even in the large-scale beedi manufacturing factories are supervisors, beedi sorters, contractors, tobacco distributors, leaves suppliers, clearers etc. The nature of work of most of the categories of workers is evident from their designations; for example, it is the duty of the supervisor to monitor the entire work, concerned with beedi manufacturing; sorter has to sort out the other processes, and the standard beedies; when women workers submit beedies to him. There is hardly any need to define the duties of beedi counters, tobacco distributors and leaves suppliers as no special
knowledge is required or skill involved in their work and anyone can be employed for the purpose of counting beedies, distributing tobacco and supplying leaves. But the furnace man who is also known as "Bhattiwala" is an important category of employees in the beedi manufacturing process. There are many kinds of Bhatties. All these types of Bhatties are used for the toning of beedies. The nature of work of Bhattiwala or a furnace man is very complex and it requires at least semiskilled and a employee of average intelligence required about 3-4 months duration to be able to work satisfactorily as a Bhattiwala or furnace man. The maintenance of a peculiar temperature of a Madras type bhatti depends on the experience and practice of Bhattiwala. Any mistake on the part of the Bhattiwala is likely to cause considerable loss to the manufacturer or employer. The Almirah and Karnooli types of bhatties do not require much skills and does a person engaged on either of them can be classified with the unskilled person.

Another important segment of workers in beedi manufacturing factories is the packers. In this segment of workers adults and children are employed that are having required skills for packer. They are paid in various manners from factory, but the general practice is to pay on a monthly basis, with the packer, given every day prescribed amount of work. There is also a difference in the manner in which anything is done and the extent of work that is required to be given by the packers depends upon whether the packing is single, medium or full. Beedi sorters is of great importance in factories where the quality of beedies is aimed at. Since the earnings of the beedi workers get proportionately less with the number of beedies sorted out by them, they cannot be expected to remain popular with the workers. A person becomes a beedi sorter by experience and acquires scale after working for several years. There is no rule or method by which sorter is guided. Just look at the bundle of beedies or a touch enables him to decide about the quality of beedi and quantity of tobacco used in it. Beedi sorter handles thousands of beedies throughout the day and it would have become impossible for him to sort out the poor quality beedies, if sorter is to concentrate on each beedi.

There is major involvement of women labours in beedi rolling process. One source
estimated that, the women constitute 80% of the total employment in beedi rolling process. The All India Beedi Cigar of and Tobacco Federation's report indicated that, there are 90% to 95% women labours are working in beedi manufacturing sector. Some districts in India, beedi rolling work is largely regarded as a women's work; with the exception of children. In other places men are rolling beedies if and when other work is not available for them; or they are unable to do other manual job work. In the States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc. where the beedi manufacturing industry is pervasive, women labours engage in beedi manufacturing as a full-time job and are able to roll 800 to 1000 beedies during 8 to 12 hours of day. Some women labours are accepted this as a part-time job, while caring for children and doing the domestic household works, can roll at least 350 to 500 beedies everyday. Many women labours from the same family will pool their efforts to fill quotas. On the basis of results of some studies, beedi rolling is offered in preferred to other manual labour, particularly in communities were going "outside" the home to work, in the fields of others, is considered lower status than working at home, especially if one can earn cash. It is also found that, in some districts, the wages of the rollers are generally higher than those of manual work. In south-west coastal Karnataka, the engaging of women labour into beedi rolling work has raised local agricultural wages and affected the pattern of cropping.

In some beedi manufacturing industries, women labours are paid in cash on a daily basis; and they also provide some miscellaneous benefits. They are also receive some minor loans, and be eligible for other plans and bonuses, perks designed to retain women's loyalty to beedi manufacturing industry and contractors and maintain a steady supply of beedies. Unavailability of raw material in the required quantity, is a major critical issue in beedi manufacturing sector, especially in rainy season. In the rainy season, due to lack of job, the poverty of beedi rolling women labours is worst. Women who primarily rely on beedi rolling work for survival have many difficulties at this time. Families of women beedi rollers, that rely strictly on beedi rolling work are many times forced to go into debt to beedi contractors who then gain control over them, and
due to this some families of beedi rollers have diversify, some members rolling beedies and other members doing manual work. Apart from this it is also observed that, the increasing shift of beedi rolling work from the firm to a home-based setting and the constant relocation of beedi manufacturing factories in search of cheap transport and labour also cause insecurity and instability among beedi rollers. In some districts, it has been widely reported that women beedi rollers socio-economic condition is not good. In spite of many legislations and efforts of trade unions, the socio-economic, working conditions and health condition of beedi rollers continued to deteriorate and forcing them to entertain child labour. The Government of India, has developed policies and legislation with a view to monitoring working conditions and providing social security benefits for the welfare of beedi rollers; but, actual fact is that policies and legislations have done very little improvement in the working conditions and livelihood of beedi rollers, among the most marginalised sector of society. In the subsequent paragraphs, researcher has discussed on the rights of beedi rollers.
2.B.5 Rights of beedi rollers-

A very few state governments in India have made some efforts to provide social justice to the beedi rollers through enacting laws with a view to regulating the socio-economic and working conditions of beedi rollers. As stated above, these laws are ineffective, due to highly mobile nature of the many manufacturers; who always shift from the area where any such law is enforce to places where no such laws are enforced. The ability of these laws in ensuring the well-being of beedi rollers, has been far from satisfactory. To fill the void, Government of India has failed that it is necessary to formulate a central legislation that could deal exclusively with the beedi rolling workers' welfare and by uprooting exploitation found to be existing in the society. In order to opt in these aims, the following laws came into existence.

i) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966

ii) The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976

iii) The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976

Amongst the other laws having the bearing on beedi workers are the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. In the following researcher has highlighted some features of the above stated acts

i) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966, provides for coverage pertaining to daily hours of work, weekly holiday, pay leaves, maternity leaves, other benefits and welfare emanate is like provision for drinking water, toilets, canteen, rest room etc. It should be take into account that, although the term worker includes home workers as well, in practice these provisions apply only to the factory or common shed workers.

ii) The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, aims to collect taxes by way of cess or by imposing excise duty on manufactured beedi.
iii) The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, was passed with a view to promote financial assistance to the workers. The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978 specified that the beedi manufacturers or labour contractors should maintain a register of works and provide statistics and other information as required by the government, from time to time. The importance of the welfare measures, in the health matters as the beedi rollers/workers as a category of workers involved in health hazardous occupations. This act functions with the aim to promote financial assistance to the workers, through adherence of employee to rules, such as, the registration of workers, providing ID cards, free housing and health facilities, establishment of Beedi Workers Welfare Cess, scholarship to the workers and their children etc. Apart from these acts, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, aim to fix the wages for the beedi rollers, which is normally at piece rate and varies from state to state. The other main legislation which is applicable to beedi workers or beedi rollers are the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, but this act is not applicable to home-based beedi rollers or workers.

In a judgement of the Supreme Court of India, in the dispute between P. M. Patel Vs Union of India and others, the verdict has been that the home workers in the beedi industry are employees within the meaning of Employees' Provident Funds and Other Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; and working in their dwelling houses is interpreted to be the premises notionally connected with factory. Based on the Employees' Provident Funds and Other Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to all home-based workers; but not all of the family members are covered in beedi work since mostly it is the family who receives the I-cards.

In 2004, the Central Government had initiated a scheme like Integrated Housing Scheme for beedi workers. This scheme is specifically for the workers who are engaged in beedi manufacturing firm for more than one year, having monthly income of Rs. 6500/- . It is provided that, the beedi workers should not have accommodation of his or her own or any dependent. In 2007, this same has been revised and known as Revised Integrated Housing Scheme, 2007. There is a shortage of houses for beedi workers. The welfare commissioners are empowered to identify eligible beedi
workers, based on economically weaker sections, scheduled caste and scheduled Tribes, and support the construction of homes at providing a central subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- and the remaining amount through assistance in the form of loans from financial institutions like HUDCO.

In 2013, there is a largest development in legislation for beedi workers. This is the medical insurance scheme, known as a Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). This scheme covers the entire beedi workers in India by 2013-14. The medical scheme will cover the beedi workers families with a medical insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- and additional amount incurred would be replaced by the welfare commissioner to the concerned hospital. Despite this legislative measures beedi workers/beedi rollers are still persists in the beedi manufacturing sector in India, since, children’s work in this sector remains invisible, and beedi workers welfare fund does not cover the unregistered workers who are in abundance. It is really need here to focus on the status of child labour in beedi manufacturing sector. Thus, in the subsequent paragraphs researcher has focused on the condition of child labour in beedi industry.
2.B.6 Status of child labour in beedi manufacturing industry-

Beedi manufacturing sector is one of the major business where the thrust is lacking about the elimination of child labour. This is because of the fact that, the nature of beedi industry and invisibility of workers, engaged in this industry, such as children work as part of the family. As per the report of government, it is found that, several children are engaged in the work like, labelling and packing in factories and also in the beedi rolling in homes.\(^8\) It is found that, there is no any registration of their employment; and no any wage records. The beedi manufacturers and contractors are not admitted them as employees on the pretext that they were helping their family members. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLPRA) 1986, bans employment of children in hazardous industries like beedi manufacturing industry. Making of beedies by the children is prohibited under this act, as the major share in the percentage of child labour, where the official figures, 252574 (26\%)\(^7\) as the total number of child labour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazardous Industries</th>
<th>Percentage of Child labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic workers</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction sector</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinning and weaving</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick and tiles</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beedi manufacturing</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhabas and restaurants</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto mobile workshops</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detergent, Agarbatti making industry</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sectors</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Report 2011
It is to be noted that, section 3 of this CLPRA Act 1986, have a provision of allowing children to work in processes with the help of their family. Beedi manufacturers or contractors are exploiting the loophole by providing work to families, who in turn also use children in beedi manufacturing. There are various socio-economic factors which pull the children working in the beedi manufacturing industry. In the following, researcher has discussed briefly on these factors.

i) **Labour intensive** - Manufacturing of beedies, is labour intensive job. It require less capital and no machinery. Due to labour intensive work, it is highly conducive for engaging children in labour intensive process.

ii) **Vulnerability of children** - Since, children are easy to dominate, they are referred by the contractors, or beedi manufacturers, with the view to save wages and avoid the legal measures like, leave, wages, and other benefits.

iii) **Negligence by parents** - Illiteracy and negligence by family members, parents, size of family etc. is also one of the major cause to force children into beedi manufacturing process. Parents are not aware about the labour laws, Child Labour Act 1986 etc. and other social security benefits, this is also responsible for pulling children in beedi manufacturing work.

iv) **Poor economic conditions of family** - Where economic conditions or poverty of families involved, in beedi manufacturing work also pave the way for the pushing of children into workforce as part of family occupation. Beedi making work does not required a major training. It can be carried out at any time, all of which are significant causes for engagement of children into Beedi making work.

v) **Gender bias** - Gender bias against the women coupled along with strong patriarchal tendencies, religious, caste factors are also results in a wide prevalence of child labour in beedi manufacturing industry.  

vi) **Subcontracting** - Due to home-based work, the subcontractors pass on the raw materials to the beedi rollers, who in turn engage their children in this work. The major
aim of the beedi manufacturers, is to extend the subcontracting systems is two folds. Firstly, introduction of the Beedi Workers Act, through which the minimum wage is where made mandatory. Secondly, factory employees have tried to organise themselves into trade unions and the manufacturers were not willing to have any organised or bargaining force in the production systems.

vii) Exploitation by Beedi Manufacturers - The attitude of the Tobacco merchants leave the manufacturers in a precarious situation where they in turn reduce the wages of the beedi rollers. Since, beedies are smoking majorly by poor people, manufacturers cannot afford to raise the cost of beedi above a certain point. Therefore, the brunt of the burden a very false on the beedi rollers, who are engaged in this work throughout the year, with low wages and gets reflected in the involvement of their children who are forced to work along with them.

viii) Bonded labour system - It is assisting where a child/family head goes to the beedi manufacturers or contract, who has given a particular sum of money and carries out work in the premises of the manufacturer as per his wishes in conditions of servitude till the money is repaid. The family heads are not able to repay the amount, thus, the vicious cycle of intergenerational bondage continues. In many states like Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra the ill-treatment and exploitation meted out to the children in beedi manufacturing firms. In Maharashtra, children are engaged in beedi rolling work for 12 hours every day and paid very less amount, depending upon the amount pledged and parents have to provide another family member to replace the pledged amount.

ix) Deprivation of education - Educational deprivation is most important factor which adversely impacted on the life of children who are engaged in beedi manufacturing process. The beedi manufacturing process includes part-time labours, who engaged in work after school hours and full-time child labour, who cannot attend school. After beedi rolling work, children cannot concentrate themselves in studies; therefore, there is a considerable drop out without completing the primary education.
This is because of the fact that they are pulled out mainly for economic compulsions.

x) **Health hazards** - One of the main hardships that tend to be ignored is the health hazards to which the children are exposed. There is a direct connection between beedi rolling work and the certain diseases like TB, lung cancer, etc. Majority of child labour is working in beedi industries experience and exacerbation of asthma, anaemia giddiness, postural and eye problems, and in case of women labours there is a gynaecological problems.\(^{10}\)
2.B.7 Socio-economic and working conditions of women beedi rollers in selected study areas-

Socio-economic conditions refers to a wider range of interrelated and diverse factors and variables, which are related to social and economic factors. These factors and variables could be categorised into many segments like, economic, demographic, public service, fiscal and social. Socio-economic conditions are significant determinants of the livelihoods as it influences the levels of knowledge, skills, and financial conditions which means for their living. Socio-economic status depend mainly on worker's work experience, family's economic and social position related to others, based on income, education and occupation. The income of family, educational qualification of earning family members, and their occupation and combine income. In the following researcher has discussed on the socio-economic and working conditions of women beedi rollers in the selected study area.

The main objective of this chapter is to explore link in socio-economic conditions of women workers, working in beedi rolling work. The beedi rolling work is primarily carried out by the people having weaker socio-economic status in the society. Most of the beedi manufacturing process is carried out in rural and semi-urban areas where it is one of the major sources of livelihood for many families. Children of beedi rollers are also get involved in the beedi manufacturing work at a tender age; as a result cases of school dropouts are also reported in a large number.

Socio-economic empowerment ease essential for self-respect which cannot be achieved without economic independence. It has been widely observed that women beedi labours have poor socio-economic condition. It is also observed that, in spite of many legislations and efforts of trade unions, the socio-economic conditions of women beedi rollers continues to deteriorate, forcing them to entertain child labour. Women and children are preferred for the beedi rolling due to some natural inherent skills. Many survey studies have indicated that, women and children, specially, girl children are good for this work. Involvement of women labours, in this work has been linked to
the ease of learning the skill, its manual operations, and can be carried out at home.

The working conditions in the beedi manufacturing firms situated in the selected study areas, raised serious concerns about the unethical labour practices which run contrary to the spirit of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work - a declaration adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 1998. Isolated case studies, government reports, and media reports shows that the beedi manufacturing firms employs large number of women and children in inhospitable and exploitative conditions. Legislations, laws are grossly flouted. The living conditions of women beedi rollers are very poor. As stated earlier, beedi manufacturing industry is almost and unorganised sector, therefore, even the government finding it difficult to implement the various laws and other legal requirements. Apart from the other legal implications the health hazards which the women and the child labours, who are rolling the beedi are enormous. In India, in many beedi manufacturing states like, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu beedi rolling workers are working under conditions that are harmful to their health. They have to spend large time for preparing or blending or rolling tobacco in unhygienic, dingi and overcrowded places having little facilities like drinking water, toilet, washing room, and even medical aid. The working hours are often interminable and at times even child labours are made to slog for longer period in violation of the law.11

The women beedi rolling workers being unorganised in the selected study areas are generally, deprived of many facilities like, minimum wages, social security and other monetary and nonmonetary benefits. Most common form of beedi manufacturing is contractual, piece work rate system where raw materials are provided to women beedi rollers to make a requisite number of beedies. In the selected study areas, majority of the women beedi rollers belong to the poor, landless households. Among community groups, the backward castes, like OBC, BC etc, dominate in beedi manufacturing process. This is linked to their adherence to their castes, customs, cultural structure, regarding mobility and social acceptability of home-based work. Most of the backward women beedi rollers belong to artisan communities, such as potters, weavers etc.
Today, these households lost their traditional source of livelihood with the existence of cheap industrial substitutes and changing demand patterns of customers.

The wages paid to the child labour are very low. Even women who are preferred main as is obvious by their unambiguously large concentration in manufacturing, are paid lower wages. It is the wage advantage together with the vulnerability of these women and children, stemming from their poverty, illiteracy, bargaining power and zero opportunity cost of their labour, which ensures their high levels of participation in the beedi manufacturing industry. As stated earlier, the desperate situation of some of these workers families is seen in the practice of pledging their children and adults to the contractors against small amount of loans. The women beedi rollers being poor generally inhabit one-room, or small huts, which are badly equipped with respect to a, light, sanitation, water, etc. The scarcity of space where living and working goes on; poses many problems. Majority of manufacturing firms, are poorly maintained with unclean surroundings. All this added to the pungent fumes and dust of tobacco was tremendous health hazards to women beedi rollers and other family members, especially children. Children are exposed to the beedi rolling work, were very early in life. The job first handed over to them is holding the beedi ends and tying the thread; other job like cutting leaves and bundling etc. The child labours are referred to as assistants or helpers in the families.

It is observed that, generally one beedi rollers, can make 800 to 1000 beedies in a duration of 10 hours every day. In case of women beedi rollers, since the work is interspeared in domestic work, it is often difficult to count the hours of work strictly devoted to beedi manufacturing. However, the pressure to fulfil targets being high, women beedi rollers often make adjustments with their time for food, rest, sleep, entertainment and social obligations. It is this pressure which compels them to involve their children as well. Whatever be the exact working hours would in, majority of women beedi rollers and children are to be working from 6 AM to 10 PM. The rolled beedis are handed over to the manufacturers or contactors. After taking them carefully and deducting for poor quality leaves and other reasons, the payment is made on the
basis of piece rate wage, fixed at a 1000 beedies rate. The payment of beedi rolling is made after deducting the amount or wastage from the workers wage. In the case of pledged/bonded children, who worked at the contractor's work shed, the payment halved as one part is adjusted against the borrowed money.

Periodicity of wages changes from factory to factory, and place to place. In most of the factories, payments are made weekly. In some factories, payments are made daily. Monthly payments are made in the big beedi manufacturing firms. It is observed that, there are irregularities in payments, and therefore, women beedi rollers have to make frequent visits to the factory or contractors; and are harassed in the process. The most exploitative part of household beedi work is the esteem in which raw materials are given and the process of collecting rolled beedies by contractors.

Various survey studies have been indicated that, there are many errors means adopted to cheat and harass beedi rollers. Under weighing of raw materials is one means which is adopted by most of the contractors. It is also observed that, 'tendu leaves' were often given without counting or checking for quality and subsequently deduction were made for bad leaves. It is also observed that, contractors are provided imbalanced proportion of raw materials, tendu leaves and tobacco. Since the beedi rollers are frequently remains short of one of the main raw materials, the actual number of beedies and the actual rolled beedies are varying which making difficult for the illiterate beedi rollers to keep the record of finished roll beedies. There is no other alternative for them, and they have to trust on the contractors for making adjustments and calculations of their payments. The payment cuts as a result of the discrepancy between expected and actual beedies rolled by the women beedi rollers; goes up to 35 to 40% of gross wage. There is also a victimisation by providing less tobacco and poor quality of tendu leaves. Sometimes, beedi rollers purchase the raw materials by their own money to meet the shortfall; and this also cuts into their payment share substantially.

Another form of exploitation is the unnecessarily high rejection rate at the time of collection. Beedies are rejected for bad leaves, less tobacco, variations in the beedi
sizes, weight differences, loosely rolled beedies etc. In many cases, the beedi rollers are made to pay for the raw materials used in the rejected beedies. These rejected beedies are not return to the regulars, or destroyed but kept with the contractors, who often try to pass of these beedies at lower rate.

Apart from these forms of economic exploitation, women and girls beedi rollers become victims of sexual harassment. Since the beedi rollers are dependent on the contractors for raw material, to hand over beedies and receive payment, there are number of situations or pretexts, where they are vulnerable to harassment. In beedi manufacturing firms too, women and girls beedi rollers have to sexually satisfy them, otherwise their beedies will be rejected by checkers, or they will receive inadequate tobacco, tendu leaves compared to the expected output.

In short, the low wages, and absence of other monetary benefits do not allow women beedi rollers for betterment in their lives or occupational mobility. Children of women beedi rollers end up getting involved in this work.

Beedi rolling process inherently possesses tremendous health risks for the workers who are constantly exposed to a `thus and fumes. The risk is more in the case of children, both as a employee and as a family member, since the living and working places are the same for home-based beedi rollers. In the following paragraphs researcher has discussed on the health problems of women beedi rollers.
2.8 Health problems faced by women beedi rollers-

The health hazards concerned with tobacco use have been well documented elsewhere and have led to the worldwide campaign against tobacco. It would be logical to those who are in close contact with tobacco, either as beedi rollers, or processors, would suffer from some of the same effects. Researcher has observed that there are very few studies are available concerned with the health hazards of beedi rollers. The beedi manufacturing firms are filled with raw tobacco in the jute bags and the processing area was thickly permeated with tobacco dust. It is highly impossible to breathe even in the beedi manufacturing factory premises. The environment in the factory is stifling. Tobacco dust spread in the godowns and even in the roofless sections of the beedi manufacturing firms it is very difficult to breathe, but the beedi labours involved in the processing seems to be unperturbed by the environment and continued working. In majority of beedi manufacturing factories beedi rollers and other employees are experiencing numerous adverse effects from exposure to tobacco, but since that is their only source of livelihood they are trying to adjust themselves to the intolerable situation by small health measures. It is found that, a strong smell of tobacco generates nausea, chest pain and blood flowing from the nose, and chest pain among the beedi rollers who are exposed to it all day. However, if the beedi roller's that are healthy, they can avoid getting ill. Since, they were with their bare hands handle tobacco, they are not immune to the business. Majority of beedi rollers have a problem that, tobacco had destroyed their appetite, induced body at aches and call breathing problems like, asthma.

Beedi rolling work leads to two types of occupational diseases. The injury is the fate of inhaling tobacco fumes/dust causes one of them and the other is the result of long period of time continue sitting in an improper working posture. Diseases like tuberculosis, asthma, allergy and continuous cold belong to former, while backache, body ache, stomach pain, gastric trouble, piles and rheumatic complaints belong to second category. Although the potential of above diseases exists among beedi rollers, occupational health hazards of beedi rollers remained neglected since long time and
there is a need to study health hazards among beedi workers; and to reduce it if not eliminate the hazards of beedi workers for greater safety and health. Beedi roller is highly prone to respiratory problems. Most of them suffer from tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis etc. Most beedi rollers eventually die of one of these ailments. More or less beedi rollers having these diseases, while highlight the high likelihood of beedi rollers suffering from them.

The nature of work which involves a longer period of sitting with forward trunk bent, the excessive use of fingers and the constant high tension level to meet targets caused a number of health problems. Apart from this, the sitting post your leads to a static contraction of back muscle, resulting in head, neck, leg and back aches as there is no body movement. Many beedi rollers are also suffer from piles and rheumatism. The high levels of tension among women beedi rollers who are never secure about their job. Their poverty, weak constitution, lack of rest, continues working, poor food habits etc have all been listed as factors making them susceptible to diseases. Anaemia and malnutrition are also common among these women and children. Exposure to tobacco and the working conditions of beedi rollers are known to have caused intestinal and reproductive problems. Stomach related problems, like stomach pain, cramps, gas and spasmodic pains leading diarrhoea. Other health problems like, piles, burning sensation in urinary track, joint pains and swelling and wheezing etc. Apart from this, specific health problems which affect women are menstrual disorders, problems in uterus and miscarriages. Due to prolonged period of working without adequate rest this problems get aggravated. The monotonous work causes dullness of the minds of beedi rollers.

The atmosphere in beedi manufacturing firms is not very healthy either. Sometimes, the entire beedi making process is done in the manufacturing firm premises, and it is noticed that, the place of work is not airy and well lit. Women beedi rollers are sitting in separate small rooms which are not having proper ventilation, windows, and lights or even exhaust fans. It is noticed in the many beedi manufacturing firms, in the selected study areas that, the open spaces and the passages are also full and women beedi rollers are sitting on the floor. Since the manufacturing premises, the outer space
of the building are covered with a tin shed; and women beedi rollers are sitting there under the blaze of the sunlight as the sides are open all sides. Women workers/beedi rollers are sitting there even during the summer days when the temperature goes up to 43°C to 45°C. Many of them faint because of the heat. Acute headaches hamper their work. There is no provision for a drinking water, and women beedi rollers have to bring drinking water from their homes most of the times. Fans cannot operate in the sheds as they would blow tobacco dust in the air. It is also noticed that, women beedi rollers do not wear protective clothing, gloves or masks while working and therefore, they are exposed to tobacco dust through their skin and by inhaling the harmful to `particles. The following table indicates the symptom groups and symptoms described.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom groups</th>
<th>Symptoms described</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aches and pain concerned with beedi manufacturing process</td>
<td>Backache, neck ache, headache, burning of eyes, leg pain and numbness of fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coughs</td>
<td>Due to tobacco exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giddiness</td>
<td>giddiness and breathlessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems related to stomach</td>
<td>Pain in stomach, gas trouble, cramps, spasmodic pains leading to diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other health problems</td>
<td>Urinary burning, white discharge, palpitation, wheezing, fevers, tensions, pain in joints and swelling problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Meena Gopal (1997)

The above table indicates the issues of occupational health of women beedi rollers. As home-based employees women beedi rollers occupational health derives from their conditions of work and their relations at work. In beedi manufacturing firms, while the impact of the hazardous raw material remains latent, what is ignored are the direct risks to health or the conditions conducive to kill health of beedi rollers. These risks remain unrecognised or undervalued while beedi rollers own perceptions indicate their awareness of the causation of ill-health. It is these issues that are highlighted in this chapter.
The flavour of the tobacco also pervades the entire vicinity of work putting at risk not only the women but also other family members, children and little babies, at home and the women breastfeed while working. Girls and women beedi rollers in keeping with the pressure from the contractors or manufacturers, and the demand within their own houses, delay their meals on return from the beedi factories, or skip their meals while going to report, keep working for long hours in a seated position without rest, sustain themselves on tea to ward off hunger and sometimes, were into the late hours of the night to refill target of beedi rolling. Apart from this improper food habits and subsistence on tea, or other un-nutritious foods like vada pav, bhel, bhaji pav etc; most of the day does take its toll on the health of girls and women beedi rollers.

Women beedi rollers are that substantial proportion from the poorer and middle income families, feel pressured to eat and manage with less food given the demands of their occupation and its working hours.
2.B.9 In conclusion

The conditions of beedi roller's homes varied from place to place. In our study areas, generally, the homes are very small so that using the homes as both workplace and to accommodate the needs of all family members is difficult, but on the whole, beedi rollers try to maintain a certain level of cleanliness and comfort. In the selected study areas, majority of the houses of beedi rollers, are of earthen and mostly tin roofed. The localities are dirty with garbage not being collected regularly and open gutters within the locality. Sanitation condition is very poor. Women beedi rollers staying in such conditions, tend to suffer from a number of problems relating to menstruation and pregnancy. There are the chances of heavy bleeding during menstruation and pain in lower abdomen. Many beedi rollers also have a problem of high degree of leucorrhoea. There were many cases of miscarriages which the women connect with the beedi rolling job.

Many adjustments are made by the women beedi rollers which not only takes a toll on them but is over to the other people especially the vulnerable in the household. In their homes, there are very young children, they crawl around and play with the tobacco and other raw materials of beedi. Some women breastfeed their babies with the beedi tray on their laps. It is also noted that in some homes, domestic work as well as beedi rolling job gets divided among children and other older or younger women and sometimes even men. The combination of the physical strain and mental worry and fear compounds they are risks to ill-health. Women beedi rollers are very eloquent about the various losses that results from their beedi rolling job, loss of sleep, lack of proper food subsisting only on tea and other un-nutritious food items, most of the day, slow loss of one's health being afflicted by aches, pains and illness, loss of leaves that fall short in the raw materials and lead to cuts in the expenses on health.

Through the present chapter researcher has presented the socio-economic conditions and health hazards problems faced by women beedi rollers. A case study is conducted in Sangamner and Akole blocks of Ahmednagar district. It is observed that, the women
beedi rollers do not have any basic facilities. The laws/legislations and various welfare schemes for women beedi rollers are not boring a desired results and these welfare schemes failed to reach them. Today, women beedi rollers are deprived of their basic rights and they are exploited by their contractors and beedi manufacturers. They are continued to struggle for their livelihood despite of low wages, steady exploitation by contractors, or beedi manufacturers, lack of education and medical benefits and neglect in government policies. Women beedi rollers tend to suffer from a several occupational health problems.

Though the government has launched many welfare schemes for the women beedi rollers by passing legislation, yet women beedi rollers have been facing acute problems like disparity in minimum wages and lack of Social Security, the women beedi rollers are carrying out beedi rolling along with their other responsibilities. There is a need to address immediate concerns of women beedi rollers who are currently engaged in beedi rolling job and address long-term policy issues resulting from anti-tobacco and globalisation trends. In brief, for the future prospects, the Government should try to arrange the alternative employment in that sense, they can complete the get out from this hazardous work of beedi rolling.

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