



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

HEALTH HAZARDS & WOMAN WORKERS IN BRICK INDUSTRY WITH SPECIAL FOCUS TO GAURIPUR TOWN OF DHUBRI DISTRICT, ASSAM

Hasib Md. Iqbal
Assistant Professor
Deptt of Economics
P.B.College,Gauripur
Dist:Dhubri (Assam)

ABSTRACT:

Brick Industry is one of the informal and unorganized industries in Assam. Gradually the Brick industry has been expanding to real estate business. It is a labor intensive industry. The industry employs lakh of workers. Sizable portions of the workers are women. They live in below poverty line. At work place, they are exploited, deprived and do not get the status which the men workers enjoy. There are facing varied natures of problems in work place, particularly the brick industry those are establish in remote area of Gauripur Town . Their socio-economic conditions cause concerns. In this backdrop, an attempt has been made to ascertain and examine the Health related problem faced by the women workers engaged in brick manufacturing industry. The data collected in this regard have been interpreted through percentage analysis. They and their children are mostly illiterate. Most of them are coming from remote area of the district in search of employment .Their annual incomes are very small. They are not given the scope of doing skilled work. Very often they express dissatisfaction on working environments. In this regard the present study tries to explore the significance for the study on the Health Problems faced by the Woman Brick Workers in Gauripur of the Dhubri District so that Working environment needs to be improved and working women get motivated and enthused that may result in development of the Brick Industry.

Key Words: Brick, Health, Manufacturing, Woman, Worker

INTRODUCTION:

Brick manufacturing perhaps is the oldest industry in the history of human civilization. The activity perhaps the oldest activity of human being. Brick making is a significant activity in Lower Assam specially in Gauripur of Dhubri district, Assam since the Raajstate of Gauripur. The brick industries of Gauripur are expanding rapidly from last two decades as it is the primary construction material and the demand for Bricks of Gauripur has been increasing mainly in Guwahati Metro, Bongaigaon, Barpeta and in Kokrajhar district of BTAD. Therefore the demand for labour engages in brick field industry also increasing day by day. From last two decades Brick Manufacturing has come up as a rural based industry for the local economy in a big way that initiates to engage educated youth to establish business and provides livelihood to an unemployed youth and financially weak section of local population and has become largest contributor as an industry based business to the local economy. In earlier time most of the labour both man, woman and their child came from Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand in the Brick field industry of Gauripur in between October to February and they take shelter on temporary basis, near the Brick field industry in self made muddy house. In Assam the months from July to October are considered as the rainy and flood season. Throughout the rainy season the brick manufacturing industries are usually remains stopped in manufacturing work. November to March is the pick season for brick making. Since ancient times, Dhubri district was famous for her excellent soil quality and high crop yield. The soil of the district has been found to be heterogeneous in character. The majority of the places particularly reverine tracts loamy to sandy loam soil are predominant. In some areas, clay to heavy clay soil also in existence and this quality of soil helps brick manufacturer in a great extent and it also attracts builders, contractors to purchase Brick for their workplace. Today, Dhubri has at least 250 brick kilns. In fact, even Asharikandi a reputed village near Gauripur Town has 19 brick kilns extending over an area of 2,000 bighas of the aforementioned agricultural land. As a whole, brick kiln industry is a labour intensive industry. Brick making process has not gone through any major changes since ages. From ancient time we have observed that the brick industry mainly depended on the hard working labour force. But it is a matter of great regret that the workers in brick manufacturing industries are one of the most marginalized and exploited human groups of the society. The need and the demand for these worker section has not been able to make any economical change, social security in their life, rather their social aspects is getting worsen gradually. As the quality of brick manufacturing workers are not homogenous in nature. The sufferings and wounds of the workers are also not same or homogenous. In this industry brick owner engages women and child labour at large scale because their daily wages are comparatively low in compare to man. Hence it is believed that the study about these burning issues can get proper priorities and concern authorities can give woman to be worthy and judiciously. Women comprise a huge part of the Indian population. They contributed a huge role in every sphere of Economic development for the Economy. Almost all brick manufacturing industries has been facing with violence, conflict due to getting daily wages, pressure for extra work due to heavy increasing demand for Brick. In this situation mainly Women and girls, are affected, because they don't want to involve in any conflict with the owner and believe that they have no alternative way of their livelihood. Many girls and young women are raped, numbers of families are held as virtual slaves, and those who survive often struggle to overcome poor health, illiteracy and poverty. But their

involvement and contribution cannot be denied for the society's development. They clutch the main key in maintaining their families.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

This study analyzes the Health problems faced by Brick manufacturing workers. So many researchers have been carried out regarding Environmental Pollution of Brick industries and Child Labour in Brick industry, but there are no researchers which have studied the Health Problems faced by the Woman Brick Workers in Gauripur of the Dhubri District. In this regard the present study tries to explore the significance for the study and thus it gains the importance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To discuss about the brick industry surrounding Gauripur area of Dhubri District.
2. To examine the health related problems faced by Woman worker.
3. To make concluding remarks on socio-economic condition responsible for women workers to engage in the brick Field. And this study tries to give suggestion for improving the deprived women status in the study area.

METHODOLOGY:

The study on the topic "Health hazard & woman workers in Brick industry near Gauripur town of Dhubri district" Assam, has been based on primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data are collected from the source by preparing 15nos' of questions and researchers tries to fill up or putting tick mark on it by collecting information through interview with the women workers, middle man and with the owners of Brick Industry on randomly selected four Brick field namely ACB, ABCD, HIRA, ABF, SHYAM and GMBI brick field of Gauripur. The primary Data Collected during the month from November to December/2019. When most of the woman workers participated in the Brick field. Data for Secondary sources collected from journals, newspapers, Statistical report of district administration and also from different websites so that study can reflect the ground root reality for this type deprived section.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

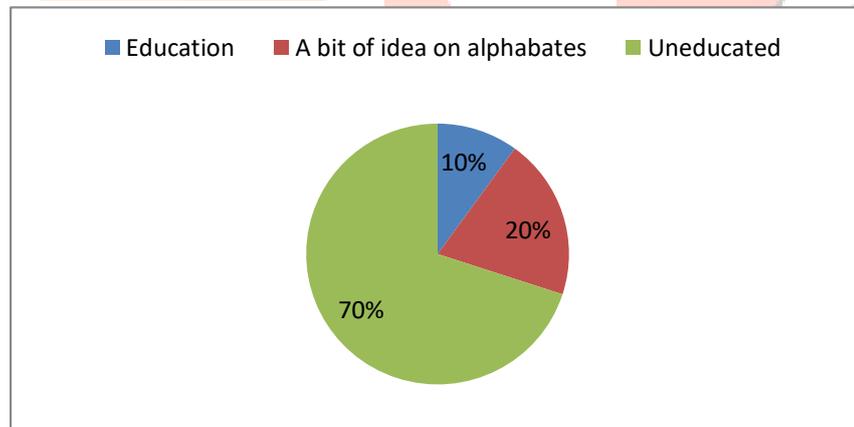
The brick kiln industry is one of the least mechanized industries. Consequently, workers engaged in hard work. The working processes in this industry are collecting muddy soil, shifting the soil to Brick Field, cutting clay from muddy soil, preparation and molding of bricks and loading and unloading of baked and unbaked bricks from Chimneys. Workers do not get formal or informal training and safety equipment such as a Mask, Boot and Gloves when they carry baked bricks from the chimney, subsequently workers exposed to the flying ashes of bricks. Further, the firemen lit the fire in the chimney for the baking bricks and continuously monitor it without a boot and other safety equipment. Most of the brick kiln use woods and coal for baking the bricks that make the brick kiln workers susceptible to high exposure to air pollution and it has an adverse health effect on the workers. Due to air pollution at the kiln, a significantly higher proportion of chest symptomatic diseases like Cough, Sneezing, Aathematities and respiratory have been found among brick kiln workers compared to the

general people. Apart from air pollution, brick workers also suffer from varieties of musculoskeletal disorders and discomforts Backache, Body ache, shoulder pain have shown among the workers. The others, occupational hazards often faced by the brick workers include foot cutting while mixing the soil with spades, body ache and fever. The children are also exposed to health hazards. They suffer from stomach pain, lungs and skin problems. Most of the children affected by Worms, due to their long time attachment with the open soil and taking unhygienic open food and water. Often, due to lack of care from their parents, they are also suffering in malnutrition problem.

From the present study it has found that most of the women could not sign their name and were unable to read.. Only 4 to 10% women are educated up to primary level but have forgotten alphabets now. In the study, it was observed that 70% of the women are from the same district and among them 78% are age group in between 14 years to 50 and about 80% women are got married. About 70% of female workers had 4-6 family members, early they lived in joint family but due to family dispute and for disunity among the members, now families are scattered in micro family. In most of the cases other members are also work together in the same brick field including husbands are also employed. The seasonal migrant worker living in the brickfields throughout the period of 6 to 8 months of production, returns back to the village after the production season comes to a close. During the off season from April to September woman are compel to migrated Guwahati or nearby districts to get better opportunity, basically they engage in construction works. Locally the brickfields are, known as the 'Ett-khola' also call it as 'Ett Bhata' by the local people of Dhubri district .

Education	10%
A bit of idea on alphabates	20%
Uneducated	70%

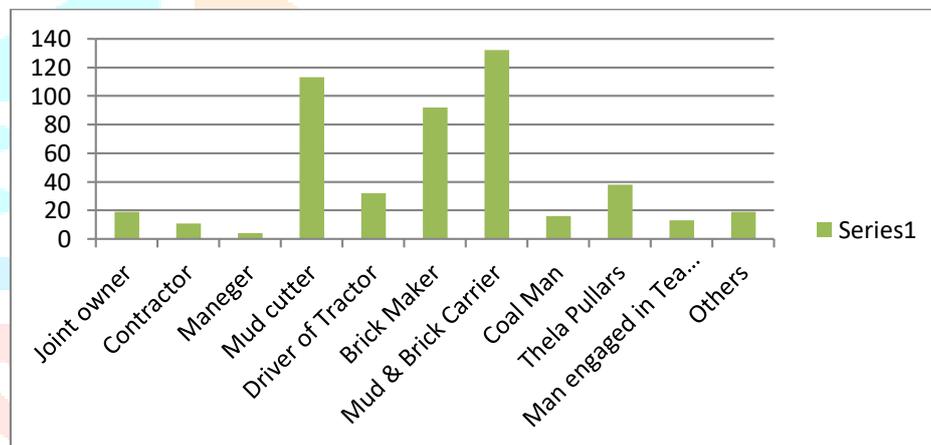
A



CATEGORIZATION OF LABOUR IN BRICK INDUSTRY OF GAURIPUR

Labour types	No of Labours
Joint owner	19
Contractor	11
Manager	4
Mud cutter	113
Driver of Tractor	32
Brick Maker	92
Mud & Brick Carrier	132
Coal Man	16
Thela Pullars	38
Man engaged in Tea Stall	13
Others	19

B

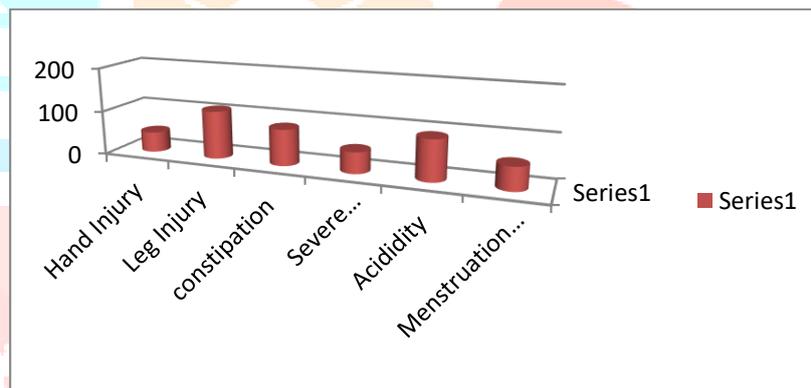


The results of the study revealed that the Woman in the Brick field engaged in rigorous jobs for their family. It was also found that most of the Woman workers suffered from discomfort in different parts of the body, especially in the lower back, knees and in shoulder. The study mainly shows that the physical strength of workers is low in comparison to carrying heavy loads. This study also indicates clearly that brick carriers mainly carry the bricks on their head. They take 8–10 bricks at a time with approximate total weight of 25–30 kg (1 brick = 4.5–5 kg), which ultimately leads to head, neck and shoulder pain among them. This result was supported by Sahu et al. [17]. The majority of the workers in the present study worked 7 to 9 hour per day, which is against limits of 48 hours per week, this is also high in nation wise average, which is observed in India. The result of the present study shows that 46 of the workers experience hand injury and 109 woman workers experience leg injury at work. Special safety should be taken using moving vehicles and pug machine which is the most risky equipment having a higher probability of trapping hands, leg and clothes (Das, 2015b). In terms of any health related problem majority of the workers visited on different health care facilities, although they have very little opportunity to get proper treatment because quality of service provided by these doctors for them was low. They have superstitions and it is ‘Almighty having for poor people’. In the study area few new unknown facts have come out almost 82 woman suffered from constipation, the main reason behind that they usually taking Water where amount of Iron is maximum, besides these they takes maximum numbers of Fried items

during their leisure time, insufficient nos'of sanitary latrine is also another main problem they have faced in study area due to this they could not discharge. Durig the time of study it was also found that 49 nos. of woman suffered severe Gastrointestinal problems and main causes behind this are long duration of taking food, unhygienic food and unhealthy, polluted environment and consumption of contaminated pond water. Respondent age between 18 to 45 informed that they are off and on suffers in monthly Menstruation. There is no hygienic facilities, lack of availability of Pad, they used old age method of using used cloth during the time of Menstruation.

C

Hand Injury	46
Leg Injury	109
constipation	82
Severe Gastrointestinal	48
Acidity	92
Menstruation problems	52



Conclusion and Suggestions:

- 1) Most of women workers belong to Mionorities and SC communities. So formal information should be given to them about the policies and schemes run by government for their welfare.
- 2) Illiteracy rate is very high among women workers. They should be given elementary education and special care should be taken for education of their children.
- 3) Women workers should be provided good housing facility with proper sanitation and drinking water. .
- 4) Installation of proper chimneys can also be helpful in reducing the exposure to fumes and gases.
- 5) Cutting injury, Headache, Bodyache, Acidity problems were the common complaints reported, so availability of minimum Fast aid must be ensured.
- 6) Local authority as well as NGOs' should start medical camp at least one in a month.
- 7) Exhaustive and comprehensive legislation is urgently needed for regulating working conditions, wage structure, welfare measures of the women workers in the brick kilns.
- 8) Govt. should bring all woman workers under insurance with minimum premium.

References:

1. (2010).Sahu, S & Sett M, Gangopadhyay S. An ergonomic study on teenage girls working in the manual brick manufacturing units in the unorganized sectors in West Bengal, India. J Hum Ergol.39(1):23–33.
2. (2015). Das, R. Causes and consequences of child workers in the brick fields of Khejuri CD blocks in Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal. IJHS 4(2):28-42
3. Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated District.District Dhubri,Study conducted by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Dvelopment.
4. Rahman,A.(2015,January 22). Dhubri Brick Kilns Possing Threat to Farmland. The Assam Tribune.
5. Vikrant DP, Mukesh DBS, Parth DVH, Shinde DRR (2016). Epidemiological study of health hazards & working conditions of brick kiln workers in rural area of North Maharashtra. WJPMR 2(6):86-89.

