



The Socio-Economic Status Of Sweeper Community Of Gauhati University: A Case Study.

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Abstract

Sweepers are a necessary component of life and assist us with a variety of tasks. They do provide all citizens with additional help. They owe a great obligation of gratitude to the elderly, young people, and working adults for their services. They only make everyone's lives a little bit simpler while leading challenging lives themselves. The arduous work they do causes their bodies to function constantly. To meet the demands of cleanliness, their day begins much earlier than those of the general public. Despite the difficulty of their work, they nevertheless do it for us. Since they have made such a significant contribution to society, they should be treated with the utmost respect and honor. This paper will help to find out the factors affecting the living conditions of the sweeper community. This paper will also help the State Government and different organisations to improve their various policies regarding upliftment of the underprivileged section of the society.

Keywords: Socio-Economic, Sweepers, Community, Arduous, Upliftment, Underliftment, Underprivileged.

1. Introduction

The municipality is in charge of operating the sweeper system in our country. A sweeper is dispatched to monitor each area's cleanliness. Villages that lack access to modern amenities like banks or transportation infrastructure still exist today, but they do have sweepers to keep their roads and land clean. It would not be difficult to say that no life is truly possible without sweepers if this were understood properly. The smell of garbage will prevent us from breathing in our houses.

Additionally, this trash contains a lot of infections. Diseases will spread more swiftly if cleanliness is not frequently maintained. Maintaining order is religious. God resides in cleanliness. We clean our homes as we get ready for Diwali. So, they do not work at low-paying occupations. It is pure in God's sight, and it ought to be in everyone else's as well.

Sweepers help us with a multitude of activities and are an essential part of life. They do offer further assistance to all citizens. The elderly, children, and working adults owe them a significant debt of appreciation for their services. They lead difficult lives themselves and very somewhat make everyone's lives easier. Their bodies labor continually due to the strenuous task they conduct. Their day starts much earlier than that of the general public in order to meet the requirements of cleanliness. They still perform this labor for us despite its difficulty.

They deserve the utmost respect and admiration because of the enormous contribution they have made to society.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows

1. To examine the size and sources of income.
2. To examine the nature of expenditure for their livelihood.
3. To study the nature of fixed assets under their possession and there living conditions.
4. To examine their educational qualifications.
5. To study the proportion of sweepers who are habituate to take wine and other narcotics.

3. Methodology

The study is explorative and analytical in nature and study is mainly based on primary source of data. The primary data was collected from all the sweepers of Gauhati University with prepared schedule.

4. Findings and Analysis of the study:

1. Gender of Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	12	33
Female	24	67
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed that 67% of respondents are Female and 33% of Respondents are Male. Therefore, it indicates that majority of the Respondents taken under the study are Female.

2. Earnings of the Respondents per Day

Earnings (in Rs.)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Below 500	17	47
500-1000	14	39
1000-2000	5	14
Above 2000	0	0
Total	36	100

From the above table and figure it is observed that 47% of the respondents have a daily earning of Rs 500 and below, 39% have daily earnings of Rs 500- Rs1000 and the rest 14% have an earning of Rs 1000-2000.

3. Education Qualifications of the Respondents

Education Qualifications	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Class 5	7	19
Class 8	14	38
Class 10	5	14
No	10	29
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed that 38% of the respondents has studied till Class 8, 19% has studied till Class 5, 14% has studied till Class 10 and the rest 29% has never received education.

4. Present Monthly Income of the Respondents

Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Rs 9000	17	47%
Rs 17000	14	39%
Rs 30000	5	14%
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed that 47% of the respondent's monthly income is Rs 9000, 39% of the respondent's income is Rs 17000 and the rest 14% of the respondent's monthly income is Rs 30000.

5. Respondents' income mostly spent on

Categories	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Health	7	19
Education	17	48
Food	7	19
Other	5	14
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed 48% of the respondents spends their income mostly on Education, 19% of the respondents spends their income both on Health and Food and the rest 14% spends on Other.

6. Fixed assets under possession of the Respondents

Fixed Assets	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Car	3	8
Bike	4	11
Scooty	21	59
No	8	22
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed that 59% of the Respondents possess scooties, 22% of the respondents does not have any type of fixed assets under their possession, 11% of the respondents possess Bike as their fixed assets and the rest 8% possess car as their fixed assets.

7. Respondents addicted to Liquor

Liquor Addicted	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	11	31
No	25	69
Total	36	100

From the above table it is observed that 31% of the respondents are addicted to Liquor and the rest 69% of the respondents are not addicted to Liquor.

5. Major Findings

The study has following observations against different objectives of the study.

1. Majority of the respondents taken under the study are female.
2. Majority of the respondents have an earning of below Rs 500 per day.
3. From the survey it is observed that majority of the respondents are only Class 8 passed
4. Majority of the respondents have a present earning of Rs 9000 per month, which was Rs 700 per month 5 years back.
5. From the survey it is observed that most of the income of the respondents are mostly spent on Education.
6. From the study it is observed that most of the respondents possess Scooty as their fixed asset apart from bikes and cars.
7. It has been observed that majority of the respondents are not addicted to Liquor.

6. Suggestion

1. It is imperative to enhance their standard of living and for which Gauhati University must set up a unit for their improvement regarding health, hygiene, education, skill development etc, it would be the first step in the right direction.
2. The Gauhati University authority must conduct free health check-up for the sweepers.
3. Small Finance cooperative society can be setup for the sweepers, to encourage them in savings etc. which may lead to improve in their standard of living.
4. As sweepers are employees of Gauhati University, they must be provided with quarters and other housing facilities.
5. The range of income of the sweepers varies hugely among them, hence a proper and fixed pay scale must be provided to all the sweepers equally.
6. Also, some skill development workshops can be conducted for them so that they are able to learn something and also use those skills to earn income apart from cleaning.
7. A fruitful step would be to support community savings and credit schemes that enable households to secure funds for the improvement of physical facilities.

7. Conclusion

Sweepers are a necessary component of society and assist us with a variety of tasks. They do provide all citizens with additional help. They owe a great obligation of gratitude to the elderly, young people, and working adults for their services. They make everyone's lives way simpler while leading challenging lives by themselves.

8. References

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