

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF PLANTATION WORKERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LEPETKOTA TEA ESTATE

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Abstract:

The most important aspects to control the status of Socio - economic Conditions of the tea Garden people and farmers' is the Cultivation of tea. Thus, on 15th Oct. '2012 the Chief Minister of Assam, after a cabinet decision declared tea as a "State Drink" and apprised to give more importance for growth and development of tea industry in Assam. Tea Plantation and manufacturing is the major industry of Assam. It has the largest acreage under tea, producing the highest quantity and also employing the highest number of laborers. It accounts for the employment to two – third of industrial labor and forms nearly 43% of the net income of the industrial sector of Assam. The tea industry of Assam is the predominant industrial sector of the state playing an important role in the economy of Assam. It has been contributing substantially to the state income and to the national exchequer as well, in the shape of foreign exchange earnings through its exports every year. It has also been contributing its part to generate employment for skilled and unskilled workers. The tea industry of Assam has also been empowering women by giving them job opportunities.

KEYWORDS:

State Drink, Socio-economic Condition, Empowerment, and Plantation

INTRODUCTION

Indian tea industry is continuing a long journey since 18th century. Since the first commercial consignment, (1839) tea continues to be the most popular drink in India. It would be no exaggeration to say that after independence the real green revolution in India has taken place in tea. India is one of the largest producer, consumer as well as exporter of tea in the world. It has its specific importance in India where unemployment is one of the serious economic problems. Therefore, tea industry plays a prominent role in Indian economy.

Income and expenditure data are considered important as they clearly reflect the economic condition and prevailing standards of living among the people of a region. "While income is no longer considered an exclusive measure of well being, the per capita domestic product is one of the three components of the human development, of asset and allows the people to attain well being. Most of the poor cultivators of the upper Assam and Borak Valley have now become economically better off due to tea cultivation. So it is clear that there is a considerable contribution of the small tea cultivations in raising the North East Indian income which controls particularly the socio-economic status of the rural people and tea farmers of Assam.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study about socio-economic condition of plantation workers in lapetkota Tea Estate.

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2. To study the income and expenditure pattern of plantation workers in Lapetkota Tea Estate.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Source of Data: For the present study the researchers use both Primary and Secondary source of data.

Primary Data: These are those data which are collected for the first time and they are original in character. Here the primary sources of data are the personal interview with the workers and questionnaire.

Secondary Data: these are those which are already collected by someone for some other purpose and are available. Here the secondary sources of data are journals, books and internet.

Sample design: For this paper the researchers used purposive Sampling method. The researcher takes 50 workers as respondents from the Tea Estate purposively to study about the income and expenditure pattern of plantation workers.

Methods of collecting Data: For the present paper the researcher used two methods for collecting data from plantation workers in Lapetkota Tea Estate. Questionnaire Method, Personal Interview.

Techniques of analysis of the data: There are different techniques are available for the purpose of analyzing the data. Here the Researchers used SPSS 16.0 version for the tabulation, calculation and diagram. Here percentage formula is used for calculation of data.

II. Plantation Workers

There is no agreement on the number of workers employed in the tea industry and different sources give different figures, roughly between 1 to 1.5 million employed directly and another 10 million that are employed indirectly. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the workers are women. The majority of workers working on the plantations in the northeast are third or fourth generation migrants that were brought by the British from the central part of India, and the majority of them are either lower caste or tribal peoples belonging to the lowest social strata. Workers have always lived inside the plantations and the plantation owners have used housing as an effective means of enslavement.

Table 1: Sex Ratio of the Plantation Workers

Gender	Percentage
Male	52%
Female	48%

Source: Field Survey

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Age	Percentage
15-25 yrs	18%
25-35yrs	46%
35-45yrs	22%
45 & above	14%

Source: field survey

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Table 3: Marital status of plantation workers

Marital status	Percentage
Married	94%
Unmarried	6%

Source: Field survey

Table 4: No of Family members of plantation workers

No of family members	Percentage
2-5	28%
5-7	56%
7 & above	16%

Source: Field Survey

Table 5: No of children of plantation workers

No of children	Percentage
No child	8%
1-2 children	36%
3 & above	56%

Source: Field survey

Table 6: Type of Employment of plantation workers

Type of employment	Percentage
Permanent	84%
Regular	6%
Temporary	10%

Source : Field survey

Early marriage is still widely prevalent in tea estates. Multiple childbirth, which is a common feature to tea tribe women only adds to their difficulties. The absence of proper healthcare in most tea gardens is a hurdle that is yet to be surmounted. Although some tea majors have established well equipped hospitals, there are hundreds of tea estates without necessary health support in the form of infrastructure and doctors. Most of the respondents are married and they have more than 3 children about 56 percentage of plantation workers. There are three types of plantation workers in tea estates in Assam and there are most of the respondents are permanent in nature. Among plantation workers most of the respondents are 25-35 years old.

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Table 7: Standard of living of plantation workers

Indicators that represent standard of living of plantation workers	Responses
Pucca House	40% of the plantation workers
Water facilities	Available, but no proper filtration
Receiving of Ration	98% respondents are receives
Bycycle	Half of the respondents have
Motor cycle	Only 4% respondents have
Cooking Gas	24% have
Pressure cooker	38% have
Mobile phone	Half of the plantation workers have
Radio	Only 14% have
Television	More than 68% respondents have
Set top box	More than 66% have
Bank account	62% have bank account
Saving of Money	More than 60% respondents save money in bank
Borrowing of money	Less than 50% borrowed money

Source: Field survey

Table 8: Individual income of workers (Monthly)

Individual Income	Percentage
600-1200	18%
1200-1800	50%
1800-2400	24%
2400 & above	8%

Source: Field survey

Table 9: Family income of respondents (Monthly)

Family income	Percentage
800-1400	8%
1400-2000	40%
2000-2600	20%
2600-3200	10%
3200 & above	22%

Source: Field survey

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Table 10: Bonus Received (Yearly)

Bonus received	Percentage
Less than 1000	8%
1000-1500	6%
1500-2000	22%
2500-3000	30%
3000 & above	34%

Source: Field survey

Table 11: Expenditure on education (Monthly)

Expenditure on Education	Percentage
Less than 400	38%
400-800	34%
800-1200	28%

Source: Field survey

Table 12: Expenditure on fooding (Monthly)

Expenditure on fooding	Percentage
500-1000	16%
1000-1500	42%
1500-2000	30%
More than 2000	12%

Source: Field survey

Table 13: Expenditure on clothing (Yearly)

Expenditure on Clothing	Percentage
Less than 1000	0%
1000-2000	26%
2000-3000	40%
More than 3000	34%

Source: Field survey

Table 14: Expenditure on others (Monthly entertainment & medical)

Expenditure on others	Percentage
Less than 400	38%
400-800	46%
800-1200	14%
More than 1200	2%

Source: Field survey

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II.FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study as follows:

- 1.In the Lepetkota tea Garden the researcher found that most of the respondents were male (52%) and most respondents are in the age group of 25-35yrs (46%).
- 2.The highest respondents were married about 94%, and in respondents family most respondents having 5-7 members about 56%.
3. Regarding type of employment highest portion of workers is permanent about 84% and almost whole respondents were receive ration from the Garden authority.
- 4.Regarding house type about 40% respondents have pucca house and water facilities are available almost but proper filtration are not available
- 5.Regarding possessing of vehicle half of the respondents have bicycle and only 4% have motor cycle , And only 24% have cooking gas, 38% have pressure cooker, 50% have Mobile, only 14% have Radio, highest portion of the respondents have TV and Set Top box.
- 6.Regarding bank A/c 62% has bank account and 60% of respondents save money.
- 7.Regarding borrowing of money 42% respondents were borrowed money from the sources they feel fit and among them 31% respondents borrow money from money lenders and rest of the respondents prefer relatives, neighbors etc.
- 8.In the tea estate highest plantation workers have total income earned within the range of Rs. 1200-1800 monthly. Most of the families have income within the range of Rs. 1400-2000 on monthly basis and most of the respondents' workers received bonus more than Rs.2500 in the last year.
- 9.In case of expenditure made by respondents workers the researchers found that highest amount of respondents were spend Rs. Less than 400 monthly on education due less awareness regarding education facilities and non cooperation of higher authorities. Most of the respondents spend on foods within the range of Rs. 1000-1500 depending upon the family members, regarding expenditure on clothing on yearly basis most of the respondents spend within the range of Rs. 2000-3000. And regarding to medical and entertainment most of the respondents spend within the range of Rs. 400-800. . Because the tea garden authority provide medical facilities to the workers

SUGGESTIONS

- 1.The all respondents have not any bank A/c, so the authority of the Tea Estate should take care about each and every workers must have bank A/c and deposit a few percent of his income in the respective A/c.
- 2.Among the plantation workers there are lack of educational facilities for their children, so the authority should kept in mind towards educational fields.
- 3.The infrastructure facilities should develop so that their residential environment will improve.
- 4.Government and Tea Board must take proper steps for the all-round development of the tea tribe. Only then, they will give better return to the industry.
- 5.Labour Welfare department should regularly investigate the status of Social Security Measures available in the tea gardens.

III.CONCLUSION

Plantation workers Income and expenditure data are considered important as they clearly reflect the economic condition and prevailing standards of living among the people of a region. "While income is no longer considered an exclusive measure of well being, the per capita domestic product is one of the three components of the human development, of asset and allows the people to attain well being. The worker possesses different households' commodities for their fulfilling of needs. They get bonus, ration income from the tea estate authority from which the workers socio economic conditions are survived. Government and Tea Board must take strong initiative to overcome these problems of the workers. Majority of the Indian tea producers are not getting fair price in the market for their tea and this passes to the workers as wage cuts. The underdeveloped conditions of the workers adversely affect the industry, as without a strong and skilled labour force one cannot imagine a productive tea industry. Hence, labour welfare with appropriate social security measures is urgent need for the long-term sustainability of the industry.

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