

Beedi Industry in Murshidabad District of West Bengal: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

Beedi making is a popular cottage industry in many parts of the country. One of the reasons for the beedi industry to flourish in West Bengal is the availability of cheap labour. Beedi workers are poor and mostly unorganized. They face innumerable problems such as poor working conditions, low wages, fraudulent actions by the contractors, health hazards, etc. Some of the main health problems are tuberculosis, skin problem, cancer, eye problem, bronchitis, asthma, etc. The paper tries to understand the nature of the beedi industry, the problems and the socio-economic condition of the beedi rollers in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

Key-words: Beedi rollers, tobacco, tendu leaves, contractors

1. Introduction

Beedi industry is a part of the tobacco industry. Beedi is a poor man's cigarette. According to John [2008], beedis are cheap and widely smoked in India. Beedi manufacturing takes place in almost all the major states of India such as in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Kerala and Karnataka. The four main steps involved in the production of a beedi are (i) rewinding the thread (ii) cutting the beedi leaves (iii) rolling the beedi, and (iv) folding the beedi head.

2. Brief Review of Literature

The paper on Beedi Workers in Kerala: Conditions of Life and Work undertaken by Mohandas (1980) attempts a quantitative analysis of the economic conditions of beedi workers in Kerala. Rajashekar & Sreedhar (2002) in an article enumerates the growth and downfall of the beedi industry and the substantial changes, with some units shifting out of the area. Kumar & Bharathi (2010) explore the level of health hazards experienced by the woman beedi rollers in Tamil Nadu.

3. Objectives of the Study

- (i) To understand the nature of beedi industry;
- (ii) To identify the problems of the beedi industry;
- (iii) To analyse the socio-economic condition of the workers engaged in beedi rolling.

4. Research Methodology

The present study is empirical as well as exploratory in nature. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data have been obtained by administering a structured questionnaire and the secondary data with respect to the beedi industry have been sourced from the relevant books, journals, e-journals, reports and websites. For administering the questionnaire, the respondents have been selected through convenience sampling. Before finalizing, the questionnaire has been pilot tested at first. The data collected have been analysed using *Descriptive Statistics* and *Pearson Chi-square test*

Sample Design

Murshidabad district administration is headed by the District Magistrate. For administrative purpose, the district is divided into 5 sub-divisions namely; Berhampore, Jangipur, Lalbaugh, Kandi and Domkol. Jangipur sub-division of Murshidabad district has the major concentration of the beedi industry and also the beedi workers. There are eleven census towns in Samsorganj CD Block in Jangipur subdivision namely, Anup Nagar, Jaffrabad, Kankuria, Uttar Mahammadpur, Chachanda, Dhusaripara, Serpur, Kohetpur, Bhasaipaikar, Jaykrishnapur and Basudebpur. In order to make primary survey based study more focused, the researcher has chosen Anup Nagar, Uttar Mahammadpur and Kankuria census towns in Samsorganj CD (Community Development) Block, in Jangipur sub-division. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samsorganj_\(community_development_block\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samsorganj_(community_development_block))]. The researcher has found out that the population of these three census town are Anup Nagar 12490, Uttar Mahammadpur 28332 and Kankuria 36925. The researcher included beedi workers who are beedi rollers, contractual in nature and have a registered identity cards issued by the Central government. The researcher has chosen 126 respondents from each of the three census towns i.e., Anup Nagar, Uttar Mahammadpur and Kankuria.

Survey Instrument

The study is dependent on primary data collected through a structured questionnaire and administered among the sample employees to elicit relevant information from them, keeping the objectives of the study in mind.

The questionnaire comprises of *two parts* (i.e., *Part A* and *Part B*). The *Part A* contain some biographical variables considered important in the field of social sciences, viz., age, gender, religion, educational qualification, marital status, income, etc., to gather relevant biographical information about the respondents. The *Part B* contain some questions with a view to capturing the opinion of the respondents relating to the various relevant socio-economic issues of the beedi rollers. The conceptual part of the study has been based on relevant books, journals, e-journals reports and the websites.

Survey Procedure

The survey has been done by distributing the structured questionnaire, validity of which has been ensured by conducting a pilot survey. The respondents for the study have been chosen by convenience sampling. The questionnaire has been distributed physically and personal interaction was conducted. In order to make the survey meaningful the researcher prepared a Bengali version of the questionnaire for field survey. The researcher conducted structured interviews (based on the questionnaire) for the respondents who were illiterate or unable to read. For the purpose of the study, the field survey took about 1 year 10 months (March, 2014- December, 2015).

Analytical Tools Used

The data collected have been entered in the computer and appropriate data processing package have been used. The statistical software *SPSS version 20* has been used for the analysis. At first, the biographical composition of the respondents has been worked out. The associations of the opinion questions with income, age, gender and educational qualifications were examined using *Pearson's Chi-Square test* for Independence of Attributes.

An alpha level of 5% has been taken, i.e. if any p value is less than 0.05, it will be considered as significant. With the help of these appropriate statistical tools, the researcher has been able to draw meaningful conclusions.

5. Findings of the Study

Tobacco cultivation processing and marketing involves over 30 million people in India. Most of them are living in rural India like beedi rollers, tendu leaves pickers. Women form the major part of the beedi industry with low cost and risk.

Table 1: Age-wise distribution of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
15-30	137	36.2
31-45	209	55.3
46 -60	32	8.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents are between the age group of 31-45.

Table 2: Gender-wise distribution of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	28	7.4
Female	350	92.6
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondent are female.

Table 3: Religion-wise distribution of the respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Hindu	123	32.5
Muslim	255	67.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents are Muslims

Table 4: Educational qualification wise distribution of respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	144	38.1
Primary	162	42.9
Secondary	72	19.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents have completed primary education.

Table 5: Marital status wise distribution of the respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Married	339	89.7
Unmarried	39	10.3

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Total	378	100.0
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Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents are married.

Table 6: Individual monthly income of the respondents

Monthly Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1000	27	7.1
1001-2000	105	27.8
2001-3000	180	47.6
3000 and above	66	17.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents have monthly income between 2001-3000.

Table 7: Number of Family Members

Number	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5	110	29.1
6-10	191	50.5
11 and above	77	20.4
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have family members between 6-10.

Table 8: Number of Earning Members

Number	Frequency	Percent
1-2	97	25.7
3-4	208	55.0
5 & above	73	19.3
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents have 3 to 4 earning member.

Table 9: Average Monthly Family Income

Average Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
4000-5000	39	10.3
5001-6000	66	17.5
6001-7000	93	24.6
7001-8000	174	46.0
8001-9000	4	1.1
9001-10000	2	.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents have family income of 7001-8000.

Table 10: Whether Own or Rented House?

Type of House	Frequency	Percent
own house	327	86.5
rented house	51	13.5

Total	378	100.0
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Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have their own house.

Table 11: Type of House of the Respondents

Type of House	Frequency	Percent
Kutchha	58	15.3
Semi pucca	194	51.9
Pucca	156	32.8
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have semi pucca house.

Table 12: Number of Years of Practice

Years of practice	Frequency	Percent
0-5	58	15.3
5-10	196	51.9
11 & above	124	32.8
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents have 5-10 years of experience.

Table 13: Whether You Were Previously Involved in Beedi Rolling?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	251	66.4
No	127	33.6
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of them were previously involved in beedi rolling.

Table 14: Number of Beedis Made in a Day

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
500-1000	166	43.9
1001-1500	147	38.9
1500 & above	65	17.2
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents make 500- 1000 beedis in a day.

Table 15: Number of Hours in a Day Spend for Beedi Making

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
4-5	52	13.8
5-6	39	10.3
6-7	222	58.7
7 & above	65	17.2
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents spend 6-7 hours in a day for beedi making.

Table 16: Number of Days in a Week Spent in Beedi Making

Number	Frequency	Percent
3	37	9.8
4	26	6.9
5	106	28.0
6	144	38.1
7	65	17.2
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents spend 6 days in a week in beedi making.

Table 17: Is Tobacco and Tobacco Leaves Provided to You By Contractor?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	366	96.8
No	12	3.2
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents said yes raw materials were provided by the contractor.

Table 18: Do You Have Rejections?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	329	87.0
No	49	13.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents said yes they have rejections.

Table 19: Are You Paid for Rejections?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
No	378	100.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

All the respondents said no they are not paid for the rejections.

Table 20: Do You Have to Compensate for Rejections?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	378	100.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

All the respondents said yes they have to compensate for the rejections.

Table 21: Source of Income

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
chief	326	86.2
additional	26	6.9
supplementary	26	6.9

Total	378	100.0
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Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have beedi rolling as chief source of income

Table 22: Do You Know the Welfare Scheme Facilities Provided for Beedi Workers?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	378	100.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

All the respondents have knowledge of welfare schemes

Table 23: Are You Availing Those Welfare Scheme Facilities?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	274	72.5
No	104	27.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents have availed the facilities

Table 24: Are You BPL Card Holder?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	378	100.0
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

All the respondents said yes they have BPL card.

Table 25: Do You Avail the Facilities of BPL Card Holder?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	355	93.9
No	23	6.1
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have availed BPL card facility.

Table 26: Do You Want to Continue with the Present Work as Beedi Worker?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	313	82.8
No	65	17.2
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents want to continue as beedi worker.

Table 27: Are You a Registered with Self Help Group?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	277	73.3
No	101	26.7
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents are registered with self help group

Table 28: Benefits Availed by the Respondents from SHGs

Types of Benefits	Frequency	Percent
Business Loan	164	59.2
Other Loan	113	40.8
Total	277	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents have taken business loan.

Table 29: Do You Have any Health Problems Related to Beedi?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	225	59.5
No	153	40.5
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents face health issues

Table 30: Are You Covered by Health Cards?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	322	85.2
No	56	14.8
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of respondents are covered by health cards

Table 31: Do You Get the Medical Facilities that You Are Supposed to Get?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	220	58.2
no	158	41.8
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents get the medical facilities.

Table 32: Do You Know the Minimum Wages that You are Supposed to Get?

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	156	41.3
no	222	58.7
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Majority of the respondents do not know about minimum wages

Table 33: Satisfaction wise Distribution of Respondents

Response Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Yes	237	62.7
No	141	37.3
Total	378	100.0

Source: Primary survey

Most of the respondents are satisfied with their work.

Table 34: Crosstab with Respect to Individual Monthly Income

Variables	Test Statistics			H ₀ (Null Hypothesis)
	Chi-Square	df	P-Value	Accepted/Rejected at 5% level of significance
Marital status	14.496	3	.002	Rejected
Number of family members	55.265	6	.000	Rejected
Number of earning members	100.879	6	.000	Rejected
Ownership of house	58.549	3	.000	Rejected
Type of house	332.995	6	.000	Rejected
Years of practice	122.410	6	.000	Rejected
Previously involved in beedi	1.365	3	.714	Accepted
Beedis made in a day	204.739	6	.000	Rejected
Hours spend in beedi rolling	70.523	9	.000	Rejected
Days spend in a week in beedi rolling	298.634	12	.000	Rejected
Source of income	64.123	6	.000	Rejected
Facilities availed	141.029	3	.000	Rejected
BPL facilities availed	4.152	3	.246	Accepted
Continue in beedi rolling	49.611	3	.000	Rejected
Registered with SHGs	9.158	3	.027	Rejected
Benefits from SHGs	3.927	3	.269	Accepted
Health problems	2.144	3	.543	Accepted

Table 35: Crosstab with Respect to Age

Variables	Test statistics			H ₀ (Null Hypothesis)
	Chi-Square	df	P-Value	Accepted/Rejected at 5% level of significance
Marital status	5.569	2	.062	Accepted
Number of family members	10.179	4	.038	Rejected
Number of earning members	20.792	4	.000	Rejected
Ownership of house	18.425	2	.000	Rejected
Type of house	57.388	4	.000	Rejected
Years of practice	14.534	4	.006	Rejected
Previously involved in beedi	3.314	2	.191	Accepted
Beedis made in a day	14.810	4	.005	Rejected
Hours spend in beedi rolling	24.429	6	.000	Rejected
Days spend in a week in beedi rolling	22.449	8	.004	Rejected
Source of income	24.459	4	.000	Rejected
Facilities availed	25.087	2	.000	Rejected
BPL facilities availed	2.267	2	.322	Accepted
Continue in beedi rolling	9.164	2	.010	Rejected
Registered with SHGs	2.612	2	.271	Accepted
Benefits from SHGs	3.613	2	.164	Accepted
Health problems	4.347	2	.114	Accepted

Table 36: Crosstab summary with respect to Gender

Variables	Test statistics			H ₀ (Null Hypothesis)
	Chi-Square	df	P-Value	Accepted/Rejected at 5% level of significance

Marital status	3.479	1	.062	Accepted
Number of family members	7.924	2	.019	Rejected
Number of earning members	10.459	2	.005	Rejected
Ownership of house	4.716	1	.030	Rejected
Type of house	2.101	2	.350	Accepted
Years of practice	6.222	2	.045	Rejected
Previously involved in beedi	2.007	1	.157	Accepted
Beedis made in a day	1.711	2	.425	Accepted
Hours spend in beedi rolling	4.742	3	.192	Accepted
Days spend in a week in beedi rolling	12.322	4	.015	Rejected
Source of income	.007	2	.996	Accepted
Facilities availed	2.101	1	.147	Accepted
BPL facilities availed	.334	1	.563	Accepted
Continue in beedi rolling	.381	1	.537	Accepted
Registered with SHGs	1.250	1	.264	Accepted
Benefits from SHGs	3.417	1	.065	Accepted
Health problems	1.779	1	.182	Accepted

Table 37: Crosstab summary with respect to Educational qualification

Variables	Test statistics			H ₀ (Null Hypothesis) Accepted/Rejected at 5% level of significance
	Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	
Marital status	6.489	2	.039	Rejected
Number of family members	7.488	4	.112	Accepted
Number of earning members	16.753	4	.002	Rejected
Ownership of house	33.149	2	.000	Rejected
Type of house	56.566	4	.000	Rejected
Years of practice	18.165	4	.001	Rejected
Previously involved in beedi	.140	2	.932	Accepted
Beedis made in a day	20.802	4	.000	Rejected
Hours spend in beedi rolling	41.831	6	.000	Rejected
Days spend in a week in beedi rolling	105.729	8	.000	Rejected
Source of income	20.941	4	.000	Rejected
Facilities availed	55.909	2	.000	Rejected
BPL facilities availed	5.594	2	.061	Accepted
Continue in beedi rolling	9.106	2	.011	Rejected
Registered with SHGs	.919	2	.632	Accepted
Benefits from SHGs	.948	2	.623	Accepted
Health problems	.786	2	.675	Accepted

6. Summary of Findings

The summary of findings based on empirical study is presented below:

(i) To understand the nature of beedi industry

The beedi rolling is generally done by poor households in backward areas where the workers have usually no other means of sustainable employment. Typically large manufacturers contract out the work of rolling beedis to contractors who then either sub-contract work out further and/or get the work done by individuals in their homes on a piece rate system (Ahmed, 2017).

Murshidabad has the largest number of beedi workers in the state and many big beedi companies like Jahangir Beedi Factory Private Limited, Shiv Beedi Manufacturing Private Limited, Mrinalini Beedi Factory, Appu Beedi Factory, Gopal Beedi Factory are also located there. At present, the

Jangipur sub-division in Murshidabad is a very sought after area for beedi manufacturing (Ghatak, 2017).

In Jangipur sub-division of Murshidabad, there are three types of beedi workers namely, Type-I beedi workers are to roll the beedis which are given by the agents of various factories locally known as “Munsi”. Type-II beedi workers are direct employees of Beedi factories. The Type-III beedi workers are engaged in packaging and labelling of finished products (WBHRC, 2014).

From our study, it is seen that mostly women are engaged in beedi rolling activity (Table: 2). Most of the respondents are in the age group of 31-45 years and have primary education or illiterate (Table: 1, 4). As beedi making is the main source of income in this region their monthly income as a beedi worker ranges from 2001-3000 per month (Table : 6); out of which 3-4 are earning members (Table : 8). Their average family income ranges from 7001-8000 (Table : 9). Most of them are old residents of the area so they have own house (Table : 10). Most of the respondents have semi-pucca house (Table: 11). The respondents have minimum 5-10 years of experience as they have been involved in beedi making for a long time (Table: 12, 13).

(ii) To identify the problems of the beedi industry.

(a) Remuneration provided is less than minimum wages.

The following shows the statement of profit for making 1000 beedis.

For 1000 beedis	
Excise duty	10.00
Cess	5.00
Environmental hazard	1.00
Educational cess	0.43
(A)	16.43
Amount paid to contractor	
Tobacco leaves	150.00
Tobacco	50.00
(B)	200.00
Labelling and transportation (C)	33.57
Total expense (A+B+C)	250.00
Sale price/ 1000 beedis	480.00
Net profit	230.00

(Ahmed, 2017)

The employer makes significant profit. Beedi industry is dominated by the beedi companies, beedi workers are the weakest part of this industry. In our study many beedi rollers are not aware of the minimum wages (Table: 32). According to notification issued by Office of Labour Commissioner dated 17-01-2018, Government of West Bengal the minimum rate of wages for workers employed in tobacco (Beedi Making) in Murshidabad is 212.20 (per 1000 beedis rolled)(<https://wbcl.gov.in>).

(b) Malpractices by the contractors

The beedi companies make payment to the contractors towards tobacco leaves and tobacco at a specific rate (Table: 17). It is often seen that the contractors exploit the beedi rollers in two different

ways. (a) They provide lesser quantity of raw material namely tobacco and tobacco leaves to the workers for producing a specific number of beedis (1000 beedis). (b) Secondly the contractor pays a very meagre amount towards remuneration which is Rs. 152 per thousand beedis which less than the minimum wages limit. More over workers are not paid for all the beedis they make due to high rate of rejection, in fact no remuneration is paid for rejected beedis however the contractor sells off the rejected beedis in the market at a low rate (*Table : 18,19*). The workers have to compensate for the rejected beedis buying substandard tobacco and tobacco leaves from the open market (*Table: 20*).

(c) Health issues faced by the beedi workers

Beedi rolling activity requires constant use of fingers and sitting down on floor with legs spread for long hours continuously which results in tremendous pain on vertebral column. Discussions with the workers reported health problems (*Table: 29*) like numbness in hands, back, neck, and joint pains, fatigue in the arms and numbness in fingers. Reports from Tarapur hospital, Anup Nagar health center and Jangipur sub divisional hospital stated that throat aches, respiratory disorder and piles are common problems faced by large number of beedi workers. Many reported headaches, nausea, giddiness and burning of the eyes.

(d) Literacy level

Beedi rolling is a family activity and children, especially girls, lend a hand with beedi rolling. People often feel that education does not really give them more opportunities. Children begin helping with beedi rolling from the time they are five or six years old. Most beedi workers admit their children to school (Ghatak, 2017).

In our study, we have found out that most of the people are literate with primary which is the reason they are drop outs (*Table: 4*). Most of the workers do not get the environment for education. Literacy level is very poor in beedi making areas. Boys migrate at early age to earn for the family, girl child is kept back for household chores as the mother is busy making beedis and father works as labourer in other parts of the country.

(iii) To analyse the socio-economic condition of the workers engaged in beedi rolling.

In order to understand the third primary objective the researcher has framed some secondary objectives.

(a) To assess if there is any significance difference among income with respect to certain socio-economic variables.

There is significant difference among income for factors like marital status, number of family members, number of earning members, ownership of house, type of house, years of practice, beedis made in a day, hours spend in a week in beedi rolling, days spend in a week in beedi rolling, source of income, facilities availed, continue in beedi rolling and registered with SHGs. There is no significant difference among income for factors like previously in beedi, BPL facilities availed, benefits from SHGs and health problems. [*Table 34: Table summary Crosstab summary with respect to Individual monthly income*]

(b) To assess if there is any significance difference among age with respect to certain socio-economic variables

There is significant difference among income for factors like number of family members, number of earning members, ownership of house, type of house, years of practice, beedis made in a day, hours spend in a week in beedi rolling, days spend in beedi rolling, source of income, facilities availed and continue in beedi rolling. There is no significant difference among income for factors like previously in beedi, BPL facilities availed, registered with SHGs, benefits from SHGs and health problems. [*Table 35: Table summary Crosstab summary with respect to Age*]

(c) *To assess if there is any significant difference among gender with respect to certain socio-economic variables.*

There is significant difference among gender for factors like number of family members, number of earning members, ownership of house, years of practice and days spend in a week in beedi rolling. There is no significant difference among gender for factors like marital status, type of house, previously involved in beedi rolling, beedis made in a day, hours spend in beedi rolling, source of income, facilities availed, BPL facilities availed, continue in beedi rolling, registered with SHGs, benefits from SHGs and health problems. [Table 36: Table summary Crosstab summary with respect to Gender]

(d) *To assess if there is any significance difference among educational qualification with respect to certain socio-economic variables.*

There is significant difference among gender for factors like marital status, number of earning members, ownership of house, type of house, years of practice, beedis made in a day, hours spend in beedi rolling, days spend in a week in beedi rolling, source of income source of income, facilities availed and continue in beedi rolling. There is no significant difference among educational qualification for factors like number of family members, previously involved in beedi rolling, BPL facilities availed, , registered with SHGs, benefits from SHGs and health problems. [Table 37: Table summary Crosstab summary with respect to Educational Qualification]

7. Suggestions

Following are some of the suggestions to improve the living conditions of the beedi workers:

- The wages provided to beedi rollers is very low as compared to minimum wages. They spend their entire day in rolling the beedi which is very time consuming and tiring work, for which the payment made, is very low; this should be monitored by the State government.
- The beedi rollers are in the clutches of the contractors or sub-contractors. These contractors exploit the workers, so the work of the contractors should be redefined and should be made responsible for the protection of the workers. Contractors should be identified by the employer and regularized so that the irregularities in payments made by the contractors can be controlled.
- Women beedi rollers should get all the maternity benefits and allowances.
- The State government should take appropriate measures to curb child labour which is predominant in this industry.
- The employer must be identified and employer and employee relationship should be established. The beedi workers can get the raw materials directly from the employer. The quality and the quantity of the raw material should be maintained, and unnecessary rejections of the beedis should be stopped. Employer or the manufacturers should take responsibility of these issues. Workers should be compensated for the rejected beedis for which equal effort has been rendered.
- Each and every beedi worker should be identified in a family and provided separate beedi ID card which will help them to avail facilities in a better manner. Usually only one single person in the family holds ID card and rest of the members do not have ID cards.
- Due to lack of any skill these beedi rollers adhere to beedi making for income. Government or nonprofit making organisation and can provide training related to different skills so that they have the option to leave this industry. This will give them the freedom of joining this industry.
- The younger generation should be provided education, which will in turn will give them confidence in getting into some other profession and explore new opportunities. The education should be completed at least till class XII.

- Beedi rollers themselves should be aware of their rights, that is, minimum wages the facilities they can avail from the Central or the State government, what all medical facilities they are eligible for, what criteria are they are supposed to fulfill to get identity card.
- The beedi rollers should have regular health check-up in nearby government hospitals. Regular health check up will also detect any health issues at are early stage.

8. Conclusions

The demonetization of currency in the month of November 2016 has adversely affected the beedi industry with repeated delays in getting the supplies and delayed payments to the workers. In the recent budget the Central government has imposed 28% GST on the tobacco industry and beedi industry comes under tobacco industry. Due to these heavy tax rate on the tobacco industry the profit percentage is likely to fall for the beedi manufacturers, which may affect the wage of the beedi workers. Under GST, there will be an additional cess charged on the tobacco-related products, over and above the GST charged at the rate of 28%. (<https://cleartax.in/s/impact-of-gst-rate-on-the-tobacco-industry>).

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