

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT OF RAG PICKERS: A CASE STUDY IN PUDUCHERRY

ⁱDr. A. ROYAL EDWARD WILLIAMS & ⁱⁱMs. DHIVYA. T

ⁱAssistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College

(Autonomous) ,Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.

ⁱⁱ Ph.D Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College

(Autonomous) ,Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.

E mail: royaledward@shcpt.edu & dhivyamurugan1999@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The world has change into modernization however changes in the modernization that will conceive higher solid waste generation because of the living condition and habituation of the human, consumption behavior of the consumer are changing day by day. The rapid growth rates of the cities combined with their huge population base has left many Indian cities lacking in basic infrastructural facilities like water supply, sanitation and sewerage and solid waste management. In the solid waste management practice are also inadequate in the developed, developing and semi developing countries. The rag pickers plays vital role in the solid waste management practice. They may collect scrap waste from various place and sell to the scraps dealers and the scrap dealers are selling the bulk waste of scrap to the recycling industry. The male and female rag pickers are came out from the families because of financial crisis, family problem. However the countries or cities was developed but still this people are suffering and facing the many problem and the society are also not treated well. This community are not developed still facing the problem like sexual harassment, injury, health issues because of working condition, Dog bite etc., the rag pickers are comes under the informal waste collection and the door to door collector will come under the formal waste collector because of working in the private contract basis, shops but the rag pickers don't have proper place and time to work. However the world, countries was modernized but the rag pickers livelihood was not changed so the present paper mainly focus on assess the socio-economic condition of rag pickers, gender gap, discrimination of the rag pickers both male and female, standard of living, health aliment of the rag pickers and door to door collector. The study was carried out Puducherry city. still with the problem facing by rag pickers, to show of gender engage in the rag picking and suggest the best option for their standard of living is focused in this paper.

Key Words: Rag pickers, Gender development, working condition, Solid waste

INTRODUCTION:

The term gender and development deals with the both gender male and female development, empowering, equitable, sustainable, free from the violence, respectful of human rights. But the rag pickers are people who have come out from their family and working in this rag picking because of their situation. This people more helps to the recycling waste and earn some money to sustain their needs. Compare the other peoples this people are more suffer because more rag pickers are educated but couldn't go for any other work and if they are in the rag picking and want to move on to the other work can't be able because this society may not treat well so this people are also can't go any other work expect this work. In this rag picking work their family members are also engaged at the same time their children's are also engaged without going to the schools. The children rag pickers are hindrance. They couldn't aware about their working condition and it may affect their health and their working condition create some diseases, odor, etc., and serve as the breeding ground for flies and mosquitoes. Through rag pickers support the recycling industries, it makes waste storage areas uglier, and the rag pickers are exposed to various health hazards. Their

lifestyle is also unimproved staying near the roadside, bus stand side, railway station, etc., no formal segregation of recyclable waste is practiced either at the residence or commercial spot. The rag pickers are the working under un-organized sector [3]. The rag pickers are classified into two categories organized and un-organized waste workers. The organized waste workers work in the government dumping yard. The unorganized rag pickers are working by their own and collecting the scraps, plastic wastes from the dustbins, roadside and sell into the scrap dealers. They will earn minimum wage of Rs. 100 to maximum 1000 rupees. Compared to males the females are earning lower wage because of quantity of waste collection by the female rag pickers. So in this research paper focused on un-organized rag pickers in Puducherry urban limit. However this city is modernized and more development technology are also present but in this rag picking the both male and female was suffering their needs and no more development. The females are also present in the rag picking they are suffered from the basic needs like sanitary napkin facility, sleeping place etc. Their socio and economic conditions are not satisfactory in this Pondicherry city.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The research study has been revealed that the rag pickers are playing major role in the solid waste management and they are also been a part of cleaning the city but they are more vulnerable of this society. The rag pickers are somehow they studied primary level, secondary level and diploma but there is no development in their livelihood after came to this rag picking work. In the rag picking work both male and female are engaged and earning lesser wage. With that earning they are sustain their daily needs. The both male and female rag pickers are came out and doesn't attached with their family members because of orphan, financial crisis, family situations. Both the gender were faced various consequence in this society. The female rag pickers are suffered for basic facility like napkin facility and don't have proper place to sleep. This rag pickers are more helpful to the cleaning this society and part of helpful to the recycle waste but the rag pickers livelihood, health, development are not satisfactory.

OBJECTIVES:

- To examine the socio economic condition of both female and male rag pickers Puducherry
- To analyze the gender and development growth of rag pickers in Puducherry.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Govindarajan et.al (2013), in their research article entitled a study on the importance of waste pickers in the Tuticorin Corporation solid waste recycling, addresses the solid waste created a serious problem in the most the places. The scavengers are not educated, but there know the segregation waste. The present research shows that scavengers play an essential role in cleaning the environment. Data was collected by randomly interviewing the scavengers. The main objective of this study is the importance of scavengers on solid waste recycling in Tuticorin city. This study concludes that any part of the cities is introduced the program to support scavengers, but the Tamil Nadu government provides the freebies, not the education and employment.
2. Omesh Kumar Bharti et.al (2015). The research article entitled immunizing vulnerable populations like rag pickers, garbage collectors, municipality workers, and newspaper hawkers against rabies in Shimla municipality, HP, India. The present study focus on

sanitary waste collectors. The rag pickers are mostly affected by zoonotic disease and animal bites, rabies, hepatitis-B, HIV, Tetanus, etc. they understand that the diseases are the constant dialogue from their side. Methods of the study to help the rag pickers immunized most of the practical methods were used to reduce the rabies death in the population. The rabies pre-exposure vaccination can be taken in the high-risk groups and save their lives.

3. Sumit Ghanshan Wasnik et.al (2017). The research article entitled evaluate the factors affecting health seeking behaviors of women rag pickers in Mumbai. The study mainly focus on the rag pickers and they are comes under the worst form of labor and the some of the genuine reasons are also presented because of their health and physical development. The women and children rag pickers are also presented. The main objective of the study show the health profile of the rag pickers and to assess the factors are affected the health seeking behaviors of women rag pickers. With help of NGO working for women rag pickers there are 120 rag pickers are participated in the study in the period of Jan 2012 to July 2012. Most of the women rag pickers are having the various health issue like minor or major it has shown in the ignore of health and disease because of literacy, lower socio economic condition etc., There is unavailability of health care facility near to their locality. Hard to visit the health care because of their 10 to 12 hour of duty. For minor health issues in the evening time some rag pickers was used the private clinics.
4. Arteeshyamal Shyam Khambekar et.al (2020). The research article entitled a study of occupational health hazards among women rag-pickers in the marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Rag pickers are the people who contribute in the solid waste management and play a vital role in the solid waste management and they are from unrecognized role in the solid waste management. They are basically sustain their self by depending on the collecting, segregating waste and then trading of it. In India there are annually 62 million tons of waste was generating. In India rag pickers are estimated in India in an account of 1.5 million to 4 million of India. When consider into Maharashtra state more than 3 lakh rag pickers are presented. There are 90% of the rag pickers are find

out most of them from the women category. They are informal and independent workers and they are not depend any organization etc., they are belongs to poor socio group and their health and diseases risk was lot in their working condition. This research paper mainly highlight on the health hazards women rag pickers in the city of marathwada in the place of Maharashtra. The decision makers should know and update the long-term and short-term measure in the solid waste management system and to improvise there health and safety. Descriptive method was used in the study. The main objective of the study health hazard and mental health faced by the rag picker's and common illness among rag pickers and to study where they get medical facility to overcome from their health issue. The research was conducted in dumping ground in all the places of marathwada like Auranagabad, jalna, beed, parbhani, hingoli, nanded, latur and osmanabad. In added rag pickers are met during in the travelling, roaming, roadside etc.

5. Pranjit Nath et.al (2020). The research article entitled Rag picker in jorhat town: A Sociological study. In India the urban economy are the mostly dominated by the informal sector. The rag pickers are also the part of informal economy. The rag picker will do collect the recyclable waste and sale the recyclable waste for to earn money. The study mainly attempt on the understand of rag pickers socio economic condition and problems in the jorhat town. It is a descriptive study both primary and secondary data collected and the secondary information was collected from the articles, government, non-government organization reports for identifying the issues was faced by the rag pickers. The primary data was taken directly from the rag pickers in the jorhat town. They were collect plastic bottle, polythene cover, paper etc., they are working 6 to 10 hours to collect the waste. There is various problems are facing like dog bites, shin diseases, police beat and abuse etc., so the municipality should take in account to take necessary steps to prevent their life.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study was carry out the state of Puducherry and there was 50 samples were collected from the unorganized rag pickers both male and females. The random sampling method was employed in this study and also conducted proper interview schedules with proper questionnaire. For the

analysis purpose employed SPSS software. The Correlation and paired sample “t” test for used in this study.

ANALYSIS

Table 1: Correlations of Quantity of waste collection and Per day Income of Rag Pickers

		Quantity of Waste Collected by Rag Pickers	Per day Income of Rag Pickers
Quantity of Waste Collected by Rag Pickers	Pearson Correlation	1	.282*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.048
	N	50	50
Per day Income of Rag Pickers	Pearson Correlation	.282*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.048	
	N	50	50
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)			

The above table 1 represents the correlation coefficients of the quantity of waste collected by rag pickers and per day income of the rag pickers and it is evident that the correlation between the quantity of waste collected and their per day income is positive and statistically significant. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the quantity of waste collected and per day income is 0.282 which has been indicate that moderate positive relationship between these variables. The p – value are associated with the correlation coefficient is 0.048 which has been shows the less than the conventional threshold of 0.05. This has been clearly suggest that observed correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level (two- tailed test). The above table shows the positive correlation between the quantity of waste collected by rag pickers and their per day income of the rag pickers. As the quantity of waste collected increases which has leads to the per day income of the rag pickers tends to increases as well.

Table 2: Paired Samples Test of Gender and Health conditions of Rag Pickers

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Gender of Rag Pickers - Health Condition of Rag Pickers	-3.02000	1.49134	.21091	-3.44383	-2.59617	-14.319	49	.000

The above table 2 represents the paired samples t test of gender and health conditions of rag pickers and it is evident that paired samples test provided that comparing the gender of rag pickers and their health condition. The mean difference between gender and health condition is -3.02000. this mean on average, there is a decrease of 3.02000 in the health condition score for each change in gender category. The standard deviation of the differences is 1.49134, indicating the variability in the differences between gender and health condition. The standard error of the mean difference is 0.21091, representing the average amount of error expected in estimating the mean difference between gender and health condition. The 95% confidence interval of the difference ranges from -3.44383 to -2.59617. This interval provides a range of values within which we can be 95% confident that the true population difference between gender and health condition lies. The t-value is -14.319, and the degrees of freedom (df) are 49. These values are used to calculate the significance of the observed difference. The p-value associated with the test is .000, which is less than the conventional threshold of .05. This indicates that the observed difference between gender and health condition is statistically significant. Finally, there is a significant difference between gender and health condition among the rag pickers in the given sample. The health condition scores are consistently lower for one gender compared to the other.

Table 3: Paired Samples Test of Gender and Educational Level of Rag Pickers

	Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Gender of Rag Pickers - Educational level of Rag Pickers	-0.86000	1.29378	.18297	-1.22769	-.49231	-4.700	49	.000

The above table 3 represents the paired samples t test of gender and educational level of rag pickers and it is evident that the mean difference between this two variables is -0.86, the standard deviation of the differences is 1.29378, the standard error of the mean difference is 0.18297, The above table shows the 95% of the confidence interval of the difference is lower bound is -1.22769 and the upper bound is -0.49231. The t – value shows the -4.700, the degrees of freedom for the t – test is 49. The p- value is .000 which has been indicate that result is statistically significant at the significance levels. Most of the rag pickers are studied like primary level, secondary level, even some of the rag pickers are studied diploma level. Due to the family situations, financial crisis they may came to this rag picking work.

Table 4: Paired Samples Test of Gender and Working Conditions

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Gender of Rag Pickers – Working Conditions	-3.70000	2.48465	.35138	-4.40613	-2.99387	-10.530	49	.000

The above table 4 represents the paired samples t test of gender and working conditions of the rag pickers and it is evident that the average mean difference is -3.70000. The standard deviation shows that 2.48465, The standard error represents the 0.35138. The 95% confidence interval of the difference shows the range within which the true population difference is estimated to fall

with 95% confidence is between -4.40613 and -2.99387. The t – value shows that -10.530, the degree of freedom is 49. The p -value associated with the test is .000. This value indicates the statistical significance of the difference between the two conditions. In this case, the p -value is very small, suggesting strong evidence of a significant difference. The above results of the paired samples test, there is a significant difference between the two conditions (gender of rag pickers – working conditions) being compared. The mean difference is -3.70000, and this difference is unlikely to be due to random chance, as indicated by the very small p -value (.000). The both male and female are engaged in this rag picking work and both were taking rag in dustbins, roadside and staying in the roadside platforms.

FINDINGS:

- ❖ The both male and female rag pickers are engaged in this rag picking work and this work has not given any satisfactory to this peoples.
- ❖ The rag pickers are in the age group between minimum 25 to maximum 25 in the study area.
- ❖ Compare to female the males are highly presented in the rag picking work. the both genders are came out of the family because of family situations, financial crisis and also orphan. The rag pickers are not attached with their family members.
- ❖ The both male and female rag pickers living conditions are not satisfactory because they are staying near roadside, platforms, etc. Through this open space of sleeping will leads some issues. The rag pickers are may not aware about the correct place to stay so sometimes police were beaten, dog bite are also happen, and this open space sleeping or staying females was affected by the various issues.
- ❖ The both rag pickers are working minimum 5 hours to maximum 10 hours. Per day income of the rag pickers depends on the working hours and quantity of waste collected by the rag pickers. If the rag pickers working maximum hours of work and high quantity of waste collected by the rag pickers only get higher income otherwise the rag pickers working maximum of hours and getting only lower scraps means they will get only lower

income. The working hours are differ from the age and working hours. In this case males are working maximum hours compared to female.

- ❖ The females are earning per day income 100 to 300 rupees and males are earning minimum 100 rupees to maximum 1000 rupees.
- ❖ The health conditions of the rag pickers are only satisfactory because only lower people are affected by various health issues like injury, Asthuma and respiratory problem, dog bites, muscle issues and this affected people taking treatment from G.H or taking care by themselves.
- ❖ The majority of the rag pickers are migrated from different places from india and only few belongs to the Pondicherry.
- ❖ The government identified and providing insurance scheme only for organized rag pickers rest of the unorganized rag pickers are not getting facility.
- ❖ The quantity of waste collected by male is below 5 kg to more than 35 kg per day but the female carry out the quantity of waste collected is below 5 kg to more than 30 kg. Only two females are taking waste from more 20 to 30 kg. It depends on the age factor, working hours.
- ❖ The both male and female rag pickers are studied primary level, secondary level and diploma level and few of them are still illiterate. The more peoples are educated but doing this rag picking job for financial crisis, family problem, orphan etc.,
- ❖ From the households are also not providing any kind of waste and food or cloth to them and they are not treated well in this society also. Even they are studied due to the rag picking work they doesn't get any kind of employment opportunity.
- ❖ There is no more development in their life style and the rag pickers couldn't aware about their working condition and without wearing a proper gears handling the waste. without washing their hands they are eating. The females are affected without having proper napkin facility.

CONCLUSION:

The rag pickers are comes under the unorganized sector and developments of their Livelihood are not satisfactory however the state Puducherry has developed with the new and improvised

education systems, different technological advancement but this people are still suffering for their livelihood even they are facing lot of consequences in the society because of working conditions. so the government should take steps to implement the educational facility, health facility, providing skill training to the unorganized rag pickers and also initiate the insurance schemes for unorganized rag pickers it has been help to enhance to change their livelihood.

REFERENCE:

1. District environmental plan of Puducherry district 2021
2. Central pollution control board 2019-2020
3. Priyanka B. Dongre*, Rahul K. Kamble. "RAG PICKERS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT IN CHANDRAPUR CITY, ." *International Journal of Basic and Applied Physiology*, 2019: 87- 92.
4. <https://www.mutagens.co.in/jgb/vol.02/2/02.pdf>
5. <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation.aspx?paperid=53354>
6. <https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/article/view/2157>
7. http://ijariie.com/AdminUploadPdf/A_STUDY_OF_OCCUPATIONAL_HEALTH_HAZARDS_AMONG_WOMEN_RAG_PICKERS_IN_THE_MARATHWADA_REGION_OF_MAHARASHTRA_STATE_ijariie13104.pdf
8. <http://aegaeum.com/gallery/agm.j-4491.23-f.pdf>
9. Vijayakumar, N., Mayakkannan, R. (2021) Impact on risk quantification of Indian equity markets adopted by beta analysis Turkish Journal of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, 2021, 32(2), pp. 1923–1928
10. R.Mayakkannan (2018) Impact of Buying Behaviour of Consumers towards Instant Food Products in Chennai District; *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* Volume 119 No. 12 2018, 16279-16286; ISSN: 1314-3395 (on-line version)
11. Raman, M., Kaliappen, N., Suan, C.L. A Study on Machine Learning Classifier Models in Analyzing Discipline of Individuals Based on Various Reasons Absenteeism from Work 2020 International Conference on Decision Aid Sciences and Application, DASA 2020, 2020, pp. 360–364, 9317017
12. R.Mayakkannan (2018) //www.ijpam.eu Special Issue (PDF) Impact of Buying Behavior of Consumers towards Instant Food Products in Chennai District. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340633912_Impact_of_Buying_Behaviour_of_Consumers_towards_Instant_Food_Products_in_Chennai_District [accessed May 02 2020]

13. Thiruchelvam, C., & Mayakkannan, R. (2011) An Empirical Study of Indian Individual Investor's Behavior. Singaporean Journal Scientific Research, Vol.4, No.2, pp.315- 322.
-

ⁱ Dr. A. Royal Edward Williams Ph.D., Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College (Autonomous) ,Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.

ⁱⁱ Ms. Dhivya. T, Ph.D Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College (Autonomous) ,Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.