

Socio-Economic Profiles of Mining Workers: A Case Study

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Abstract: Mining plays an important role in Indian industry which contributes 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at present. It also exports about 30 million tonnes of iron ore annually. Similarly, Odisha is one of the mineral rich states of the country having a special distinction in the country's overall mining sector. The objectives of the study are to examine socio profiles as well as economic features of mining workers. This article is based on primary data by collecting 722 mining workers in the study area of Jajpur and Keonjhar district of Odisha. It is found that out of 722 respondents, 596 (82.5 %) are Male workers and 126 (17.5 %) are female workers in mining sector in both Jajpur & Keonjhar districts of Odisha. Moreover, it is also found that out of 722 mining workers in the respective study area of Odisha, 323 (44.7%) are earning 20000-30000 income, whereas only 35 (4.8%) mining workers are able to earn more than 30000 income. The social and economic benefits of the high level of economic activities are being derived in the mining areas of Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha.

Keywords: Mining, Socio-Economic, Workers.

1. Introduction

Mining plays an important role in Indian industry which contributes 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at present. It also exports about 30 million tonnes of iron ore annually. Similarly, Odisha is one of the mineral rich states of the country having a special distinction in the country's overall mining sector. It has attracted large scale private investments to mining sector in last two decades. Large scale illegal mining in Odisha has caused damages for the economy as a whole, particularly the life of tribals who are the inhabitants of mining area. Keeping this in view, the thesis examines the significance of mining for the socio-economic development of mining workers working in Keonjhar and Jajpur district of Odisha.

The total value of minerals produced in Odisha is highest in the country. Its share in the all-India total is 11.89% while it is 7.13% for Rajasthan and 6.74% for Gujarat. The contribution of other states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka is 4.99%, 4.79%, 4.63% and 3.78% respectively (Indian Bureau of Mines). As per the Odisha Economic Survey 2017-18, mining sector is important for Odisha's economy. Over the past few years, it has contributed on an average 9.5 percent to GDP. Odisha leads in the national mineral production of chromite (100 percent) iron ore (52.3 percent), bauxite (49.7

percent), manganese (26.7 percent) and coal (21.6 percent). There are thirteen states including Odisha, accounting for 95 percent of the total value of mineral production in the country, out of which Odisha's share was 22.8 percent in 2016-17 as compared to 20.9 percent during 2015-16. A major concern in the mining sector is to balance the implications of two concerns. On one hand, there is a need to adopt more capital intensive and labour-saving technologies to improve global competitiveness; on the other hand, there is need to harness the huge employment potential in the sector (Odisha Economic Survey, 2017-18). Being a favored investment destination of global investors, this sector seems poised for rapid growth. But the irony of the situation is that despite being the most mineral rich state, it is one of the poorest states of the country, few people of the state are becoming rich capitalist at the cost of the state natural resources.

2. Review of Literature

This family system in India is going through a process of change as it is experiencing domestic violence, divorce and separation, family disorganisation, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc. (Sonawat, 2001) which in turn has introduced nuclear family system.

The study of the social order will be imperfect without paying any attention towards the status and position of its worker. Worker holds significant position all through the archives of Indian history. But with the passage of time a visible decline of her status and position was marked during medieval and modern era (Nandal & Rajnish, 2014).

The frequency of discrimination survives in the spheres of education, health care, physical and financial resources and prospects in the political, economic, social and cultural field (Das, 2013).

But the actual factor behind the discrepancy of worker is the patriarchal society of India which refuses women category to take benefit of education, health care facility and active participation in decision making process (Banerjee, 2018).

Kinship system is a vital aspect of Indian social structure. Any research on Indian social structure will be incompleting without an appropriate description about kinship structure. The kinship system of a specific society provides a thorough

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understanding regarding the social interrelationships among its members. MacIver has pointed out that society is nothing but it consists of a “web of social relationships”. But the social relationships are not same everywhere. Every society has its uniqueness in terms of its family system, caste structure, marriage pattern and also the kinship organisation. The kinship network has its origin in the family, encompasses the caste system and shields an identical zone (Koppad, 1972).

3. Objectives of the Study

The present study is based on the following objectives:

- i. To examine socio profiles of mining workers.
- ii. To study economic features of mining workers.

4. Research Methodology

The field survey for this study has been carried out during January 2019 to July 2019 in and around the villages of the mining area of Keonjhar and Jajpur district of Odisha. The primary data for the present study has been collected using structured questionnaire from 10 villages from the taken two districts comparing 250 households and 722 individuals. The data is mainly based on random sampling technique. Moreover, the research design followed for this study is exploratory and descriptive in nature. Again, the data is analyzed in both actual and percentage figures. The statistical tool like table is the key for analysis of data.

5. Discussion and Results of Data

A. Socio Profiles of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The socio profiles of mining workers in Jajpur and keonjhar districts of Odisha are as follows:

1) Gender Profile of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar District of Odisha

The gender profile of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar District of Odisha is given in table 1.

Table 1

Gender profile of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar district of Odisha

| Gender | Frequency | Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Male | 596 | 82.5 % |
| Female | 126 | 17.5 % |
| Total | 722 | 100 % |

Source: Primary Data

From the table 1, it is found that out of 722 respondents, 596 (82.5 %) are Male workers and 126 (17.5 %) are female workers in mining sector in both Jajpur & Keonjhar districts of Odisha.

2) Marital Status of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The marital status of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha is reflected in table 2.

The table 2 signifies that 651 (90.2 %) mining workers are married were as only 71 (9.8%) mining workers are unmarried.

Table 2

Marital status of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha

| Marital status | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Married | 651 | 90.2% |
| Unmarried | 71 | 9.8 % |
| Total | 722 | 100 % |

Source: Primary Data

3) Age Structure of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The age structure of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha is given table 3.

Table 3

Age structure of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha

| Age structure | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------|-----------|---------|
| Below 25 yrs | 18 | 2.5 % |
| 26-35 yrs | 263 | 36.4 % |
| 36-40 yrs | 355 | 49.2 % |
| 40 yrs and above | 86 | 11.9 % |
| Total | 722 | 100 % |

Source: Primary Data

From the table 3, it is found that, 36-40 years age group possesses highest percentage (49.2%) where as below 25 years of mining workers leads only 2.5%.

4) Category of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The category of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha is shown in table 4.

Table 4

Category of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

| Category of workers | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Skilled | 215 | 29.8% |
| Unskilled | 157 | 21.7% |
| Semi-skilled | 207 | 28.7% |
| High skilled | 143 | 19.8% |
| Total | 722 | 100% |

Source: Primary Data

From the table 4, it is found that, out of 722 mining workers, 215 (29.8%) are skilled, 157 (21.7%) are unskilled, 207 (28.7%) are semi-skilled and 143 (19.8%) are high skilled. It is marked that; skilled workers are as the highest percentage among the mining workers in the study area.

5) Educational of Mining Workers Status in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The educational status of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha is given in table 5.

Table 5

Educational status of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha

| Educational status | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Illiterate | 89 | 12.3% |
| Primary education | 227 | 31.4% |
| Secondary education | 229 | 41.4% |
| Higher or other education | 107 | 14.8% |
| Total | 722 | 100% |

Source: Primary Data

From the table 5, it is found that out of 722 mining workers,

229(41.4%) possesses as the highest percentage from secondary education but only 89 (12.3%) are illiterate respondents.

B. Income Level (Economic Feature) of Mining Workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha

The income level (Economic feature) of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha is presented in table 6.

Table 6
Income Level (Economic Feature) of mining workers in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha

| Income level (economic feature) | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Below 10000 | 157 | 21.7% |
| 10000-20000 | 207 | 28.7% |
| 20000-30000 | 323 | 44.7% |
| Above 30000 | 35 | 4.8% |
| Total | 722 | 100% |

Source: Primary Data

The table 6 shows that out of 722 mining workers in the respective study area of Odisha, 323 (44.7%) are earning 20000-30000 income, whereas only 35 (4.8%) mining workers are able to earn more than 30000 income.

6. Findings

From the above analysis, it is found that out of 722 respondents, 596 (82.5 %) are Male workers and 126 (17.5 %) are female workers in mining sector in both Jajpur & Keonjhar districts of Odisha. Moreover, 651 (90.2 %) mining workers are married were as only 71 (9.8%) mining workers are unmarried. Again, it is revealed that 36-40 years age group possesses highest percentage (49.2%) whereas below 25 years of mining workers leads only 2.5%. The analysis of data points out that out of 722 mining workers, 215 (29.8%) are skilled, 157 (21.7%) are unskilled, 207 (28.7%) are semi-skilled and 143

(19.8%) are high skilled. It is marked that; skilled workers are as the highest percentage among the mining workers in the study area. Out of the above discussion, it is marked that out of 722 mining workers, 229(41.4%) possesses as the highest percentage from secondary education but only 89 (12.3%) are illiterate respondents. Finally, it is also stated that, out of 722 mining workers in the respective study area of Odisha, 323 (44.7%) are earning 20000-30000 income, whereas only 35 (4.8%) mining workers are able to earn more than 30000 income.

7. Conclusion

Mining sector is considered as one of the major economic activity which has the potential of contributing to the development of economy of Odisha. The social and economic benefits of the high level of economic activities are being derived in the mining areas of Jajpur and Keonjhar districts of Odisha.

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