

A STUDY ON THE LIFESTYLE PATTERN OF WOMEN WORKERS IN FIREWORKS INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT

Women form an integral part of the Indian workforce. According to the information provided by the office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, As per Census 2011, the total number of female workers in India is 149.8 million and female workers in rural and urban areas are 121.8 and 28.0 million, respectively. Of 149.8 million female workers, 35.9 million females work as cultivators, and 61.5 million are agricultural labourers. Of the remaining female workers, 8.5 million are in the household Industry, and 43.7 million are classified as other workers. Fireworks industries are one of the traditional industries in Tamil Nadu. Many of these Industries are in Virudhunagar, Sattur, Sivakasi and Vembakottai. The development of fireworks industries has paved the way for other ancillary industries such as chemical industries, cardboard items, waste paper cutting, punching and trading business and so on. The fireworks industries play a dominant role in the development of ancillary industries and in raising people's standard of living. Hence the present study is focused on "A STUDY ON THE LIFESTYLE PATTERN OF WOMEN WORKERS IN FIREWORKS INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT"

Key words : women, life style, fireworks.

Introduction:

Women form an integral part of the Indian workforce. According to the information provided by the office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, As per Census 2011, the total number of female workers in India is 149.8 million and female workers in rural and urban areas are 121.8 and 28.0 million, respectively. Of 149.8 million female workers, 35.9 million females work as cultivators, and 61.5 million are agricultural labourers. Of the remaining female workers, 8.5 million are in the household Industry, and 43.7 million are classified as other workers.

In so far as the organised sector is concerned, in March 2011, women workers constituted 20.5 per cent of total employment in the organised sector in the country, which is higher by 0.1 per cent compared to the preceding year. As per the last Employment Review by the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T), on 31st March 2011, about 59.54 lakh women workers were employed in the organised sector (Public and Private Sector). Nearly 32.14 lakh women were employed in the community, social and personal service sectors.

According to data from the Annual Survey of Industries (2019-2020), Tamil Nadu accounts for 43% of India's 1.6 million women factory workers. These women work mostly in manufacturing—garments, knitwear, textiles, electronics, footwear and salt pans. Many of them are also in housekeeping. Virudhunagar district came into existence by the bifurcation of Ramanathapuram district vide State Government Notification, G.O. Ms. 347 dated 8.3.198. The women workforce of the district is 371047, and most depend on match industries, fireworks industries, printing press, oil mills and other agriculture-allied industries.

Objectives of the Study:

- To analyse the reasons behind the women workers selecting the fireworks job.
- To evaluate the socio-economic status of women workers in the study area.
- To women workers' opinions about safety measures followed in the fireworks industries.
- To measure the satisfaction of women workers with the infrastructure and monetary benefits of fireworks industries.
- To evaluate the problems faced by the women workers in the fireworks industries in the study area.
- To offer suitable suggestions to improve the working environment of women workers in fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district.

Hypotheses framed for the study:

H₀: The profile variables of the respondents are not influenced by their opinion about the working environment and safety measures followed in the fireworks industries of Virudhunagar district.

H₀: Working environment, monetary benefits, and safety measures of the fireworks industries in the study area do not influence women workers' lifestyle patterns.

Methodology:

The population of the study:

Women workers working in the fireworks industries

	of Virudhunagar district
Sampling method:	Cluster sampling technique.
Formation of the data collection tool:	Interview Schedule
Collection of the data:	Primary – Selected Respondents Secondary – Journals, books and websites.
Consolidation of the data:	Master table – MS - Excel Variables – Spss & Amos
Analysis of the data:	Simple Percentage, Exploratory factor analysis, Kaiser – Meyer – Olkin (K.M.O.) and Bartlett's test, confirmatory factor analysis, Kruskal Wallis Test (H Test), Regression coefficient and Chi-square test

Scope of the Study:

The present study analyses the lifestyle pattern of women workers in the fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district. The lifestyle pattern of the women workers in these organisations is measured in terms of the Socio-Economic status of women workers, the working environment, the convenience provided by the employer and safety measures followed in their industries. The researcher examines the job satisfaction of women workers in the fireworks industry and the problems they face in the workplace. This study covers the theoretical framework of the fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district. Primary data have been collected through an interview schedule in the year 2022, January - June.

Significance of the Study:

The study revealed the working and living conditions of the women workers in the fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district. The researcher highlighted the women workers' opinions about the monetary benefits provided by their employers and the safety measures followed in the units. The researcher also analyses the satisfaction of women workers with their firework job and lifestyle.

Limitations of the Study

- The study area is limited to four taluks of the Virudhunagar district, namely Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Sattur and Vembakotai.
- The researcher cannot get exact information because some women workers are reluctant to share the information.
- Virudhunagar District has an enormous number of fireworks industries compared to other districts of Tamilnadu. Hence the findings and conclusions of the study are entirely applicable to this city only and may not hold good for other areas.

Research Gap:

The researcher reviewed doctoral theses, research journals and conference proceedings. The researcher referred to sixty-seven reviews. Most dissertations and research papers concentrated on the working environment of fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district, monetary benefits provided, safety measures followed and health problems of fireworks workers. The present study differs from the previous studies. The researcher analyses factors behind the selection of the risky job by the women workers and their lifestyle patterns in the fireworks industries of the study area.

Profile of Study Area, Sample Units and Respondents:

The Virudhunagar district has ten taluks, namely Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Aruppukottai, Tiruchuli, Kariapatti, Vembakottai and Watrap

Table 1

Number of Fireworks industries in the Virudhunagar district

S.No	Taluk	Explosive			
1	Sivakasi	95	313	87	495
2	Vembakottai	84	117	67	268

3	Virudhunagar	19	47	61	127
4	Sattur	12	25	23	60
5	Srivilliputtur	5	8	3	16
6	Watrap	0	3	4	7
7	Rajapalayam	1	1	0	2
8	Aruppukottai	0	0	4	4
9	Kariyapatti	0	1	0	1
10	Tiruchuli	0	0	0	0
Total		216	515	249	980

(Source: Virudhunagar district Annual Repot'2020)

The researcher selected the respondents as per the Cochran formula; the sample size is 384 when the population is unknown. Then selected, four taluks with the maximum number of fireworks industries: Sattur, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, and Vembakottai and interviewed the following respondents.

Table 2

Details of Study Area, Sample Units and Sample Size

Sl.No	Sample units selected	Population per unit	Respondents selected
Sattur Taluk			
1.	Durai Fireworks	94	19
2.	Silver Fireworks Factory	107	21
3.	Sri Palaniappa Fireworks Factory	83	17
4.	Super Pyrotech	77	15
5.	Supreme Fireworks And Company Unit	84	17
Sivakasi Taluk			
1.	Standard Fireworks (P) Ltd	124	25
2.	Ayyan Fireworks Factory (P) Ltd	116	23

3.	Rajaratnam Fireworks Private Limited	98	20
4.	The Coronation Fireworks Factory	112	22
5.	Sri Kaliswari Fireworks Private Limited	116	23
Vembakottai Taluk			
1.	Ananda Fireworks Industries	86	17
2.	Kannan Caps	79	16
3.	Jeyalakshmipriya Sparklers Factory	91	18
4.	Ravindra Fireworks Factory	110	22
5.	Krish Karthi Fireworks	117	23
Virudhunagar Taluk			
1.	Nayagi Sparklers Factory	87	17
2.	Padmapriya Pyrotechnics	91	18
3.	Parani Firework	75	15
4.	Raja Explosive	104	21
5.	Sri Asok Fireworks Industries	119	24
Total		1970	394

Table 2

Profile of Respondents.

Sl.No	Particulars	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Age	25 – 35	113	28.68
2	Educational Qualification	High school or below	127	32.23
3	Religion	Hindu	292	74.11
4	Social status	OBC	169	42.89
5	Marital status	Married	283	71.83

6	Domicile Area	Rural	189	47.97
7	Occupation of Spouse	Printing & allied	98	24.87
8	Type of family	Nuclear family	267	67.77
9	Number of Members	Four	110	27.92
10	Earning members	Two	247	62.69
11	Monthly Family Income	Rs. 15000 - 25000	142	36.06

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

I. Reasons for selecting employment in Fireworks:

The researcher selected fifteen variables to analyse the reasons behind the selection of the dangerous fireworks job.

Rank was given to the variables based on the weighted average score.

The first rank is allotted to the Variable” Due to irregular Agricultural opportunity.”

The second Rank assigned to “More Bonus is given to workers’

Third Rank: “Many people are visiting this factory from my area”.

II. Women Worker’s Attitude towards conveniences in the Factory;

Twenty variables are selected.

Mean score ranking was given to the variables.

The first rank is allotted to the Variable” Smoke Alarm.”

Second Rank assigned to “First Aid Box

Third Rank to “Safety equipment provided by Industries”.

III Women Worker's opinion about safety measures followed in the Factory:

Twenty-five variables are identified for the analysis.

Data was collected on Likert's five-point scale.

The first three important variables are

- ✓ Separate places for different types of chemical mixtures for mixing and filling.
- ✓ The organisation provides disaster management training
- ✓ Fire buckets should be filled with dry sand
- ✓ Space between the building shall be a minimum of 10 yards
- ✓ Display safety posture (for uneducated workers & easy identification)

IV satisfaction of Women workers:

i. Infrastructure:

Twelve variables were identified under this head. A regression coefficient was used.

Out of twelve variables, ten variables influence respondents' satisfaction and the following two are not influenced.

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
A separate building is provided for making each process	.052	.100	.024	.521	.603*
The workplace is adequately furnished	-.013	.031	-.014	-.421	.674*

ii. Relationship with Management:

Six variables were selected for analysis.

Out of the six variables, four influence the respondents' satisfaction.

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
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Management is generous in providing compensation	.035	.034	.040	1.025	.306*
Workers' grievances are settled cordially	-.060	.037	-.082	-1.621	.106*

iii. Relationship with coworkers.

Five variables were selected, and all five influenced respondents' satisfaction.

iv. Safety Measures;

There are nine variables included in the analysis.

Out of nine variables, six variables influence the satisfaction of the respondents,

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
The factory has provided safety gadgets	-.060	.037	-.082	-1.621	.106*
The organisation provides disaster management training.	-.041	.027	-.054	-1.474	.141*
Goggles are provided to handle the chemicals.	-.013	.031	-.014	-.421	.674*

v. Wages and Other monetary benefits:

Fourteen variables were included in the analysis.

Out of fourteen variables, ten variables influence the satisfaction of the respondents.

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
The periodicity of payment is satisfactory	.017	.038	.017	.448	.654*
A leave facility is provided in the factory	.009	.017	.019	.521	.603*
The factory provides ESI	.016	.032	.021	.513	.608*

An adequate Bonus is given to the workers	.035	.034	.040	1.025	.306*
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Vi. Personal factors:

Eleven variables are selected for analysis.

Out of eleven variables, eight variables influence the satisfaction of the respondents.

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
My job helps to improve the standard of living of my family	.044	.068	.035	.651	.515
Experience and achievements are duly recognised	-.048	.056	-.041	-.861	.390
My job gives me adequate time & opportunities to take care of my family.	.021	.049	.029	.853	.427

Findings:

- The study revealed that most of the respondents know the recruitment information from other employees.
- Workers recruited on a contractual basis.
- The factory provides a transport facility for workers.
- Working hour is 8 – 10 hours per day.
- Maximum respondents' work is Tissue Kuthu followed by Valayam Kuthu and box filling.
- The wages given to the women workers are based on the piece rate.
- Wages are paid every week.
- Most of the women workers resided in a rental house.
- They reside in a 200 – 400 Square feet house.
- The respondents have the habit of saving, and the purpose is children's higher education, buy household articles and own a house.

Suggestions of the Study:

- ✓ The government and employers should ensure women workers get reasonable and fair wages.
- ✓ A separate building should be provided for making each process

- ✓ The workplace should be adequately furnished
- ✓ Management should be generous in providing compensation
- ✓ Workers' grievances should be settled cordially.
- ✓ The factory must provide safety gadgets
- ✓ The organisation should arrange disaster management training for their workers.
- ✓ Goggles should be provided to handle the chemicals.
- ✓ Experience and achievements should be duly recognised by the management.
- ✓ The job is highly risky, so the management should provide adequate bonuses to the women workers.
- ✓ The government authorities should insist that fireworks management strictly adhere the safety measures.

Conclusion:

The development of any nation primarily depends upon its industrial development, which makes a rich contribution to the growth of a nation. The economic role women play must be included in the development framework. Women workers are significantly poor and are far less legally protected in the study area. The fireworks industries play a dominant role in the development of ancillary industries and in raising people's standard of living. The firework industry is highly labour-intensive. They give employment opportunities to more and more women workers directly and indirectly. They cannot get employment throughout the year, even for permanent workers, because it is a seasonal industry. The fireworks management should give women workers a better work environment and reasonable wages.

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