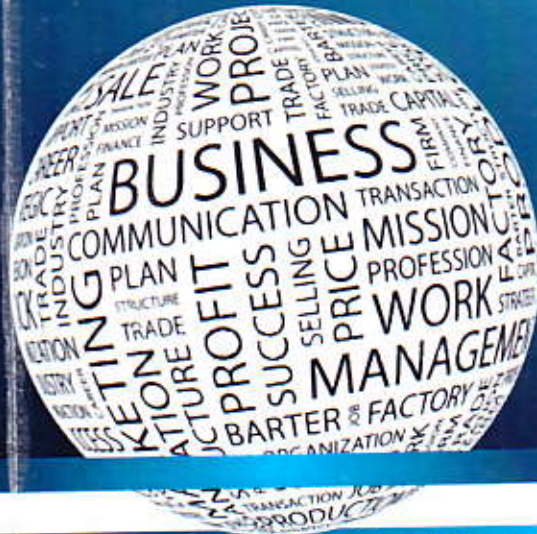


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# A STUDY ON PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF SALT WORKER IN THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

\*Dr.S.Rosita

\*Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

## Abstract

Salt industry in Tamilnadu is labour intensive sector, because it provides more employment to rural agricultural surplus labour force. Salt manufacturing is one of the oldest non-agricultural activities on the coastal tracts of Tamilnadu. In the salt production Tamilnadu is standing next to Gujarat. Gujarat produces 65 percentage of the salt, 20 percentages of the salt from Tamilnadu and the rest from other coastal states. Salt is existent in all animal and vegetable life and is coeval with life itself. It must have been present in the first herbage that gave nourishment to the first beast. Cakes of salt have been used as money in Abyssinia and in some other parts of Africa. The Sanskrit word for salt is "lavana" to which 'Nun', the common Punjabi word for salt, owes its origin, substrata, the father of Indian medicine, speaks of four kinds of salts which respond with rock salt, salt, lake salt and earth salt respectively. Egyptians salted ducks, quails and sardines, they also preserved the boiling of salt of their illustrious dead (Egyptian mummies) in salt. The most of the salt workers are affected by many problems like the feet becomes septic and they absorb the salt. Nobody lives more than 60 or 70 years. The workers hair will be fall down quickly and the like. Most of the people are affected by blindness. It was caused by the intense reflection of the sun from water surface.

**Key Words:** Salt working condition, Problem of worker, finding, suggestion.

## Introduction

India is the third largest salt producing country in the World after China and USA with global annual production being about 230 million tonnes. The growth and achievement of salt industry over the last 60 years has been spectacular. When India attained independence in 1947, salt was being imported from the United Kingdom & Aden's to meet its domestic requirement. But today it has not only achieved self-sufficiency in production of salt to meet its domestic requirement but also in a position of exporting surplus salt to foreign countries in Thoothukudi. In a very short period of time sufficiency was achieved (in 1953) and made a dent the export market. Since then, the country has never resorted to imports.

Among India's states, Gujarat is the largest manufacturer of salt, accounting for 70 per cent of the country's output. In Gujarat, the cost of production is only Rs 150 per tonne, compared to Rs 450 per tonne in Tuticorin. In 2012, the total salt production in Thoothukudi district was around 2.1 million tonnes. This salt was produced across 25,000 acres from various parts of the district. Last year, production had increased 31 per cent over output in 2011, which was 1.5-1.6 million tonnes. "In 2013, the Thoothukudi salt industry will at the most produce 1.7-1.8 million tonnes," a drop of around 14 per cent. The district administration had sent a notice asking farmers to stop salt production in 1,000 acres of land, which would lead to a drop in output of 80,000-100,000 tonnes. The salt pans produce 12 lakh tonnes of salt every year, contributing to 90% of the salt produced.

## Statement of the Problem

In the present study the following problems are to the salt workers. The most of the workers are affected by the high blood pressure, which were occupationally exposed to sodium chloride particles in the air of the breathing zone.

The most of the salt workers are affected by many problems like the feet becomes septic and they absorb the salt. Nobody lives more than 60 or 70 years. The workers hair will be fall down quickly and the like. Most of the people are affected by blindness. It was caused by the intense reflection of the sun from water surface. Even after death of the salt plan workers suffer ignorable fate, their hands and feet are difficult to burn during cremation because of the salt content. These are the some problems to the salt workers.

## Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the present study

- i. To identify the workers in the salt plans.
- ii. To know the detailed process about the salt workers.
- iii. To study on public perception towards the salt workers
- iv. To present the summary of finding offer various suggestion and conclusion

## Null Hypothesis

- H0: Family size of the salt workers does not influence the level of satisfaction  
 H1: Family size of the salt workers influence the level of satisfaction

## Sample Design

The study area namely Thoothukudi district has ten salt plant area namely Veppalodai, Kayalpattinam, Vaipar, Palayakal, Urani, Muthayapuram, Punnakayal, Arasady, Srivaikuntam and Vattanam. Out of ten salt plant area fifteen respondent were selected of each plant area by adopting convenient sampling method. Table 1 shows the sample selected of the study area. It is seen from the Table 1 that a total of 150 respondents were identified fare this study consisting of 50 each flow the 10 salt plant area in Thoothukudi district.

## Frame work of analysis

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In order to study the salt worker in Thoothukudi district the research has identify various statistical tools namely Garrett rank ,chi-squares test are described.

$$\text{Chi-squares} = \sum (O-E)^2/E$$

With (R-1)(c-1) degree of freedom

$$\text{Garrett Ranking Per cent position} = 100(R_{ij} - 0.5)/N_{ij}$$

**THE RESULT OF THE GARRETT' RANKING**

Source: Primary data

It is inferred from Table 4.28 that the greater proportion of the worker are induced to use the problem of salt workers heavy work in the first position, Second to six rank are allotted to the problem no wear safe guard , Exposure to sun light, Low wages, Medical facility, Rest room facility.

**CHI SQUARE ANALYSIS**

**INCOME OF THE WORKER AND THEIR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION**

Degree of freedom	= 4
Level of significant	= 5%
Calculated Value	= 23.60
Table value at 5 Percent level	= 9.49

The calculated value is much greater than the table value then hypothesis is rejected, hence it is concluded that there is different in annual income.

**FINDINGS**

The study clear that 38 per cent of the workers belong to the age group of 41to 50 years, The study inferred that 97(64.6%) of the workers are male category. The study shows that 82 per cent are married. The study clear that 88 (58.67%) Respondent are Hindu. The study inferred clear that 67 (44.67%) of the respondents are not

S.No	Problems	Rank given by the workers						Garrett's rank Mean	Rank
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI		
1	Heavy work	34	31	36	23	12	14	77	1
2	No wear safe guard	5	26	22	25	36	36	63	2
3	Exposure to sun light	26	22	8	43	30	30	54	3
4	Low wages	68	32	34	8	8	8	46	4
5	Medical facility	11	23	41	17	12	12	36	5
6	Rest room facility	6	16	9	34	50	50	23	6

that 43.33 per cent of the worker are primary level. The study clear that 61(40.61%) of the respondent earn income of above Rs.50,000. The study inferred that the 69.33 percent of the respondents are in nuclear family. The study clear that 55.33 per cent have their family with 5-7 members categories. The study clear that 69.33 per cent of they are living in the owned house. The study shows that 60.67 per cent of the respondents say that the employment duration is 4-6 months. The study clear that 56 (37.33%) respondents are working in turning salt. The study clear that 48.67 per cent of they are using the well brine. The study shows that 57 (38.00%) of the respondents using the diesel engine. The study clear that 38.00per cent of the respondents are 11-15 years. The study inferred th61.33% of the respondents engaged the other worker. The study clear that 56.67% of the respondents are working 8 hours. The study inferred that 102 (68.00%) of the respondents are satisfied the work. The study clear that 28 (58 .33) per cent of the respondents are not satisfied due to painful work. The study inferred that 44.54% of the respondents buying the non-monitories. The study clear that (50.67%) of the respondents opinion is to want no basic facilities. The study shows that 64% of the respondents are say that they bought a weekly wage. The study

satisfied with their wage. The study shows that 34.67% of the respondents are affected by the leg pain. The study clear that 84(56%) of the respondents says that the work is affected by the seasonal variation. The study clear that 44.67 per cent of the respondent say that the disease. The study inferred that 90% are getting bonus from the employer. The study clear that 37.33% of the sample respondent are saving their money. The study clear that the greater proportion of the worker are induced to use the problem of salt workers heavy work. The study inferred that 14 respondents are high level and out of 62 respondent. The study clear that 30 respondent are medium level. The study clear that out of 53 respondent are illiterate category 14 respondent are high level. The study shows that out of 55 respondent are above 50000 category 17 respondent are high level. The study clear that out of 58 respondent are 3-5 member, 13 respondent are high level

**Suggestions**

From the data analysis made, some of the suggestions have been given to the salt workers to create more prospects in the succeeding year. Like agriculture salt industries also require free electricity. The government should come forward

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to provide electricity facilities to the Salt Production. The government should not encourage the real estate business in and around the salt plan areas. The labourers in salt industries should also be considered as agriculture workers. They should be provided with the sufficient concession like agriculture workers. Social awareness programmed, medical camps and eye camps can be organized by the social workers along with employers of salt industries for the benefit of these workers in the study area. Due to globalization policy of the government the traditional salt industries are also affected much. They incur high cost of production and producer low quantity. Therefore the government should impose more tax on foreign salt products (or) help the salt producer to modernize the salt products. The central government should allow the sales of both iodized and common salt through fair price shops and other common shops. Salt production in this area store the salt plan in open place covering with the palm leaves, Heavy rain leads to waste of the stored salt. It makes heavy loss to the producer. So the government should established the modern storage facility or should give a financial assistance to construct a modern wear housing facilities to protect the welfare of the labor of the government should make some alternative job opportunities during the rainy season. Give free education to the salt workers children. It will be very useful to improve the life of salt workers. Salt workers did not have basic facilities in the work spot. If the owners of the salt plan arranged basic facilities to the workers they will be highly satisfied. The services of the customer care should be prompt in order to avoid inconvenience of the salt workers. The government should strictly order to wear the safety measures. A considerable amount from their income must be taken as savings and it will be provided to them in the old age it will be very useful in the future. The Government Insurance Company should provide Insurance facilities to the Salt Workers. Modernize

salt industry without marginalizing small scale salt units standardize the production techniques. Improve the power supply. There should be a mutual friendly and cordial relationship between the owners and the salt workers. Most of the respondents are affected by the eye problem, so all the workers will be wear sun glass during the work. It will protect the eyes. These are the suggestion to improve the life of the salt workers.

### Conclusion

Salt industry is a labour intensive sector in the Thoothukudi district in Tamilnadu. Both male and females are engaged in the salt producing activity. However the working conditions of the workers in their area are not by far. This is caused by the wage is not equal to the working hours. The job security is paramount important motivational measure but in this area there is no job security given to the salt workers. They are mere agricultural coolies. It should be take in to account of labour welfare department. Other welfare measure is also not sufficient to the workers expectation. Some of the significant factors are lack of reasonable price high electricity tariff content of water competition of Gujarat salt etc. therefore the conditions of the salt workers in Thoothukudi district are poor. Their living conditions should be improved.

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