

A Study of Socio-Economic Status of the Workers in Cotton Industry, Jammikunta Mandal

Dr. K. Rajendram

Associate Professor of Economics

Govt. Degree & PG College, Jammikunta, Karimnagar, TG.

Abstract:

Telangana has occupied top place in the production of cotton in India with an estimated production of 28.29 lakh tonnes for 2025-26. Nalgonda, Adilabad, Rangareddy, Warangal and Karimnagar are the leading districts in the production of cotton. The socioeconomic life of workers is miserable. Many workers belong to the below-the-poverty-line category and struggle to meet basic needs. In Jammikunta town, there are 07 cotton mills in which 800 workers are working. These workers have very low living standards. The Economic condition of the workers in the cotton industries of the study area is very difficult. They are not able to meet their basic needs and emergency expenses.

The objective of the study is to study the socioeconomic profile of the cotton industry workers and examine the working conditions of the workers at the cotton mills based on the primary and documentary sources. They are not able to buy sufficient calories and cook sufficient food for their family members. Hence, these conditions urge the study the socioeconomic status of workers in the cotton industries in the Jammikunta town. About 53% of the workers belong to BC category and 57% of them studied up to primary level. Regarding their income earnings 18% of the workers are getting below Rs.4000=00 per month which implies poor living standards. It is found that their consumption expenditure is more than their income level.

Keywords: Socio-economic, Production, Living standards, basic needs.

1. Introduction:

Telangana is one of the top most cotton producing state in India with an estimated production of 28.29 lakh tonnes for 2025-26. Nalgonda, Adilabad, Rangareddy, Warangal and Karimnagar are the leading districts in the production of cotton. The socio-economic life of workers is miserable. Cotton industries workers face many sociolect-economic challenges such as low income, low literacy rate, inadequate social security and poor working conditions at working places. Many workers belong to below poverty line category and struggle to meet basic needs. In Jammikunta town there are 07 cotton mills in which 800 workers are working. These workers have very low living standards. The workers face some social and structural issues in addition to economic problems. Major causes of this miserable condition of the workers are poor family backgrounds, lack of proper education, low wages, harass working conditions, lack of employer's concerns and negligible government interventions. It is observed that effective

intervention of government, proper implementation of the labour legislation by employer and self awareness and educational development of the cotton industry workers would be accommodating to ensure improvement in the life of cotton industry workers.

2. Statement of the Problem:

The Economic condition of the workers in the cotton industries of study area is very difficult. They are not able to meet their basic needs and emergency expenses. Therefore they need loan and advances and financial support. They are forced to turn into depression, stress due to various social, demographic and economic factors. These workers are deprived of even basic necessities as house, drinking water, sufficient clothes, health facilities, sanitation and personal hygiene, education and financial assistance. The income level of the workers is very low and they are not having their own houses. Workers are not provided good health, safety and welfare facilities. Majority of them are migrated workers. They are not able to buy sufficient calories and cook sufficient food for their family members. Hence these conditions urge to study the socioeconomic status of workers in the cotton industries in the Jammikunta town.

3. Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To study the socioeconomic profile of the cotton industry workers
2. To examine the working conditions of the workers at the cotton mills
3. To make recommendations to improve the living conditions of the workers.

4. Study Methodology:

The study is limited to cotton mills workers working at Jammikunta town. The random sampling technique is used for this study from the target population by selecting 10% of sample size and respondents reached to 80.

The study is based on primary data collected from the respondents through a set of structured questionnaire consisting of 26 items in written form supplied to the sample cotton mill workers to draw their responses. The primary data is also supported by the secondary data collected from district industrial centre. Descriptive diagnostic research design is adopted for the study.

The data is analyzed and interpreted to draw the results using mean, percentages and presented through simple tables, cross tabulation and graphs such as line and bar graphs. The opinions, responses and information are collected based on their personal experiences.

The study period is taken as 2025.

Layout of Study Methodology

Target Population	Cotton Industry Workers
Sampling Unit	Jammikunta Town
Sampling Method	Simple Random Sampling
Data Collection Method	Structured Questionnaire
No. of Target Workers	800
Sample Size	10%
Study Period	2025

Data Analysis Tools	Mean, Percentage, Simple Tables, Cross Tabulation and Graphs.
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Cotton Mills in the Jammikunta Town:

Name of the Cotton Mill	No. Of Workers	Sample Respondents
Narasimha Cotton Industries	70	07
Vaibhav Cotton Corporation	110	11
Seetharama Cotton Industries	140	14
Bhagawathi Cotton Industries	120	12
Vajra Kalpa Cotton Mill	130	13
Sindhu Cotton Industries	110	11
Jagadamba Cotton Industries	120	12
Total	800	80

5. Scope of the Study: The study attempts to explore various unfolds facts about the age,sex,caste,migratory character, monthly income. wages,health issues,literacy ,awareness on labour laws, working conditions at the cotton industries, housing type etc.

6. Study Findings:

Table-1 Age, Sex and Marital Status of the Respondents

Age-wise Distribution

Frequency	Responses	Percentage
20-30	12	15%
30-40	34	42.25%
40-50	21	26.25%
50 -Above	13	16.25%
Toatl	80	100%

Sex wise Distribution

Male	25	31.25%
Female	55	68.75%
Toatl	80	100%

Source: Primary Data

It is shown in the above tables that 42.25% of the workers are between the age group of 30-40 years and 26.25% of the respondents fall under the category of 40-50 age. It is also depicted in the above table that 68.75% of the workers are female whereas 31.25% are male workers in the cotton industries. Regarding the marital status of the respondents 70% of them are married and 12.5% are divorced and 8% of the workers are unmarried almost from female gender due to poverty condition not getting married.

Table;2 Social Aspects

Social Aspects		
Frequency	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Caste wise Distribution		
OC	6	7.5
BC	43	53.75
SC	22	27.5
ST	5	6.25
Others	4	5
Total	80	100%
Education Level		
Upto Primary	46	57.5
Upto Secondary	18	22.5
Upto Inter	5	6.25
Upto Degree	4	5
Illiterate	7	8.75
Total	80	100%
Housing		
Owned	26	32.5
Rented	48	60
Shared	6	7.5
Total	80	100%
Occupational Diseases		
Cough	16	20
Asthama	14	17.5
TB	2	2.5
Sohoulder Pain	28	35
Back Pain	20	25
Total	80	100%

Source: Primary Data

The above table reveals that a majority of the respondents i.e 53.75% belongs to BC category followed by 27.5% SC people working in the cotton industries. 5% of the workers belong to minority category. The table shows that 57.5% of the workers studied up to primary level and 22.5% of them completed up to secondary level. It is also known that 8.75% of the workers are illiterate. Regarding their housing status poor conditions are reported in the study area. The study reports that 60% of the workers are living in rented houses and 32.5% are having owned houses. The workers have been suffering from occupational diseases such as cough (20%), Asthama (17.5%) Shoulder pain (35%) and back pain (25%).

Table-3 Economic Aspects

Economic Aspects		
Frequency	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Monthly Income		
>4000	15	18.75
4000-6000	32	40
6000-8000	26	32.5
8000-10000	4	5
<10000	4	5
Total	80	100%
Monthly Consumption Expenditure		
>3000	2	2.5
3000-5000	12	15
5000-7000	35	43.75
7000-9000	28	35%
<9000	3	3.75
Total	80	100%
Monthly Savings		
>2000	22	27.5
2000-4000	10	12.5
4000-6000	4	5
No Savings	44	55
Toatl	80	100%

Source: Primary Data

It is known from the above table that many workers receive very low wages so that many of the respondents are trapped in debts. Though the respondents are working 8-12 hours , almost 32% of the respondents are earning between Rs.6000-8000 per month and 40% of the workers are having the income level of Rs.4000-6000 monthly which indicates their low level of economic condition. But regarding consumption expenditure 44% of the respondents are spending Rs.5000-7000 per month and 35% of the workers are spending Rs.7000-9000 per month which is higher than their monthly income. To bridge the gap between income and expenditure they are looking towards loans and their children. Almost 55% of the workers' savings are nil which shows the need of social security schemes. 28% of the respondents are having meagre less than Rs.2000 savings per month.

The correlation between monthly income and monthly consumption expenditure is as follows

The mean monthly income is Rs.5722=00

The mean monthly consumption expenditure is Rs.4465=00

$$r = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \sum y^2}}$$

$$1850 / \sqrt{3250 \times 2570} = 0.64$$

Hence the correlation between monthly income and monthly consumption expenditure of the cotton industry workers is positive correlation and reasonable level.

Average Propensity to Consume:

$$APC=C/Y= 4465/5722=0.78$$

Table: 5 Other Aspects

Other Aspects		
Frequency	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Insurance Coverage		
Yes	62	77.50%
No	18	22.50%
Total	80	100%
Availing Paid Leave		
Yes	00	00
No	80	100%
Total	80	100%
Awareness of Labour Laws and Rights		
Yes	04	5%
No	76	95%
Total	80	100%
Rating Regarding Access of Facilities		
Very Good	08	10%
Good	45	56.25%
Poor	27	33.75%
Toatl	80	100%

Source: Primary Data

As per the above table ,it is revealed that 77.50% of the respondents having the insurance coverage on their own or cotton ginning mill offered and 22.50% of them are not having any insurance coverage. It is surprised that no worker has been provided paid leave in the study period in the study area. Regarding labour laws or rights only 5% of the workers aware of the labour laws and rights and 95% of them unaware of the labour laws and rights. It is studied that 10% of the respondents rated very good facilities are provided in the working sites and 56.25% of the respondents rated as good and 27% of the workers opined poor working facilities in the cotton mills.

Suggestions:

- 1) The workers are getting employment six months only. Therefore the employment should be provided the whole year.
- 2) The payment of wages should be made regularly to the workers
- 3) The respondents are requesting to sanction loans for self employment of their family members.
- 4) The cotton mill workers should be issued health cards and credit cards and implemented properly and regular health camps should be organized.

- 5) The Government should take necessary steps to organize health camps at working places
- 6) The Government as well NGOs should arrange awareness programs on labour laws and rights of laborers from time to time.
- 7) The workers should be granted paid leave twice in a month.
- 8) The employer should facilitate them with advance amount and loan in emergency and unexpected situation.

Conclusion:

The study is based on extensive interviews and discussions with workers working in cotton industry in the study area. It is observed that the seeds of crisis in the life of workers are inherent in the sociolect-economic factors of the workers. It can be concluded for the poor sociolect-economic condition of the cotton workers are adverse application and poor implementation of legislative measures for labour welfare by the management and lack of attention of the government towards the workers and poor background of economic condition of the family. The educational background is very low and the family is a big responsibility. Workers are always in search of better opportunity with handsome wages, favourable and healthy working condition.

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