



Socio-Economic Condition and Constraints faced by Tea Garden Women Workers in Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT: *The present study was conducted in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh to find out the socio-economic condition of women tea growers, to find out the constraints faced by them and seek suggestions to improve better working conditions. A total of 120 respondents were selected randomly for the present study. The data was collected through a pre-structured interview schedule and later appropriate statistical analysis was done to find out meaningful result. The result showed that the women tea growers found that there was improper sanitation facility inside the tea garden. They suggested that improved sanitation facility and social mobility could help them to improve better working environment.*

KEYWORDS: *Socio economic, women workers, tea garden, constraints, suggestions.*

INTRODUCTION

India is the second-largest producer of tea after China. Tea plantations were introduced to the country by the British, during the colonial regime. Over the years, Indians started producing different varieties of teas.

Tea is an aromatic beverage commonly prepared by pouring hot or boiling water over cured leaves of the *Camellia sinensis*, an evergreen shrub native to Asia. After water, it is the most widely consumed drink in the world.



Chhattisgarh is emerging as a potential destination for tea plantation. Apart from Surguja, Jashpur and Balrampur districts also have favorable pockets for taking up the crop. The state's Agricultural Research Center has conducted a detailed study in these pockets and have recommended that the climate of north Chhattisgarh is most suitable for tea.

Chhattisgarh is currently ranked 17th in the country on tea production, which was started in the state by Sogara Ashram in Surguja some six years ago. A processing unit was also set up in the Ashram. The project prompted the forest to start growing tea as well and set up a tea nursery in the district.

Jashpur with green forests is doing tea farming in Chhattisgarh. The matter of Tea Garden in Jashpur is now certified. This thing has been proved now. The success of a 20-acre tea estate developed in Sarudih has given the district administration the impetus to take this campaign forward.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh state. There were 8 blocks in Jashpur district out of which Jashpur block was selected by purposive sampling for the study. There were 92 villages in the selected block out of which 3 villages were selected purposively on the basis that most area were engaged in tea gardening.

The villages that were selected are Sarudih, Sogada and Kantabel. A total of 120 respondents were selected randomly. The structured interview schedule was prepared for data collection. Descriptive research design was used for this study. The statistical tools such as frequency, ranking and percent were used to interpret the data and for drawing logical conclusion.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents: n=120

S. No.	Independent Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (20-35)	32	26.67
		Middle (35-55)	67	55.83
		Old (Above 55)	21	17.50
2.	Education	Primary School	38	31.67
		Middle School	24	20.00
		High School	20	16.66
		Higher Secondary	12	10.00
		Graduation/PG/Diploma	6	05.00
		Illiterate	20	16.67
3.	Land Holding	Below 1 acre	23	19.16
		1-3 acre	69	57.50
		Above 3 acre	28	23.30
4.	Annual Income	Up to Rs 40,000	12	10.00
		40,001- 80,000	81	67.50
		Above 80,000	27	22.50



5.	Family Type	Nuclear	76	63.30
		Joint	33	27.50
		Extended	11	09.10
6.	Mass Media Exposure	High (8.4-10)	34	28.33
		Medium (6.7-8.3)	58	40.00
		Low (8.4- 10)	28	23.33
7.	Extension Contact	High (9.2-12)	49	40.83
		Medium (6.1-9.1)	50	41.67
		Low (3-6)	21	17.50

From the data mentioned in table 1, it is found that 55.83 of the respondents are of the middle aged category i.e. age group of 20-35 years, 31.67 percent of the respondents attained primary education, 57.5 per cent of respondents possess 1-3 acre of land, annual income of 67.5 per cent respondents was in range of Rs. 40,001-Rs. 80,000, family type of 63.3% of respondents were nuclear, 40% of the respondents have medium level of mass media exposure and 41.67 per cent of respondents have high medium of extension contact.

Constraints faced by tea garden women respondents working in tea garden

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Sanitation facilities	89	74.16	I
2.	Distance from home	75	62.50	III
3.	Medical facilities	68	56.67	V



4.	Wage	45	37.50	IX
5.	Safety measures	54	45.00	VI
6.	Availability of rest time	48	40.00	VIII
7.	Overtime allowance	85	70.83	II
8.	Facilities in emergency	36	30.00	X
9.	Bonus facilities	73	60.83	IV
10.	Child care facilities	49	40.83	VII

From the above mentioned data it is concluded that majority of the respondents found sanitation facilities as the major constraint with the frequency 89 and 74 per cent, followed by the overtime allowance with frequency 85, 70.83 per cent and distance of the tea garden from their home with the frequency 75 and 62.5 per cent bonus facilities with frequency 73. 68 respondents felt the need of medical facilities having 56.67%, followed by the constraints as safety measures with the frequency 54 and 45%, availability of rest time with frequency 48 and 40 per cent, facilities in emergency with frequency 36, 30 percent and childcare facilities with the frequency 49 and 40.83 per cent.

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