

Work-Life Challenges Faced by Sanitary Workers-A Special Reference to Thoothukudi District

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Abstract

Waste production occurs due to business activities, consumption, and use of goods or materials. Solid waste handling, management, and precise and appropriate disposal is a hot topic and public and environmental health concern topic. Sanitary workers are primarily responsible for the health of the entire world. At the same time, challenges such as issues related them financial, mental, and physical problems. Injuries include cuts, bruises, musculoskeletal issues, respiratory issues, gastroenteritis, diarrhea, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and typhoid fever. Furthermore, they are facing a lack of financial security, and they are facing various social problems. This study selects the primary and secondary data. The primary data were directly collected from the respondents, and it had been preparing a structured questionnaire. Secondary data it had been collected from the website, published journals, and magazines. This has been chosen as the stratified sampling method. It has selected 120 respondents and describes the health problems faced by sanitary workers at work in Thoothukudi District. Public health research has not adequately considered the welfare and conservation of sanitary workers. Unlike other risk industries, sanitation does not have specific safety regulatory guidelines for resolving health risks.

Keywords: Sanitary workers, Challenges, Financials issues, Social issue

Introduction

The first goal of labor (sanitary workers) is to achieve anything in life, but unluckily they work at the cost of their lives and their health and safety and even also live. Global sanitary workers are bridging the break connecting the basic cleaning amenities and providing sanitation services. The

sanitary workers are providing their essential public service. But their dignity, safety, health, and living conditions are often even worse. They suffer the most mentally, physically, and financially. Their service is often invisible, measureless, and excluded, and many of the challenges they face arise from this lack of essential recognition. Sanitary workers meet enormous challenges and severe occupational and environmental health risks, including illness, injury, and even death. Sanitary workers work in direct contact and hazardous biological and chemical agents in hazardous environments. Beyond the risks that could harm their health, the sanitary workers continue to carry out their work. Sanitary workers face social discrimination. Occupational and environmental health and safety are essential because sanitary workers are exposed to many occupational and environmental hazards. Financial insecurity is a significant concern as informal, and sanitary workers receive low pay and unpredictable income. The challenges and risks sanitary workers face can be classified into occupational and environmental physical conditions and well-being, legalized and institutional problems, and social issues.

Objective

- To study examine the critical hazards that sanitary workers confront through their tasks.

Methodology

The current study is an explicit interview conducted using a researcher's interview schedule and face-to-face interviews. The questions tell the sanitary workers about the health hazards associated with business management approaches and work-related health problems. In this study, primary and secondary data were collected, and 120 respondents were selected and handled by stratified sampling. Data were collected from sanitary workers centered on two Taluks (Ettayapuram, Kovilpatti) in Thoothukudi District.

Primary Data: It is first-hand information. The data were directly collected from the sanitary workers.

Secondary Data: it is second-hand information. This is collected from sources like journals and Magazines, websites, and previous reports.

Tools for analysis: A method for carrying out carefully planned tests in a process. Usually, the design of the experiments involves a series of experiments, starting with a wide range of variations and focusing on a few important ones. The following data were analyzed using the help of a

calculator and manual work and presented with the table and finally get results. The result is found from the Mean and Rank analysis.

Results - Percentage Analysis

Table 1 explicitly that the gender-wise classification of the respondents selected for the study. The gender can be divided into Male and female.

Table 1: Gender-Wise Classification of the Respondents

Gender	No. of. Respondents	Percent
Male	70	58
Female	50	42
Total	120	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 1 reveals that most sanitary workers (58%) are male, and Female sanitary workers (42%).

Table 2 explicitly that the age-wise classification of the respondents selected for the study. The age can be divided into 20-30, 30-40, and Above 40.

Table 2: Age-Wise Classification of the Respondents

Age	No. of. Respondents	Percent
20-30 Years	50	42
30-40 Years	40	33
Above 40 Years	30	25
Total	120	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 2 shows that the majority of sanitary workers are (42%) between the age group of 20-30 years (33%) between the age group of 30-40 years, and (25% in) the age group above 40 years.

Table 3 explicitly that the marital status of the classification of the respondents selected for the study. The marital status can be divided into Married and Unmarried.

Table 3: Marital Status of Classification of the Respondents

Marital status	No. of. Respondents	Percent
Married	70	58
Unmarried	50	42
Total	120	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 3 shows that most sanitary workers (58%) were married (42%) and unmarried.

Table 4 explicitly that the marital status of the classification of the respondents selected for the study. The educational qualification is divided into illiterate, elementary, middle, and high school.

Table 4: Educational Wise Classification of the Respondents

Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percent
Illiterate	34	28
Elementary school	36	30
Middle school	26	22
High school	24	20
Total	120	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 4 shows that the majority of the sanitary workers (30%) of them are in elementary school, (28%) of them illiterate, (22%) are in middle school, (and 20%) are in high school.

Test of Rank Analysis

Data transformation refers to using a mathematical function to determine each point in a set of data.

Table 5: Ranking Analysis of Major Physical Issues

Issues	R8	R7	R6	R5	R4	R3	R2	R1	Total	Rank
Injuries and cuts	14 (112)	15 (105)	20 (120)	22 (110)	10 (40)	8 (24)	25 (50)	6 (6)	567	VII
Gastrointestinal disease	20 (160)	28 (196)	16 (96)	23 (115)	8 (32)	9 (27)	12 (24)	4 (4)	654	III
Musculoskeletal disease	10 (80)	14 (98)	15 (90)	8 (40)	20 (80)	22 (66)	14 (28)	17 (17)	599	VI
Respiration disease	20 (160)	22 (154)	16 (96)	18 (90)	23 (92)	10 (30)	8 (16)	3 (3)	641	IV
Skin disease	20 (160)	19 (133)	24 (144)	15 (95)	22 (88)	4 (12)	7 (14)	9 (9)	635	V
Eye disease	8 (64)	10 (70)	14 (84)	22 (110)	27 (108)	16 (48)	12 (24)	11 (11)	519	VIII
Dysentery	22 (176)	25 (175)	27 (162)	14 (70)	12 (48)	8 (24)	5 (10)	7 (7)	672	I
Influenza	23 (184)	25 (175)	22 (132)	14 (70)	16 (64)	3 (9)	12 (24)	5 (5)	663	II

Source: Primary Data.

Table 5 shows that the Ranking analysis among the respondents who are **physically affected** by "Dysentery" get Rank I, the respondents who are affected "Influenza" get Rank II, the respondents who are affected by "Injuries and cuts" get Rank III, the respondents who are affected "Gastrointestinal disease" get Rank IV, the respondents who are affected "Skin disease," get Rank V, the respondents who are affected "Musculoskeletal disease" get Rank VI, the respondents who are affected "Injuries and cuts" get Rank VII, the respondents who are affected "Eye disease" get Rank VIII.

Table 6: Ranking Analysis of Major Psychological Issues

Issues	R7	R6	R5	R4	R3	R2	R1	Total	Rank
Stress and depression	18 (126)	20 (120)	22 (120)	16 (110)	15 (45)	16 (32)	13 (13)	510	IV
Failed to adapt to the work atmosphere	20 (140)	22 (132)	10 (50)	18 (72)	16 (48)	26 (32)	8 (8)	482	VII
Lack of job contentment	18 (126)	16 (96)	20 (100)	24 (96)	15 (45)	10 (20)	17 (17)	500	V
Lack of security at work	26 (182)	12 (72)	10 (50)	16 (64)	26 (78)	17 (34)	13 (13)	493	VI
Communication problems	22 (154)	16 (96)	18 (90)	27 (108)	20 (60)	7 (14)	10 (10)	532	II
Lack of maintaining a good relationship	16 (112)	26 (156)	24 (120)	18 (72)	8 (24)	16 (32)	12 (12)	528	III
Social harassment of female workers	27 (189)	26 (156)	20 (100)	18 (72)	9 (27)	13 (26)	7 (7)	577	I

Source: Primary Data.

Table 6 shows that the Ranking analysis among the respondents who are **Psychologically affected** by "Social harassment of female workers" get Rank I, the respondents who are affected by "Communication problems" get Rank II, the respondents who are affected by "Lack of maintaining the good relationship" get Rank III, the respondents who are affected "Lack of security of work" get Rank IV, the respondents who are affected "Lack of job contentment," get Rank V, the respondents who are affected "Lack of security of work" get Rank VI.

Mean Score Analysis

Table 7: Mean Score Analysis of Major Financial Issues

Issue	HS 5	S 4	NO 3	DS 2	HDS 1	Total Mean	Mean Score
Non-permanent job	25 (125)	26 (104)	27 (81)	23 (46)	19 (19)	375	3.12
Lack of proper salary	26 (130)	32 (128)	36 (108)	18 (36)	13 (13)	415	3.45
Improper assistance from Government	18 (90)	16 (64)	30 (90)	31 (62)	25 (25)	331	2.75

Source: Primary Data.

Table 7 shows that, among the respondents who suffered significant financial issues, the mean score for Non-permanent jobs was 3.12, Lack of proper salary 3.45, and Improper assistance from the Government 2.75.

Table 8 Mean Score Analysis of Major Social Issues

Issue	HS 5	S 4	NO 3	DS 2	HDS 1	Total Mean	Mean Score
Social inequalities	25 (125)	26 (104)	22 (66)	24 (48)	23 (23)	366	3.00
Work according to caste	18 (90)	31 (124)	25 (75)	22 (44)	24 (24)	357	2.97
Lack of dignity/prestige	24 (120)	18 (72)	27 (81)	29 (58)	22 (22)	353	2.94

Source: Primary Data.

Table 8 shows that, among the respondents who suffered significant social issues, the mean score for Social inequalities was 3.00, Work according to caste 2.97, and Imp Lack of dignity/prestige 2.94.

Findings

- ❖ The majority of the sanitary workers are (58%) of them Male
- ❖ The majority of the sanitary workers are (42%) between the age group of 20-30 years
- ❖ The majority of the sanitary workers are (58%) of them married
- ❖ Most of the sanitary workers (30%) are from elementary schools.

Conclusion

Hiring human labor to clean sewers and septic tanks is more prevalent in India. These sanitary workers, the so-called "hand sanitizers," rarely have personal, proactive equipment. This work is considered inhumane. Sanitation is inherently associated with the cast. All kinds of cleansing are considered inferior and are assigned to those at the bottom of the social hierarchy. This study focused on the significant occupational hazards associated with sanitary workers.

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