

# **A MICRO STUDY**

## **A STUDY OF PRESENT STATUS OF BEEDI INDUSTRY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYMENT OF BEEDI WORKERS**

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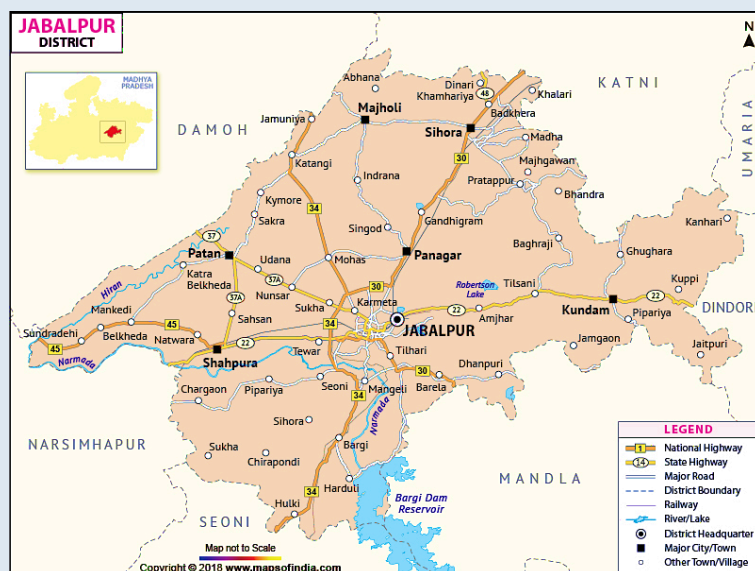
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# **PART ONE**

## **JABALPUR: AN OVERVIEW**

## History of Beedi Industry in Jabalpur



The Beedi Industry started in Jabalpur city in 1902 by Messrs Mohanlal Hargovind das. Since then, the Beedi Industry has occupied a very important position in the economy and employment in Madhya Pradesh. The growth of the industry was quite spectacular, “The Beedi Industry grew very slowly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Only 164

manufacturing units were there in 1920’s, later it went up to 1100 in 1940. The next 20 years were very difficult for the beedi industry. In this period only 200 more beedi units were established in Madhya Pradesh. After that there was a sharp decline in the Beedi sales and the number of beedi units came down from 1300 to 1102. Once again there was a boom in the Beedi industry of Madhya Pradesh and the number of Beedi units reached 1533 in 2003.” (Sen and Patel, 2014.)

### Box 1: Beedi Industry in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is the largest tendu leaf producing state of India and also one of the first states where beedi manufacturing began in 1902 in Jabalpur District. In 1915, a beedi rolling unit was established by Abdul Noor Mohammed in Sagar followed by Bhagwandandas Shobhalal Jain (B.S. Jain & Co.) in 1920. Since then, beedi manufacturing has been the main source of employment and revenue in Sagar District, second only to agriculture.

*Source: National Forum for Beedi Workers*

Currently, the Beedi industry is facing challenges; however, it continues to contribute significantly to the employment of beedi workers. According to figures provided by the



Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the number of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh stands at 4,46,556. This marks a notable decline compared to 1995-96, when the number was significantly higher at 7,55,300. Additionally, in 2002, identity cards were issued to 7,33,373 beedi workers, further highlighting the industry's earlier prominence in providing employment opportunities.

## **PART TWO**

# **SURVEY RESULTS**

## Beedi Workers in Jabalpur

Jabalpur, the third-largest city in Madhya Pradesh, serves as the headquarters for several important administrative organizations. In 1995-96, the total number of beedi workers in the Jabalpur district was recorded at 1,37,132.

Recent estimates regarding the current number of beedi workers in the city are unavailable. However, in 2002, 73,565 beedi workers in Jabalpur district were issued identity cards, while in Madhya Pradesh as a whole, identity cards were issued to 8,04,643 beedi workers.

The Jabalpur district housed 27 beedi factories, some of which operated within Jabalpur city itself. Given the significance of the industry, a focused study was conducted on a micro unit of 50 beedi workers in Pauruwa Garha, Indira Gandhi Ward, Jabalpur city.

Respondents for the study were selected purposefully, based on criteria relevant to answering the research questions. Information was gathered using a semi-structured questionnaire, supplemented by field visits, meetings, and discussions with the community. The survey was carried out in October 2023.

## Results of the Survey

The result of the survey is presented here as below: -

### Age of the Respondents

The majority of respondents, constituting 46 percent, fall within the 31-50 age group, indicating a significant presence of individuals in their prime working years. What stands out is the notable representation of workers beyond the conventional retirement age. The 51-70 age group, comprising 44 percent of respondents, underscores the industry's inclusivity, employing individuals well beyond the typical retirement age. This finding suggests that the beedi industry in Jabalpur is accommodating and provides employment opportunities irrespective of age, challenging the conventional norms that may limit employment options for older individuals. The diversity in age groups within

the workforce underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the socio-economic dynamics and working conditions specific to beedi workers in Jabalpur. It may suggest that beedi employment serves as a crucial source of income for individuals who may not have access to other forms of livelihood or social security. (see Table 1.1).

**Table 1.1**  
**Age of the Respondent**

Sl No.	Age Group	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	20-30	05	10
2.	31-50	23	46
3.	51-70	22	44
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Gender of the Respondents**

The data in Table 1.2 highlights a noteworthy positive aspect of the beedi industry: its feminization and the substantial opportunities it provides for women. With 96% of the survey respondents being female, it reflects a significant presence of women within this industry in Jabalpur. This trend signifies a notable avenue for economic empowerment for women, potentially offering employment opportunities and financial independence. The feminization of the beedi industry could be seen as a positive step towards gender inclusivity in the workforce, challenging traditional gender roles and providing a platform for women to contribute actively to the local economy. Further exploration into the experiences and perspectives of women in the beedi industry could unveil additional insights into how their roles contribute to community development and empowerment. Overall, the data suggests that the beedi industry plays a crucial role in creating a more inclusive and diversified workforce, particularly benefiting women in Jabalpur.

**Table 1.2**  
**Gender of the Respondents**

SI No.	Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	02	4
2.	Female	48	96
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Distribution of respondent based on educational qualification**

The data in Table 1.3 on educational backgrounds of the respondents underscores the beedi industry's commendable practice of employing individuals from a diverse range of educational backgrounds. With a substantial 32 percent of respondents having completed primary education, it demonstrates inclusivity by providing opportunities to those with foundational educational backgrounds. The 22 percent of individuals with middle-level education indicates that the industry values a spectrum of educational qualifications, offering employment opportunities beyond the basic levels. The 10 percent representation of respondents with secondary education showcases a commitment to hiring individuals with more advanced skills. Notably, the 24 percent with upper secondary education levels signifies a significant presence of workers with relatively higher educational attainment. Even individuals with graduate (10 percent) and post-graduate (2 percent) degrees are part of the workforce, highlighting the industry's openness to employing individuals with advanced academic qualifications.

**Table 1.3**  
**Distribution of respondents based on educational qualification**

Sl. No.	Age group	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	Primary	16	32
2.	Middle	11	22
3.	Secondary	05	10
4.	Upper Secondary	12	24
5.	Graduate	05	10
6.	Post Graduate	01	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Number of Respondents with Children getting/ completed Education**

The data in Table 1.3 indicates that 66 percent of respondents affirmed that their children received education which suggests a resilient commitment to provide educational opportunities within the surveyed group. This commitment becomes particularly noteworthy in the context of potential socio-economic challenges associated with the beedi industry. Despite the nature of the work and other limitations, a significant majority of respondents prioritized the education of their children.

The determination of these respondents to invest in their children's education speaks to the importance they place on the long-term well-being and advancement of their children. It highlights a positive outlook and a proactive approach toward securing a brighter future for the next generation, emphasizing the transformative power of education in breaking barriers and fostering upward mobility. Further qualitative research or surveys could uncover the specific strategies or sacrifices made by these families to ensure their children receive an education, offering a more nuanced understanding of their resilience and resourcefulness. Overall, this data reflects a

commendable effort by the surveyed individuals to prioritize education as a pathway to social and economic progress for their families. (see Table 1.4).

**Table 1.4**  
**Number of Respondents with educated children or receiving education**

SI No.	Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	33	66
2.	No	05	10
3.	N/A	12	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Education level of the children of respondents**

The data in Table 1.5 on the educational levels of children within the surveyed households reveal a diverse landscape, reflecting varying stages of academic attainment. The largest percentage, 36 percent, corresponds to children at the secondary education level, indicating a substantial number of households where children have progressed beyond the foundational levels. The middle education level follows closely with 26 percent, signifying a significant portion of households with children in intermediate academic stages. Households with children at the primary education level constitute 22 percent, showcasing a commitment to foundational education. Furthermore, 20 percent of households have children at the higher secondary level, reflecting a considerable presence in more advanced stages of schooling. Additionally, 14 percent of households have children at the graduate level, demonstrating a noteworthy percentage of households with children pursuing higher education. The smallest percentage, 2 percent, indicates households with children at the postgraduate level.

This educational diversity underscores the efforts made by families within the surveyed group to provide varying levels of educational opportunities for their children. The higher percentages in secondary and middle education levels suggest a commitment to advancing educational pursuits beyond the basic levels, contributing to a more skilled and educated workforce in the future.

**Table 1.5**  
**Education level of the Children of Respondents**

SI No.	Education level	No. of households	Percentage of the total
1.	Primary	11	22
2.	Middle	13	26
3.	Secondary	18	36
4.	Higher Secondary	10	20
5.	Graduate	07	14
6.	Postgraduate	01	02

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Comparison of Respondents' and Children's Educational Levels**

The data on the education levels of both respondents and their children paints a comprehensive picture of educational dynamics within the surveyed community. A significant proportion of respondents have completed primary and middle education, highlighting foundational academic backgrounds. The commitment to education is further exemplified by households with children predominantly enrolled in secondary education (36 percent). This indicates a collective effort towards providing advanced educational opportunities for the next generation. Notably, the presence of households with children at higher educational levels, including graduate and postgraduate, reflects a pursuit of higher education and a potential pathway to upward mobility.



The intertwining trends of educational attainment among respondents and their children suggest a commitment to breaking socio-economic barriers through education. The diversification of educational levels among children indicates a strategic approach to ensuring upward mobility, with families investing in varied academic pursuits.

**Table 1.6**  
**Comparative Analysis of Educational Qualification of Respondents and Education Level of their Children**

SI No.	Education Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents (%)	Education Level of Children	No. of Households	Percentage of Households (%)
1.	Primary	16	32	Primary	11	22
2.	Middle	11	22	Middle	13	26
3.	Secondary	05	10	Secondary	18	36
4.	Higher Secondary	12	24	Higher Secondary	10	20
5.	Graduate	05	10	Graduate	07	14
6.	Post Graduate	01	02	Post Graduate	01	02
7.	Total	50	100		50	100

Source: Survey by the researcher

### Sources of funding for providing education

The predominant reliance on income from beedi work (76 percent) as the primary source of funding for education among the surveyed households indicates the crucial role of this industry in supporting educational pursuits. This finding aligns with the earlier data that highlighted a significant proportion of respondents involved in the beedi industry. The absence of scholarships and government aid as substantial funding sources suggests a potential gap in external financial support mechanisms for education within this community.

**Table 1.7**  
**Sources of Funding for education**

SI No.	Sources of funding for education	Number of households	Percentage of the total
1.	Scholarship	0	00
2.	Government Aid	0	00
3.	Income from Beedi	38	76
4.	Others	08	16

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Former Family Members of respondents in Beedi Work**

The data in Table 1.8 revealing that 96 percent of respondents have had past family members working as beedi workers indicates a deeply rooted generational involvement in the industry. This continuity underscores the beedi industry's historical significance within the community, suggesting that occupational choices often transcend generations. The strong family ties to beedi work could be influenced by factors such as familial traditions, economic necessity, or limited alternative employment opportunities. This could signify diversification in occupational choices over time or the presence of families in the community with different historical occupational backgrounds. Understanding these nuanced dynamics is essential for crafting targeted interventions that respect and address the historical context of the beedi industry, while also considering the potential for diversification and change within the community's occupational landscape.

**Table 1.8**  
**Past Family members engaged in Beedi Making**

SI No.	Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	48	96
2.	No	02	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

The overwhelming response of 96 percent affirming past family involvement in the industry underscores the deeply rooted tradition of beedi work transcending generations. The breakdown of household members involved in beedi work—grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers, fathers, and others—illustrates the continuing nature of this occupation. The 100 percent representation across these categories signifies a continuity and shared commitment to the beedi industry within families.

This pattern suggests that beedi work isn't merely an occupation but a familial legacy, passed down from one generation to the next. The intergenerational transmission of this occupation may be influenced by various factors, including economic necessity, cultural norms, and limited alternative employment opportunities.

Understanding the dynamics of this generational occupational continuity is vital for policymakers, researchers, and community leaders seeking to support and uplift the beedi industry. It emphasizes the need for holistic interventions that consider the historical context, address socio-economic challenges, and foster sustainable practices within the industry. By acknowledging and respecting this generational occupational heritage, initiatives can be crafted to enhance opportunities, empower families, and ensure the long-term resilience of the beedi industry within the surveyed community. (see Table 1.9).

**Table 1.9**  
**Classification of Family members engaged in Beedi Making**

Sl. No.	Households members	Number of households	Percentage of the total
1.	Grandmother	50	100
2.	Grand Father	50	100
3.	Mother	50	100
4.	Father	50	100
5.	Others	02	100

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Age of the members when they started Beedi rolling**

The data in Table 1.10 on the age of members when they started rolling beedis reveals a noteworthy pattern. A substantial majority, constituting 88 percent of respondents, began their involvement in beedi making at an age below 17 years. This suggests that a significant proportion of individuals joined the beedi workforce during their early to mid-teenage years. The 12 percent who initiated their participation between the ages of 18-20 form a smaller but distinct segment, indicating a comparatively delayed entry into the industry.

The prevalence of individuals starting work before the age of 17 may be influenced by various factors, including economic considerations, familial traditions, and the socio-cultural landscape. Early engagement in beedi work might be indicative of economic necessity or the availability of opportunities for employment at a young age. Understanding the age dynamics in beedi industry participation is crucial for tailoring targeted interventions, considering the unique challenges and opportunities associated with the entry of individuals into the industry during their formative years. This data sheds light on the industry's role in providing employment opportunities for individuals at different stages of their youth.

**Table 1.10**  
**Age of respondents when they started beedi rolling**

Sl. No.	Years	Number of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	< 17	44	88
2.	18-20	06	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Number of years of respondents engaged in Beedi rolling**

The data in Table 1.11 on the number of years engaged in beedi rolling reflects a notable concentration of respondents who have been involved in this occupation for an extended period. A significant 84 percent of respondents reported 19 years or more of engagement in beedi rolling work. The distribution is relatively smaller for individuals with 4-18 years of engagement, ranging from 2 percent to 6 percent of respondents in these categories. The presence of a respondent unable to specify the duration of engagement suggests potential challenges in tracking or recalling this information accurately.

This data underscores the enduring nature of beedi rolling as a consistent source of employment for a substantial portion of the surveyed individuals. The majority's long-term involvement may be influenced by factors such as economic dependence, and limited alternative opportunities. Understanding the duration of engagement is crucial for tailoring support mechanisms and interventions that address the evolving needs of individuals based on their varying levels of experience within the industry.

**Table 1.11**  
**Years engaged in Beedi making by the respondent**

Sl. No.	Years engaged in beedi making	Number of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	4-6	01	2
2.	7-12	03	6
3.	13-18	03	6
4.	19 & above	42	84
5.	Can't Say	01	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Earning members of the family of Respondent**

A significant portion, 72 percent, of surveyed households reported having more than one earning member. In contrast, 28 percent of households relied on a single earning member. This distribution could be influenced by factors such as the size of the household, easy employment opportunities within the beedi industry, and broader economic conditions.

Beedi rolling appears to be the primary or possibly the sole economic opportunity. This underscores the economic significance of the beedi industry for individual households, particularly those with limited diversification in income sources. The concentration of single-earning member households within the beedi industry may be indicative of the industry's pivotal role in providing employment opportunities, even if singular, and supporting the livelihoods of families within the surveyed community. (see Table 1.12).

**Table 1.12**  
**Earning members of the family**

Sl. No.	Earning Members	Number of Households	Percentage (%)
1.	1	14	28
2.	More than 1	36	72
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Distribution of respondents by working hour per day**

The distribution of respondents by working hours per day provides insights into the labor intensity within the beedi industry. Most respondents, constituting 70 percent, work for 5-6 hours per day, indicating a significant portion of the workforce engaging in moderate-duration daily labor. A notable 20 percent of respondents report working 7 hours or more each day, highlighting a segment of the workforce involved in more extended and potentially more strenuous working hours. Additionally, 10 percent of respondents work for 3-4 hours daily, representing a smaller but noteworthy group with shorter daily labor commitments.

The data indicates that a substantial portion of respondents, 20 percent, engaged in beedi rolling for 7 hours or more each day, highlighting a significant dedication of time to this occupation. Working for more than 5 to 10 hours daily underscores the considerable commitment individuals within the beedi industry invest in their labour. This extended duration not only reflects the industrious work ethic of these individuals but also suggests that beedi rolling constitutes a major portion of their daily activities. The significant amount of time allocated to this work implies a substantial reliance on the beedi industry for livelihood and income generation within the surveyed community. (see Table 1.13).

**Table 1.13**  
**Respondents working hours per day as Beedi Makers**

Sl. No.	Number of hours	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	3-4	5	10
2.	5-6	35	70
3.	7 & above	10	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Earnings by rolling beedi per day by the respondent**

The distribution of respondents by the amount of earning provides a nuanced understanding of the financial landscape within the beedi industry. The most prevalent income category is ₹50, with 28 percent of respondents earning this amount. Additionally, substantial percentages of respondents earn ₹55 (16 percent), ₹65 (18 percent), and ₹70 (12 percent), reflecting variability in income levels. The distribution showcases a range of earnings, emphasizing the economic diversity within the surveyed community engaged in beedi rolling. This diversity in income levels could be influenced by factors such as experience, skill levels, and the number of hours dedicated to beedi making.

This variability could be influenced by factors such as experience, efficiency in beedi rolling, and the number of hours dedicated to this occupation. The presence of respondents earning at higher levels, such as ₹75 and ₹80, albeit in smaller percentages, indicates the potential for higher-income opportunities within the industry. Conversely, the lower income brackets of ₹40 and ₹45 highlight a segment of the workforce earning at the lower end of the spectrum.

This income distribution underscores the economic diversity and complexity within the beedi industry, with individuals experiencing different levels of financial remuneration for their work. Addressing disparities in income levels could involve initiatives aimed at skill



development, productivity improvement, and potentially exploring avenues for higher value beedi products. (see Table 1.14).

**Table 1.14**  
**Earnings from Beedi Rolling per Day**

SI No.	Amount earned	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	40	2	4
2.	45	4	8
3.	50	14	28
4.	55	8	16
5.	60	5	10
6.	65	9	18
7.	70	6	12
8.	75	1	2
9.	80	1	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Working days per month of the respondent**

The data on the number of working days per month in beedi rolling employment highlights the predominance of full-time engagement within this occupation. A substantial 86 percent of respondents reported working 25-30 days per month, indicating a continuous and consistent involvement in beedi rolling throughout the month. This prevalence of nearly full-time employment reflects the central role of the beedi industry in providing regular and sustained livelihood opportunities for most individuals in the surveyed community. A smaller but significant portion of respondents, 12 percent, reported working 15-20 days per month, and only 2 percent reported

working 20-25 days. These variations might be influenced by factors such as personal choice, individual work capacity, or specific employment arrangements.

A substantial 86 percent of respondents reported working 25-30 days per month, highlighting the prevalence of full-time employment in the beedi industry. This consistent involvement reflects the industry's capacity to provide month-long employment opportunities, indicating a crucial role in contributing to the economic stability of the surveyed community. The majority's ability to secure continuous work throughout the month is a noteworthy aspect, as it ensures a regular and sustained source of income for individuals involved in beedi rolling.

This data underscores the economic significance of the beedi industry as a reliable employer, offering not just intermittent but sustained livelihood opportunities. Such month-long employment has implications for the financial well-being of beedi workers, providing them with a steady income stream. (see Table 1.15).

**Table 1.15**  
**Working Days Per Month**

Sl. No.	Number of days availed Beedi rolling employment per month	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	15-20	6	12
2.	20-25	1	2
3.	25-30	43	86
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Number of Beedis rolled per day**

The data on the number of beedis rolled per day provides insights into the productivity levels and work intensity within the beedi industry. 28 percent of respondents reported rolling 1000 beedis per day, making it the most prevalent category. The 700 and 800 beedis per day categories, each constituting 12 percent, indicate a significant portion of

the workforce operating at slightly lower production rates. Additionally, 10 percent of respondents roll 1500 beedis per day, reflecting a segment engaged in higher-intensity labor. The presence of respondents rolling 1800 beedis per day indicates a subset operating at an even more accelerated pace. Notably, 28 percent of respondents marked their production as "N/A (Not Available)," suggesting potential variability in daily production rates or challenges in tracking this information accurately.

Rolling 1000 beedis daily is a commendable feat that not only speaks of the skill and dexterity of the workers but also highlights their ability to perform high-precision tasks consistently. The beedi rolling process involves intricate handiwork, requiring meticulous attention to detail and fine motor skills to ensure the quality and uniformity of each beedi. The precision involved in rolling such a significant number of beedis daily reflects a level of expertise that has likely been honed over time. It also emphasizes the adaptability and resilience of the workforce, as they navigate the demands of a labor-intensive industry. (see Table 1.16).

**Table 1.16**  
**Number of Beedis rolled per day**

Sl. No.	Number of beedis rolled per day	Number of respondent	Percentage (%)
1.	600	1	2
2.	700	6	12
3.	800	6	12
4.	900	1	2
5.	1000	14	28
6.	1200	1	2
7.	1500	5	10
8.	1800	2	4
9.	N/A	14	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Total income of the household of the Respondents**

The data on the total income of the household per month reflects a diverse range of income levels within the surveyed community engaged in beedi rolling. The most prevalent income bracket is ₹5000, with 18 percent of respondents earning within this range. Additionally, ₹7000 is also a prevalent income level, reported by 18 percent of respondents.

The distribution showcases variations in household income, with a significant number of households earning between ₹4000 and ₹8000 per month. While there were respondents earning below ₹4000, indicating potential economic challenges, there is also representation in higher income brackets, such as ₹9000, ₹10,000, and ₹11,000. (see Table 1.17).

**Table 1.17**  
**Total Income of the Household**

Sl. No.	Income per month	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	2000	2	4
2.	3000	3	6
3.	3500	3	6
4.	4000	6	12
5.	5000	9	18
6.	6000	5	10
7.	7000	9	18
8.	8000	7	14
9.	9000	4	8
10.	10,000	1	2
11.	11,000	1	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Income per month from Beedi rolling**

The data on income per month from beedi rolling emphasizes a concentration of beedi rollers within the income range of ₹1001-1500, with a significant 94 percent falling within this bracket. In contrast, a smaller but still noteworthy 6 percent of beedi rollers reported earning between ₹501-1000 per month.

The prevalence of beedi rollers earning between ₹1001-1500 reflects the predominant income level within the surveyed community engaged in this occupation. It signifies a range that, while contributing to livelihoods, may also point towards potential economic challenges. Understanding these income dynamics is essential for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations working in the beedi industry to tailor interventions that address economic disparities, enhance financial well-being, and promote sustainable livelihoods. (see Table 1.18).

**Table 1.18**  
**Income per month from Beedi rolling**

Sl. No.	Income from beedi rolling	Number of beedi rollers	Percentage of the total
1.	501-1000	3	6
2.	1001-1500	47	94
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Comparison of the income of household and earnings from Beedi making**

Comparing the income from beedi rolling to the total household income provides valuable insights into the economic conditions of the households. The data reveals that the majority of beedi rollers, precisely 94 percent, fall within the income bracket of ₹1001-1500 from their beedi rolling activities. In contrast, the total household income distribution showcases a more varied landscape, with respondents earning across a range of income levels, including higher brackets such as ₹5000, ₹7000, and beyond.

This comparison suggests that, while beedi rolling contributes significantly to individual incomes, it may not represent the sole or primary source of income for many households. The total household income data indicates a more diversified economic landscape, reflecting the presence of additional sources of revenue beyond beedi rolling for a considerable number of respondents.

The inference drawn is that households engaged in beedi rolling often rely on a combination of income streams, with beedi rolling contributing a substantial portion but not necessarily constituting the entirety of their financial resources. This diversity in income sources is a positive aspect as it provides households with a degree of economic resilience and reduces dependency on a single occupation.

## Household items owned by Respondents

The frequency distribution of household items provides insights into the possession of essential items within the surveyed community. Notably, a high percentage of respondents own certain key items, such as palank (bed) (92 percent), almirah (cupboard) (84 percent), and television (86 percent). These items represent common household amenities contributing to overall comfort and quality of life.

While chairs (76 percent) and tables (72 percent) are also prevalent, the possession of a battery inverter (2 percent) and bicycle (2 percent) is relatively limited. The ownership of an Android phone is moderate, with 14 percent of respondents indicating its presence.

The presence of essential furniture items like chairs, tables, and wardrobes suggests a focus on basic living standards. The widespread ownership of televisions indicates a level of access to entertainment and information within the community. The relatively lower ownership of a battery inverter and bicycle might indicate specific needs or priorities within the community. While the beedi income may not necessarily afford extravagant luxuries, its role in providing access to fundamental amenities is evident. The ownership of essential furniture, electronic devices, and storage units indicates that the community members are not merely surviving but are able to maintain a lifestyle that surpasses mere subsistence. (see Table 1.18).

**Table 1.19**  
**Household items possessed by Respondents**

SI No.	Particulars/items	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Television	43	86
2.	Battery Inverter	01	2
3.	Android Phone	07	14
4.	Chair	38	76
5.	Palank	46	92
6.	Table	36	72
7.	Bicycle	01	2
8.	Fan	11	22
9.	Almirah	42	84

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Expenditure pattern of income earned from Beedi rolling**

The expenditure pattern from the income of beedi rolling underscores the prioritization of essential needs by the surveyed households. The allocation of income predominantly towards food and medical care, with 100 percent of respondents directing funds to these necessities, highlights the fundamental importance placed on health and sustenance.

Furthermore, nearly all respondents, 98 percent, allocated funds for the education of their children, emphasizing a commitment to investing in the future generation's well-being and development. This reflects a broader perspective on the significance of education in breaking the cycle of socio-economic challenges.

Clothing, as an expenditure category, is considered by 24 percent of respondents, indicating a recognition of the importance of maintaining basic living standards and personal dignity.



While festivals and ceremonies represent a relatively lower percentage (2 percent), it suggests a cultural and celebratory aspect that is still accommodated within the expenditure pattern. This data demonstrates a responsible and pragmatic approach to budgeting, with a strong emphasis on meeting basic needs, providing education for children, and addressing healthcare requirements. (see Table 1.19).

**Table 1.20**  
**Expenditure pattern from income of beedi rolling**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Food	50	100
2.	Education of the children	49	98
3.	Festivals/Ceremonies	01	2
4.	Clothing	12	24
5.	Medical Care	50	100

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Profile of accommodation of respondents**

The accommodation profile reveals a diverse housing situation within the surveyed community engaged in beedi rolling. A significant portion, represented by 32 respondents, owns their residence, indicating a degree of stability and long-term commitment to a specific living space. This ownership can contribute to a sense of permanence and security within the community. On the other hand, 16 respondents reported living in rented accommodations, showcasing a level of flexibility in housing arrangements. Renting may provide a more accessible and immediate housing solution, allowing individuals to adapt to changing circumstances or economic conditions. (see Table 1.21).

**Table 1.21**  
**Accommodation profile of the respondent**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of respondents
1.	Own	32
2.	Rented	16
3.	N.A.	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Possession of Identity cards by Respondents**

The data on possession of identity cards indicates a positive and uniform trend within the surveyed community, with 100 percent of respondents affirming possession of identity cards. This comprehensive possession of identity cards is crucial for various aspects of individual and community life, including access to social services, employment opportunities, and civic participation.

The absence of respondents indicating a lack of identity cards reflects a high level of awareness and adherence to possessing this essential document. Identity cards play a pivotal role in establishing individual identity, facilitating interactions with governmental and non-governmental entities, and fostering a sense of inclusion within the broader societal context.

The complete possession of identity cards among the surveyed community signifies a proactive engagement with administrative and legal requirements, contributing to a more organized and empowered community. Policymakers and organizations can leverage this information to implement initiatives that further enhance awareness and access to essential documentation, ensuring that community members are well-positioned to avail themselves of various rights and opportunities. (see Table 1.22).

**Table 1.22**  
**Possession of Identity Card**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number	Percentage of the total
1.	YES	50	100
2.	NO	00	00
<b>Total</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

### **Medical benefits received by the respondents**

The data indicates that 100 percent of respondents affirmed receiving medical benefits, including the provision of medicines monthly. This comprehensive access to medical benefits reflects a positive aspect of the surveyed community's engagement with healthcare services, ensuring that all individuals were covered by such provisions.

The fact that there were no respondents indicating a lack of medical benefits underscores the importance placed on health and well-being within the community. Access to regular medical care, including the provision of medicines, is crucial for maintaining good health and preventing potential health issues. This information is vital for policymakers and healthcare providers, as it highlights the effectiveness of existing medical benefit programs within the community. Additionally, it underscores the community's commitment to prioritizing health, and this positive trend can serve as a model for designing and implementing similar healthcare initiatives in other communities. Overall, the comprehensive access to medical benefits is a positive indicator of the community's overall well-being and health consciousness as they receive medicines monthly. (see Table 1.23).

**Table 1.23**  
**Medical Benefits received by the respondents**

SI No.	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	Yes	50	100
2.	No	00	00
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Survey by the researcher*

## **PART THREE**

# **CONCLUSION AND HIGHLIGHTS**

## Major Highlights of the Study

- (a) Gender Inclusivity:** The beedi industry in Jabalpur is predominantly female workers dominated (96 percent). The feminization of the industry is seen as a positive step towards gender inclusivity and economic empowerment.
- (b) Educational Landscape:** The data reveals a commitment to providing educational opportunities for various academic levels, from primary to postgraduate. The industry's inclusivity in hiring individuals with different educational backgrounds contributes to a workforce with diverse skills.
- (c) Challenges and Resilience:** Despite potential socio-economic challenges associated with the beedi industry, 66 percent of respondents prioritize their children's education.
- (d) Socio-Economic Progress:** The intertwining trends of educational attainment among respondents and their children suggest a commitment to breaking socio-economic barriers through education.
- (e) Economic Dependence and Limited Alternatives:** The data indicated that 28 percent of households relied on a single earning member, emphasizing the economic dependence on the beedi industry. Limited diversification in income sources suggests the pivotal role of the industry in supporting the livelihoods of families even though there are multiple other industries at Jabalpur, they are unable to provide long term employment opportunities to the Beedi Workers. High productivity contributes significantly to the economic viability of the beedi industry.
- (f) Income Diversity and Skill Development:** Varied income levels within the industry suggest potential opportunities for skill development and productivity improvement.
- (g) Basic Living Standards and Economic Stability:** Ownership of essential items and furniture indicates a focus on maintaining basic living standards.

**(h) Possession of Identity Cards:** Possession of identity cards by all the respondents reflects a high level of awareness and adherence to essential documentation, contributing to an empowered community.

**(i) Health Consciousness and Access to Medical Benefits:** All the sample respondents received medical benefits as there was a static-cum-mobile dispensary located in the vicinity of the residential sites of the sample Beedi Workers.

These additional points provide a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic, educational, and cultural dimensions of the beedi industry in Jabalpur, highlighting both challenges and opportunities for targeted interventions and support. However, Many Beedi workers were not aware about different Social Security and development programmes, currently Government of Madhya Pradesh has been implementing several programmes especially focusing on the empowerment and development of women in general and Beedi Workers in particular. The list of such programmes is given below: -

- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** launched on May 1, 2016, provides free domestic gas cylinders to economically weaker and middle-class families. Ujjwala Yojana 2.0, initiated on August 10, 2021, offers free gas cylinders to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- **Free Sewing Machine Scheme:** Launched with the objective of providing employment to economically weaker and middle-class women, the Free Sewing Machine Scheme aims to enhance the income of women engaged in domestic work.
- **Free Flour Mill Distribution Scheme:** Focused on the empowerment of homemakers, this scheme provides free flour mills to women engaged in household chores. It aims to improve the economic condition of women by facilitating easy access to flour milling.

- **Ladli Behna Yojana:** This scheme offers financial assistance of INR 1000 per month to economically weaker women.
- **Nari Samman Yojana:** Introduced to provide financial aid to women in the state, this scheme offers a monthly amount of INR 2000.
- **Sakhi – One Stop Center Scheme:** this scheme supports and assists women affected by violence. One Stop Centers are established across the country to provide comprehensive support to affected women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana:** Under this scheme, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive financial assistance of INR 6000.
- **Prime Minister Skilled Women Scheme:** offers training to women in local crafts such as embroidery, tailoring, and beauty parlors with the aim of promoting local employment. After completing the training, women can start their own businesses, leading to an improvement in their economic status.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** This landmark program guarantees 100 days of employment to every household in rural areas, with a significant emphasis on ensuring the participation and welfare of women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:** It provides affordable personal accident coverage to individuals. Launched in 2015, it offers a low-cost insurance premium with a high sum assured. The scheme covers accidental death and disability, providing financial security to policyholders and their families in case of unforeseen events.
- **Ayushman Bharat Yojana:** Launched in 2018, it aims to provide health insurance coverage to economically vulnerable families. Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries receive financial protection for secondary and tertiary hospitalization expenses.



- **Mukhya Mantri Charan Paduka Yojana:** for Tendu Patta Workers. Under this scheme, tendu leaves collectors are given shoes, slippers, some clothes and a water pot. It was launched in January 2024 by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana:** is a life insurance scheme launched by the Indian government. Introduced to provide affordable life insurance, the scheme offers a renewable one-year term life cover of a specified amount. It aims to financially secure individuals and their families by offering a low-cost insurance option, making life coverage accessible to a larger section of the population.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The study highlights the intricate socio-economic fabric of the beedi industry in Jabalpur, revealing both its contributions to livelihoods and the persistent challenges faced by its workers. Despite the industry's role in empowering women and fostering educational aspirations, limited awareness of government schemes and alternative opportunities restricts workers' socio-economic mobility.

To address these gaps, targeted awareness programs should be implemented to educate beedi workers about healthcare, social security schemes, and skill development opportunities. Additionally, initiatives focusing on financial literacy and alternative livelihood training could enhance their economic resilience. Strengthening these interventions will not only improve the living standards of beedi workers but also support their long-term empowerment and socio-economic upliftment.