



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

**MADHYA PRADESH**



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## PREFACE

The journey of the beedi industry has been remarkable. Since the introduction of tobacco cultivation in India by Portuguese merchants, tobacco has been consumed in various forms. In earlier times, the 'hookah' (hubble-bubble) was the primary means of tobacco consumption. Today, one of the most common forms is the tendu leaf-rolled beedi, a practice that is now over a century old. This industry provides employment and livelihood opportunities to some of the most economically vulnerable sections of society, with women making up an overwhelming majority of the workforce.

Since its introduction, the beedi industry has grown significantly, as evidenced by the increasing number of beedi workers over the decades. For instance, the total number of beedi workers was nine lakhs according to the 1961 Census. Today, the total number of registered beedi workers is about fifty lakhs, according to a report by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. The overwhelming majority of these workers are beedi rollers, most of whom are women. The rest of the workforce includes checkers, labelers, furnace workers, contractors, and loaders/unloaders.

In addition, there are the beedi tobacco farmers, tobacco curers, traders, and those involved in tendu leaf plucking, whose numbers run into several millions across the country. As a result, a significant number of workers in the country are engaged in the beedi industry, both directly and indirectly.

Beedi workers are found in as many as 200 districts across various states. The overwhelming majority (87.01 percent) of these workers are concentrated in seven states: West Bengal (36.71 percent), Tamil Nadu (12.10 percent), Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (9.19 percent), Madhya Pradesh (8.84 percent), Uttar Pradesh (8.28 percent), Bihar (5.96 percent), and Karnataka (5.91 percent).

The present study was undertaken to examine various aspects of the beedi industry in Madhya Pradesh. It clearly indicates that despite numerous issues, employment in the

beedi industry remains robust and is increasing. The industry provides significant livelihood opportunities to some of the most vulnerable segments of the labor force in the State. The study highlights the need to preserve and protect the industry until alternative employment sources become available. Most importantly, it underscores the substantial impact of the 28 percent GST on the structure of this industry and its subsequent implications.

The study has been divided into seven chapters.

In **Chapter One**, an attempt has been made to provide an overview of the landscape of the Beedi Industry in India.

**Chapter Two** reviews different social security schemes under the Beedi Workers Welfare Act, 1976.

**Chapter Three** presents an overview of the Beedi industry in Madhya Pradesh.

**Chapter Four** discusses the social security measures for Beedi Workers in Madhya Pradesh.

**Chapter Five** presents the brief survey results of Beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh.

**Chapter Six** presents case studies of some beedi workers and their wards.

**Chapter Seven** makes some concluding remarks for the promotion and protection of the Beedi industry.



# CHAPTER I

## LANDSCAPE OF BEEDI INDUSTRY: AN OVERVIEW

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The most essential need for survival is the availability of employment. As the population began to grow after the 1800s, particularly in the wake of the Industrial Revolution, the demand for employment for the increasing labor force also grew. However, employment opportunities often could not keep pace with the growing demand, a challenge experienced by many countries worldwide. To address this problem, many nations initiated economic plans. India's First Five-Year Plan clearly defined its goal as 'to initiate a process of development which will raise living standards and open out to the people new opportunities for a richer and more varied life. The problem of developing an under-developed economy is one of utilizing more effectively the potential resources available to the community, and it is this which involves economic planning.' (First Five-Year Plan, Planning Commission, New Delhi).

The main effort of the Government of India and other stakeholders has been to enhance living standards by generating large-scale employment through the development of all economic sectors—the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors—either simultaneously or successively.

In India, agriculture has historically been the most important means of livelihood. As a result, the growing labor force primarily found opportunities to eke out a living through agriculture and allied activities.

However, change began to occur after the Industrial Revolution. New types of industries emerged in the country, including tea plantations, the jute industry, the cotton industry, and the tobacco industry (including the beedi industry). These industries provided substantial employment opportunities for a growing portion of the labor force.

As tobacco consumption in the form of 'beedi' (also called the country cigarette) became popular, beedi-making evolved into a significant economic activity for an increasing number of workers in both urban and rural areas.

## 1.2 SIZE OF THE BEEDI INDUSTRY

Initially, beedi making took place in factory premises, but it gradually became a home-based activity. As a result, women in the labour force were given a sustainable opportunity to earn their livelihood.

Before Independence, the beedi industry provided employment to several lakh workers, most of whom were male. However, the employment scenario has since shifted, with women now dominating the beedi rolling segment, accounting for more than 90% of the total beedi rollers in the country (Arora et al., 2020). Although the beedi sector is part of the large unorganized employment landscape, it offers regular employment opportunities to some of the most vulnerable groups in the country. This industry, second only to agriculture, serves as a crucial means of survival for the most disadvantaged and has been recognized as such by successive governments.

### Box 1.1

#### The Estimated Number of Beedi Workers

*“The Census 1981 placed the estimated number of Beedi Workers at 15.62 Lakhs of whom about 67% were rural based. This appears to be an underestimation as the exact numbers of beedi workers are difficult to ascertain due to problems pertaining to their identification (emphasis in ours). Many home-based workers, mostly women and children do not get counted. However, as per the returns received from various state governments, the Ministry of Labour placed the number of beedi workers at 37.31 lakhs in 1991. The largest concentration of Beedi workers were found in Madhya Pradesh (16%) followed by West Bengal (12%), Uttar Pradesh (12%), Bihar (10%) and Karnataka (9.5%). These five states account for more than 60% percent of the beedi workers in the Country” P.86*

**Source: Government of India (1991) Report of the National Commission on Rural Labour Volume. I, New Delhi, Ministry of Labour**

### 1.3 BEEDI INDUSTRY AND EXCISE DUTY

The beedi industry provides substantial revenue to the government in the form of excise duty. Prior to the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act of 2017, a cess was levied on 1,000 beedis, with the proceeds allocated for the welfare of beedi workers. However, with the implementation of GST in 2017, cess collection was discontinued, and revenues are now generated through GST and other excise duties.

The excise duties on beedis are as follows:

1. **GST (Goods and Services Tax):** All beedis attract a 28% GST.
2. **NCCD (National Calamity Contingency Duty):**
  - Rs. 1 per thousand sticks for handmade beedis.
  - Rs. 2 per thousand sticks for machine-made beedis.

One of the purposes of imposing a high rate of tax is to discourage tobacco consumption in the country. The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control stipulates that tobacco consumption should be reduced. Secondly, the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003 also puts many conditions to curb the consumption of tobacco. The act was passed on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2003, and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was adopted on May 21, 2003.

The Impact of the above steps have reduced consumption of tobacco to some extent. (Goodchild et al. 2020) Since, the Beedi and the tobacco industry provides employment to many people in the country, a balance needs to be made between the negative health effects of tobacco and the huge issue of reskilling millions of under skilled/ beedi workers.

## 1.4 BEEDI PRODUCTION IN INDIA

As estimating the production in an industry as widespread as this, poses challenges, we have taken the following estimates to be representative. Every year a huge number of beedi sticks are produced in India. “The industry procures between 750 billion and 1.2 trillion beedi sticks per year” (Nandi, A. Ashok, Guindon G.E., et al., 2013). These numbers have changed significantly since and the movement is towards the unorganized sector.

It was also estimated that there are several hundred large<sup>1</sup> entities beedi producing establishments in the country producing more than two million branded beedis per year (Arora et al. 2020) while there are thousands of unregistered beedi making establishments located in various States of the country whose numbers are growing rapidly. Here we have depicted several scenarios, keeping in view the per capita average number of beedis rolled by beedi rollers per day in twenty days in a month. The scenarios are: -

### FIRST SCENARIO

**These are one day production rates: -**

1. 800 Beedis produced by 50 Lacs (5 million) Beedi workers in a day would be 4 billion (400 Crores) in a day.
2. 900 Beedis produced by 50 Lacs (5 million) Beedi workers in a day would be 4.5 billion (450 crores) in a day.
3. 1000 Beedis produced by 50 Lac (5 million) Beedi Workers in a day is 5 billion (500 Crore) in a day.

### SECOND SCENARIO

#### MONTHLY PRODUCTION

**So, the monthly production for each scenario, assuming they work 25 days a month, would be as follows:**

---

<sup>1</sup> Note-1 (At the end of the chapter)



1. For 800 Beedis: 100 billion (10000 crores)
2. For 900 Beedis: 112.5 billion (11250 crores)
3. For 1000 Beedis: 125 billion (12500 crores)

**So, the monthly production for each scenario, assuming they work 20 days a month, expressed in both billions and crores, would be:**

1. For 800 Beedis: 80 billion (8000 crores)
2. For 900 Beedis: 90 billion (9000 crores)
3. For 1000 Beedis: 100 billion (10,000 crores)

### **THIRD SCENARIO**

#### **ANNUAL PRODUCTION**

**So, the annual production for each scenario, assuming they work 25 days a month, would be as follows:**

1. For 800 Beedis: 1200 billion (120000 crores)
2. For 900 Beedis: 1350 billion (135000 crores)
3. For 1000 Beedis: 1500 billion (150000 crores)

**So, the annual production for each scenario, assuming they work 20 days a month, would be as follows:**

1. For 800 Beedis: 960 billion (96000 crores) (0.96 trillion)
2. For 900 Beedis: 1080 billion (108000 crores) (1.08 trillion)
3. For 1000 Beedis: 1200 billion (120000 crores) (1.2 trillion)

The above is carried by an assumption that if 50 lakh beedi workers produce beedi in different ranges.

### **FOURTH SCENARIO**

#### **GST COLLECTION FROM BEEDI MAKING**

Let's assume that the Cost of 20 Beedi's is Rs. 10 and as per information, 28% GST is levied from each packet. Therefore, the GST collected from 1 trillion Beedi's would be: -

### **Cost of 1 trillion Beedis =**

Cost per Beedi\* Number of Beedi's =  $0.5 * 1 \text{ trillion} = 500 \text{ billion Rupees}$ .

So, the cost of 1 trillion beedis at a rate of 0.5 Rupees per Beedi would be 500 billion rupees.

### **GST Calculated for 1 trillion Beedis =**

Rate of GST \* Cost of 1 trillion beedis =  $0.28 * 500 \text{ billion} = 140 \text{ billion Rupees}$ .

So, the GST for the cost of 1 trillion beedis at a rate of 28% would be 140 billion rupees.

### **National Calamity Contingent Duty =**

If assuming that per 1000 Beedi, Rs. 1 is taken for National Calamity Contingent Duty than for 1 trillion beedi, it would be 1 billion rupees.

## **1.5 REVENUE FROM BEEDI INDUSTRY**

Revenue generated by this industry shows a great variance as our sources below demonstrate:

- In 2018-19, the total revenue from the beedi sticks was INR 5400 crores per annum. It is also reported that "Beedi consumption estimated at 400 billion sticks per annum including 275 billion duty paid sticks and 125 billion duty exempt sticks (Goodchild, 2020)

Suffice to say that this industry makes a significant and tangible contribution to the national exchequer and intangible benefit to the lives of millions.

## **1.6 GROWTH OF EMPLOYMENT IN BEEDI INDUSTRY**

The figures in Table 1.1 show that in 1991, the number of beedi workers was more than 37 lakhs, which increased to 49 lakhs in 2023. (see also Box 1.1). From table 1.1 it is

clear that between 2010 to 2023, the number of beedi workers has almost remained constant, which shows industry is not growing.

**Table 1.1**  
**Growth of beedi workers as per Ministry of Labour & Employment data**

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Beedi Workers
1.	1991***	37,31,000
2.	1997****	43,63,520
3.	2000****	44,11,275
4.	2009****	48,69,417
5.	2010****	49,90,068
6.	2023****	49,82,294

Source: \*\*\*\*Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

**Table 1.2**  
**Growth of beedi workers as per different census**

Year	Number of Beedi Workers (In Lakhs)	Increase over the years
1961	9,00,000	0
1971	12,72,429	41.38%
1981	16,00,000	25.72%
1991	23,81,556	48.85%
2001	39,90,578	67.57%
2011	40,45,162	1.37%

Source: Census of India, various reports of the census year

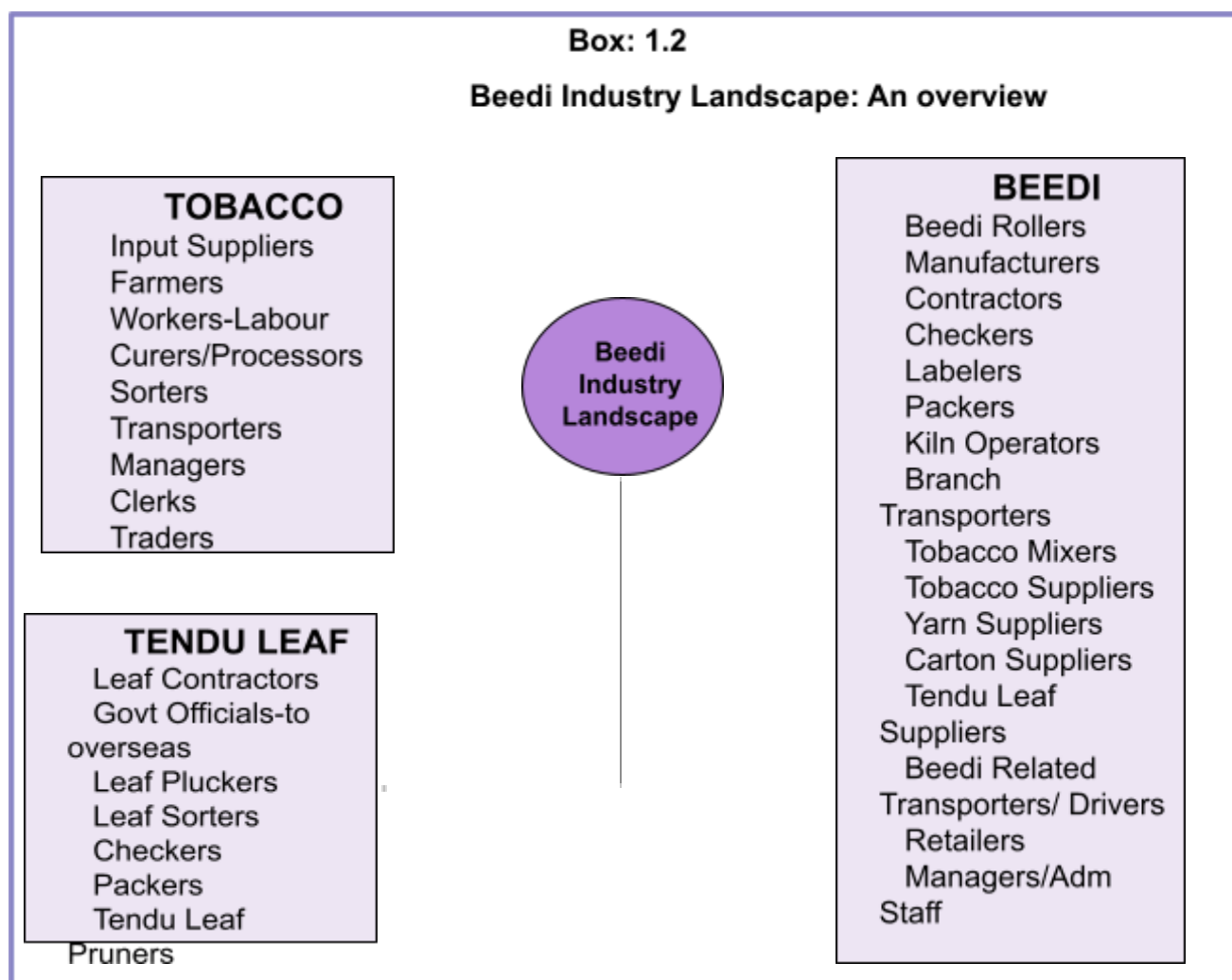
## 1.7 FIGURES OF BEEDI WORKERS AS PER DIFFERENCE CENSUSES

The figure in the table shows that over the decades, the number of beedi workers has been steadily increasing in the country providing employment to many households in the marginalized groups. In order to protect and promote the welfare of these workers,

the government has enacted two legislations namely, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and the Welfare Fund Act 1976.

## 1.7 BEEDI INDUSTRY: EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

Beedi industry employs many workers in different processes of beedi production.



However, the overwhelming number of workers are engaged in the beedi rolling process. The total workers are now about five million. Industry however estimates beedi workers at 8 million mainly because a large number of beedi manufacturers are in the unorganized sector. This industry has been, for over a century, providing employment to several million workers and uplifting them from their poverty and deprivation. The



overwhelming majority of workers are economically disadvantaged. The beedi industry landscape is illustrated in Box 1.2.

## **1.8 EMPLOYMENT PATTERN IN BEEDI INDUSTRY**

The pattern of employment in the beedi industry can be categorized into two forms: one factory-based employment and another the contractual/home based. The different characteristics of registered beedi and unregistered beedi workers are shown in Table 1.3

As we have noted earlier, today the overwhelming majority of the beedi workers are home based and a very small number of beedi workers are employed in factory premises. There are several reasons for this pattern; for example, the operation, especially, the beedi rolling activity can be carried out in any place, as the beedi making does not require any machinery, electricity, etc. Because of the flexibility of both time and space for working, beedi making workers could be found in more than two hundred districts in the country. (Rehman and Rehman, 2023; and Varma and Rehman, 2005).

**Table 1.3**  
**Difference between Registered and Unregistered Beedi Companies**

<b>Nature</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>Unregistered</b>
Annual sales	Rs. 20,00,000/-	Less than Rs. 20 Lakhs
Excise Duty <sup>2</sup>	Bound to pay excise	Exempt from paying excise duty
Branding	Branded. They operate through formal and informal networks of contractors to reach out to beedi rollers. They sometimes have branch offices who then work through contractors.	Unbranded
Relations with workers	Direct formal, direct informal, indirect formal and indirect informal	Informal – direct and indirect
Labour laws	Legally bound	Not bound to adhere social security laws
Issuance of IDs	Yes	No
Place of production	Factories, work sheds, households, small units	Work sheds, households, small units

Source: *Beedi Industry and Welfare of Workers in India, Review of Policies and Literature* by Priya John (John, 2017).

## 1.9 STATE-WISE MAGNITUDE OF BEEDI WORKERS

As an accurate estimate of beedi workers in the country is not available, only the data collected by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, is the main source. The same is presented in Table 1.4

The figures in Table 1.4 show that the highest number of beedi workers are concentrated in West Bengal, followed by Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana. Even in Uttaranchal and Haryana, the incidence of beedi workers has been reported, though the numbers are insignificant.

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<sup>2</sup> Prior to imposition of GST

**Table 1.4**  
**State/UT-wise details of registered Beedi Workers**

Sl. No.	Name of Region	Name of State/UT	Total	%
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	39011	0.78
2.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	38791	0.77
3.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	412757	8.28
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka	295501	5.93
5.	Bhubaneshwar	Odisha	208212	4.18
6.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana	458040	9.19
7.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	440556	8.84
8.	Kolkata	West Bengal	1829203	36.71
9.	Guwahati	Assam	24398	0.48
10.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	40276	0.80
11.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	155089	3.11
12.	Patna	Bihar	296972	5.96
13.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	3893	0.08
14.	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	603076	12.10
15.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	136519	2.74
<b>Total</b>			<b>49,82,294</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Government of India (2023), Annual Report:2022-23. New Delhi, Ministry of Labour and Employment*

## 1.10 DISTRIBUTION OF BEEDI WORKERS BY GENDER

The figures in Table 1.5 show that out of the total beedi workers, 72.77 percent are female beedi workers. As we have noted earlier, over the decades, the proportion of female beedi workers has been increasing in various States of the country.

The State-wise distribution of the female beedi workers show that the highest proportion (39.74 percent) beedi workers is concentrated in Kolkata Region (West Bengal), Tirunelveli (12.40 percent) (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad Region (Andhra Pradesh/Telangana) (11.27 percent) and so on. In several States, namely Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, the level of concentration of beedi workers is 8.84, 5.87 and 5.69 percent respectively.

The table also shows the proportion of female beedi workers to total beedi workers in each State. It can be observed that the proportion of female beedi workers out of the total beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh/Telangana is highest (89.24 percent), followed by Odisha (86.16 percent), Chhattisgarh (81.89 percent) and so on.

The Majority of beedi workers are from rural areas and also from economically disadvantaged sections. The employment in beedi rolling gives them a source of income which is regular. Being a flexible wage payment system, the beedi workers mostly opt for weekly payment. This provides them an opportunity to meet their daily expenses for food, children's education, clothing, and other requirements.

During an interaction in a meeting with a beedi worker in Kapasdanga in Lalbagh, Murshidabad Distt., West Bengal, the researchers asked a beedi worker named Sulekha Bibi how important is her employment in beedi making. Her reply was an eye opener. "Beedi making is our life, like the need for water. We would have been in dire crisis without beedi rolling. It is our main source of survival," she said. She also further said that "our children's education, and our daily needs are met by our regular income from beedi". Similar comments were made by the beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh, as there are many beedi workers who are dependent solely on beedi rolling activity. During an interaction with beedi workers in Sagar city, one women beedi roller said very poignantly: "If beedi rolling is stopped our heart beats will also stop".

**Table 1.5**  
**Concentration of female Beedi workers by States & Region: 2021**

Sl. No.	Region/State	Total Number of Beedi Workers	Number of Female Beedi Workers	(%) to the total female workers
1.	Allahabad/ Uttar Pradesh	4,12,757	3,02,514 (8.84)**	77.65
2.	Ahmedabad/ Gujarat	39,011	6074 (0.15)	15.56
3.	Ajmer/ Rajasthan	38,991	3574	9.21

Sl. No.	Region/State	Total Number of Beedi Workers	Number of Female Beedi Workers	(%) to the total female workers
			(0.09)	
4.	Bangalore/ Karnataka	2,95,501	2,13,165 (5.87)	72.13
5.	Bhubaneswar/ Odisha	2,08,212	1,79,400 (4.94)	86.16
6.	Hyderabad/Andhra Pradesh- Telangana	4,58,040	4,08,755 (11.27)	89.24
7.	Jabalpur/ Madhya Pradesh	4,40,556	1,49,949 (4.13)	34.03
8.	Nagpur/ Maharashtra	1,55,089	1,02,810 (2.83)	66.29
9.	Ranchi/ Jharkhand	1,36,519	97,972 (2.70)	71.76
10.	Patna/ Bihar	2,96,972	2,06,510 (5.69)	69.53
11.	Raipur/ Chhattisgarh	3893	3188 (0.08)	81.89
12.	Kolkata/ West Bengal	18,29,203	14,41,173 (39.74)	78.78
13.	Guwahati/ Assam	24,398	98,519 (0.51)	75.90
14.	Tirunelveli/ Tamil Nadu	6,03,076	4,49,849 (12.40)	74.59
15.	Cannanore/ Kerala	40,276	24,210 (0.66)	61.11
<b>Total</b>		49,82,294	36,25,662 (100.0)	72.77

*\*Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha unstarred question no. 4357, 22.03.2021., Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.*

*Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentage from the total female beedi workers*

*\*\*figures in bracket are percentage from the total*

## 1.11 MAGNITUDE OF BEEDI WORKERS AS PER PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY BY NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)

### □ EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The figures in Table 1.6 reveal that in 2018-19, the total number of beedi workers was 27.69 lakhs of which 26.11 lakhs were female. These numbers are far below those reported by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. The distribution of the workers by usual status shows that many of the workers (93.0 percent) were self-employed, followed by unpaid family workers (2.5 percent) , casual workers (2.4 percent), and regular workers (2.1 percent). The employment pattern shows that today the overwhelming majority of beedi workers is unorganized and home based and predominantly female centric. There are several reasons:

1. One, with the changing work scenario, male members of the many families have taken up other jobs in their localities or migrated to other places,
2. For women, the employment in beedi rolling has become an important opportunity for their livelihood and it is perennial. Besides, they can work from their home.

**Table 1.6**  
**Percentage Distribution of Beedi Workers by Employment Status:**  
**2018-19 (in 2000)**

<b>Usual Status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Self-employed: Own Account (Beedi Rollers)	71.7	94.3	93.0
Self-employed: Unpaid Family Worker (aiding rollers)	2.7	2.5	2.5
Regular Workers – in a Factory Premises <sup>1</sup>	15.8	1.3	2.1
Casual Workers - in a Factory Premises <sup>2</sup>	9.7	1.9	2.4
Total (Percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (Numbers in thousand) **	157.5	2611.4	2768.9

**\* Usual Principal and Subsidiary statutes combined Unit level data from Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Govt of India.**

**<sup>1</sup> Regular workers are workers employed in an establishment on a monthly wage/salary, on an ongoing basis.**

**<sup>2</sup> Casual workers are workers who are employed from time-to-time according to exigencies of work (NSO definition)**

**Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19**

## □ DISTRIBUTION OF BEEDI WORKERS BY USUAL LOCATION OF WORKPLACE

Table 1.7 shows that of the total workers, 73.8 percent are home based in rural areas 21.8 percent in urban areas. The figures also show that today the majority of beedi workers are concentrated in rural areas. First, the industry was factory based and most of the workers worked in the factory premises. Today, the situation has changed, and it has become an important manufacturing activity even in the remote areas of the country.

**Table 1.7**  
**Distribution of Beedi Workers by usual Location of Workplace: 2018-19**

Area	Location	Numbers (in thousand) *	Percentage
Rural	Home-based	2045	73.8
	Own enterprise but away from own dwelling	9.7	0.3
	Employer's dwelling	4.2	0.2
	Employer's enterprise but outside employer's dwelling	26.8	1.0
	Others	29.4	1.1
Urban	Home-based	603	21.8
	Own enterprise but away from own dwelling	13.1	0.5
	Employer's enterprise but outside employer's dwelling	23.8	0.9
	Others	14.3	0.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>2768.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Numbers are adjusted with the census population projected for the year 2018-19.

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19

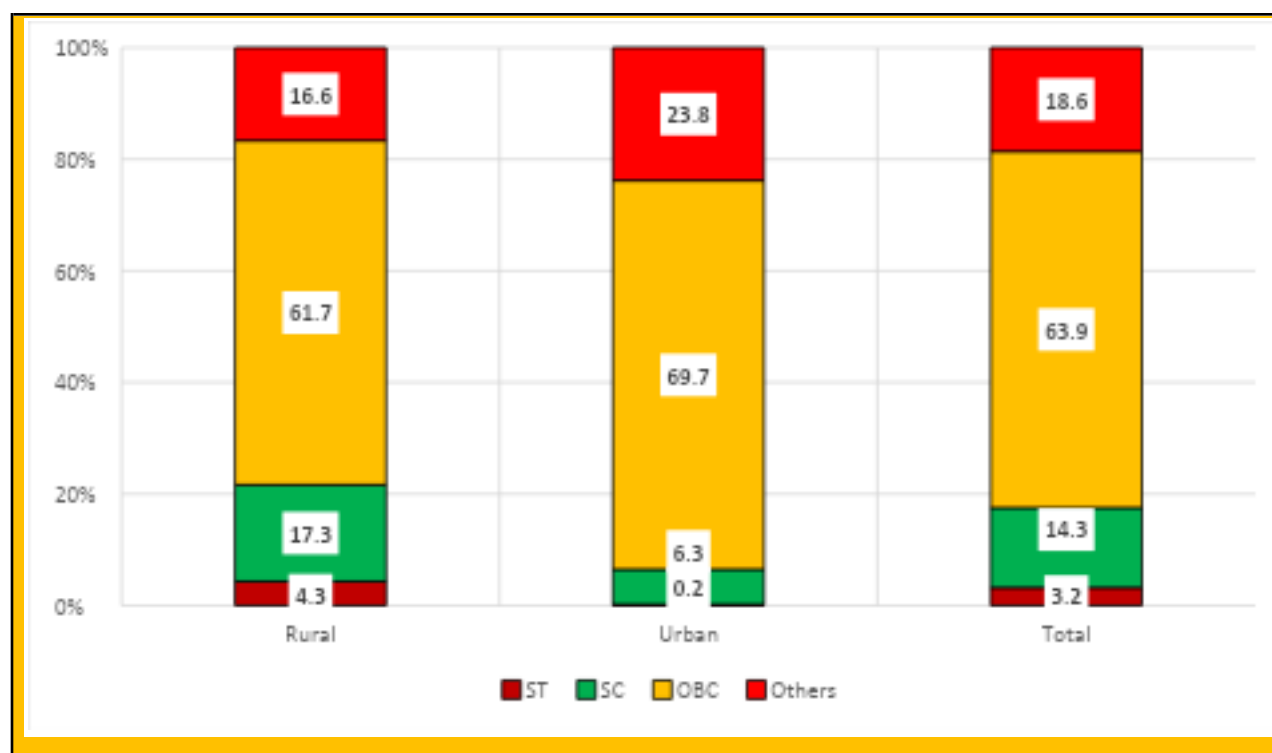
## □ DISTRIBUTION OF BEEDI WORKERS BY CASTE GROUPS

According to PLFS, 2018-19 as presented in Figure 1.1 of the total beedi workers 3.2 percent are the Scheduled tribes, 14.3 percent are the scheduled caste and 63.9 percent are Other Backward Classes and 18.6 percent are Others. These figures reveal an important aspect of the beedi workers that the majority is

constituted by socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society and given this stark reality, the employment in the beedi industry is an important means of survival and livelihood of the disadvantaged in the country today.

**Figure 1.1**

**Percentage distribution of Beedi Workers by Caste Group: 2018-19**



## □ EDUCATION LEVEL OF BEEDI WORKERS

According to Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2018-19 as presented in Table 1.8 of the total beedi workers, 68.2 percent workers' level of education was primary or below, followed by middle to secondary (27.7 percent), higher secondary (2.6 percent), graduate (1.4 percent) and post-graduate above (0.1 present). The



figures reveal a very dismal scenario about education. Despite many efforts, workers in the beedi industry have very little opportunity for formal education. The situation in fact provides an opportunity to explore means and ways to give education to workers.

**Table 1.8**  
**Distribution of Beedi Workers by Educational Level, 2018-19**

Educational Level	Numbers (in thousand)			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Primary or below	109.6	1778.1	1887.7	69.6	68.1	68.2
Middle to Secondary	28.3	739.5	767.8	17.9	28.3	27.7
Higher secondary	9.4	62.9	72.4	6.0	2.4	2.6
Graduate	10.0	28.1	38.1	6.3	1.1	1.4
Post-graduate & above	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>2611.4</b>	<b>2768.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19*

## □ DISTRIBUTION OF BEEDI WORKERS BY TYPE OF SECTOR

Employment sector is organized into two sectors, unorganized and organized sector. Today, more than 90 percent (G.O.I, 2020) of the workers are unorganized and beedi workers are no exception. The figures in Table 1.9 show that out of the total workers, the majority is in the unorganized sector and a small number is in the organized sector. The beedi workers being in the unorganized sector, they are generally deprived of opportunities like, access to provident fund scheme and minimum wages fixed by the various State Government from time to time, Employment State Insurance Schemes, etc.

**Table 1.9**  
**Distribution of Beedi Workers (in thousand)**  
**by Type of Sector and Worker, 2018-19**

Gender	Sector	Informal Workers	Formal Workers	Total
Male	Unorganized Sector	142.7	0.7	143.4
	Organized Sector	7.1	7.1	14.2
	<b>Total</b>	149.8	7.7	157.5
Female	Unorganized Sector	2574.8	0.0	2574.8
	Organized Sector	29.1	7.5	36.6
	<b>Total</b>	2604.0	7.5	2611.4
Total	Unorganized Sector	2717.5	0.7	2718.2
	Organized Sector	36.2	14.5	50.8
	<b>Total</b>	2753.7	15.2	2768.9

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19

- **Number of Beedi Workers according to PLFS 2022-23**

In table 1.10 the figures show that according to the PLFS 2022-23, the total number of beedi workers was 37,15,262. The distribution by age group shows that the overwhelming number of beedi workers (88.90%) is in the age group of 18-59, followed by 60 and above ((9.05%).

**(Note: Usual Activity Status:** It relates to the activity status of a person during the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey.

**Subsidiary economic activity status:** If the person apart from their usual principal status also engages in any economic activity for 30 days or more during this period, that activity is considered their subsidiary economic activity.)

**Table 1.10**  
**Beedi Manufacturing**  
**PLFS 2022-23**  
**Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status Combined (UPSS)**  
**Census Adjusted**

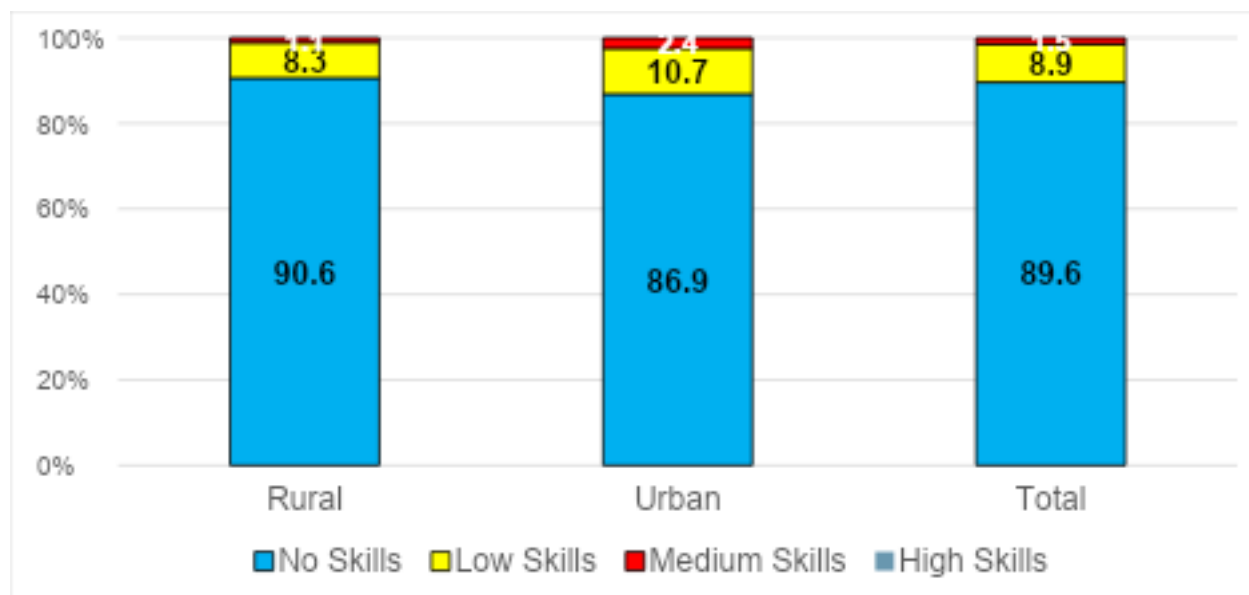
Gender	Age (Years)	Self Employed: Own Account Worker cum Employer	Self-employed : unpaid family worker	Regular Salaried	Casual Labourer	Total	%
Person	5-13	0	5373	0	0	5373	0.14
	14-17	1612	68578	0	0	70190	1.88
	18-59	2852084	268182	138338	44535	3303139	88.90
	60 and Above	287599	45072	2144	1745	336560	9.05
	Total	3141295	387205	140481	46280	3715262	100.00

**Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey: 2022-23**

## □ LEVELS OF SKILLS OF THE BEEDI WORKERS: 2018-19

Figure 1.2 shows that according to PLFS 2018-19, of the total beedi workers, 89.6 percent did not possess any certified skills, 8 percent had low skills, 1.5 percent had medium level of skills, and none had any high level of skills. (see Figure 1.2)

**Figure 1.2**  
**Percentage of Distribution of Beedi Workers by Level of Skills, 2018-19**



**Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19**

## 1.12 TENDU LEAVES

Another important ingredient of beedi is Tendu leaves. It is used as an excellent wrapper material to make beedis. The Tendu leaves' leathery texture has made it the most acceptable beedi wrapper throughout the country. Tendu plant grow in the forest on the degraded land (Lal, 2012)

As an important ingredient, Tendu leaves are an important means of livelihood for several million tendu leaves collectors in many States in the country. The Tendu plants are found in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal (Sharma, 2020; Rehman and Rehman, 2023). The accurate number of Tendu leaf pluckers is not available. However, it is estimated that there are 6 to 7 million Tendu leaf pluckers; and for about three months in a year, they get employment. The overwhelming majority of the pluckers are from socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society (Sharma, 2020; Lal, 2012; and Centre for People's Forestry,).

## 1.13 BEEDI TOBACCO

Every type of tobacco cannot be used in Beedi. There are special varieties of tobacco which are used for beedi making. Beedi Tobacco is cultivated in two states of India, namely Karnataka, and Gujarat.

- ❖ **Karnataka:** Beedi tobacco in Karnataka is grown in three talukas, namely Chikodi, Hukkeri and Gokak in District Belagavi. The total production of beedi tobacco was about 98,15,000 kg. The total area of beedi tobacco cultivation is 6500 hectares.
- ❖ **Gujarat:** The highest amount of beedi tobacco is grown in Gujarat. The production of beedi tobacco was 452 million kg. A total area of 1.52 lakh hectares was devoted to the cultivation of beedi tobacco. “The production of beedi tobacco is largely concentrated in the middle Gujarat comprising Kheda, Anand and Vadodara districts besides a small area in Panchmahal district.”<sup>3</sup>

### Notes

1. Currently, beedi manufacturing units operational in the country can be grouped into two categories viz. (a) registered companies and (b) unregistered companies. The registered companies are the large entities producing two million branded beedi per year, are bound to pay excise duty on their product and are largely bound to follow labour law (Arora et al 2020).

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<sup>3</sup> Madhav, M.S.; Patel, J.N.; Bai, P. Pulli; Matiwade, P.S.; Rao, C.C.; Kumari, B.K. and Flora, S.; (2023) India Beedi Tobacco. All India Network Project on Tobacco, ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

## **CHAPTER II**

# **SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE MEASURES FOR BEEDI WORKERS**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

During the last quarter of the last century, the Government of India and various State governments in the country slowly but steadily began to introduce social security programmes for the population in general and workers in particular. The programmes, despite having shortcomings, have helped many people in general and workers in particular.

Keeping this in view, the government of India, with the financial contribution by the Beedi Industry, created a Welfare Fund and formulated several schemes for Beedi workers in the country.

In this chapter an effort has been made to provide an overview of the welfare programmes set up by the Beedi Industry's contribution. Earlier, funds for the welfare of beedi workers were collected through cess on beedis. The welfare measures are implemented and administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, through several Labour Welfare organizations, established in various regions of the country.

### **2.2 THE WELFARE FUND ACT, 1976**

The Government of India enacted the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 in 1976 and it came into operation w.e.f. 15.02.1977. The main purpose of the Act was to provide welfare measures to improve the living conditions of the labourers engaged in beedi making activities.

Under the Welfare Fund, the following schemes are operated. (See Table 2.1). Now the Group Insurance and Recreation Schemes have been dropped and merged with

Government's other Social Security Schemes, like, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, etc.

**Table 2.1**  
**List of Schemes**

<b>List of Schemes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Assistance</li> <li>• Group insurance Scheme (withheld)</li> <li>• Housing Scheme</li> <li>• Education Assistance Scheme</li> <li>• Recreation Scheme (withheld)</li> </ul>
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## 2.3 HEALTH ASSISTANCE

It may be seen that under the Health Assistance, as many as eleven schemes are being operated. Since the inception of these schemes, the amount under each has also continuously been revised keeping in view the rising cost of living and treatment, etc. (See Table 2.2)

**Table 2.2**  
**Health Schemes for Beedi Workers**

Sl. No.	Health Scheme	Salient Features
1.	Health facilities are being provided to Beedi, Cine and Non-Coal Mines workers and to their families through 09 Hospitals and 234 Dispensaries located across the country.	Reimbursement of expenditure for specialized treatment taken under Government recognized Hospitals in case of critical disease.
		<b>Cancer:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 7,50,000/- on treatment, medicines and diet changes incurred by workers, or their dependents.</li> </ul>
		<b>Tuberculosis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reservation of beds in T.B Hospitals and domiciliary treatment for workers. Subsistence allowance of Rs.750/- to Rs. 1000/-p.m. is granted as per the advice of the treating physician.</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Health Scheme	Salient Features
		<b>Heart Disease:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 1,30,000/-to workers.</li> </ul>
		<b>Kidney Transplantation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 2,00,000/-to workers.</li> </ul> <b>Hernia, Appendectomy, Ulcer, Gynecological diseases and prostate diseases:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 30,000/-to workers and their dependents.</li> </ul>

*Source: Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India*

## 2.4 HOUSING SCHEME

The housing need has been found quite high among the beedi workers. To alleviate this problem, the Welfare Fund, the integrated housing scheme, was introduced.

“Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS)- 2016 was introduced w.e.f. 22.03.2016 to provide subsidy of Rs.1,50,000/-(per beneficiary) in three installments at 25:60:15 ratio i.e., Rs. 37,500/-, Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 22,500/- respectively to a Beedi Worker for construction of pucca houses. The scheme has been converged with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and all Welfare Commissioner were directed on 25.09.2018 not to issue new sanction of 1<sup>st</sup> installment under RIHS and send the pending applications to the concerned Blocks/ULBs for sanction under PMAY. The sunset of the scheme (pending applications) is fixed as 2022-2023” (DGLW, 2023).

### 2.4.1 Expenditure on Housing

The figures in table 2.3 show that in 2019-20, the number of beneficiaries of the housing scheme was 3485 which increased to 4785. The expenditure in 2019-20 was 8.48



crores and in 2023-24, it increased to 41.55 crores. The housing scheme has been a great help to a large number of beedi workers across the country.

**Table 2.3**  
**Expenditure on Housing (Labour Welfare Scheme)**

Sl No.	Financial Year	Number of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
1	2019-20	3485	28.48
2	2020-21	7854	45.94
3	2021-22	4824	16.64
4	2022-23	10266	31.27
5	2023-24	4785	41.55

*Source: Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.*

## 2.5 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The beedi workers being financially weak, most often fail to send their children to school. To help them avail education for their children, four types of schemes are being operated at present.

At present, the assistance amount varies from Rs. 1000/- to Rs.25000/- per student per annum. The benefits under this scheme are being transferred through the DBT system and the applications under this scheme are invited and processed through the **(National Scholarship Portal /NSP)** <https://scholarships.gov.in> (see Table 2.3).

### 2.5.1 Details of expenditure on Scholarship

It could be seen in table 2.4 that in 2019-20, the number of student beneficiaries was 161572 and the expenditure on scholarship was Rs. 26.98 Crores. However the number of beneficiaries declined in 2023-24 which was 96051 and the amount of expenditure

was 30.68 Crores. It was reported by the respondents during the survey that because of the online application process, many beedi workers were unable to apply for scholarships.

**Table 2.4**  
**Expenditure on Scholarship (Labour Welfare Scheme)**

SI No.	Financial Year	Number of Beneficiaries	Expenditure (In Crores)
1	2019-20	161572	26.98
2	2020-21	110456	17.01
3	2021-22	117230	19.45
4	2022-23	105277	39.37
5	2023-24	96051	30.68

*Source: Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.*

**Table 2.5**  
**Financial Assistance for children of Beedi Workers**

Class	Scholarship w.e.f. 2022-23 (Amount in Rs. Per Annum per student)
	Both girls and boys
I to IV (for purchase of dress and books etc.)	1000
V TO VIII	1,500
IX	2,000
X	2,000
Class XI and XII	3,000
ITI	6,000
Polytechnic	6,000
Professional Courses (BE/MBBS/MBA)	25,000

*Source: Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, 2023.*

## **2.6 DISPENSARIES FOR TREATMENT OF BEEDI WORKERS**

The Government of India has set up 285 dispensaries across the country for the health care of the beedi and other workers. Some dispensaries are also mobile. The objective

of the visit of the mobile dispensaries to different locations of beedi workers is to provide medical care. This has been helping many beedi workers over the years and is currently also rendering much needed medical assistance.

### 2.6.1 Expenditure of Health

With regard to health, it could be seen in table 2.6 that in 2019-20 the total number of beneficiaries was 1641516 and the total expenditure was 8.62 crores. In 2023-24 the number of beneficiaries increased to 1802000 and the amount to expenditure was 8.5 crores.

**Table 2.6**  
**Expenditure on Health (Labour Welfare Scheme)**

SI No.	Financial Year	Number of Beneficiaries	Expenditure (In Crores)
1	2019-20	1641516	8.62
2	2020-21	1657645	10.30
3	2021-22	2009095	10.04
4	2022-23	1880034	9.70
5	2023-24	1802000	8.50

*Source: Director General, Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, 2023.*

## 2.7 PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

The Government of India enacted in 1952 the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952. The main aim of the Act is to provide social security coverage to industrial workers in the country. Under the Act, several schemes are operated like:

- Employees' Provident Scheme 1995 (EPS); and
- Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976 (EDLI)

In India, there are about five million beedi workers by the nature of their employment, they are eligible for provident fund scheme and many of them are enrolled under the

scheme which is revealed in Table 2.7. It can be seen in the table that in 2017, a total of 41,67,883 beedi workers were covered under the Provident Scheme as reported by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

The figures in the table also show that among the states with beedi workers concentration, 'the number of beedi workers covered by the provident fund scheme was highest in West Bengal, (23.94percent), followed by Telangana (23.11 percent), Tamil Nadu (17.28 percent), Karnataka (15.65 percent) and so on.

**Table 2.7**  
**Provident Fund Scheme for Beedi Workers: 2017**

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Number of Beedi Workers covered under the Employee's Provident Funds Scheme as on 31.12.2017	
		Number of Beedi Workers	(%) from the total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9766	0.23
2.	Assam	1665	0.03
3.	Bihar	35,712	0.85
4.	Chhattisgarh	18,207	0.43
5.	Gujarat	810	0.01
6.	Jharkhand	72,717	1.74
7.	Karnataka	6,52,376	15.65
8.	Kerala	69,562	1.66
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2,20,951	5.30
10.	Maharashtra	1,95,022	4.67
11.	Odisha	1,62,782	3.90
12.	Rajasthan	25,963	0.62
13.	Tamil Nadu	7,20,546	17.28
14.	Telangana	9,63,413	23.11
15.	Tripura	269	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	20,072	0.48
17.	West Bengal	9,98,050	23.94
<b>Total</b>		<b>41,67,883</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Statement referred to the reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 3895 for reply on 19. 2018 by Shri. Sadashiv Lokhande, M.P regarding P.F Scheme for Beedi Workers.

However, a recent communication reveals that in 2023, “only 12,92,342 beedi workers were enrolled in the Provident Fund Scheme. This indicates a huge gap in enrollment of eligible workers in social security schemes framed under the Employee’s Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952.”

There are 10,79,076 provident fund subscribers under EPF and MP Act 1952.<sup>4</sup> Thereafter a campaign was launched to make more beedi workers subscribers to the Provident Fund as a result in 2017, the number of subscribers went up to 41,67,883.

## **2.8 MINIMUM WAGE**

The Government of India enacted the Minimum Wage Act in 1948. It is a landmark legislation that aims to provide a minimum level of wage to workers in any enterprise. The purpose is to ensure that no workers are deprived of fair remuneration. There are many occupations in which the Minimum Wage Act is applicable. The beedi rolling activity is also covered by the provision of the Minimum Wage Act, 1948.

Ever since the legislation of the Minimum Wage act, 1948 there has been continuous demand by the beedi workers that they should also get Minimum wages as prescribed by different States in the country. There is also a consistent demand that the level of Minimum wage should be ‘one’ across the country. This demand has not been met yet.

However, Minimum Wage is given in the registered beedi establishments. “In the beedi making establishments, enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is mostly confined to the establishments falling under the Scheduled Employment Tobacco (including Beedi Making) Manufacturers” Licensed under the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. The beedi establishment working without such licenses do not receive the attention of the enforcement authority” (Government of India, 2015).

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<sup>4</sup> As per a statement from Lok Sabha unstarred question 1900 dated 24th May 2017

Labour being a concurrent subject, every state government has its own jurisdiction regarding deciding the minimum wage for the beedi workers, including the beedi rollers. Here, we have presented the minimum wages for the beedi rollers in Madhya Pradesh.

## Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, the minimum monthly wage for Beedi rollers was Rs. 5299, it increased to Rs. 9825 in 2023. The question is whether the stipulated Minimum Wages is available to the Beedi workers or not. It is available to workers who are working in the organized sector. The vast majority of the beedi workers population is employed in the unorganized sector.

The present study conducted in Madhya Pradesh shows that in the unorganized sectors, beedi workers do not avail minimum wages. For example, the present level of wages for beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 109.40 for rolling 1000 beedis. Today beedi workers get between Rs. 70 and Rs. 80 for rolling 1000 beedis. (See Box 2.1).

### Box 2.1 Madhya Pradesh: Wages per day/month

Minimum wages- Tobacco (Including beedi Making Manufactory)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum wage with effect from April 1st 2024</li> <li>The Amount is in Indian Rupees.</li> </ul>				
Sl. No.	Skill Level	Basic per month	VDA per month	Total per month
1.	Unskilled	Rs. 9575	Rs. 2225	Rs. 11,800.0
2.	Semi-Skilled	Rs. 10,571	Rs. 2225	Rs. 12,796.0
3.	Skilled	Rs. 12,294	Rs. 2225	Rs. 14,519.0
4.	Highly Skilled	Rs. 13,919	Rs. 2225	Rs. 16,144.0

It was reported there is wage agreement in Madhya Pradesh between the employers and employee organizations in the recent past.

## CHAPTER III

# LANDSCAPE OF BEEDI INDUSTRY: MADHYA PRADESH

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The production of beedis began in 1902 in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The names of the persons who set up the beedi industry in Jabalpur are Mohan Lal Patel and Har Gobind Das. They migrated from Gujarat because of famine in the State. After migrating to Madhya Pradesh, they found the 'green gold' i.e., the Tendu Patta in abundance and slowly they started producing beedis in the State. They also got a trademark for beedi in 1903. However, it may be mentioned here that in 1901, Haribhai Desai from Bombay (now Mumbai) obtained the first trademark for beedi. Within two decades i.e., in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the beedi industry began to flourish in different parts of the country providing employment to an increasing number of socio-economically vulnerable people. There are now many beedi manufacturers, both registered and unregistered, engaged in beedi making. In Sagar, beedi production began to take place in 1915, and ever since, the district has remained as the hub of

#### **Box 3.1: 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 Bhagwandas 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.*

beedi industry. (see Box 3.1)

## 3.2 LANDSCAPE OF BEEDI WORKERS IN MADHYA PRADESH

The figures in Table 3.1 reveal that the largest concentration of beedi workers was in District Sagar (38.74%), followed by Damoh (18.13%), Jabalpur (13.78%), and Satna (9.92%), among others. Notably, more than seventy-seven percent (77.60%) of beedi workers are concentrated in these four districts. In the remaining districts, the concentration of beedi workers was below two percent.

However, the accuracy of these figures is contested, and exact numbers are not available.

Due to the abundance of tendu leaves, Madhya Pradesh has become one of the key regions for beedi production in the country. Over the past few decades, the state has reclaimed a prominent position in terms of both beedi production and employment.

## 3.3 DISTRICT-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF BEEDI WORKERS

In Madhya Pradesh, out of the total number of districts there are 30 districts where beedi making activity is carried out. In 1995-96 the total number of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh were 7,56,011. District-wise figures during the same year are given in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1**  
**District-wise figures of Beedi Workers of Madhya Pradesh: 1995-96**

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Beedi Workers	Percentage
1.	Sagar	2,92,916	38.74
2.	Damoh	1,37,132	18.13
3.	Jabalpur	1,03,850	13.73
4.	Satna	75,000	9.92
5.	Raisen	15,600	2.06
6.	Balaghat	16,400	2.16
7.	Gwalior	12,000	1.58
8.	Guna	15,003	1.98



Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Beedi Workers	Percentage
9.	Bhopal	10,000	1.32
10.	Rewa	10,500	1.38
11.	Khandwa	9,500	1.25
12.	Chhatarpur	5,900	0.07
13.	Narsinghpur	7,800	0.78
14.	Vidisha	4,500	0.59
15.	Tikamgarh	4,750	0.62
16.	Indore	5,600	0.74
17.	Panna	3,700	0.48
18.	Datia	2,000	0.26
19.	Muraina	1,095	0.14
20.	Hoshangabad	619	0.08
21.	Shivpuri	558	0.07
22.	Khargaon	6,358	0.84
23.	Ujjain	1,100	0.14
24.	Dewas	498	0.06
25.	Ratlam	927	0.12
26.	Sidhi	192	0.02
27.	Shahdol	102	0.01
28.	Katni	10,412	1.37
29.	Rajgarh	788	0.10
30.	Sihor	500	0.06
<b>Total Workers</b>		<b>7,56,011</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Uday Kumar Varma and M.M. Rehman, (2005) Tobacco, Tendu Leaf and Beedi workers in India, Delhi, Shipra Publications.*

Now, officially, the number of beedi workers seems to have declined because of lack of survey and absence of proper identification. As per the records of the Welfare Commission, Jabalpur Region the total number of registered beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh is 2,12,801. (see Table 4.1 in Chapter IV). In 2002, another set of data pertaining to beedi workers was provided which is presented in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2**  
**District-wise Details of Beedi Workers Identified till December 2002 in the Region of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**

Sl. No.	Name of District with Dispensary Location	No. of Identity Cards Distributed till 30.11.02	Sept. 1 to 15 Dec. 2002 Identity Card Issued by State Govt.	Total Identity Card Issued upto Dec, 02
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
1.	District Jabalpur	61319	12246	73565
2.	District Katni	48228	12141	60969
3.	District Sagar	303372	12141	315513
4.	District Damoh	124893		130278
5.	District Narsimhapur	5525	1540	7065
6.	District Khandva	9081	520	9601
7.	District Raisen	13815	297	14112
8.	District Gwalior	11420	1205	12625
9.	District Ujjain	1636		1691
10.	District Indore	5394	222	5616
11.	District Guna	10260		12903
12.	District Balaghaat	12428	1580	14008
13.	District Khargown	5940	307	6247
14.	District Barwani	-		
15.	District Rewa	10351		10915
16.	District Bhopal	9716		10837
17.	District Satna	74556		83024
18.	District Devas	489	-	489
19.	District Datia	1963	435	2398
20.	District Sheopur	-	-	-
21.	District Morena	1093	74	1167
22.	District Shivpuri	558	-	558
23.	District Sidhi	192	426	620
24.	District Shahdol	102	73	175
25.	District Umriya	-	-	-
26.	District Chattarpur	6594	6185	12779
27.	District Teekmagad	4735	1141	5876
28.	District Panna	3376	1420	4796
29.	District Schore	430	-	430
30.	District Rajgarh	788	-	788
31.	District Hoshangabad	486	75	561
32.	District Harda	163	17	180
33.	District Vidisha	4456		4456
34.	District Ratlam	371	30	401
<b>Total</b>		<b>733730</b>	<b>70913</b>	<b>804643</b>

**Source: Labour Welfare Organisation, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, 2003**

### 3.4 BEEDI ESTABLISHMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh was once the hub of beedi production, with hundreds of beedi-producing units emerging over time. However, the number of these units gradually declined. Despite this, several establishments remain, and a list of them is provided here.

Table 3.3 presents district-wise details of the beedi establishments in Madhya Pradesh.

**Table 3.3**  
**District-Wise Beedi Establishments In Madhya Pradesh**

Sl. No.	District	Number
1.	Balaghat	8
2.	Barwani	5
3.	Betul	8
4.	Bhind	3
5.	Bhopal	41
6.	Burhanpur	2
7.	Chhatarpur	7
8.	Chhindwara	7
9.	Damoh	21
10.	Datia	7
11.	Dewas	9
12.	Dhar	5
13.	Guna	13
14.	Gwalior	28
15.	Harda	1
16.	Hoshangabad	3
17.	Indore	49
18.	Jabalpur	33
19.	Jhabua	2
20.	Katni	5
21.	Khandwa	11
22.	Khargone	13
23.	Mandla	1
24.	Mandsaur	7
25.	Morena	4
26.	Narsinghpur	10
27.	Neemuch	1

Sl. No.	District	Number
28.	Panna	2
29.	Pithampur	3
30.	Raisen	8
31.	Rajgarh	7
32.	Ratlam	6
33.	Rewa	1
34.	Sagar	30
35.	Satna	16
36.	Sehore	4
37.	Seoni	4
38.	Shahdol	3
39.	Shajapur	7
40.	Shivpuri	8
41.	Sidhi	2
42.	Tikamgarh	5
43.	Ujjain	3
44.	Vidisha	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>417</b>

*Source: Labour Welfare Organization, 2002.*

### 3.5 MAJOR BEEDI BRANDS

In Madhya Pradesh, there are many beedi brands. But many beedi brands are very small in production. Here we have presented names of some important beedi brands.

According to the School of Public Health, AIIMS, Jodhpur, there are 420 tobacco manufacturers located in different districts in Madhya Pradesh. In table 3.4 names of some of the major beedi brands are mentioned.

**Table 3.4**  
**Major Beedi Brands In Madhya Pradesh**

30 Chap Beedi	Laxmi Marka	Shri 55	Shankh Beedi
Ganga Jamuna	Kalkatta, Santram	Manohar	512 No. Beedi
New Calcutta Biri	77 No.	Sikka Kanta Chhap	
Chandak Brothers (Murga Chhap)	Tractor Chap Beedi No. 11		

## **Chapter IV**

# **SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE MEASURES FOR BEEDI WORKERS IN MADHYA PRADESH**

### **4.1 HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

The figures in Table 4.1 show the latest distribution of the number of workers by dispensaries. It can be observed in the table that of the total beedi workers, the highest proportion of beedi workers is concentrated in Sagar Dispensary area (16.06), followed by Shihora Dispensary (8.77 percent), Katri Dispensary (7.00 percent), Jabalpur Dispensary (6.14 percent), Khurai Dispensary (5.01 percent), Nohata Dispensary (4.71 percent) and so on. In these Dispensary units, more than 47 percent (47.69) beedi workers, out of the total, are reported to be concentrated. In the rest of the dispensaries, the proportion of concentration varies between 0.09 and 4 percent (for details, see Table 4.1).

In order to provide extensive health care assistance, the government set up \ the static-cum-mobile dispensaries. Most of the dispensaries are in the areas where the population of beedi workers is concentrated. In Madhya Pradesh, there are 36 dispensaries including one hospital in Sagar.

These Dispensaries have been providing much needed health services to many beedi workers over the decades. Since the Dispensaries are both mobile and static in nature, they provide health care service in many areas where beedi workers are concentrated. It may, however, be noted that in the recent past, the mobile services have been stopped due to non-availability of vehicles as the earlier vehicles have been pulled off the road due to expiry of their roadworthiness.

**Table 4.1**  
**Number of Workers in BWWF Dispensaries (Subunits of o/o the Welfare Commissioner, Jabalpur) during 2022-23**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Dispensary</b>	<b>No. of Workers (As per report received from field units)</b>	<b>% of the total</b>
1.	BWWF Dispensary, Begumganj	2,399	1.12
2.	BWWF Dispensary, Bhopal	7,601	3.67
3.	BWWF Dispensary, Burhanpur	6,858	3.22
4.	BWWF Dispensary, Chanderi	1,209	0.67
5.	BWWF Dispensary, Dalpatpur	7,793	1.66
6.	BWWF Dispensary, Damoh	7,465	3.50
7.	BWWF Dispensary, Datia	1,468	0.69
8.	BWWF Dispensary, Deori	7,148	3.35
9.	BWWF Dispensary, Gadarwara	1,671	0.28
10.	BWWF Dispensary, Garhakota	5,540	2.60
11.	BWWF Dispensary, Guna	5,342	2.67
12.	BWWF Dispensary, Gwalior	5,608	2.63
13.	BWWF Dispensary, Hatta	5,849	2.75
14.	BWWF Dispensary, Indore	1,200	0.66
15.	BWWF Dispensary, Jabalpur	13,070	6.14
16.	BWWF Dispensary, Katangi	2,305	1.08
17.	BWWF Dispensary, Khurai	10,667	5.01
18.	BWWF Dispensary, Maugunj	3,115	1.46
19.	BWWF Dispensary, Nohta	10,024	4.71
20.	BWWF Dispensary, Patan	2,947	1.38
21.	BWWF Dispensary, Prithvipur	2,005	1.00
22.	BWWF Dispensary, Rahatgarh	2,144	1.00
23.	BWWF Dispensary, Rehli	3,818	1.79
24.	BWWF Dispensary, Rewa	3,909	2.00
25.	CHS Sagar + BWWF Dispensary, Sagar	34,187	16.06
26.	BWWF Dispensary, Sanawad	880	0.61
27.	BWWF Dispensary, Satna	5,288	2.48
28.	BWWF Dispensary, Sihora	18,659	8.77
29.	BWWF Dispensary, Ujjain	190	0.29
30.	BWWF Dispensary, Waraseoni	2,969	1.39
31.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Bamhori	1,669	0.78
32.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Katni	14,507	7.00
33.	LSDM Dispensary, Jhukehi	584	0.27
34.	LSDM Dispensary, Maihar	6,213	2.92
35.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Bamhani Banjar	2,500	1.18
36.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Sagmania	4,000	1.88
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,12,801</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source: Welfare Commission, Jabalpur, Region, Director General, Labour Welfare, Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment, New Delhi.**

In the Dashboard of E-Shram, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, it was found on 26.09.2023, the record 'Beedi Maker'. The record shows that the total number of beedi workers registered so far in the portal on the above-mentioned date was 2,11,032. It is also like the number reported by the Dispensaries of Madhya Pradesh (see Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2**  
**Beedi workers as per Dashboard e-Shram in Madhya Pradesh**

Date	Number of Beedi Workers
26.09.2023	2,11,032

## **4.2 MAGNITUDE OF PATIENTS TREATED**

Every year, despite the shortage of staff, each dispensary is providing medical care to a considerable number of beedi workers who are economically disadvantaged. Table 4.3 shows that in the financial year 2014-15, a total of 2,23,294 beedi workers and their family numbers were treated. In 2015-16, the figures of patients rose to 2,85,581. The interesting thing which could be noted here is that after the above financial year, the number of patients began to decline. One of the reasons is the fact that there appeared to be a considerable shortage of doctors and para-medical staff leading to non-availability of services. Besides, due to shortage of vehicles, mobile services have been stopped (See Table 4.3). This has led to decline in the attendance of the patients in different dispensaries in the State.



**Table 4.3**  
**Year-wise Magnitude of Patients treated in different Dispensaries in Madhya Pradesh**

Patients Treated Report											
Sr. No.	Name of Dispensary	FY: 2014-15	FY: 2015-16	FY: 2016-17	FY: 2017-18	FY: 2018-19	FY: 2019-20	FY: 2020-21	FY: 2021-22	FY: 2022-23	April 2023 to August 2023
1.	Ayurvedic Dispensary Bamhani Banjar	3,089	4,250	4,697	4,022	5,534	6,226	3,413	4,409	4761	2294
2.	Ayurvedic Dispensary Barmhanibanjar	74	1,822	4,318	4,093	4,671	4,021	1,589	3,022	3562	1346
3.	BWWF Dispensary, Begumganj	4,173	5,377	6,865	5,264	5,679	3,014	2,369	2,535	2175	1184
4.	BWWF Dispensary, Bhopal	11,512	7,769	3,374	3,035	5,277	4,076	3,078	3,852	3608	2109
5.	BWWF Dispensary, Burhanpur	7,909	7,684	8,480	6,816	6,434	4,909	4,118	5,346	4591	1580
6.	BWWF Dispensary, Chanderi	-	1,982	4,060	4,118	4,460	2,715	2,154	2,773	561	197
7.	BWWF Dispensary, Dalpatpur	2,028	3,544	3,038	2,558	1,527	829	626	948	1003	437
8.	BWWF Dispensary, Damoh	6,763	7,009	6,838	5,181	7,255	5,880	4,626	7,081	4460	2619
9.	BWWF Dispensary, Datia	5,438	6,506	7,700	6,425	5,606	2,264	1,964	486	4238	884
10.	BWWF Dispensary, Deori	6,543	7,175	4,580	4,136	2,825	1,834	795	1,663	931	525
11.	BWWF Dispensary, Gadawara	4,611	6,349	6,093	6,787	5,233	5,267	3,413	4,494	3259	317
12.	BWWF Dispensary, Garhakota	5,200	5,697	5,872	5,589	1,580	339	118	1,201	2827	2217
13.	BWWF Dispensary, Guna	2,493	1,184	1,454	1,534	1,281	105	0	257	0	0
14.	BWWF Dispensary, Gwalior	11,617	11,964	8,861	7,074	7,918	6,871	2,476	3,209	3516	1363
15.	BWWF Dispensary, Hatta	5,048	9,472	6,777	4,333	4,736	5,213	4,734	1,850	14	342
16.	BWWF Dispensary, Indore	10,118	8,042	5,805	4,814	3,008	2,615	1,594	2,691	2153	999
17.	BWWF Dispensary, Jabalpur	15,622	27,035	14,731	13,136	16,560	14,761	11,750	13,070	11737	4173
18.	LSDM Dispensary, Jhukehi	1,484	4,871	4,664	3,274	3,497	2,603	1,553	2,785	2925	1114
19.	BWWF Dispensary, Katangi	3,154	4,488	5,160	2,301	3,208	2,815	202	911	2696	1053
20.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Katni	889	2,570	2,159	2,782	2,920	3,028	2,526	3,812	4012	1279
21.	BWWF Dispensary, Khurai	3,297	6,192	5,023	3,405	2,165	1,248	582	3,389	1607	1412
22.	LSDM Dispensary, Maihar	4,012	7,409	7,587	7,220	7,064	4,721	4,321	6,893	5998	2117
23.	BWWF Dispensary, Maugunj	4,574	6,561	6,721	6,320	4,879	3,669	2,318	4,406	5208	1184
24.	BWWF Dispensary, Nohta	3,738	6,266	10,216	4,024	4,728	2,380	2,653	3,126	1565	390
25.	BWWF Dispensary, Patan	7,323	10,129	7,861	5,960	5,131	4,342	2,749	3,905	2889	1754
26.	BWWF Dispensary, Prithvipur	5,087	5,195	4,959	4,434	3,853	720	0	475	176	0
27.	BWWF Dispensary, Rahatgarh	6,512	4,600	3,780	4,399	3,047	2,122	919	1,791	1626	948
28.	BWWF Dispensary, Rehli	5,331	4,480	4,572	3,515	4,273	3,110	902	4,369	3807	1453
29.	BWWF Dispensary, Rewa	2,332	3,658	5,041	4,767	3,866	2,820	2,121	2,900	1450	462
30.	CHS Sagar + BWWF Dispensary Sagar	42,273	55,605	37,386	19,405	20,721	14,602	20,886	30,168	6452	7967
31.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Sagmania	1,110	3,091	4,296	4,508	4,830	3,116	1,351	3,337	3458	1181
32.	BWWF Dispensary, Sanawad	9,707	6,498	8,775	8,208	4,503	5,392	5,859	7,750	5746	868
33.	BWWF Dispensary, Satna	3,178	5,899	5,002	5,293	3,540	4,977	3,315	4,853	4022	2409
34.	BWWF Dispensary, Sihora	4,316	7,231	5,966	6,629	5,297	8,336	3,502	6,197	3071	1196
35.	BWWF Dispensary, Ujjain	4,550	7,165	5,056	4,365	4,022	4,268	2,925	2,417	1477	214
36.	BWWF Dispensary, Waraseoni	8,189	10,812	11,367	8,405	8,074	4,739	0	5,143	3985	483
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,23,294</b>	<b>2,85,581</b>	<b>2,49,134</b>	<b>1,98,129</b>	<b>1,89,202</b>	<b>1,49,947</b>	<b>107501</b>	<b>1,57,514</b>	<b>112516</b>	<b>50070</b>

Source: Director General, Regional Commissioner Jabalpur, 2023

### **4.3 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

One of the important components of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund is the Educational Assistance provided to the wards of beedi workers. Over the years, this financial assistance has helped many children of beedi workers who would have been otherwise unable to send their children to schools. Today many sons and daughters of beedi workers have obtained education up to different levels, and many have become professionals like doctors, engineers, teachers, technicians, etc.

In an earlier study (Varma and Rehman, 2005) it was found that in the year 2000-2001, more than 10,193 students received financial assistance from the Welfare Fund. However, the number of wards receiving financial assistance has declined to a considerable extent. For example, in 2021-22, only 641 wards of beedi workers had received financial assistance. Several factors have been reported for this decline, for example, it has been reported that because of digitization and online applications, many beedi workers are failing to apply. It was also reported that the procedure of applying has also become very cumbersome.

## **Chapter V**

# **SURVEY RESULTS: MADHYA PRADESH**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Beedi industry, over a century, has been providing employment to a sizable section of workers in the country in general and in Madhya Pradesh in particular. Though agriculture is the main sector which is providing employment to the most vulnerable and semi-skilled workforce, the beedi industry also caters to the employment needs of the workers in large numbers.

Despite some limitations, the industry has been uplifting the living standards of the workers by providing a regular income in a sustainable manner, and the income has been helping the beedi workers to meet educational needs of their children, household's requirements like food, clothing, medical care, etc. And this underlines the importance of the beedi industry in a situation when employment in other areas, like manufacturing, service and the primary sector is not adequate enough to absorb the growing number of people seeking employment. Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken to assess the impact of the industry on the beedi rolling population in some areas of Madhya Pradesh, namely, District Niwari, Sagar and Jabalpur. The main objective was to examine how the beedi industry is sustaining the most vulnerable section of the workforce who are mostly female workers and educationally and economically disadvantaged. A survey was conducted in the above districts in the months of September-October, 2023. The households and respondents were purposively selected from different areas of the districts.

In addition, a Focus Group Discussions meeting was held to examine the different aspects of the industry and its impact on employment.

## 5.2 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE

The figures in Table 5.1 show that more than 58 percent respondents are in the age group of 30-50 years, 22.3 percent in the age group 50-60 years, 10.22 percent in the age group 61-75 years and so on. The proportion of respondents in the younger age group i.e., 30 years is 8.33 percent.

The existence of employment opportunities for individuals aged 30 and above, coupled with a noticeable representation of respondents in the 61-75 age group, indicates a certain flexibility within the beedi industry. This flexibility is vital as it allows individuals, regardless of their age, to find employment within the industry, contributing not only to economic sustenance but also potentially offering a source of stability for those in need of employment beyond conventional retirement ages. This adaptability and inclusivity within the beedi industry could be a crucial aspect of its socio-economic impact, contributing to the livelihoods of a diverse range of individuals across different age brackets.

**Table 5.1**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Age**

Sl. No.	Age group	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Below 30	22	8.33
2.	30-50	154	58.3
5.	50-60	59	22.3
6.	61-75	27	10.2
7.	76 and above	2	0.75
8.	NA	5	1.85
<b>Total</b>		<b>269.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.3 EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

Table 5.2 reveals the diverse educational backgrounds of respondents within the beedi industry, emphasizing its inclusivity by providing employment opportunities to individuals across various education levels. The significant representation of illiterate respondents, comprising 38.28% of the total, underscores the industry's commitment to offering employment irrespective of formal education. Additionally, 24.91% of respondents with a

primary education level further accentuates the industry's accessibility to those with basic educational qualifications.

As the education levels progress, the percentage of respondents decreases, reflecting the broader range of opportunities the industry provides. Even with limited formal education, individuals in the middle, secondary, and upper secondary education categories collectively make up a substantial portion of the workforce, totaling 20.47%. The presence of respondents with graduate and postgraduate qualifications, albeit in smaller percentages (2.23% and 0.37% respectively), suggests that the beedi industry accommodates individuals with higher education as well.

Moreover, the absence of respondents with technical education and the inclusion of individuals in the "Others" category indicate that the industry goes beyond conventional educational parameters, providing opportunities for those with unconventional or specialized skills.

**Table 5.2**  
**Education level of Respondents**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Illiterate	103	38.28
2.	Primary	67	24.91
3.	Middle	29	10.78
4.	Secondary	26	9.66
5.	Upper Secondary	27	10.03
6.	Graduate	6	2.23
7.	Post Graduate	1	0.37
8.	Technical Education	0	0
9.	Others	10	3.71
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.4 SIZE OF THE FAMILIES OF THE RESPONDENTS

Table 5.3 represents the distribution of respondents by their family size. It can be noted that out of the total, 24.53 percent respondents had five members in their family, followed by 21.56 percent whose family size consisted of four members, 11.89 percent respondents have six members in their families, 11.15 percent respondents' family size was of seven members, 9.29 percent each respondents had two and three members in their families respectively. It can be further seen that 7.06 percent respondents had eight members in their families and 2.97 percent had more than nine members in their families.

**Note:** During our research and action - research we found the beedi workers family size were quite big. This can closely relate to the illiteracy problem. Poor families also believe that more hands will fetch more money, but they forget that the number of children may have more hands, but also more mouths and stomachs to feed.

Illiterate women folks in senior age think that “children are god’s gift”. This philosophy creates a lot of problems in family planning. Beedi workers are also not aware of methods of birth control. We found that workers with substantial literacy had small family sizes.

**Table 5.3**  
**Size of the families of the Respondents**

Family size	No. of respondents	Percentage of the total
1	6	2.23
2	25	9.29
3	25	9.29
4	58	21.56
5	66	24.53
6	32	11.89
7	30	11.15
8	19	7.06

9 & above	8	2.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.5 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS HOUSEHOLD BY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

In Table 5.4 the distribution of respondent's households by the number of children they have, is shown. It can be noted that out of the total, 29.10 percent respondents' households had two children, followed by 27.50 percent who have three children, 15 percent each respondent households have one and four children respectively, five percent respondents' households five children, 3.75 percent and 2.08 percent respondent households have six and more than six children respectively.

**Note:** it can be inferred from the above table that the majority of the respondents' households have two children. This may be due to a high level of awareness and education. The beedi workers' households residing near towns or cities might have positive influence.

**Table 5.4**

### **Distribution of Respondents of Household by the Number of Children**

<b>No. of children</b>	<b>No. of households</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>
0	6	2.50
1	36	15.00
2	70	29.10
3	66	27.50
4	36	15.00
5	12	5.00
6	9	3.75
More than 6	5	2.08
No Reply	29	10.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average Household</b>	<b>29.89</b>	

*Data from survey*

## 5.6 NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS ENGAGED IN BEEDI ROLLING

The distribution of family members engaged as beedi rollers is depicted in Table 5.5. It can be noticed that 67.81 percent respondents' household's single member is engaged in beedi rolling, followed by 28.70 percent households', in which two members are involved, three members of 2.68 percent households are engaged in beedi rolling and in 0.76 percent respondents' households, four members are engaged in beedi rolling.

Majority of the beedi rolling by the workers is carried out in their homes. There is a preponderance of women in beedi rolling. In home-based work many times entire members get engaged in beedi rolling. Children when they return from their schools, they also give their labour in beedi rolling.

**Table 5.5**  
**Number of Family Members Engaged in Beedi Rolling**

No. of family members engaged in beedi rolling	No. of households	Percentage
1	177	67.81
2	75	28.70
3	7	2.68
4	2	0.76
NA	8	2.97
Total	269	100.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>53.8</b>	

*Data from survey*

## 5.7 FAMILY MEMBERS ENGAGED IN BEEDI MAKING IN THE PAST

The data in Table 5.6 presents the distribution of household members who were engaged in Beedi Rolling in the past. It can be noted that out of the total, 65.58 percent respondents reported that their mothers were engaged in Beedi Rolling followed by 13.75 percent whose grandmother, 7.69 percent respondents' father were involved in



beedi rolling, and 6.47 percent respondents said that they got the beedi rolling skill from their grandfather and others respectively.

**Table 5.6**

**Profile of Household members who were engaged in Beedi rolling in the past**

Sl. No.	Households' members	No. of households	Percentage of the total
1.	GrandMother	34	13.75
2.	Grand Father	16	6.47
3.	Mother	162	65.58
4.	Father	19	7.69
5.	Others	16	6.47
6.	Not Available	22	8.17
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.8 NUMBER OF YEARS ENGAGED IN BEEDI ROLLING

The distribution of respondents by the number of years they are engaged in Beedi Rolling, is shown in Table 5.7. It can be noticed that out of the total, 36.05 percent respondents reported that they are rolling beedi for 4-6 years, followed by 26.02 percent rolling for 13-18 years, 25.27 percent rolling beedis for more than 19 years, 6.69 percent respondent are engaged in beedi rolling for 0-3 years and 5.94 percent for 7-12 years. The concentration of experienced workers suggests a potential wealth of expertise and skill within the industry. This information is valuable for understanding the workforce composition, skill levels, and longevity of careers in Beedi Rolling. Overall, this data provides a foundation for a nuanced analysis of the Beedi Rolling workforce, offering insights into the dynamics of experience and potential avenues for industry enhancement.

**Table 5.7**

**Number of Years Respondents are engaged in Beedi Rolling**

Sl. No.	Years	No. of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	0-3	18	6.69
2.	4-6	97	36.05
3.	7-12	16	5.94

Sl. No.	Years	No. of respondent	Percentage of the total
4.	13-18	70	26.02
5.	19 & above	68	25.27
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.9 EARNING MEMBERS PER HOUSEHOLD

Table 5.8 represents the distribution of respondent households by earning members per household. It can be noticed that out of the total, 61.61 percent households have one earning members, followed by 37.83 percent households, in whose households two members are earning, 8.55 percent respondent households' three members are earning, in 5.85 percent and 3.61 percent households, four and more than four members are earning. The smaller percentages for households with three, four, or more than four earning members suggest that many families operate with fewer contributors to the household income. This information is crucial for understanding the distribution of financial responsibilities within households, providing valuable context for economic analyses and potential interventions aimed at enhancing economic well-being for single and multi-earning member households alike.

**Table 5.8**  
**Earning Members Per Households**

Sl. No.	Number of earning members	No. of household	Percentage of the total
1.	One	145	61.61
2.	Two	84	37.83
3.	Three	19	8.55
4.	Four	13	5.85
5.	More than four	8	3.61
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.10 HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT IN BEEDI ROLLING

Table 5.9 focuses upon the distribution of respondents by the number of hours they rolled beedi in a day. Out of the total, 35.31 percent respondents rolled beedis for 3-4

hours in a day, followed by 30.48 percent who rolled beedis for 1-2 hours daily, 19.33 percent respondents rolled beedis for 5-6 hours per day and 14.86 percent for more than 7 hours a day. For those dedicating 5-6 hours (19.33%) and 7 hours and above (14.86%), the commitment is even more pronounced, reflecting individuals who invest a substantial part of their day in the intricate process of Beedi making.

In beedi rolling, majority of the workers are women. The women have tedious households' jobs to perform such as cooking, cleaning, mopping, washing, looking after the domestic animals, sending their children to school and husbands to work. Fetching water is also a mountainous job. After completing all their domestic responsibilities, they get involved in beedi rolling and women beedi workers have a long working hour.

**Table 5.9**  
**Hours of Engagement in Beedi Rolling**

Sl. No.	Number of hours	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	1-2	82	30.48
2.	3-4	95	35.31
3.	5-6	52	19.33
4.	7 & above	40	14.86
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## **5.11 EARNING BY BEEDI ROLLING PER DAY**

Table 5.10 illustrates the distribution of respondents by their earning from rolling beedi per day. It can be noted that out of the total, 32.20 percent respondents earned Rs. 50/- per day, followed by 23.75 percent whose earning is Rs. 100/- daily, 11.49 percent respondents earned Rs. 80/- per day. 10.70 percent of respondents' daily earning was Rs. 40 and only a small proportion of respondents were earning between Rs. 120/-, Rs. 140/- and more than Rs. 150/- per day.

**Table 5.10**  
**Earning level of respondents from rolling beedi per day**

Sl. No.	Amount of earning	No. of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	Below 30	4	1.53
2.	40	28	10.70
3.	50	84	32.20
4.	60	21	8.05
6.	70	24	9.19
7.	80	30	11.49
8.	100	62	23.75
9.	120	1	0.38
10	140	2	0.76
11.	150 and above	5	1.91
12.	Not Provided	8	2.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.12 NUMBER OF DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of respondents by the number of days they get opportunity for rolling beedi per month is presented in Table 5.11. Out of the total, 74.21 percent respondents shared that they get more than 26 days' work in a month, followed by 23.51 percent who got beedi rolling work for 21-25 days per month, and 1.90 percent each informed that they get beedi rolling work for 11-15 days and 16-20 days in a month respectively.

**Table 5.11**  
**Number of Days in Employment**

Sl. No.	No. of days avail beedi rolling employment per month	Number of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	< 5 days	0	0
2.	6-10	0	0
3.	11-15	3	1.19
4.	16-20	3	1.19
5.	21-25	59	23.51
6.	26 & above	186	74.21

7.	NA	18	6.69
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.13 NUMBER OF BEEDIS ROLLED PER DAY

The distribution of respondents by the number of beedis rolled by them per day is shown in Table 5.12. It can be noticed that out of the total, 60.44 percent respondents rolled 201-500 beedis every day, followed by 33.95 percent who rolled 501-1000 beedis per day, 4.47 percent respondents rolled 1001-1500 beedis daily and 1011 percent rolled less than 200 beedis in a day.

**Table 5.12**  
**Number of Beedis Rolled Per Day**

Sl. No.	No. of beedi rolled per day	No. of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	>200	3	1.11
2.	201-500	162	60.44
3.	501-1000	91	33.95
4.	1001-1500	12	4.47
5.	1501 & above	0	0
6.	No Reply	1	0.37
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.14 NUMBER OF BEEDIS ROLLED BY THE FAMILY

Table 5.13 represents the distribution of respondent households by the number of beedi rolled by the family in a day. It can be noted that 66.42 percent respondent households rolled 500-800 beedis in a day, followed by 34.61 percent families rolled 900-1000 beedis daily, 15.86 percent rolled 1600-2000 beedis per day, 4.81 percent households rolled 300-400 beedis every day and 0.96 percent respondent households rolled 100-200 beedis in a day.

**Table 5.13****Number of beedis rolled by the family as a whole in a day**

Sl. No.	No. of Households	Number of beedi rolled in a day	Percentage of the total
1.	2	100-200	0.96
2.	10	300-400	4.81
3.	152	500-800	66.42
4.	72	900-1000	34.61
5.	33	1500-2000	15.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>		<b>100</b>

*Data from survey***5.15 INCOME PER MONTH FROM BEEDI ROLLING**

The figures in Table 5.14 reveal that 38.95 percent respondents' income per month from beedi rolling was in the income bracket of Rs. 1000-1500. Another 23.22 percent reported that they earned an income between Rs. 501-1500. Almost one fourth of the total respondents also reported that their monthly income was between Rs. 1501-2000. Some even reported that their income was between Rs. 3001-4000 per month.

**Table 5.14****Income per month from Beedi Rolling**

Sl. No.	Income from beedi rolling	Number of beedi rollers	Percentage of the total
1.	>500	15	5.61
2.	501-1000	62	23.22
3.	1001-1500	104	38.95
4.	1501-2000	62	23.22
5.	2001-3000	16	5.99
6.	3001-4000	8	2.99
7.	4001-5000	0	0
8.	5001-6000	0	0
9.	6001-7000	0	0
10.	Not Available	2	0.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.16 IMPORTANCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR BEEDI ROLLING

The distribution of respondents by the importance of Beedi work/rolling for them is illustrated in Table 5.15. Out of the total, 90.70 percent respondents shared that it was important for their survival, whereas 89.96 percent reported that it was important for the well-being for their children and family.

**Table 5.15**  
**Importance of Employment of Beedi Rolling**

Sl. No.	Statement	Frequency of respondent	Percentage of the total
1.	It is important for my survival	122	90.70
2.	It is important or my children/family members well being	242	89.96

*Data from survey*

## 5.17 WORK QUANTUM

The distribution of respondents is presented by whether they got sufficient work from Beedi Manufacturers in Table 5.16. It can be observed that 65.26 percent respondents, out of the total, reported that they got sufficient work from the beedi manufacturers, while 38.07 percent respondents informed that they did not get sufficient work from the manufacturers.

**Table 5.16**  
**Respondents view about whether they are getting sufficient work from beedi manufacturers**

Sl. No.	Heads	Responses	Percentage
1.	Yes	170	65.26
2.	No	99	38.07
3.	NA	9	3.34
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.18 INCOME PER MONTH

The data on the total income of the respondents' families per month presents a nuanced view of the income distribution within the surveyed population. The majority of respondents fall within the income brackets of 5001-6000 (28.25%) and 6001-7000 (13.02%), indicating a significant proportion of the community earning in the mid-range income levels. This suggests a certain level of stability in income for a considerable portion of the surveyed population. Moreover, the prevalence of respondents in the >3000 (15.98%) and 7001-8000 (11.54%) income brackets underscores the broader distribution of income across various levels. (See Table 5.17)

However, it's noteworthy that there is a decline in the number of respondents as income brackets increase, with fewer individuals reporting incomes of Rs. 12000 and above (4.46%). This may indicate a concentration of respondents in moderate to lower income categories, reflecting potential economic challenges or limited earning opportunities within the surveyed community.

The distribution of income data can serve as a valuable resource for identifying specific economic needs within the population. Income from Beedi rolling constitutes a substantial proportion of the family's total income and the income is so important that many could be in dire need of employment if the beedi industry continues to fall.

**Table 5.17**  
**Total Income of the Respondents Family per month**

Sl. No.	Income per month (Rs)	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	>3000	43	15.98
2.	3001-4000	19	7.06
3.	4001-5000	23	8.55
4.	5001-6000	76	28.25
5.	6001-7000	31	11.54
6.	7001-8000	35	13.02
7.	8001-9000	5	1.85
8.	9001-10000	7	2.61



Sl. No.	Income per month (Rs)	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
9.	10001-11000	10	3.72
10.	11001-12000	8	2.97
11.	12000 and above	12	4.46
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.19 COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TOTAL INCOME LEVEL OF HOUSEHOLD AND INCOME GENERATED FROM BEEDI MAKING

The comparative analysis of income generated from beedi making and the total income of the household unveils notable patterns within the surveyed population. Both beedi rollers and the overall community exhibit a concentration in mid-range incomes, with the 1001-1500 income bracket being the most prevalent at 38.95% for beedi rollers and a significant distribution in mid-range categories for total household income. This shared income profile suggests a symbiotic relationship between beedi-related earnings and the overall financial well-being of the surveyed individuals. However, the absence of reported incomes in higher brackets for both beedi rolling and total household income indicates a limitation in high-income earning opportunities within the community, reflecting potential economic constraints. The concentration of beedi rollers in the 1001-1500 income bracket underscores the significance of beedi-related earnings to household finances, emphasizing the need for sustainable and diversified economic opportunities.

## 5.20 NUMBER OF WEEKS RECEIVING EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of respondents by the number of weeks they get work is depicted in Table 5.18. It can be observed that out of the total, 58.75 percent respondents get work for 4 weeks, followed by 36.37 percent who get work for 3 weeks, 4.66 percent respondents get work for 2 weeks and 4.46 percent did not provide any information.

**Table 5.18**  
**Number of Weeks of Employment**

Sl. No.	Number of weeks	Number of Respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> week	0	0
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	12	4.66
3.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week	94	36.57
4.	4 <sup>th</sup> week	151	58.75
5.	Not Provided	12	4.46
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.21 WORK LESS OR MORE

Table 5.19 shows the distribution of respondents by whether they were getting more/less work as compared to last year. It can be noted that out of the total, 90.80 percent respondents shared that they got less work as compared to last year while 9.19 percent reported that they got more work, as compared to last year.

**Table 5.19**

**Whether respondents are getting more/less work as compared to the last year**

Sl. No.	Response	Respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	MORE	24	9.19
2.	LESS	237	90.80
3.	Not Provided	8	2.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.22 EXTENT OF WORK

The distribution of respondents by extent to which their work period was less or more, is presented in Table 5.20. It can be perceived that 54.78 percent respondents, out of the total shared that their work period was less between 10-25 percent, 36.01 percent respondents stated that the work time was less up to 10 percent followed by 4.59 percent respondents each reported that their work period was more by 10 percent and 10-25 percent respectively.

**Table 5.20**  
**Work Less or More in Percentage value**

<b>IF IT IS LESS OR MORE, THEN HOW MUCH</b>		
<b>(a) Extent less</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>
Upto 10%	94	36.01
Between 10-25%	143	54.78
<b>(b) Extent more</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>
Upto 10%	12	4.59
Upto 10-25%	12	4.59

*Data from survey*

### 5.23 SAVING PROFILE

Table 5.21 highlights the distribution of respondents by their saving profile. It can be noted that out of the total, 89.84 percent respondents reported that they were unable to save any money, while 10.15 percent respondents showed that they could save some amount.

**Table 5.21**  
**Saving Profile of the respondents**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>
Save	27	10.15
Don't save	239	89.84
NA	3	1.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.24 PLACE OF SAVING MONEY

The observation that only nine respondents reported saving money in the bank, as indicated by Table 5.22, raises the possibility that a significant portion of the surveyed population may be unaware of or unfamiliar with the provisions for saving at banks. This lack of awareness could stem from various factors, including limited financial literacy, insufficient access to information, or cultural practices that favor alternative means of savings. Financial education initiatives may prove instrumental in bridging this knowledge gap and empowering individuals to make informed decisions about utilizing

banking services for savings. Addressing awareness gaps can contribute to enhancing financial inclusivity, providing individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to leverage formal financial institutions for secure and structured savings, ultimately fostering economic resilience and growth within the community.

**Table 5.22**  
**Intimation where respondents save money**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	Work	0	0
2.	Bank	9	3.34
3.	Self-help group	1	0.37
4.	Keep at home	1	0.37
5.	Not Provided	258	95.91
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.25 POSSESSION OF LAND

Table 5.23 illustrates the distribution of the respondents by whether they possessed cultivable land. It can be noted that 94.42 percent of respondents, out of the total, reported that they did not have any cultivable land and only 5.57 percent respondents had cultivable land.

**Table 5.23**  
**Possession of Cultivable Land**

Sl. No.	Head	Respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	YES	15	5.57
2.	NO	254	94.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.26 EXPENDITURE PATTERN

The income derived from beedi rolling plays a pivotal role in supporting various crucial aspects of the respondents' lives, as reflected in the data from Table 5.24. The substantial percentage of respondents allocating earnings to food (87.36%)

underscores how income from beedi rolling serves as a lifeline for meeting basic nutritional needs, ensuring a stable food supply for households. Additionally, the allocation of funds to the education of children (27.51%) highlights the significant impact of beedi industry earnings on investing in the future generation, enabling access to quality education within the community.

The financial flexibility afforded by beedi rolling income is further evident in the allocation of funds to festivals and ceremonies (52.04%), emphasizing the cultural and social importance of these events. This income empowers community members to actively participate in and celebrate significant occasions, contributing to a sense of community cohesion. Moreover, the majority of respondents allocating income to clothing (81.41%) emphasizes the role of beedi rolling earnings in improving living standards, ensuring access to essential items such as clothing.

Beyond basic needs, the allocation of income to medical care (36.43%) demonstrates the pivotal role of beedi industry earnings in addressing health-related needs. This financial support contributes to healthcare expenses, enabling individuals to access necessary medical services and maintain their overall well-being. The flexibility of beedi rolling income is further highlighted by the allocation to other activities (11.52%), reflecting its adaptability in addressing diverse needs within the community, including unforeseen expenses, leisure activities, or additional family requirements.

In essence, the income generated from beedi rolling emerges as a versatile and indispensable financial resource, empowering community members to address a spectrum of priorities and enhancing the overall well-being and livelihoods of the respondents.

**Table 5.24**  
**Expenditure Pattern of income from beedi rolling**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	Food	235	87.36
2.	Education of the children	74	27.51
3.	Festivals/Ceremonies	140	52.04

4.	Clothing	219	81.41
5.	Medical Care	98	36.43
6.	Others	31	11.52

*Data from survey*

## 5.27 ACCOMODATION PROFILE

The data in Table 5.25 illustrates that a significant majority of respondents, 252 individuals, own their accommodation. This suggests a high level of homeownership within the surveyed population. Only a small proportion, 13 respondents, reported renting their accommodation. Additionally, 4 respondents mentioned that the category of ownership is not applicable, possibly indicating various living arrangements such as residing with family or in communal housing.

Understanding the accommodation profile is crucial for gaining insights into the living conditions of the respondents, which can have implications for economic stability, housing policies, and overall well-being. The high percentage of homeownership might indicate a level of stability within the community, while those renting could face different economic and housing challenges.

**Table 5.25**  
**Accommodation Profile (Whether Rented or Owned)**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents
1.	Own	252
2.	Rented	13
3.	Not Applicable	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.28 OTHER JOBS FROM BEEDI ROLLING

Table 5.26 represents the distribution of whether they had other jobs apart from beedi rolling. It can be noticed that out of the total, 4 respondents also worked as agricultural labour, whereas one respondent each worked as tailor and some other jobs, besides beedi rolling work.

**Table 5.26**  
**Any other Job apart from Beedi Rolling**

Sl. No.	Occupation	Number
1.	Agricultural Labourer	4
2.	Tailor	1
3.	Others	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.29 POSSESSION OF IDENTITY CARD

The figures in Table 5.27 show that most of the beedi workers possessed Identity cards issued by the Labour Welfare Organization and State Government.

**Table 5.27**  
**Possession of Beedi Workers Identity Card**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number	Percentage of the total
1.	YES	226	84.30
2.	NO	42	15.60
3.	NA	1	0.37
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.30 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS AS PER RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Table 5.28 illustrates the distribution of the respondents by the type of assistance they received. It can be observed that out of the total, 57.94 percent respondents received medical assistance, followed by 35.98 percent who received educational assistance, 5.61 percent respondents received House Building Grant, 0.45 percent and 20.44 percent shared that they got other assistance and no reply, respectively.

**Table 5.28**  
**Different Types of Assistance Received**

Sl. No.	Distribution of Respondents receiving assistance		Percentage
	Assistance	Number	
1.	Educational Assistance	77	35.98
2.	Medical Assistance	124	57.94
3.	Housing Building Grant	12	5.61
4.	Any Other	1	0.46
5.	Did not receive any	55	20.44
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.31 PROVIDENT FUND

The distribution of the respondents by whether they withdraw any loan from 'Beedi Workers' Provident Fund (PF) is presented in Table 5.29. It can be noted that out of the total, 92.80 percent respondents shared that they did not withdraw any loan from the PF, whereas 7.11 percent reported that they withdrew loan from the PF and 0.74 percent did not reply.

**Table 5.29**  
**Provident Fund Withdrawal**

Sl. No.	Whether Withdrew any Loan from the Fund (PF)		Percentage
	Response	Number	
1.	Yes	19	7.11
2.	No	248	92.8
3.	NA	2	0.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.32 MEDICAL BENEFITS

The distribution of respondents by whether medical benefit was available in the area, is shown in Table 5.30. Out of the total, 71.15 percent respondents stated that medical benefits were available in their area, while 31.22 percent informed that such facility was not available in their area.



**Table 5.30**  
**Medical Benefits available in the area**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number	Percentage of the total
1.	YES	185	71.15
2.	NO	84	31.22
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.33 HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABILITY

Table 5.31 reveals the distribution of respondents by whether a health services providing agency was available in their area. It can be observed that out of the total, 60.29 percent respondents informed that Government Hospitals were available in their area, while 39.71 percent shared that no services agency was there in their area, and 0.74 percent did not reply.

**Table 5.31**  
**Health Services Availability**

Sl. No.	Health Services Providing Agency		Percentage
	Response	Number	
1.	No Services	106	39.71
2.	Government Hospitals	161	60.29
3.	No Reply	2	0.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

### 5.34 ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER BODIES

The distribution of respondents by whether they received assistance from Government or local bodies is depicted in Table 5.32. Out of the total, 56.51 percent respondents received assistance from local bodies, as reported, while 46.09 percent respondents shared that they received assistance from the Government, and 23.42 percent did not receive any assistance. As seen in the table no ESI scheme was available in the area of the study.

**Table 5.32**  
**Assistance from Other Bodies (Government or Local Bodies)**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number	Percentage of the total
1.	Government	124	46.09
2.	Local beedis	152	56.51
3.	ESI	0	0
4.	No assistance	63	23.42

*Data from survey*

### 5.35 EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE CHILDREN

Table 5.33 shows the distribution of respondents by the educational level of their children. It can be observed that out of the total, 48.91 percent respondents stated that their children had education up to primary level, followed by 36.36 percent respondents whose children had education up to secondary level, 22.51 percent respondents shared that their children had education up to middle level, 19.91 percent responded that their children's education was up to higher secondary level, 12.12 percent respondents children were graduates, 6.49 percent respondent children were illiterate and 2.59 percent respondents intimated that their children were post graduate.

**Table 5.33**  
**Education Level of the Children**

Sl. No.	Education level	No. of households	Percentage of the total
1.	No Children	6	2.59
2.	Illiterate	15	6.49
3.	Primary	113	48.91
4.	Middle	52	22.51
5.	Secondary	84	36.36
6.	Higher Secondary	46	19.91
7.	Graduate	28	12.12
8.	Post Graduate	6	2.59
9.	Others	2	0.86
10.	Not Available	38	14.1

*Data from survey*

### **5.36 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN**

The juxtaposition of the educational backgrounds of beedi workers and their children, as indicated by the statistical data provided, unveils a compelling narrative of resilience and upward mobility within the beedi-making community. Despite 38.28% of the workforce being classified as illiterate and a significant representation in lower education categories, the commitment and dedication of these workers have translated into improved educational opportunities for their children. The data on the education level of children in beedi worker households showcases a prevalence of primary and secondary education (48.91% and 36.36%, respectively), indicating a concerted effort to ensure foundational learning for the next generation. The relatively small percentages of households with graduate (12.12%) and postgraduate (2.59%) children suggest challenges in accessing higher education, yet they also underscore the remarkable strides made by beedi workers in providing diverse educational paths for their offspring. This comparison paints a nuanced picture of a workforce overcoming educational barriers, contributing to the socio-economic advancement of their families, and embodying the transformative power of dedication to craft and family well-being.

### **5.37 SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION**

Table 5.34 focuses upon the distribution of respondents by sources of funding for the education of their children. It can be noticed that out of the total, 66.60 percent respondents reported that they are funding the education of their children's education from beedi rolling income, followed by 13.40 percent respondents' children were being educated by the help of Government aid, 12.60 percent respondents' children got scholarship, 7.31 percent reported that they were receiving funds for their children's education through other sources, and 8.55 percent did not reply or it can said they did not receive any assistance.

**Table 5.34**  
**Funding for Education (Sources)**

Sl. No.	Sources of funding	No. of households	Percentage of the total
1.	Scholarship	31	12.60
2.	Government Aid	33	13.40
3.	Income from Beedi	164	66.60
4.	Others	18	7.31
5.	NA	23	8.55

*Data from survey*

### 5.38 DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS AS PER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

The data from Table 5.35 unequivocally affirms that the surveyed respondents have notable access to essential household items, firmly situating them above the poverty line. With a significant majority possessing fundamental amenities such as fans (65.42%), bicycles (60.96%), and chairs (51.30%), it is evident that the respondents enjoy a standard of living that surpasses basic necessities. The ownership of technological devices like cell phones (45.35%) and television sets (46.46%) further underscores their connectivity and access to modern conveniences. The possession of motorbikes (31.94%) indicates a reasonable level of mobility, contributing to an overall lifestyle that goes beyond mere subsistence. These findings collectively paint a picture of a community that not only has access to basic amenities but also embraces a higher quality of life, firmly establishing them above the poverty line.

**Table 5.35**  
**Household Items (Frequency of Possession)**

Sl. No.	Particulars/items	Number of respondents	Percentage of the total
1.	Television	125	46.46
2.	Battery Inverter	9	3.34
3.	Android Phone	44	16.35
4.	Motor bike	86	31.94
5.	Chair	138	51.3
6.	Palank	101	37.54

7.	Cots	37	13.75
8.	Power Generator	6	2.23
9.	Cell Phone	122	45.35
10.	Bicycle	164	60.96
11.	Fan	176	65.42
12.	Almirah	56	20.81
<b>Table</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>18.95</b>

*Data from survey*

### **5.39 PROFILE OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THE BEEDI MAKING PROCESS IN THE PAST**

The data in the "Profile of Household Members Engaged in the Beedi Making Process in the Past" table underscores the family-oriented nature of beedi making, revealing a significant involvement of various family members in this occupation (see Table 5.36). With mothers representing the majority at 60.40%, it is evident that beedi making has been a prominent activity for many women within households. This suggests a tradition where skills and knowledge are passed down from one generation to the next, fostering a familial connection to the occupation.

Grandmothers and fathers, comprising 13.20% and 15.20% of households respectively, further highlight the multi-generational involvement in beedi making. The presence of other family members, constituting 6.40%, suggests a collaborative effort within households, with multiple members contributing to the craft.

The family-based nature of beedi making is not only reflected in the past engagement but also in the potential for the occupation to be passed on to subsequent generations. The familial tradition in beedi making often involves the transfer of skills and knowledge from experienced family members to younger ones, creating a continuum of expertise within the household. This intergenerational transmission not only preserves a traditional craft but also contributes to the sustainability of the beedi industry.

The data emphasizes that beedi making extends beyond an individual occupation; it is a family affair, involving various household members and fostering a sense of shared

responsibility. This family-based approach to beedi making not only strengthens familial bonds but also serves as a mechanism for skill preservation and continuity across generations.

**Table 5.36**

**Profile of Household members who were engaged in the Beedi Making process in the Past**

Sl. No.	Households' members	No. of households	Percentage of the total
1.	GrandMother	33	13.20
2.	Grand Father	12	4.80
3.	Mother	151	60.40
4.	Father	38	15.20
5.	Others	16	6.40
6.	Not Available	19	7.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>190.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## 5.40 CONTRIBUTION TO PROVIDENT FUND

Table 5.37 projects the distribution of respondents by whether they contributed to "Provident Fund". 61.97 percent respondents, out of the total, expressed that they were not contributing to PF, followed by 38.02 percent who reported that they contributed to PF, and 20.81 percent respondents did not reply.

**Table 5.37**

**Contribution to Provident Fund**

Sl. No.	YES	Total	Percentage of the total
1.	YES	81	38.02
2.	NO	132	61.97
3.	NA	56	20.81
<b>Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Data from survey*

## Chapter VI

### CASE STUDIES

#### **"Dreams and Determination: Afreen Khan's Journey from Beedi Rolling to an MBA"**



Afreen is a young girl aged 23. She has a big dream, and she wishes to realize her dream through education. With her mother she used to roll beedi like any other young girl in the Mohalla Garha, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Jabalpur is the city where the first Beedi factory was set up in 1902. Afreen has pursued her studies diligently and today she holds an M.B.A degree from a University in Noida. Off and on, she has

also done some job, but she still rolls beedis whenever time permits and earns every month between Rs. 1000-2000. Still, she is continuing her education- she is now pursuing a PGDM course to enhance her educational profile so that she gets better opportunities.

Afreen Khan comes from a family whose members have been rolling beedis for several generations. She reported that her grandmother, grandfather, father, and mother have been rolling beedis and even today her mother is rolling beedis every day. And the income from beedi rolling has helped them achieve the standard of life which they enjoy today. Afreen's sister Athiya Khan has also passed M. Com and she is a cricket player.

Afreen's mother, Aakila Begum still rolls beedis and earns Rs. 1000-1500/- per month. This income has helped her daughters Afreen and Athiya to receive their education.

## II



### **Saroj Patel: The Inspiring Journey of a Resourceful Beedi-Rolling Matriarch**

Mrs. Saroj Patel, a 56-year-old resident of Sagar, was busy with a supa (tray), tendu leaves, tobacco flakes, a pair of scissors, a small iron piece, and a bundle of thread. Before her marriage, she had never rolled beedis. Her father-in-law, who was a beedi worker, once told her, "Instead of sitting idle at home, you should learn beedi rolling. It will provide you with an income, and in times of crisis, it will be a great help." Inspired by this conversation, she gradually took up beedi rolling.

Her husband is a contractual worker, and his salary is neither adequate nor permanent. Additionally, he doesn't receive his salary regularly. Mrs. Patel's income from beedi rolling has helped the family overcome financial difficulties. Her earnings contributed to building a modest house and supporting the education of their two children. Her eldest son has become an electrician and earns a good income daily. Known for his efficiency and honesty, he has built a good reputation. The youngest son is currently studying in class 12.

Her 75-year-old mother-in-law also rolls beedis, and her husband joins in the work when he is at home.



### III

#### Empowering Generations: Sushila's tale of persistence



**Mrs. Sushila**, 61 years of age has been rolling beedis since her childhood i.e., from age 13 years. In the beginning she used to help her mother by rolling a few beedis and slowly she learned the craft and ever since she has been rolling beedi. She could not attend school as there was no opportunity and support though she wanted to get educated.

By the age of sixteen, she was married and after coming to her new house, she continued to roll beedis. Her husband was a daily wage worker, worked as an agriculture labour, construction worker etc. His income was not regular.

It's Sushila's income that was the main source of support to the family. She has five children and all of them have received good education. Her eldest son has done a diploma course from an industrial training institute, another son is doing graduation. Her youngest daughter is completing her B. Ed degree and two of her daughters have been married and have received education till secondary level.

She has built a small house in the district town and still lives with her three children and daughter in law. "She still rolls beedi and earns Rs. 70-80 per day" when asked, "would it have been possible to uplift her family and provide education if not for this employment?", "No, it would have been impossible, it was my earning which helped me and my family to achieve what it is today." She said, "the earning may be less, but it is consistent." She further replied.

## IV

### "Empowering Lives: Suman Ahirwaar Journey in Beedi-Making"



In the close-knit community of Ward Number 10 in Nagar Panchayat Badagaon Ghasaan, a story of determination and hope emerges. Suman Ahirwaar, a 27-year-old woman, stands as a symbol of courage as she explores the world of beedi-making, the main source of income for her family. This case study highlights the resilience and positivity in Suman's life, showcasing the significance of beedi-making as a source of employment and income.

For the past seven years, Suman and her family have embraced the world of beedi-making, a labour-intensive craft. Their commitment to producing beedis is marked by determination and hard work. Suman mentions that they roll beedis worth Rs. 4-5 hundred weekly, demonstrating the potential for earning. While they face challenges, their efforts provide a consistent source of income, enabling them to meet their family's needs.

Suman's family, which includes her husband who works as a labourer, faces the realities of seasonal employment. Despite these challenges, their combined efforts result in a monthly income of 8,000-9,000 rupees. This income is a valuable contribution to their family, allowing them to cover their expenses.

Suman Ahirwaar's story embodies the spirit of individuals who persevere with determination. Through beedi-making, she represents the countless individuals working toward a brighter future. Suman's journey is a testament to positivity and strength in the face of challenges, inspiring positive change. It highlights the importance of recognizing the role of beedi-making as a source of employment and income for families like Suman's who rely on it to improve their lives.

## V

### Ram Bai Ahirwaar's Journey to Financial Stability through Beedi-Making



In a small community in Madhya Pradesh, Ram Bai Ahirwaar, a 28-year-old mother of three, embodies strength and determination. Her family of five faces various challenges, including illness and debt, but they're moving towards a brighter future with the help of Beedi Making.

Ram Bai's husband, Jagdish Ahirwaar, has been unwell for three years and can't work. His treatment is costly and has caused them to accumulate debt. Ram Bai works as a beedi worker, and it provides a steady income that helps her family. To supplement their income, she also takes up seasonal farm work. While the pay isn't high, Ram Bai's determination to support her family shines through. During tough times, she even explores work opportunities in Delhi, sometimes taking one of her children with her to earn extra money. This extra income plays a crucial role in covering her husband's medical expenses.

A year ago, she had to borrow money from the community to pay for her husband's treatment. She's gradually repaying this debt while managing their financial challenges with the assistance of Beedi making which is a constant employment. The family receives some government support, including the Avaaz Yojana, an identity card, and recently, the Laadli Behena Yojana, which provided them with Rs. 1000.

Ram Bai Ahirkar's story shows us how determination and a steady income from beedi-making is helping her family. They're making progress in paying off their debt and working towards a brighter future. Her story highlights the importance of recognizing beedi-making as a valuable source of income for families like hers.

## VI

### **Beti Bai Ahirwaar: Beedi-Making's Role in Independence and Family Support**

In the tranquil village of Badagaon Ghassan, Madhya Pradesh, we uncover the story of Beti Bai Ahirwaar, fondly known as Biba Laghua Ahirwaar. At 62 years of age, she stands as a testament to resilience, independence, and unwavering family support, all thanks to her decades-long journey in beedi-making. Eight years ago, Beti Bai faced the daunting loss of her husband, which ushered in a period of financial uncertainty. Her husband had been the family's primary breadwinner, but his passing left her with a young son and married daughters. The land they owned remained untouched, and there was no one to provide for their family's needs.

Beti Bai turned to beedi-making as a lifeline to sustain herself and her family for the past 25-30 years. Crafting 1000 beedis earns her Rs. 130. A year ago, Beti Bai found herself in need of funds for her son's wedding, leading her to borrow money. Her son and daughter-in-law took up work in Delhi, sending back Rs. 1,000-1,500 to support her. They are diligently repaying a substantial debt of Rs. 50,000.

Through the difficulties, Beti Bai's reliance on beedi-making has allowed her to maintain her independence and provide for her family. Her work has been the cornerstone of her financial stability since her husband's passing. Beedi-making has empowered her to navigate life's challenges and ensure her family's well-being. Her unwavering spirit highlights the significance of recognizing the role of beedi-making in fostering independence and supporting families, even after the loss of a loved one. Her story serves as an inspiration, demonstrating that with determination and opportunity, individuals can triumph over adversity.

## VII

### **Saraswati Bai Ahirwaar: Beedi-Making's Catalyst for Transformation and Support**

In the heart of Ward Number 10, Badagaon, Madhya Pradesh, we witness the uplifting journey of Saraswati Bai Ahirwaar, a 45-year-old woman who has become a symbol of empowerment in her community. This case study celebrates her remarkable story, marked by personal growth, economic success, and her unwavering determination to overcome health challenges, all of which were propelled by her involvement in beedi-making.

Saraswati Bai's journey began as a beedi worker 25 years ago when she initially sought employment to support her small family. Over the years, as her family expanded and financial responsibilities mounted, she made a bold and transformative decision. Saraswati Bai suggested to her husband, Kashiram Ahirwaar, that they should each manage their finances independently. She would use her earnings from beedi rolling to provide for herself and her children, while Kashiram would rely on his income to support himself and contribute to the family's financial needs. Saraswati Bai's determination and courage caught the community's attention, leading her husband to transition into labour work, bolstering the family's financial stability.

Kashiram Ahirwaar's move to labour work marked a turning point in their lives, with his monthly earnings now averaging around 5,000-6,000 rupees. In addition to her husband's income, Saraswati Bai and her daughter actively engage in beedi-rolling, jointly earning approximately 10,000-11,000 rupees each month. This collaborative effort has brought about a significant improvement in the family's financial situation.

The Ahirwaar family's journey took a positive turn, partly owing to their association with beedi-making. They leveraged this to seek support from various government programs, leading to significant transformations in their lives. They obtained an identity card from the Beedi workers welfare fund organization. While these programs did not provide

substantial assistance, the family did receive crucial support from the Ladle Behena Yojana, which now provides them with a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000. In addition, they hold a ration card, which has been instrumental in ensuring a steady supply of essential provisions.

Saraswati Bai Ahirwaar's life serves as a compelling example of how involvement in beedi-making can act as a catalyst for transformation and support. Her remarkable journey, marked by empowerment and determination to overcome health challenges, underscores the pivotal role women play in shaping their destinies and improving their family's well-being. Her story highlights the positive impact of beedi-making, leading to increased government support and, ultimately, a brighter future for herself and her family.

## VIII

### **Rambai Ahirwaar - A Life of Dedication and Resilience in Beedi-Making**

Niwadi, Badagaon, Ghassan, Madhya Pradesh, is home to an extraordinary woman, Rambai Deva Nathua Ahirwaar, who, at the age of 67, has dedicated her life to the art of beedi-making. Her journey is a profound testament to the pivotal role beedi-making has played in her family's well-being and the positive impact it has had on her life.

For 35 years, Rambai Ahirwaar has been crafting beedis, embarking on this journey at the tender age of 20. This occupation has been her lifeline, providing sustenance and support for her day-to-day expenses. Each week, she meticulously assembles around 1,000 beedis, earning a modest sum of Rs. 130. Although her husband is no longer with her, her children have sought employment in Delhi, where they work as labourers, actively contributing to the family's income.

With her two daughters-in-law and sons employed in Delhi, Rambai Ahirwaar finds herself as the primary breadwinner at home. While she has encouraged her daughters-in-law to join her in beedi-making, one of them experiences back pain and isn't inclined towards this work. Thus, Rambai continues to work alone, producing 4,000-5,000 beedis in a week and earning a modest Rs. 500-600. While her daughter-in-law manages household chores, Rambai occasionally engages in farming, despite not owning any land herself.

In her younger years, Rambai and her husband worked hand in hand, combining their beedi-making income with his wage work. This allowed them to meet their family's essential needs, celebrate festivals, and arrange their children's marriages. However, as time has passed, the returns from their labour have diminished. The meticulous process of selecting and screening beedis often leads to a sense of loss as many are discarded. Rambai highlights the challenging aspect of earning just 10-12 rupees a day through grueling work that takes a toll on her health.

In her later years, Rambai received modest government assistance. She possesses a ration card, granting her access to essential provisions, and she's eligible for a widow's pension, providing some financial relief in her twilight years.

Rambai Ahirwaar's life is a story of persistence, sacrifice, and the resilience of a widow in rural India. Her lifelong dedication to beedi-making, driven by a desire to support her family, is a testament to her unwavering commitment in the face of challenging circumstances.

These are the stories of several million resilient beedi workers in the country.



## **Chapter VII**

# **CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS**

### **CONCLUSION**

Madhya Pradesh was the major hub of the beedi industry in India. Just a few decades ago or so, the largest number of beedi workers were concentrated in the State. However, in the course of time, the beedi industry slowly began to decline. But still the registered number of beedi workers in the state is more than two lakhs. However, this number is not accurate as there are thousands of beedi rolling workers who are not registered. As per the annual Report of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the total number of Beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh is 4,40,556.

- (i) Like any other states with the incidence of beedi workers, the beedi industry has been providing a very important source of livelihood to people in both rural and urban areas, especially rural areas of the State.
- (ii) Though there are new opportunities of employment in construction sectors, urban informal sectors, in employment guarantee schemes for promoting rural development activities, still there are a large number of people solely dependent on beedi rolling and tendu leaf collection in the State.
- (iii) The evidence in the study clearly shows that the income from the employment in the beedi industry has not only helped lakhs of families to survive, but also contributed to the upliftment of their living standards.
- (iv) It has helped educate their children, built dwelling places, provided a much-needed income and capability to have access to food and other essentials.
- (v) Keeping this in view, it is necessary to keep the beedi industry in such a position that does help the economically disadvantaged workers by providing

much-needed employment and income. An adequate measure should also be explored to reduce the adverse side effects of tobacco use and consumption. In the modern world of science, this may not be an impossible task.

Here it may be noted that due to several policy measures, the beedi industry is shifting from Madhya Pradesh to other States where legal measures are less stringent (Sen and Patel, 2014). Beedi industry is contributing immensely to the economic development of Madhya Pradesh, not only in the area of tendu leaf collection but also in beedi rolling.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

The following suggestions are provided on the basis of the Study.

#### **ROLE OF STATES**

##### **(i) Labour Law Compliance**

The whole beedi industry should comply with labour laws. There are several Labour Laws in which there are provisions that can protect the interests of the workers. The laws are the Minimum Wage Act, 1948; the payment of Wage Act, 1936; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Employees Compensation Act 1923; the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948; The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; the Trade Union Act, 1926; the Payment of Wage Act, 1936; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976; and the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

However, due to various loopholes, the provisions of these Acts are not applied to the beedi workers. For example, the establishments whose sales are of Rs. 20 lakhs per annum are exempted from paying the Goods and Services Tax, 2017. Because of the

exemption, a huge amount of tax is lost, thereby depriving the millions of beedi workers from paying minimum wage and other social security benefits.

(ii) All the establishments producing beedis should be registered and regulated so that they are accountable and pay taxes.

(iii) In order to sustain the beedi industry the highest slab of 28 percent GST should be rationally reduced. In the existing scenario, when alternative employment opportunities are lacking, the highest slab of 28% GST is likely to have a detrimental effect on employment of beedi workers.

(iv) The existing welfare measures for the beedi workers should be continued and enhanced as the benefits have helped many beedi workers' children with financial assistance.

(v) The medical services being rendered by the Director General; Labour Welfare have been very useful for the workers well-being. During the survey, many workers and their representatives expressed that the static-cum-Mobile dispensaries should be made available in the areas where such a facility is not currently available. This issue should be addressed on priority.

(vi) Because of strict regulations many beedi units are shifting from Madhya Pradesh to other states, causing unemployment among beedi workers. Steps should be taken to stop the shifting of Beedi units to other States.

(vii) Absence of issuance of identity cards to many beedi workers. This deprives them from availing statutory benefits from social security measures. Authorities must take initiatives for the issuance of identity cards to beedi workers.

(viii) Keeping this in view, attempts should be made to register all the beedi workers and they should be covered under EPFO and ESI schemes. At present, not many workers are contributors to EPFO schemes.

(ix) This can be done by registering all the beedi producing and distributing establishments.

(x) Special health and finance management programmes should also be conducted for women beedi rollers. In addition, all other social security measures should be made accessible to beedi workers, especially women beedi rollers.

### **EMPLOYERS' ROLE**

Employers are the major stakeholder of the Beedi Industry. Their efforts have, in terms of employment generation for a vast segment of vulnerable people all over the country, been remarkable. In fact, their efforts have helped millions to survive. Hence, they should come forward to help workers wherever it is required in the form of extending social security, awareness and other activities that help the industry sustain.

### **A Trade Union's Role**

V.V. Giri National Labour Institute conducted an Action Research Project in Niwari and Prithvipur Community Development Blocks of District Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh between 1998-2001. One of the purposes of the action research project was to assist the rural workers to organize themselves for participating in the development process. Due to this intervention, two trade unions, namely, *Bundelkhand Gramin Majdur Union* at Niwari and *Bundelkhand Khet Majdur Union* at Prithivipur, were formed. Both the blocks have a considerable number of beedi workers without their identity cards. However, after the unions were formed the situation changed.

The Union activists requested the Labour Welfare Organization, Jabalpur, first to send a team to issue identity cards to genuine beedi workers. Thereafter, the activists collected application forms for scholarships for beedi workers' children and helped the workers to fill up the same when required. After filling them up some of the activists of the unions went to the Labour Welfare Organization Office at Jabalpur to submit the applications. Today because of this effort a large number of beedi workers, children have been benefited. In addition, there is now a considerable awareness among the beedi workers about different schemes operated by the welfare organization and other agencies in the area.

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