



Health hazards and problems of female ragpickers involve in informal sector in urban area of district, Sirsa Haryana

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Abstract

Trash picking is an inferior and exploitative economic activity in the urban informal section. Rag pickers collect the waste items like paper, iron, cutlery, metal objects pieces and plastics for their livelihood. Data is collected from the primary source. This research paper is design to examine the physical hazards of female ragpickers. In this study the exploratory research design is used. The random sampling technique is used; about 120 respondents (i.e. female trash pickers) in the age group of 17 to 55 years were selected. A well designed schedule (structured) questions was used to collect the response from the respondents.

Keywords: working conditions, health problems, medical treatment

Introduction

Trash picking is probably one of the most dangerous and dehumanizing activity in India. Female ragpickers are working in filthy environment surrounding by dogs, pigs and hen. The term chiffonier is also used for the ragpickers. The ragpickers belong to the singikaat and siribandh community. In the ancient time the ragpickers used the traditional techniques in piles sprain related skin problem by using horns of deer and cows. But as time spans their techniques lag behind the modern techniques, as said by laymen. And they are compels to choose the job of waste picking for their livelihood. Female ragpickers search waste times without using any safety instrument like hand gloves and shoes. On a global level approximately two thirds of a kilogram of waste per person per day generated. Yet the difference between high and low income countries was considerable, especially in terms of composition. Risk occurs at every step in the process from the point where ragpickers handle waste in the home for collection to the point of ultimate disposal. Health risk from the wastes including the wastes is caused by many factors, including the nature of waste as it decomposes the handling of waste. Some ragpickers live in semi-pakka house and others in shed house in dumyard. Their life begins and ends only in a atmosphere surrounding by garbage and stretch. The female ragpickers also faced the problem like dog bites and skin infections. According to the mumtaz ragpickers of sirsa, each one of them collect approximately 10-20 kg of waste per day.

Objective of the study

1. To know the physical hazards faced by the female ragpickers.
2. To examine the problems faced by the female ragpickers.

Methodology

- Exploratory research design has been used.

- The present study is related to urban area of Sirsa for year of 2016-2017.
- Primary source of data collection has been used.
- Sample of 120 female Rag pickers was taken purposive randomly.
- Interview schedule method has been used.
- Simple percentage and average method has been used for analysis.

Result and Discussion

Sample population across age groups: The furnished results related to sample population across age groups is depicted in table1. The demographic structure of the female ragpickers shows that 12.5 per cent female ragpicker lie between the age group of 18-30 years, 70.83 per cent female ragpickers belong to the age group of 31-45 years, and 16.67 per cent female ragpickers lie between the age group of 46-60 years. It is because in this age female are not able to working properly due to health diseases.

Table 1: Sample population across age groups

Age group	Respondents	Per cent
18-30	15	12.5
31-45	85	70.83
46-60	20	16.67
Total	120	100

Working conditions rag picking: Working conditions of ragpicking are presented in table 2 and it is found that 79.17 per cent female ragpickers do not like that job due to unhealthy working conditions even though they are compel to doing that job due to poverty. Of the total ragpickers, 20.83 per cent female rag pickers dislike that activity due to tiring and tedious nature of the work negatively affect health.

Table 2: Working condions rag picking

Reason	Respondent	Per cent
Unhealthy working condition	95	79.17
Tiring and tedious work affect health	25	20.83
Total	120	100

Table 3: Female ragpicker across types of health problems

Health problem	Respondents	Per cent
Respiratory problem	40	33.3
Frequent stomach pain	6	5
Backache	15	12.5
Pain in joints	8	6.6
Eye infection	9	7.5
Skin problem	20	16.6
Tetanus	22	18.3
Total	120	100

Medical Treatment: The furnished results related to medical treatment is depict in table 4. It is found that female Ragpicker take the medical treatment in routine and during pregnancy from the private, govt. and quack. The reason behind to use quack modes for medical treatment has been identified has been used by them due to illiteracy and their faith in superstitious beliefs. Of the ragpickers 25 per cent use the quack methods against illness. Of the ragpickers, 66.67 per cent delivered their children at home.

Table 4: Medical Treatment

Medical Treatment	No. of Respondents	Per cent
Govt.	75	62.5
Private	15	12.5
Quack	30	25
Total	120	100
Delivery		
Govt. hospital	26	21.67
Private hospital	14	11.67
Home	80	66.67
Total	120	100

Table 5: Problems faced during the work

Problems	No. of Respodents	Per cent
Infections	15	12.5
Toxic face	15	12.5
Dog bits	10	12
dust	80	66.6
Total	120	100

Suggestions

1. At the local level ragpickers should trained in how to handle toxic waste and expertise in recycling goods in a non-hazardous way.
2. An effective and efficient solid waste management system is equally required to deal with the problem of female ragpickers.
3. Abuse and torture of rag picking females should be stopped immediately.
4. Ultimately, the rights of the female should be ensured on war footing.
5. As per the family background of ragpickers, poverty is main factor which compels these to undertake this work.

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