



International Journal of Arts and Science Research

Journal home page: www.ijasrjournal.com



A STUDY ON PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROBLEMS OF SMALL SCALE SALT PAN PRODUCERS IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

India is the third largest salt producing country in the world after china and USA with an annual production of about 230 million tonnes. The growth and achievement of salt industry over the last 60 years has been spectacular. Tamil Nadu occupies the second place in the salt production among the different states in India. In Tamil Nadu total area allotted for salt production was about 8.06 lakhs acres. Around 16,500 salt workers are involved in the production of salt of which than, belong to SC/ST communities. Salt is one of the basic necessities of human beings. It is also one of the older commodities that was produced, exchanged and later traded. It is also attributed with many symbolic values. The present study is an attempt to understand the contemporary structure of salt production and distribution. The chosen area for the study is Tuticorin region of Tamilnadu, which produces substantial quantities of edible salt for consumption basically in the Southern States of Indian Union. The salt in the state, is produced from saltpans along the seacoast. Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam are the three major salt producing districts, accounting for about 85 percent of the state's salt production. An estimated 30,000 acres of land is used for salt production in the three districts, it has providing economic for large numbers of people along the coast.

KEYWORDS

Salt workers, SC/ST, Production, Tones, OHP and Salt Consumption.

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INTRODUCTION

The main sources of salt in India are sea brine, lake brine, sub-soil brine and Rock salt deposits. Sea water is an inexhaustible source of salt. Salt production along the coast is limited by weather and soil conditions. Salt manufacturing in India has a very long history. In the present day context, edible salt is branded are priced higher as compared to the salt of the small scale salt producers who does not

have any established brands. Similarly, the level of fortification is not up to the desired level in most of the salt products that originate from the small scale manufactures segment.

Statement of the Problem

The Comparatively the large number of salt workers exposed and facing occupational health problems like prevalence of ophthalmic symptoms, dermatological symptoms like headache, giddiness, breathlessness, muscular and joint pains. It will also attempts to a step towards analyzing the farm mechanization to salt production and existing marketing practices of salt marketers in Tamil Nadu. These unique physical features of the state will influence the researcher to undergo the current research entitled “A study on production and marketing problems of small scale salt pan producers in Tamil Nadu” for current research.

Objectives of the Study

1. To Study the Occupational Health Problems of the salt workers.
2. To analysis of the protection and safety measures of salt workers at saltpan.
3. To examine the health problems of salt workers in Tamil Nadu.
4. To find out the problems of production of salt from the point of view of salt workers in Tamil Nadu.

Scope of the Study

The present study will highlight the problems of salt workers with the view to analysis the performance of workers health, salt distribution and related physical function. The opinion of the problems and prospects of salt workers in Tamil Nadu will also be analyzed in this research. Further the study will cover only the area of Tuticorin, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram Districts because salt former area is known for lowest salt production in Tamil Nadu.

METHODOLOGY

The study will be based on both primary data and secondary data. The major sources of secondary data will be collected from the various publications of report of ministry of Agriculture and ministry of commerce, books, periodical, magazines, and published records of the Govt and web site sources.

For the purpose of collecting primary data with regard to the problems and prospects of salt, the researcher will carefully design separate interview schedule and the same will be administered to the sample respondents living in different parts of selected area of Tamil Nadu.

Framework Analysis

The researcher will use the linear trend equation to analyze the trend and growth for the problems and prospects of salt worker in Tamil Nadu and its projections will be estimated for the year 2015. Further the researcher will used the compound growth rate for analyzing the growths of problems and prospects of salt producers in Tamil Nadu. The percentage analysis and will also be used to analyze health problems and how over comes of salt Producers in Tamil Nadu.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mr. S. Murugan, (2015)¹, in this research paper they reveals that the large number of salt workers exposed to salt and facing health problems like headache, giddiness, breathlessness, muscular and joint pains. The health problems of salt workers were most common, probably due to irritation by direct sunlight and its glare caused by salt crystals to brine as well as irritation, headache and giddiness were other more common symptoms to salt workers. There is a need for developing a mechanism for prevention of these problems to them.

Dr. D. Durairaj, and Mr. S. Murugan and (2016)², in this research paper they reveals that the large number of salt workers exposed to salt and facing occupational health problems like prevalence of ophthalmic symptoms, dermatological symptoms like headache, giddiness, breathlessness, muscular and joint pains. The ophthalmic problems were most common, probably due to irritation by direct sunlight and its glare caused by salt crystals to brine as well as irritation, traumatic ulcers, dermatitis, muscular and joint pains, headache and giddiness were other more common symptoms to salt workers. There is a need for developing a mechanism for prevention of these problems to them

Dr. K. Muthalagu, Mr. S. Murugan and Dr. D. Durairaj, (2016)³, in this research paper they reveals

that the large number of salt workers exposed to salt and facing health problems etc. The salt production in Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam is by the traditional method of evaporation of brine (water with high concentration of salt) filled in the salt pans. The working condition of workers is not modern equipments being used for production. In connection that the salt production, meanwhile the salt workers are involving production they are affected various salt workers health related issues.

Analysis of Data and Interpretation

India is the third largest salt producing country in the world after china and USA with an annual production of about 230 million tonnes. The growth and achievement of salt industry over the last 60 years has been spectacular. Now India has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of salt even for the level of exporting surplus salt to many countries. The main sources of salt in India are sea brine, lake brine, sub-soil brine and Rock salt deposits. Sea water is an inexhaustible source of salt. Salt production along the coast is limited by weather and soil conditions

DISTRICT -WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

The Districts play a major role in Production of salt, because of availability of raw materials and usages.

Table No.1: District wise classification of the respondents

S.No	District	No.of. Respondents	Percentage to Total
1	Ramanathapuram	231	38.6
2	Tuticorin	227	38.0
3	Nagapattinam	140	23.4
	Total	598	100

Source: Primary Data

Table No.2: Financial problems faced by the salt producers - multiple regressions

1	Dependent variable	Financial Related Problems
2	Independent variables	Lack of raw material (X1) Lack of labour (X2) Transport (X3) Storage (X4) Shortage of salt water (X5)
3	Method	Enter method
4	Multiple R	0.917
5	R square value	0.890
6	Adjusted R square value	0.894
7	F value	3.091
8	P value	<0.005*

Source: Primary Data

Table No.1 shows that most of the respondents (38.6 Percentage) are belonging to Ramanathapuram district and 38.0 Percentage of the respondents are Tuticorin district and remaining 23.4 Percentage of the Respondents are Nagapattinam district.

It is inferred from the table that most of the respondents are Ramanathapuram district. Because, Ramanathapuram district is mostly are engaged in salt production business and the like. Thereby, they have the opportunity to get into contact with various salt producer groups.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE SMALL SCALE SALT PRODUCERS - MULTIPLE REGRESSIONS

Salt has now grown to such dimensions and importance that it has become the largest industry in the world. The salt industry is the third highest foreign exchange earner in India. But still the salt industry faced many challenges and issues the foreign salt industry faced in India such as Lack of proper infrastructure, Lack of worker resources, Service levels, Lack of adequate marketing and promotion, Taxation, Security and so on.

Table No.2 Shows that problems faced by the small scale salt producers, It shows regression and f value.

CONCLUSION

Working environmental conditions of salt industry exposes the workers to direct contact with inhalable salt dust; salt crystals give direct impact on brine, physical stress, direct bright sunlight and glare due to sunlight reflected by salt crystals and brine surface. However, the extreme weather and hard labour conditions in the salt workers cause lot of health issues among the salt workers. There must be need for modernization and well trained mechanization of salt works and use of personal protective equipments to overcome occupational health problems of salt workers. In this research study concluded the salt workers was not found to be different from a similar group of workers to salt produce workers. Hence this study highlights the need for developing provision for prevention of health problems in workers are these three districts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors wish to express their sincere gratitude to Post Graduate Research Department of Commerce, Sethupathy Government Arts College, Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu, India for providing necessary facilities to carry out this research work.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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Please cite this article in press as: Murugan S and Muthalagu K. A study on production and marketing problems of small scale salt pan producers in Tamil Nadu, *International Journal of Arts and Science Research*, 4(2), 2018, 4-7.