

HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN WORKING IN PETROL BUNKS' A MEDICO- SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

[With special reference to Chikmagalur District-Karnataka state]

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Abstract

Development is most of appealing and attractive term has gained more importance after the second half of the 20th Century, especially among South Asian countries including India. New theories and narratives were formed to explain underdeveloped society and suggest the ways and approaches for their transformation towards the development. Health can be defined as optimal well-being that contributes to the quality of life. It is more important than freedom from disease and illness. Optimal health includes high level mental, social, economical, spiritual, and physical wellness within the limits of once heredity and personal abilities. And it can be measured by the number of active days of people. Disease is often considered as a medical condition associated with specific symptoms and signs "disease" is often used more broadly to refer to any condition that causes pain, dysfunction, distress, social problems to the person. In this broader sense, it sometimes includes injuries, disabilities, disorders, syndromes, infections, isolated symptoms, deviant behaviors, and atypical variations of structure and function, while in other contexts and for other purposes these may be considered distinguishable categories. Diseases usually affect people not only physically, but also emotionally, as contracting and living with a disease can alter one's perspective on life, and one's personality. Our seminar topic is the Health status of women personnel, working in Petrol Bunks- A Medico- Sociological Study. The main theme is "Development, State and Environment in Karnataka: Issues, Conflict, and Concern". The health conditions of women personnel are very important in economic development and social development. Without good health conditions of women personnel working in petrol, bunks will not contribute to social and economic development. Innumerable women personnel are working in petrol bunks in our country. so many thousands of families are directly or indirectly dependent on women personnel working in petrol bunks. We have the objectives to study the health status of women personnel working in petrol bunks through the medico- sociological perspectives and we have hypothesized that nowadays Health status of women personnel working in Petrol bunks are not deteriorating. For the preparation of this research article, we collect the primary and secondary data from various sources, then tabulating and analyzing,

Keywords: *Health status, women personnel, Petroleum bunks, Medico- Sociological Study*

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Introduction

The word petroleum comes from Greek. The term frequently used to refer to mineral oils produced by distillation from mined organic solids such as cannel coal and refined oils produced from them, they are derived from crude oil as it is processed in oil refineries, they are a collection of well defined pure chemical compounds, petroleum products are complex mixtures.

Petroleum products are very essential products for transportation, heating, electricity generation, asphalt, and road oil. They are used to make chemicals, plastics, and synthetic materials which we are using in daily life. About 74% of the 6.89 billion barrels of petroleum that we used in 2013 were gasoline, heating oil/diesel fuel, and jet fuel.

Petrol Stations in India

According to 20 January 2015, there are 51,870 petrol pumps are working in India. According to 20 January 2015, there are 2500 petrol pumps working in Karnataka state. Those [obtained](#) from [crude oil](#) and [natural gas processing](#), including (among many others) [asphalts](#), automotive [gasoline's](#), aviation gasoline's, [fuel oils](#), kerosene, [liquefied petroleum gas \(LPG\)](#), lubricants, naphtha's, and waxes.

India is the second-most populous country in the world, with over 1.277 billion people (2015), more than a sixth of the world's population. Already containing 17.5% of the world's population, India is projected to be the world's by 2022, surpassing China, its population reaching 1.6 billion by 2050.[5][6] Its population growth rate is 1.2%, ranking 94th in the world in 2013.[7] The Indian population had reached a billion marks by 1998.

India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan; and, by 2030, India's dependency ratio should be just over 0.4.

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Disease is often considered as a medical condition associated with specific [symptoms](#) and [signs](#). It may be caused by factors originally from an external source, such as [infectious disease](#), or it may be caused by internal dysfunctions, such as [autoimmune diseases](#). In humans, “disease” is often used more broadly to refer to any condition that causes [pain](#), [dysfunction](#), [distress](#), [social problems](#), or [death](#) to the person afflicted, or similar problems for those in contact with the person. In this broader sense, it sometimes includes [injuries](#), [disabilities](#), [disorders](#), [syndromes](#), [infections](#), isolated [symptoms](#), deviant [behaviors](#), and atypical [variations](#) of structure and function, while in other contexts and for other purposes these may be considered distinguishable categories. Diseases usually affect people not only physically, but also emotionally, as contracting and living with a disease can alter one’s perspective on life, and one’s personality.

Death due to disease is called [death by natural causes](#). There are four main types of disease: pathogenic disease, deficiency disease, hereditary disease, and physiological disease. Diseases can also be classified as communicable and non-communicable. The deadliest disease in humans is [ischemic heart disease](#) (blood flow obstruction), followed by [cerebrovascular disease](#) and [lower respiratory infections](#) respectively.

Our seminar topic is the Health status of women working in Petrol Bunks a Medico- Sociological Study. The main themes are social sciences and social development. The health conditions of women are very important in economical development and social development. Without good health conditions of personnel working in petrol, bunks will not contribute to social science and social development. We can’t achieve social development without the good health conditions of women working in petrol bunks and the petroleum industry. Nearly two lacks (2, 00,000) women are working in petrol bunks in our country. Lacks of the family are directly or indirectly dependent on personnel working in the petrol bunks and petroleum industry. So we cannot achieve social development without the integrated development of women.

Objectives

- To Analyses the health status of women working in petrol bunks.
- To collect the social and economical information of women workers in petrol bunks, through the medico- sociological perspectives.

Hypothesis

- Now a day’s Health status of women working In Petrol bunks is not deteriorating.

Statement of the seminar paper

Health status of women personnel, working in Petrol bunks- A Medico-Sociological study

Statement clarification

Health status

It's the condition of the person mentally, physically and socially well being

- **Women Personne** -It's the women staff who are working in Petroleum bunks for the salary basis on daily or monthly.
- **Petrol bunks**-It's the selling units or center of petroleum products like petrol, diesel, lubricants, etc
- **Medico-sociological study** – It's the method of the study of any health issues based on medical along with on sociological perspective, and also study of the issues like social aspects on the basis of socio-medical perspective. Health status of women personal in petroleum bunks Medico sociological study in the petroleum industry refers to a disease that affects human life who are working petroleum industry directly and indirectly in exploration, refinery, transportation, delivering petroleum products to vehicles, containers, and so on.

Environment can be defined as

The sum total of all surroundings of a living organism, including natural forces and other living things, which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage. Natural resources such as lakes, rivers, forests, wildlife, etc. have a pivotal role in the Indian lifestyle but the growing population of the country is increasing pressure on the environment.

Health can be defined as

Defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), it is a “State of complete physical, mental, and social well being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” Health is a dynamic condition resulting from a body's constant adjustment and adaptation in response to stresses and changes in the environment for maintaining an inner equilibrium called homeostasis.

Disease: can be defined as

A disease is a particular abnormal condition, a disorder of a structure or function, that affects part or all of an [organism](#). The causal study of disease is called pathology.

Methodology

In this study, we have used a simple random sampling method on selected 50

respondents. We have used a direct interview method for the collection of information by respondents. Who is working in petroleum bunks, industry? And also used primary and secondary sources to collect the data with a structural development perspective.

Sources of information

- 1) **Primary resources:-** To collect the primary information I used a self prepared questionnaire on developmental perspective for interview. Finally, information is collected by 50 responders.
- 2) **Secondary resources:-** we have collected information from Articles, journals, library, newspapers, and websites.

Theoretical perspectives

We used the structural-functional theoretical perspective for the preparation of this seminar paper

Topographical features of the area of the seminar paper

Chikmagalur is a district in the South Indian state of Karnataka. Coffee was first cultivated in India in Chikmagalur. The mountains in Chikmagalur which are a part of the Western Ghats are the source of rivers like Tunga and Bhadra. Area. • Total, 7,201 km² (2,780 sq mi). Population(2001). • Total, 1,139,104. • Density, 158.19/km. Geographical scope of the study area is Chikmagalure dist., in Karnataka state regarding public policy and sustainable development. Chikmagalure will come under the famous western ghats area. Chikmagalure dist., famous for Coffee, Tea, Cardamom, Rubber plantation crops.

It is also famous for horticulture crops like coconut, areca nut, Banana, Mango, Sapota, and other crops. It is also famous for Paddy, Ragi, Jowar, and other food crops. It is also famous for commercial crops like chilies, Onion, Potato, and other crops. It is also famous for tourism spots like Dattapita, Mullaiyanagiri, Kallathigiri, Kemmannagundi, Amruthapura temple, and so on. Information regarding Chikmagalure dist., as on today. There are BPC – 18, HPC-24, IOC-30, Reliance-02, SR-01 total 75 bunks.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected by using all the research methods, and other sources are analyzed by essential statistical techniques by using analysis of data research report. The data was collected from a structural development perspective.

TABLE 1

SL NO	Personal Profile of the Respondents				
1	Age	18-28	29-39	40-50	51+
		18	20	04	08
2	Gender	Male			Female
		00			50
3	Religion	Hindu	Christian		Muslim
		38	15		07
4	Caste	SC	ST	OBC	
		10	05	23	
5	Education	Illiterates	Primary education	Secondary education	Higher education
		00	24	20	6
6	Monthly Income	Up to 5000	5001 to 10000	10001 to 12000	12001+above
		20	21	6	3
7	Marriage	Married	Bachelor		
		10	40		
8	Family	Joint	Nuclear		
		00	50		

In the demographic information age, gender, religion, caste, education qualification, marital status, incomesizetypeoffamilyetc, are various information's are followings

- **Age:** Age is an important factor at the time of interviewee because of the respondents are below 18 years age there will be considered as minors. They are not eligible for any contract according to the **Indian contract act-1872**. If the age is above 60 years they may not be physically fit to discharge their petrol bunk work.
- **Gender:**allrespondents.arefemale
- **Cast:** At the time of research in India cast plays an important role even though India is a secular state. We interviewed 18% SC, 17% ST,32%OBC (08% Veerashaivas, 7% Vakkaligas, 8% Kurubhas, 02% Upparas, 01% Devangas, 01% Maratees, 02% Banjaranaiks, 01%Gownders, 01% Achars, 01% Kuruvinsbettys) and others 09%.
- **Religion:** India is the motherland of several religions. Even though its. secular state all the statistics are collected on the basis of religion like Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jains, Parasis, Buddhists, sinks, and so on. We interviewed Hindus 76%, Christians 10%, and Muslim 14%.
- **Education:** Education plays an important role in India. Due to several governmental and non-governmental (NGO's) intuitional efforts. Majority

of the respondents are literates. In the interview 48% as the primary education, 40% Secondary education, and 12% higher education.

TABLE 2

Sl. No.	Components Health status of women personnel	Yes	No
01	suffering from Respiratory problems	24%	76%
02	suffering from Skin allergies/Irritations problems	32%	68%
03	suffering from Anemia	28%	72%
04	suffering from Headache problems	30%	70%
05	suffering from Nausea (£Á'ÁiÁÁ=ªÁPÁjPE)	25%	75%
06	suffering from Euphoria (ÁiÁÁÁÏÉ/ÉÁjÁiÁÁ=ªÁÁwÛ£Á "sÁªÁ)	38%	62%
07	suffering from Nervous system	10%	90%
08	owner provides frequent medical checkup	100%	00%
09	petrol bunk well equipped with first aid box	100%	00%
10	petrol bunk well equipped with a fire extinguisher	100%	00%
11	petrol bunk provide pure /filter drinking water	100%	00%
12	petrol bunk toilet facility	100%	00%
13	Dealer of petrol bunk is giving the holiday for the above decease	100%	00%
14	know the telephone numbers of police and fire emergency	100%	00%
15	utilizing/aware of Govt Health welfare policies	100%	00%
16	economically suffering due to unhealthy conditions of petrol bunk	20%	80%

Respiratory problems

24% are suffering from respiratory problems. 76% are not suffering from respiratory problems. Health effects from exposure to petroleum products vary depending on the concentration of the substance and the length of time that one is exposed. Breathing petroleum vapors can cause nervous system effects (such as headache, nausea, and dizziness) and respiratory irritation. Very high exposure can cause coma and death. Liquid petroleum products which come in contact with ... Individuals who experience health problems that may be related to a petroleum spill.

Skin allergies/ Irritations problems

32% are suffering from Skin allergies/Irritation problems. 68% are not suffering from Skin allergies/Irritation problems. Irritated skin can be caused by a variety of factors. These include [immune system disorders](#), medications, and infections. When an allergen is responsible for triggering an immune system response, then it is an allergic skin condition. **Suffering from Anemia:**28% are

suffering from Anemia problems. 72% are not suffering from Anemia problems. “Benzene is a natural component of crude and refined petroleum. . . . In the United States, gasoline typically contains less than 2% benzene by volume, but in other countries, the benzene concentration may be as high as 5%. . . . Benzene was also an important component of many industrial cleaning and degreasing formulations but now has been replaced mostly by toluene, chlorinated solvents, or mineral spirits. Although benzene is no longer added in significant quantity to most commercial products, traces of it may still be present as a contaminant.” [[ATSDR Case Studies in Environmental Medicine](#): Benzene Toxicity. June 2000. p. 7]” Natural source of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires. Benzene is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke.”

- **Headache problems** 30% are suffering from Headache problems. 70% are not suffering from Headache problems. INHALATION OF petroleum products can *cause headaches*, rapid heart rate, tremors, and confusion.
- **Nausea (vomiting)**: 25% are suffering from Nausea problems. 75% are not suffering from from nausea problems. Aspiration pneumonia *Due to emetics, nausea/ vomiting* from poison agent, and inhalation of activated charcoal or *petroleum products*
- **Euphoria (excitement)**: 38% are suffering from Euphoria problems at the time of the Decantation of petroleum products from a tanker truck to underground tank in ROs. 62% are not suffering from euphoria problems. The potential hazards of swallowing hydrocarbon lead to *euphoria*.
- **Nervous system**: 10% aged personnel are suffering from Nervous system problems. 90% are not suffering from Nervous system problems. Health effects from exposure to petroleum products vary depending on the concentration of the substance and the length of time that one is exposed. Breathing petroleum vapors can cause nervous system effects (such as headache, nausea, and dizziness) and respiratory irritation. Very high exposure can cause coma and death.
- **Frequent medical checkup**: 100% ROs Dealers are providing frequent medical checkup facilities to personnel working in petrol bunks by the directions of the labor department, health ministry, and oil companies. The dealers feel good health conditions of personnel will help to economic and social development.
- **Equipped First aid box**: 100% ROs Dealers are providing well equipped First aid box. First aid box contains medicated cotton, Tincher, detail, bandage

clothes, spirit, scissors, antiseptic ointment, band-aid, parasitmal tablets for cold, cough, and fever. Petrol bunk are working national highways, state highways, and connecting district main roads. Were accidents may occur in such cer-cumtenses people need first aid treatment before admitting to the hospital. All petrol bunk personnel know first aid treatment.

- **Fire extinguisher:**100% Ros Dealers are providing equipped Fire extinguisher. In all business places like malls, commercial places, hotels, theaters, schools, and service areas are equipped with fire extinguishers. To fight fair at the time of fire accidents. Petroleum products are highly inflammable and dangerous at the time of fire accidents so all petrol bunk well equipped with fire extinguishers, sand buckets, water buckets.
- **Pure /filter drinking water:** 100% ROs Dealers are providing pure /filter drinking water. In recent days due to shortage and non-availability of pure drinking water. So many water-borne disease are common. So by the directions of oil companies, all petrol bunk dealers are providing free pure drinking water. It is a basic need.
- **Toilet facilities:** 100% ROs Dealers are providing Toilet facilities. By the directions of Union government of India under the name of swachabharath mission oil companies are providing some financial incentives to dealers to build and maintain the separate toilets for ladies, gents, and handicapped persons all so. Oil companies are invested in terms of hundred corers for the construction of new modern toilets.
- **HOLIDAY:** 100% ROs Dealers are providing Holiday facilities for personnel working in ROs on the directions of the labor department of state government. Holidays are very essential for working personnetorefresh themselves and to overcome work stress. Mentally and physically healthy personnel will contribute to petrol bunk work and social development.
- **Telephone numbers of police and fire emergency:** 100% ROs Dealers are providing Telephone numbers of police and fire emergency facilities to all personnel and telephone numbers boards are exhibited on the petrol bank front door to help the needy person at the time of accidents and thefts in around the petrol bunks.
- **Utilizing/aware of Govt.Health welfare policies:** 100% personal are Utilizinggovt. facilities and aware of govt.Health welfare policies when needed. The information above said policies will be given by the ROs dealers. For ex., Pradhanamantri Jana-Dhanyojana, yashaswini and other policies.

Economically suffering due to unhealthy conditions

80% of respondents are not Economically suffering due to unhealthy conditions. Because of awareness in personnel regarding health and by the help of ROs dealers, NGOs, and government health concerned programs.

Findings

- Ø Women Personnel working in a petrol bunk for a long duration is facing some above said health problems. But women personnel working recently in petrol bunks are not facing critical health problems. Personnel will not continue their service in petrol bunks properly. All personnel is almost casual personnel only.
- Ø But gnarly Gasoline (petrol) contains Benzene. Medically Benzene is carcinogenic. in nature it leads to deadly disease cancer. Inhalation of petroleum products creates Skin problems, Irritations, and it leads to nerves related disease. Inhalation of petroleum products causes vomiting sensation(Nausea). Sometimes Euphoria keeps personnel in intoxicated mental condition.

Provement of Hypotheses

By above all studies and statics we can say prove that the health of Women working in petrol bunks is not deteriorating. (The personnel working in petrol bunk long terms may face some health problems)

Suggestions

- We suggest the government, oil companies, the health ministry, should study this aspect. And the standard guidelines should be released to the concerned petroleum industry. The suggestion given by the health ministry and the government should be strictly executed.
- I personally to provide six months maternity leave for women personnel working in petrol bunks and petroleum industry as guidelines issued by the Union Govt. of India
- I suggest providing separate restrooms for women personnel working in the petroleum industry,
- I suggest providing provident fund and ESI facilities to women personnel working in petrol bunks.
- I suggest providing pradanmantriBheemasurakshayojan facilities for women personnel working in petrol bunks

Conclusion

Women Personnel working in retail outlets and petroleum industry in exploration, refinery, terminal, transportation, and dispensing to vehicles and containers will face health problems according to the working conditions. So proper care, proper safety measures should be taken in all the stages. Because petroleum products are highly inflammable and can causes distorters. Our aim is no accidents. Human life is precious and the environment is precious and we have to save our mother earth.

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