



A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SANITARY WORKERS IN TIRUNELVELI CORPORATION

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental health cannot be ignored in social sustainable development. Sanitary workers are the "beautician of the city" has already contributed a lot to our construction of a harmonious society. Sanitary workers have played an important role in improving the urban and semi-urban ecological environment and the urban modern civilization, meeting the needs of people's desires for physical, spiritual, political, ecological civilization and implementing the social sustainable development. Nearly a century after Mahatma Gandhi first called for the abolition of manual scavenging but the degrading practice continues. Between 2002 and 2003, the Indian Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment admitted the existence of 676,000 sanitary workers. However, these figures may have been underestimated because scavenging is illegal. The sanitary workers' own health and working conditions are often ignored by the people; sanitary workers are often seen as the bottom level of the urban residents. They work in the situation of wind, cold, heat and rain for a long term. They are affected by dust, poison, noise and other factors for long years.

According to one survey by Bezwada Wilson of the Safari Karma Chari Association, an estimated 12 lakh (1.2 million) scavengers are presently working as sanitary workers in India. Four to five million people were working as scavengers in 2005 and were often employed by the local civil bodies to clean excrement in public places. This situation persists despite the fact that the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines

(Prohibition) Act, 1993, is in force. This Act provides for the prohibition of the employment of manual scavengers as well as construction or continuance of dry latrines and for the regulation of construction and maintenance of water-seal latrines for assuring the dignity of the individual, as enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution. The working conditions of the sanitary workers have remained virtually unchanged for over a century. Using only a stick-broom and a small tin plate, the sanitary workers clear feces from public and private places. A few, however, are provided with wheelbarrows or carts by the municipal authorities. Apart from the social atrocities that these workers face, they are also exposed to certain health problems by virtue of their occupation. These health hazards include exposure to harmful gases, cardiovascular degeneration, musculoskeletal disorders, infections, skin problems and respiratory system problems.

In addition, because of the traditional practice, sanitary workers are often considered to be of low birth, dirty in appearance and illiterate, by urban residents. Moreover, some persons call them "second-class citizens". Sanitary workers do not have a sense of belonging to the society. They are ill treated and discriminated by birth and moreover, they struggle for social justice. Therefore, the research leading to the study of socio-economic empowerment of sanitary workers assumes great significance.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kamaraj (1997)¹ his study about sanitary workers a vast majority of the 92 percentage of the respondents are selected this job to run the family, 8 percentage of the respondents selected this job to increase the family income.

Anant Suchitra (1999)² in her study about sanitary workers on economic Status and found that majority (90%) of the respondents were below the poverty line.

Borman (1999)³ pointed out that the sanitary worker's backwardness in education, income and their major role in their economic conditions of them.

Appadorai, D.A (2001)⁴ in his study on sanitary workers found that majority of the respondents are illiterate. It is also found that there is a relationship between education and employment.

Jennifer (2005)⁵ in his study about sanitary workers that economics status showed a significant difference according to their age, marital status duration of working, life and position at work.

Franca Akarippadathu (2009)⁶ says that the allocation for socio-economic and sanitation is very low and during some years nothing is spent under this head. The amount is to be spent for starting new dispensaries and strengthening the old ones. For example in Kannampady only 5 families have sanitarians, toilets. The information they receive about it is mostly from radio. Further enquiries reveal that either husband or wife under mutual agreement take recourse to some permanent method of family planning to prevent another pregnancy. They generally go for it after the second child. Women work has remained a much researched debated area. The underlying assumption in arguments for women's employment is that economic independence is the first pre-requisite to moving towards gender equality. The concept viewed in the context of opportunity in employment on the board spectrum of women's employment at one end are women working all and paid jobs and other end are higher professional women works.

Joseph Anbarasu et al. (2013)⁷ says that the attitudes of sanitary workers are the real hindrances for their promotion and upward movement in the organizational hierarchy. This study is initiated after an initial survey conducted among sanitary workers in Trichy. The sanitary workers have no promotions and job enrichment till their retirement. This paper addresses the issue. A final study was initiated to know the reasons. The sanitary workers do not like to be trained for higher level jobs. The main barrier is their complacency. They are happy with what they possess. This attitude has to be checked. The municipal corporation has the policy to promote the lower level workers to the higher level jobs, if the employees are equipped with training and additional qualifications. However, the sanitary workers are not willing. On the other hand, they want to be skilled workers. There is a fear over training and promotion prevailing among these women sanitary workers. This has to be addressed; else it would be the main hindrance of their empowerment now and in the days to come

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the status of the Sanitary Workers in the Tirunelveli Corporation
- To analyse the socio- economic empowerment of sanitary workers.

SAMPLING DESIGN

This research work is a descriptive study based on the primary data. The researcher used simple random sampling method to identify the sample respondents. 460 sample respondents were interviewed with the help of interview schedule.

DATA COLLECTION

The present study is based on primary data. The researcher collected the data by interviewing the respondents directly. For this purpose interview schedule was developed by the researcher and it was pre-tested to examine the appropriateness of the variables included in the interview schedule. The result of the pre-test was used to fine tune the interview schedule before it was used for the data collection.

STATUS OF SANITARY WORKERS

The status of the sanitary workers employed in the Tirunelveli Corporation either permanently or temporarily was considered for the analysis. The data collected for this purpose are classified and tabulated on the basis of the profile variables relating to the status of the respondents.

Gender of the Respondents

Gender of the respondent is one of the important profile variables to know about their status. The gender of the respondents is confined to male and female in this study. The distribution of respondents on the basis of gender is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Gender wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Gender	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Male	82(27.3)	99(61.9)	181(39.3)
2.	Female	218(72.7)	61(38.1)	279(60.7)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

The respondents' gender is presented in Table 1. It reveals that 60.7 per cent of the sample respondents working as sanitary workers are female and the remaining 39.3 per cent of the respondents are male. Among the permanent sanitary workers 72.7 per cent of the respondents are female and 27.3 per cent of the respondents are male. Among the temporary sanitary workers 61.9 per cent of the respondents are male and the remaining 38.1 per cent of the respondents are female.

Age wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Age is an important factor with respect to work. Generally the experience and efficiency can also be related to age. The age wise classification of permanent and temporary sanitary workers is presented in the Table 2

Table 2**Age wise classification of Sanitary Workers**

Sl. No	Age	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	18-28	13(4.3)	21(13.1)	34(7.4)
2.	29-39	35(11.7)	76(47.5)	111(24.1)
3.	40-49	131(43.7)	38(23.8)	169(36.7)
4.	50-59	110(36.7)	17(10.6)	127(27.6)
5.	Above 59	11(3.6)	8(5.0)	19(4.2)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows the age group of the respondents. It is evident that 36.7 per cent of the sanitary workers belong to the age group of 40-49. 27.6 per cent of the sample respondents are in the age group of 50- 59. Among the permanent sanitary workers 43.7 per cent of them belong to the age group of 40-49 and 36.7 per cent of them belong to the age group of 50-59 years. Among the temporary sanitary workers 47.5 per cent of them belong to the age group of 29-39 and 23.8 per cent of them belong to the age group of 40-49 years.

Educational Qualification of Sanitary Workers

Education plays a major role in deciding the occupation of an individual. The educational qualification is classified as illiterates, primary school, middle school, high school and higher secondary. The educational qualification of the sample respondents is given in Table 3.

Table 3**Educational Qualification of Sanitary Workers**

Sl. No	Educational Qualification	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Illiterate	128(42.7)	85(53.1)	213(46.3)
2.	Primary Education	91(30.3)	29(18.1)	120(26.1)
3.	Middle School	50(16.7)	19(11.9)	69(15)
4.	High School	25(8.3)	17(10.6)	42(9.1)
5.	Higher Secondary	6(2.0)	10(6.3)	16(3.5)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that 46.3 per cent of sanitary workers are illiterates and 26.1 per cent of the respondents have studied up to primary school. Among the permanent sanitary workers 42.7 per cent of them are illiterates and 30.3 per cent of them are having primary education. Among the temporary sanitary workers 53.1 per cent of them are illiterates and 18.1 per cent

of them are having primary education. It is clearly evident that the majority (46.3 per cent) of the sample respondents who are doing the sanitary work are illiterates.

Community wise classification of Sanitary Workers

In order to examine whether the community to which the respondents belong plays a role for being the sanitary worker is considered for the analysis. The sample respondents are classified according to their community and presented in the Table 4.

Table 4
Community wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Community	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	ST	30(10)	21(13.1)	51(11.1)
2.	SC	270(90)	139(86.9)	409(88.9)
3.	BC	-	-	-
4.	MBC	-	-	-
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows that the respondents belong to SC community dominates (88.9 per cent) in the sanitary work followed by ST (11.1 per cent). It is noted that the scheduled caste and schedule tribe constitute 100 per cent of the total sample population. Table 4 shows that among the permanent sanitary workers, 90 per cent belongs to SC and 10 per cent belong to the ST community. Among the temporary sanitary workers, 86.9 per cent belongs to SC and 13.1 per cent are belongs to the ST community. The above analysis clearly shows that majority (88.9 per cent) of the workers are involved in sanitary work and they belong to SC and ST communities.

Religion wise classification of Sanitary Workers

The following Table 5 shows the religion wise classification of permanent and temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

Table 5
Religion wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Religion	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Hindu	275(91.7)	151(94.4)	426(92.6)
2.	Christian	25(8.3)	9(5.6)	34(7.4)
3.	Muslim	-	-	-
4.	Others	-	-	-
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 explains the religion of the sanitary workers. Out of the total 460 sample respondents, majority (92.6 per cent) of the respondents belong to Hindus and the remaining 7.4 per cent of the respondents belong to Christians. Among the permanent sanitary workers, majority (91.7 per cent) of the respondents belongs to Hindus and the remaining 8.3 per cent of the respondents belong to Christians. Among the temporary sanitary workers majority (94.4 per cent) of the respondents belongs to Hindus and the remaining 5.6 per cent of the respondents belongs to Christians. It is evident that majority (92.6 per cent) of the respondents belong to Hindu religion.

Mother Tongue wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Permanent and temporary sanitary workers of different mother tongue have been working in the sanitary work. The following Table 6 shows the mother tongue of the sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

Table 6

Mother Tongue wise classification of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Mother Tongue	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Tamil	198(66)	105(65.6)	303(65.9)
2.	Telugu	102(34)	55(34.4)	157(34.1)
3.	Others	-	-	-
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 explains the mother tongue of the sanitary workers. Out of the total 460 sample respondents majority (65.9 per cent) of the respondents' mother tongue is Tamil and the remaining 34.1 per cent of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Telugu. Out of the total 300 permanent sanitary workers, majority (66 per cent) of the respondents' mother tongue is Tamil and the remaining 34 per cent of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Telugu. Among the temporary sanitary workers, majority (65.6 per cent) of the respondents' mother tongue is Tamil and the remaining 34.4 per cent of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Telugu. It is evident that majority of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Tamil.

Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status of the respondents will help the researcher to understand their status in the society. The marital status of the respondents is classified as married, unmarried, divorced and widow/widower. Table 7 shows the marital status of the sample respondents working as sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

Table 4.7**Marital Status of the Respondents**

Sl. No	Marital Status	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Married	245(81.7)	132(82.5)	377(81.9)
2.	Unmarried	15(5.0)	5(3.1)	20(4.3)
3.	Divorced	29(9.7)	15(9.4)	44(9.6)
4.	Widow/Widower	11(3.6)	8(5.0)	19(4.2)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 shows that out of 460 sample respondents, 81.9 per cent of the respondents are married and the unmarried respondents constitute 4.3 per cent. The widow and divorced respondents comprises of 4.2 per cent and 9.6 per cent of the sample. Among the 300 sample permanent sanitary workers, 81.7 per cent of them are married and the unmarried respondents constitute 5 per cent. Among the 160 temporary sanitary workers, 82.5 per cent of the sample respondents are married. It is observed that majority (81.9 per cent) of the workers are married.

Family System of the Respondents

The family system in India has undergone change in response to development in terms of industrialization, education and urbanization. One of the important characteristic features of joint family is its shared nature. Today after having lived in a joint family system men and women move out of their family for better opportunities. The nuclear family gives immense freedom from the traditions and ways of life that the old system was ridden with. In this study the family system of the respondents is taken as one of the profile variable for the analysis. Table 8 shows the classification of the respondents on the basis of the family system.

Table 8**Family System of the Respondents**

Sl. No	Family System	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Joint family	162(54)	53(33.1)	215(46.7)
2.	Nuclear family	138(46)	107(66.9)	245(53.3)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.8 observes the family system adopted by the permanent and temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation. Table shows that among the total number of sample respondents, 53.3 per cent of the respondents living in a nuclear family system and the remaining 46.7 per cent living in a joint family system.

DIMENSIONS OF SOCIO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Social Awareness of Permanent Sanitary Workers

The social awareness of the permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation is presented in Table 9.

Table 9
Social Awareness of Permanent Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Social Awareness Programme	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1.	Dowry system	55(18.3)	108(36)	-	56(18.7)	81(27)	300(100)
2.	Alcoholism	33(11.0)	152(50.7)	11(3.7)	37(12.3)	67(22.3)	300(100)
3.	Child labour	66(22.0)	154(51.3)	46(15.3)	11(3.7)	23(7.7)	300(100)
4.	Illiteracy	116(38.7)	110(36.7)	33(11.0)	27(9.0)	14(4.7)	300(100)
5.	Girl child infanticide	94(31.3)	198(60)	2(0.7)	2(0.7)	4(1.3)	300(100)
6.	Child marriage	194(64.7)	73(24.3)	10(3.3)	18(6.0)	5(1.7)	300(100)
7.	Family planning	65(21.7)	201(67.0)	5(1.7)	23(7.7)	6(2.0)	300(100)
8.	Nutrient food for pregnant women	234(78)	34(8.3)	-	25(11.3)	7(2.3)	300(100)
9.	Widow Remarriage	128(42.7)	43(14.3)	87(29)	30(10)	12(4)	300(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 9 shows that out of 300 permanent sanitary workers, majority (78 per cent) of the sample respondents are highly aware about nutrient food for pregnant women, 67 per cent of the sample respondents are aware about family planning, 22.3 per cent of the sample respondents are strongly disagreed that they aware about alcoholism and 18.7 per cent of the sample respondents are disagreed that they aware about dowry system.

Social Awareness of Temporary Sanitary Workers

Table 10 shows the social awareness of temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

Table10
Social Awareness of Temporary Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Social Awareness Programme	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1.	Dowry system	12(7.5)	118(73.8)	9(5.6)	16(10)	5(3.1)	160(100)
2.	Alcoholism	65(40.6)	52(32.5)	26(16.3)	4(2.5)	13(8.1)	160(100)
3.	Child labour	59(36.9)	78(48.8)	-	17(10.6)	6(3.8)	160(100)
4.	Illiteracy	85(53.1)	47(29.4)	6(3.8)	14(8.8)	8(5.0)	160(100)
5.	Girl child infanticide	13(8.1)	25(15.6)	30(18.8)	60(37.5)	32(20.0)	160(100)
6.	Child marriage	110(68.8)	44(27.5)	6(3.8)	-	-	160(100)
7.	Family	20(12.5)	118(7.8)	5(3.1)	13(8.1)	4(2.5)	160(100)

	planning						
8.	Nutrient food for pregnant women	129(80.6)	21(13.1)	-	5(3.1)	5(3.1)	160(100)
9.	Widow Remarriage	34(21.3)	62(38.8)	-	19(11.9)	45(28.1)	160(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 10 shows that out of 160 temporary sanitary workers, majority of 80.6 per cent of the sample respondents are highly aware about nutrient food for pregnant women, 73.8 per cent of the sample respondents are aware about dowry system, 37.5 per cent of the sample respondents are disagreed that they aware about Girl child infanticide and 28.1 per cent of the sample respondents are disagreed that they aware about widow remarriage.

Analysis of Social Awareness among the Sanitary Workers

In order to find out the social awareness programme among the permanent and temporary sanitary workers, 'T' test is attempted with the null hypothesis, "**There is no significant difference in social awareness among permanent and temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation**". Table 11 shows the results of 't' test for social awareness programme among the permanent and temporary sanitary workers.

Table 11
Social Awareness among the Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Social Awareness variable	Type of Sanitary Workers		T Statistics
		Permanent Mean Score	Temporary Mean Score	
1.	Dowry system	3.4567	2.2750	11.988*
2.	Alcoholism	2.5033	2.0500	4.071*
3.	Child labour	2.2367	1.8500	3.888*
4.	Illiteracy	3.9567	4.1688	-1.898
5.	Girl child infanticide	2.7467	2.4813	4.577*
6.	Child marriage	2.5567	2.3875	2.017*
7.	Family planning	3.9867	3.8563	1.580
8.	Nutrient food for pregnant women	4.6500	4.7125	-0.895
9.	Widow Remarriage	3.8167	3.4688	3.028*

Source: Computed Data * Significant at 5 per cent level

Table 11 shows the mean score of social awareness among permanent and temporary sanitary workers along with its respective 'T' statistics. The important social awareness among the permanent sanitary workers are nutrient food for pregnant women and family planning and their respective mean scores are 4.6500 and 3.9867 and among the temporary sanitary workers, nutrient food for pregnant women and illiteracy and their respective mean

scores are 4.7125 and 4.1688. **The null hypothesis is rejected for dowry system, alcoholism, child labour, girl child infanticide, child marriage and widow remarriage because the significant difference among the permanent and temporary sanitary workers, are identified in the case of dowry system, alcoholism, child labour, girl child infanticide, child marriage and widow remarriage since the respective ‘T’ statistics are significant at 5 per cent level.**

Occupation of the Sanitary Workers Children

The sanitary workers children are doing different type of work such as government job, private job, sanitary work and studying. Table 13 shows the occupation of the sanitary workers children.

Table 13
Occupation of the Sanitary Workers Children

Sl. No	Occupation of the Sanitary Workers Children	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Government job	37(12.3)	-	37(8.1)
2.	Private job	81(27)	30(18.8)	111(24.1)
3.	Sanitary work	38(12.7)	11(6.9)	49(10.7)
4.	Jobless	84(28)	10(6.2)	94(20.4)
5.	Studying	60(20)	109(68.1)	169(36.7)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 13 shows that out of 460 sample sanitary workers, 36.7 per cent of the sample respondents children are studying, 24.1 per cent of the sample respondents children have private job, 20.4 per cent of the sample respondents children have jobless, 10.7 per cent of the sample respondents children are doing the sanitary work and 8.1per cent of the sample respondents children have government job. Table further shows that out of 300 permanent sanitary workers, majority of 28 per cent of the sample respondent’s children have jobless and next majority of 27 per cent of the sample respondent’s children have private job. Table 13 reveals that out of 160 temporary sanitary workers, majority of 68.1 per cent of the sample respondent’s children are studying and 18.8 per cent of the sample respondent’s children have private job.

Type of School in which Sanitary Workers Children Studying

In order to find out the type of school in which permanent and temporary sanitary workers children studying, the data have been collected from the permanent and temporary sanitary workers and presented in the Table 14.

Table 14

Type of School in which Sanitary Workers Children Studying

Sl. No	Type of School	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers	Total
1.	Government school	45(15)	89(55.6)	134(29.1)
2.	Private school	15(5)	20(12.5)	35(7.6)
3.	CBSE	-	-	-
4.	International school	-	-	-
5.	Not studying	240(80)	51(31.9)	291(63.3)
	Total	300(100)	160(100)	460(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 14 shows that among the total sample respondents, majority of 29.1 per cent of the sample respondents children are studying in government school and 7.6 per cent of the sample respondents children are studying in private school.

Table 14 further shows that among the permanent sanitary workers, 15 per cent of the sample respondents children are studying in government school and 5 per cent of the sample respondent's children are studying in private school.

Table 14 reveals that among the temporary sanitary workers, majority of 55.6 per cent of the sample respondent's children are studying in government school and 12.5 per cent of the sample respondent's children are studying in private school.

Economic Empowerment of Sanitary Workers

In order to find out the significant difference in economic empowerment among the sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation, 't' test is attempted with the null hypothesis as, **“There is no significant difference in economic empowerment among the sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation”**. The result of 't' test for economic empowerment among the sanitary workers is presented in Table 15.

Table 15

Economic Empowerment of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Economic Empowerment	Family type		T-Statistics	p Value
		Joint family	Nuclear family		
Permanent Sanitary Workers					
1.	Family income has increased	3.9259	4.1377	-2.483	0.014
2.	Contribute to family expenditure	4.5988	4.5507	0.477	0.634
3.	Can easily meet out children educational requirements	3.0432	3.4783	-3.032	0.003
4.	Can easily purchase of household things and properties	4.0741	3.3696	4.766	0.000
5.	Meet out personal needs or expenses independently	2.8457	3.0797	-1.411	0.159
Temporary Sanitary Workers					
1.	Family income has increased	4.0755	3.4579	3.006	0.003
2.	Contribute to family expenditure	4.3585	3.3458	4.120	0.000
3.	Can easily meet children educational requirements	3.6981	3.0467	2.621	0.010
4.	Can easily purchase of household things and properties	3.1321	2.6636	1.991	0.048
5.	Meet out personal needs or expenses independently	3.5849	3.0561	1.852	0.066

Source: Computed data

Among permanent sanitary workers, it is found that the ‘p’ value for economic empowerment variables on ‘family income has increased’, ‘can easily meet children educational requirements’ and ‘can easily purchase of household things and properties’ is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. **Therefore it may be concluded that there is a significant difference in economic empowerment of permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.** It is inferred that according to the family type of sanitary workers there is a significant difference in economic empowerment among permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation. Among temporary sanitary workers, it is found that the ‘p’ value for economic empowerment on ‘family income has increased’, ‘contribute to family expenditure’, ‘can easily meet children educational requirements’ and ‘can easily purchase of household things and properties’ is less than 0.05. So the null hypothesis is rejected. **Therefore it may be concluded that there is a significant difference in economic empowerment among different family type of temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.** It is inferred that family type wise there is a significant difference in economic empowerment among temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

Economic Empowerment among different age group of Sanitary Workers

Economic empowerment among different age group of sanitary workers is presented in Table 16.

Table 16

Economic Empowerment among different age group of Sanitary Workers

Sl. No	Economic Empowerment	Age					F – Statistics	p Value
		18-28	29-39	40-49	50-59	Above 59		
	Permanent Sanitary Workers							
1.	Family income has increased		4.0000	3.9924	4.0244	4.4545	1.329	0.265
2.	Contribute to family expenditure		4.8857	4.6718	4.3496	4.5767	5.965	0.001
3.	Can easily meet out children educational requirements		3.6286	3.1603	3.2276	3.1818	1.309	0.272
4.	Can easily purchase of household things and properties		3.6857	3.9618	3.4718	4.5455	4.446	0.004
5.	Meet out personal needs or expenses independently		3.3143	3.0458	2.6098	2.9533	8.363	0.000
	Temporary Sanitary Workers							
1.	Family income has increased	3.1905	3.5263	3.5789	4.6471	4.5000	4.980	0.001
2.	Contribute to family expenditure	4.1905	3.3947	3.3684	4.4118	3.6813	4.423	0.002
3.	Can easily meet children educational requirements	3.2625	3.7105	2.6316	3.5882	1.5000	7.288	0.000
4.	Can easily purchase household things	3.8188	2.8026	2.0789	3.0588	4.950	9.538	0.000
5.	Meet out personal needs or expenses	3.5714	2.9737	2.7895	4.1176	3.2313	4.996	0.001

Source: Computed data

Among permanent sanitary workers the highly viewed economic empowerment variables in relation to the different age group of the respondents are ‘contribute to family expenditure’, ‘can easily purchase household things’ and ‘meet personal needs or expenses’ since their mean scores are 5.965, 4.446 and 8.363 which is significant at the ‘p’ value of 0.001, 0.004 and 0.000. Since the ‘p’ value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. **Therefore it may be concluded that there is a significant difference in economic empowerment among different age group of permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.**

Among temporary sanitary workers the highly viewed economic empowerment variables in relation to the different age group of the respondents are ‘family income has increased’, ‘contribute to family expenditure’, ‘can easily meet children educational requirements’, ‘can easily purchase of household things’ and ‘meet personal needs or expenses’ since their mean scores are 4.980, 4.423, 7.288, 9.538 and 4.996 which is significant at the ‘p’ value of 0.001, 0.002, 0.000, 0.000 and 0.001. As the ‘p’ value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. **Therefore it may be concluded that there is a significant difference in economic empowerment among different age group of temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.**

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

FINDINGS

- Among the permanent sanitary workers, 72.7 per cent of the respondents are female and 27.3 per cent of the respondents are male. Among the temporary sanitary workers, 61.9 per cent of the respondents are male and the remaining 38.1 per cent of the respondents are female.
- Among the permanent sanitary workers 43.7 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of 40-49 years and among the temporary sanitary workers, 47.5 per cent of them are under the age group of 28-39 years.
- It is found that among the permanent sanitary workers, majority (42.7 per cent) of the respondents are illiterates and among the temporary workers, majority (53.1 per cent) of the respondents are illiterates. This shows clearly that illiterate people lacking opportunities in other spheres of employment and forced to join in the sanitary work.
- It is found that the SC community dominates (88.9 per cent) in the sanitary work followed by ST (11.1 per cent).

- Majority (91.7 per cent) of the permanent sanitary workers belongs to Hindus and the remaining 8.3 per cent of the respondents are Christians. Among the temporary sanitary workers, majority (94.4 per cent) of them belongs to Hindus.
- Majority of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Tamil, and a small portion of the sample respondents' mother tongue is Telugu.
- It is found that among the permanent sanitary workers, 54 per cent of the respondents belongs to joint family system and the remaining 46 per cent belonging to nuclear family system. It is further found that among the temporary sanitary workers, majority of 66.9 per cent of the respondents living in a nuclear family system and the remaining 33.1 per cent living in a joint family system.
- The important social awareness variables among the permanent sanitary workers are 'nutrient food for pregnant women' and 'family planning' since their respective mean scores are 4.6500 and 3.9867 and among the temporary sanitary workers the important social awareness variables are 'nutrient food for pregnant women' and 'illiteracy' since their respective mean scores are 4.7125 and 4.1688.
- Regarding the social awareness variables significant difference among the permanent and temporary sanitary workers, are identified in the case of 'dowry system', 'alcoholism', 'child labour', 'girl child infanticide', 'child marriage' and 'widow remarriage'.
- It is found that out of 300 permanent sanitary workers, majority (28 per cent) of the sample respondent's children have jobless and 27 per cent of the sample respondent's children have private job.
- It is identified that out of 160 temporary sanitary workers, majority (68.1 per cent) of the sample respondents children are studying and 18.8 per cent of the sample respondent's children have private job.
- In relation to the type of family there is a significant difference in economic empowerment variables such as regards 'family income has increased', 'can easily meet children education requirements' and 'can easily purchase of household things' among permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.
- In relation to the type of family there is a significant difference in economic empowerment variables such as 'family income has increased', 'contribute to family expenditure', 'can easily meet children educational requirements' and 'can easily purchase of household things' among temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

- In relation to age there is a significant difference in economic empowerment variables such as ‘contribute to family expenditure’, ‘can easily purchase of household things’ and ‘meet personal needs or expenses’ among permanent sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.
- In relation to age there is a significant difference in economic empowerment variables such as ‘family income has increased’, ‘contribute to family expenditure’, ‘can easily meet children educational requirements’, ‘can easily purchase of household things and ‘meet out personal needs or expenses’ among temporary sanitary workers in Tirunelveli Corporation.

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