



CREMATORIUM WORKERS AND THE STRUCTURE OF BURIAL GROUNDS IN THENI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT

Crematorium and the structure of burial grounds works as described in the treaties. The structure of burial grounds, whether traditional cemeteries or newer memorial parks, varies widely but generally includes designated areas for burial plots on niches, pathways landscaping, and sometimes facilities for visitor. It have been analyzed important features of structure of the burial grounds. The aim of the study the create a space that gives the crematorium in the study area. Preparation burial ground workers prepare the deceased for cremation. This may involve removing items such as pacemakers or jewelry that could interface with the process. Objectives of the study focused on maintaining a serene and respectful atmosphere within the cemetery. To study the historical and cultural significance of the cemetery. Result of the study spaces provide not only places for physical interment or memorialization but also serve as environments for contemplation, remembrance, and healing for families and communities. Together, crematorium workers and the design of burial grounds contribute to the meaningful and respectful handling of human remains and the facilitation of mourning and remembrance processes across diverse cultural and societal contexts. Findings of the study an Emotional distress due to exposure to death and grief .Physical demands of the job, including heavy lifting and long hours. Limited resources and support for mental health. High turnover rates due to stressful work environment. The structure of burial grounds can impact the dignity and respect afforded to the deceased, as well as the comfort and safety of mourners. Conclusion of the study crematorium workers and the structure of burial grounds are integral components of how societies manage and honor the deceased. Crematorium workers perform essential duties in the process of cremation, ensuring that it is conducted with care and respect. They play a vital role in handling human remains and supporting families during a difficult time. Meanwhile, the structure of burial grounds, whether traditional cemeteries or modern memorial parks, reflects evolving cultural, environmental, and personal preferences surrounding the final resting places of loved ones.

KEYWORDS: structure of burial grounds, whether traditional cemeteries or modern memorial parks, reflects evolving cultural.

INTRODUCTION

This study aims to analysis the structure of burial grounds in the final disposition and the dead body is placed into the ground. Crematorium workers play a crucial role in the process of cremation, which involves the respectful burning of human remains to ashes. The structure of burial grounds, whether traditional cemeteries or newer memorial parks, varies widely but generally includes designated areas for burial plots or niches, pathways, landscaping, and sometimes facilities for visitors.

Objectives

1. To focus maintaining a serene and respectful atmosphere within the cemetery.
2. To study the historical and cultural significance of the cemetery.
3. To focus offering compassionate and professional support to bereaved families.

Review Of Literature

Study by Smith et al. (2019), “Mental Health of Crematorium Workers: An Empirical Study.” This study examined the mental health of crematorium workers in the United States, finding that a significant number experienced symptoms of depression, anxiety, and PTSD. The constant exposure to death and grieving families was identified as a major stressor.

Jones and Anderson (2020), “Occupational Stress among Burial Ground Workers.” Research on burial ground workers in the UK revealed high levels of occupational stress, with many workers reporting feelings of isolation and emotional exhaustion. The study emphasized the need for better mental health support systems within the profession.

Martinez et al. (2018), “Coping Mechanisms among Crematorium Workers in Spain.” This study explored the coping mechanisms of crematorium workers in Spain. It found that many relied on humor, strong social bonds with colleagues, and compartmentalization to manage the emotional toll of their work.



At the time of Rituals Structure of burial ground

1. Preparation, they prepare the deceased for cremation, which may involve removing items such as pacemakers or jewelry that could interfere with the process.
2. Cremation Process, they oversee the loading of the deceased into the cremation chamber and ensure the proper operation of the equipment during the cremation process.
3. Ash Processing, After cremation, they assist in processing the cremated remains (ashes), which are then typically placed in an urn or container chosen by the family.
4. Documentation, they maintain accurate records of each cremation, ensuring legal and administrative requirements are met.
5. Traditional Cemeteriesthese often have designated sections for burials, where graves are marked with

headstones or markers. They may also have chapels for funeral services and landscaped areas for visitors.

6. Memorial Parks these are newer concepts that often feature more natural landscaping and simpler markers. They may also include options like scattering gardens for ashes or memorial walls.
7. Environmental Considerations Modern burial grounds increasingly consider ecological impacts, such as using biodegradable urns or allowing natural burials that avoid embalming chemicals.

Both crematorium workers and the structure of burial grounds aim to provide respectful, dignified, and culturally appropriate ways to handle human remains and provide spaces for remembrance. Each plays a crucial role in supporting families during times of loss and honoring the deceased according to various cultural, religious, and personal preferences.

Structure of the Crematorium, Theni District: Theni Taluk



Theni District: Bodinayakanur Taluk

We have visited the crematorium in Kodangipatti, Theni district to learn about the cremators. There are 4 workers working in the crematorium in this village. When there is no work in the crematorium, they also do work such as, beating urumi and drums. In this village they only bury dead bodies. They don't burn dead bodies. If someone dies in the 5 villages they are like ammapatti, dombucheri, uppukottai, kulaiyanur, silamalai. In the district, they are taken to the electric crematorium in theni for cremation. They are getting wages in 2000Rs to 3000Rs for a bodies and purchase the materials required for burial with

that. The four people who work there share the money. They said that digging a pit to bury a dead body takes 3 to 5 hours and each community has it is have for separate cremation ground. There is one for the scheduled caste and one for the upper caste. These people also go to the graveyard near the church to help. They said that they are involved in this work because of their family situation and because their father and forefathers were involved, they also do Vettiyan work. We asked what kind of help you would seek from the government. For that they need permanent work and permanent pay. They said that it would be good if we got it.



Theni District: Theni Taluk

We went to electrical cemetery near Theni District Old Bus Stand. It was good Maintained clean and hygienic. Total five people working including four male employee and one female employee. One female takes care of garbage and other cleaning work there. For cremation of a dead body 3500Rs should be booked and receipt received. Relatives bath the dead bodies in the hall near the cremation ground and perform rituals. The relatives of the dead bodies have a place like a shade house to sit and the ashes obtained from the dead bodies are put in a separate urn and kept in a separate room. It takes at least 1 hour or 2 hours to burn the dead bodies on the crematorium. Fatty bodies burn quickly. Lean dead bodies take a while to burn. They don't even go home to eat. They eat at the places in the crematorium. In the crematorium in Theni, they burn dead bodies only from 10 am to 5 pm. The monthly salary of a cremator is 8000Rs and 6000Rs for female employee. They said that cremation is allowed only if you pay 3500 rupees in advance to cremate them. They maintain a peaceful and healthy environment. They said that maximum 10 to 12 corpses come in a month and 10 to 12 villagers in the surrounding area bring their relatives to Theni electrical cemetery when they die.

Theni District: Periyakulam Taluk

We went to the cemetery in the village of Kengwarpatti in Theni district to find out about the Vettiyan workers. Four people have engaged in the burial ground work. They have a monthly salary of 8000 Rs from the panchayat. They said that they get 2500 Rs for burial and cremation and well-off people pay up to 3500 Rs. They also said that when there is no work in the agriculture, they go to agriculture and allied activity. One of these four people said that he used to clean the office in the morning and evening and earn 2000 Rs per month they do cremation for 18 castes. The

bodies should be buried or cremated only in the crematorium of that particular caste. Otherwise, he was saddened by saying that the relatives of the dead body would come to fight with the Vettiyan. He was upset saying that he got burnt while burning the dead body and when he asked for help from the people of the village, but they did not help me. He said that he has a son who comes to help occasionally. He also said that he has kept his savings in the post office. We asked what kind of help you want from the government. For that he is currently giving us salary from the panchayat. They asked that it would be good if the government gives us permanent work and permanent income in the work.

Theni District: Allinagaram Taluk

We went to a village under Allinagaram municipality of Theni district to know about the cemetery workers. A total of three persons were said to be working on cremation. They said that when there are no corpses for burial, they can go to any other job or do cleaning work like drainage cleaning. They said that their monthly income is between Rs8500 to Rs10000. They said that their mind is very bad. They are called scavengers. No one treats them like an average person. Because working in the cemetery hurts them. People hesitate to even talk casually. Often people dump their garbage in cemeteries, and when there are no corpses, the garbage in the cemetery is taken and separated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage. They not only do the work of the cemetery but also do the cleaning work. People discriminate against them and do not treat them equally. When the dead bodies arrived, they told the cemetery workers there that the relatives of the deceased used to abuse them when they were drunk and sometimes beat them. We should be respected as fellow human beings. They asked that it would be good if we get monetary help or monthly income.





Crematorium in the factors

1. A bath tub is set up in the cemetery in every town.
2. The cremation platform is square slightly elevated and smoke –proof.
3. Burial pits in villages have no place for relatives to sit dead bodies.
4. In Electric cemetery there is a place for relatives to sit.
5. There is also are Anjali mandapam, a meditation hall and a separate area for budding.
6. Ashes obtained from dead bodies are kept urns in a chamber.
7. They will bury the dead bodies according to the Christian method.
8. Muslims also only bury dead bodies. They will not cremate.
9. The cremation platform can only be moved by 2 persons together. After the cremation, there is a small square pit behind the crematorium where the ashes fall.

Findings

Research has shown that crematorium workers face various challenges, including:

- ❖ Emotional distress due to exposure to death and grief
- ❖ Physical demands of the job, including heavy lifting and long hours
- ❖ Limited resources and support for mental health
- ❖ High turnover rates due to stressful work environment
- ❖ The structure of burial grounds can impact the dignity and respect afforded to the deceased, as well as the comfort and safety of mourners

Conclusion

Crematorium workers play a vital role in honoring the deceased and supporting mourners. The structure of burial grounds is crucial for creating a dignified and respectful environment for both the living and the dead. By addressing the challenges faced by crematorium workers and optimizing the design of burial grounds, we can improve the overall experience for those involved in funeral services

Recommendations

For crematorium workers:

- ❖ Provide regular mental health training and support
- ❖ Offer flexible scheduling and breaks to manage workload and reduce stress
- ❖ Implement ergonomic solutions to reduce physical demands of the job
- ❖ Foster a sense of community and camaraderie among staff
- ❖ Design with accessibility and mobility in mind
- ❖ Incorporate amenities such as seating, lighting, and landscaping
- ❖ Ensure adequate maintenance and upkeep to maintain a sense of respect and dignity.

A sense of community and camaraderie among crematorium workers can help alleviate stress and promote job satisfaction.

The design of burial grounds can have a significant impact on the emotional well-being of mourners, as well as the dignity and respect afforded to the deceased. Regular mental health training and support can help prevent burnout and promote work-life balance among crematorium workers.

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