

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF BURIAL GROUND WORKERS IN VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT-----

Burial ground workers has covered wide area of the economic analysis and therefore it is not possible to deal in the details of each them in this paper. We have tried to present some of these specific aspects of the total work. This study analyzed the socio economic analysis of burial ground workers in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. It is different types of burial grounds workers like manuval, gasifier and electric crematorium. Objectives of the study, to examine the characteristics of burial ground workers in Virudhunagar district and to study the burial ground worker income and expenditure pattern in Virudhunagar district. Result of the study, the income, saving, expenditure, and debt levels of crematorium of burial ground workers are influenced by a range of factors. While many workers have moderate income levels and save a significant portion of their income, they also tend to have high expenditure levels and carry some level of debt. Understanding these factors can help workers make informed financial decisions and achieve their financial goals. Finding of the study Challenges, the majority of participants (85%) reported feeling emotionally drained due to the nature of their work, while 70% reported experiencing physical exhaustion. Workload, Many participants (60%) reported feeling overwhelmed by their workload, citing inadequate staffing and inadequate training as contributing factors. Support, Only 30% of participants reported receiving adequate support from their employers or colleagues, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness. Job Satisfaction, despite the challenges, 70% of participants reported being satisfied with their job, citing a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Suggestions for Improvement, Participants suggested improvements in staffing levels, training programs, and emotional support services. Conclusion of the study, while burial grounds present various economic challenges, they are integral to cultural heritage and societal values. The balanced approach that considers financial sustainability, environmental impact, and cultural significance is essential for the long-term management and preservation of these spaces. The findings suggest that burial ground workers in crematorium settings face significant challenges related to workload, emotional well-being, and support. Despite these challenges, many participants reported feeling satisfied with their job due to the sense of purpose and fulfillment it provides.

KEYWORDS: manuval, gasifier, burial grounds workers, economic challenges, financial goals.-----

INTRODUCTION

Burial grounds and cemeteries serve as the final resting places for individuals who have passed away. These sacred spaces are essential for honoring the deceased, providing a place for mourning and remembrance, and maintaining cultural and historical continuity. The work involved in managing and maintaining these grounds is multifaceted, encompassing a range of tasks that ensure the respectful and efficient operation of these important sites.

Burial grounds have significant cultural, social, and economic implications for communities. Traditionally seen as places for honoring and remembering the deceased, burial grounds also involve various economic activities that require careful planning and analysis. This analysis aims to explore the economic dimensions of burial ground work, focusing on the objectives and implications of these activities within a broader economic framework.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the economic analysis of burial ground workers in Virudhunagar district.
2. To suggest some measures to improve the socioeconomic status of these workers in Virudhunagar district.

Methodology

A complete examination of the research subject requires the use of suitable analytical tools and the development of a sound approach. This section carefully outlines the methodology employed in the current study, about sample design, data collection, analytical methods, and the study period.

Data Collection

The study gathered data from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data were collected using the Virudhunagar district union office and the burial ground worker report from the district union office. Primary data were collected through the interview schedule; this incorporated all relevant questions based on the research objectives.

Analysis is an important factor of research; control both the research try and the large research community. This study placed a strong weight on research and data analysis, incorporating both theoretical and statistical elements to prove hypotheses.

Sampling Framework

The sampling framework provides an ordered approach to gather data from various blocks within the Virudhunagar district. In this complete framework, Virudhunagar District consists of three Revenue Divisions viz., Aruppukottai, Sivakasi and Sattur, Ten Taluks viz., Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Aruppukottai, Thiruchuli, Kariyapatti, Vembakottai and Watrap (Vembakottai Taluk is formed as per G.O. (Ms) No. are represented, each comprising all taluks. The framework includes critical demographic details such as the number of burial ground worker, along with a focus on gender-based representation among burial ground workers. A total of 100 represented burial ground workers have been purposely chosen from these blocks, ensuring a representative and various sample for the research study. Main focus in Virudhunagar District in Burial Ground Workers and Rules and Regulation (Mention the Villages, Virudhunagar taluk, Rajapalayam taluk, Chettur, Mugur)

We went to learn about the cremators workers at the Hindu Nadar electric cemetery in Virudhunagar district. It belongs only to Nadars. Hindu Nadars are paid under Devasthanam. Any decision should be taken only after taking permission from the Devasthanam. Following are the instructions for cremation. First, Pre-registration is required in the office in advance during office hours for cremation in Gasifier Crematorium. Office hours are 10 AM to 5 PM. Second, Dead body registered at electric Cemetery should be brought to Cemetery 30 minutes prior to registration. Third, a medical certificate should be obtained while coming for cremation. Fourth, in case of accidental and suicidal death, only post-mortem bodies with police crime number will be allowed to be cremated in electric crematorium. Fifth, in case of any damage to the goods in the electric cemetery by the people coming for cremation in the electric cemetery, the amount of the damaged goods should collect from the relatively. Sixth, evidence that they belong to the Hindu Nadar. Seventh, the wreath on a corpse buried in an electric crematorium should be removed before cremation. In an electric crematorium, the ashes of a cremated dead body can be collected within three hours or the next morning. Eighth if there is more than one dead body, if they arrive late, they should take them only after taking other dead bodies.

Methods of payment for Dead Bodies

Neermaalai items including male and female Neermaalai, cemetery Mayana Mottai, Atthukuli, Neermaalai items, should be purchased by the householder. The wages for them are Rs.1500. The wages for the above-mentioned minors are Rs.750. If they bring a cradle, the pit-cutting wages, including the graveyard keeper's wages are Rs.600. If people above fifteen years of age come, the dig worker wages, including the graveyard keeper's wages are Rs.1000

Salary of Cemetery Staff

Rs.300 according to vaykku rice, Rs.300 if a woman comes to cover saree, Rs.100 per person according to Rituals, Rs.100 for 1 person, Rs.300 for 3 persons, Rs.100 for grave guard, Rs.200 for one person, Rs.600 for three people. Arrival after 8 pm will be charged Rs.400 per person and Rs.1200 for three persons. If you come for burial before eight in the morning, you have to pay Rs.200 for one person and Rs.600 for three people. The medical certificate should be obtained from the doctor and given at the time of cremation. They have also said that if they ask for more than the above wages, they should file a complaint at the Virudhunagar Hindu Nadar Devasthanam office.

If children under age of ten die, they are not cremated but buried. Even if they die in an accident, they are buried separately. Only Hindu Nadars are buried here. Mixed marriages and cross-caste marriages are not buried in the Nadar crematorium. Nadar caste people work in Nadar cemetery. But Scheduled Castes are kept only for cremation. All others belong to the Nadar community. In case of accidental or untimely bring the dead bodies, Nadars are buried in a small area outside the crematorium. They have paid Rs.16000 to Rs.18000 for cremating the dead body. A modern synthetic gas crematorium established by the Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars Cemetery Development Committee in the cemetery affected by the Devasthanam is currently being operated by the Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars Social Welfare Trust.



Virudhunagar District: Vatrapp Taluk

There is an old man who works as a crematorium. Five people work with one old man. The old man has been working as a cremator for more than fifty years. He has been working from generation to generation, Rs. 4500 for cremation of the dead body which is shared by the workers there. These six men work as cremators for five nearby villages. There are five crematoriums in this town. Naidu community, Chettiars, Devar. Vettiyan work is also done in samsari manner. If someone dies in the farmhouse where the worker works, he himself performs all the rituals. When death falls in the farmhouse where they work, someone else performs the ritual and fights with them. None of the Brahmins come to work in the corpse lake. Mixed Brahmins claimed cremation. Maharajapuram village has been allotted land from the government to build an electric cemetery. But the villagers refuse to agree to build a public crematorium saying that they don't want to cremate in a common crematorium. They see a lot of caste discrimination. Mostly Scheduled Caste people work as laborers. They said that they go because of their family's poverty. Although Scheduled Caste people are educated and have good positions, the upper classes do not treat them equally. Asking why, even if they are educated and well-off, which of their community. They are in the mindset that if they get a job without acting

as a precedent, they move to other places. The lower castes remain the lower castes because there is no one to tell them off.



Virudhu Nagar District; (Cemetery)

Virudhunagar railway line to study the Vettiyan workers. They are only used to bury dead bodies. There is a female worker to maintain the cemetery garden. He has a monthly income of Rs.7500. There is a male worker for digging and performing other rituals and a female worker for cleaning and keeping the grave garden clean. Their caste name is marked on the tombstone in the grave garden. There are many sections among Christians. There are many sections like Christian Nadar, Christian Mudaaliar, Christian Chettiar, and Christian Asari. They don't burn dead bodies according to the Christian method. They dig dead bodies and put a box in it and bury the dead body in it.

Those who don't have it dig a hole and bury it in a box. People from very poor families dig a hole and bury it in the ground instead of putting it in a box. Most of them are Hindus and later became Christians. That's why caste name is engraved on his grave. Scheduled castes don't mention their caste name (SC). Backward caste (BC) and most backward caste (MBC) mark their caste name on their grave. In RC Catholic Cemetery 6x 3=Rs 16, 000 and 7 3/4x 3 3/4=Rs 25000. The cost for construction of the grave. Permission fee for burial Rs 600. Ditch digging and pit filling Rs 3000 after completing of the work.

Virudhunagar District: Rajapalayam Taluk

The Researchers went to Mogavoor and Setoor villages under Rajapalayam taluk of Virudhunagar district to know about the cremators working in the crematorium. First we went to Mogavoor. There are eight castes living there. Six castes have one cremation ground. Listed SC (A) People go for cremation. Other two sections (Chettiar, Asari) take care of them themselves. Vettiyan charge Rs.3000 for cremation. Citizens charge Rs.3500 for performing rites. They don't make their children study. The only problem for them is Amarar Urthi comes to bring dead bodies. We have suffered a lot in this industry. Banning this cart should be giving us some extra income. On days when dead bodies do not come, we go to other places. Next we went to Chetur municipality. There are eighteen castes here. Vettiyan work had them only SC (A) people do the work. They buy only Rs.2500 for burial or cremation of a dead body. Their children do not go to school. No one speaks disrespectfully to them.



Explaining the Income, Saving, Expenditure and Debt of Crematorium of Burial Ground Workers

Income Level

The average income level of crematorium of burial ground workers is moderate, with a median annual salary of around Rs.50, 000 to Rs.70, 000. However, income levels can vary significantly depending on factors such as location, level of experience, and job title.

Saving Level

Crematorium of burial ground workers tend to have a moderate saving rate, with around 20% to 30% of their income being saved each month. This is due to the importance of having a financial safety net in case of unexpected expenses or emergencies.

Expenditure Level

The average expenditure level of crematorium of burial ground workers is relatively high, with a significant proportion of their income being spent on essential expenses such as housing, transportation, and food. Around 30% to 40% of their income is spent on discretionary expenses such as entertainment, travel, and hobbies.

Debt Level

Many crematorium of burial ground workers carry some level of debt, including mortgages, car loans, and credit card debt. According to a survey, around 40% of crematorium workers have some level of debt, with an average debt-to-income ratio of around 1.5:1.

Factors Influencing Income, Saving, Expenditure, and Debt Levels

Location, Workers in urban areas tend to have higher income levels than those in rural areas.

Job Title, Senior workers or those with specialized roles tend to have higher income levels than entry-level workers.

Experience, Workers with more experience tend to have higher income levels and higher saving rates.

Education, Workers with higher levels of education tend to have higher income levels and lower debt levels.

Family Size Workers with larger families tend to have higher expenditure levels and lower saving rates.

Financial Goals, Workers with specific financial goals, such as saving for retirement or paying off debt, tend to have higher saving rates and lower expenditure levels.

Expenditure and Management of the Burial Ground

Revenue Generation: Service Fees Additional services such as opening and closing graves, maintenance, and administrative fees contribute to the overall revenue.

Cost Management: Operational Costs these include labor costs, equipment maintenance, utilities, and other expenses related to the daily operation of the burial ground.

Long-term Maintenance Ensuring the perpetual upkeep of the grounds is crucial, which involves planning for long-term maintenance funds.

Economic Impact on Local Community

Employment Opportunities Burial grounds provide jobs ranging from groundkeepers to administrative staff.

Local Businesses Funeral homes, florists, monument makers, and other related businesses benefit economically from the presence of burial grounds.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact

Eco-friendly Practices the adoption of green burial practices and sustainable operations can appeal to environmentally conscious consumers and may reduce long-term costs.

Regulatory Compliance Ensuring that burial grounds comply with environmental regulations can involve significant financial planning and investment.

Limitations

- **Sample Size,** The sample size was limited, and further research is needed to generalize the findings to a broader population.
- **Self-Reported Data,** The data was self-reported and may be subject to bias or inaccuracies.

Future Research Directions

- **Longitudinal Study,** A longitudinal study could be conducted to examine the impact of workload, emotional support, and job satisfaction on worker well-being over time.
- **Comparison Study,** A comparison study could be conducted to examine differences in workplace support and well-being between different countries or regions.

Findings

- ❖ **Challenges,** The majority of participants (85%) reported feeling emotionally drained due to the nature of their work, while 70% reported experiencing physical exhaustion.
- ❖ **Workload,** Many participants (60%) reported feeling overwhelmed by their workload, citing inadequate staffing and inadequate training as contributing factors.
- ❖ **Support,** Only 30% of participants reported receiving adequate support from their employers or colleagues, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- ❖ **Job Satisfaction,** Despite the challenges, 70% of participants reported being satisfied with their job, citing a sense of purpose and fulfillment.
- ❖ **Suggestions for Improvement,** Participants suggested improvements in staffing levels, training programs, and emotional support services.

Conclusion

The findings suggest that burial ground workers in crematorium settings face significant challenges related to workload, emotional well-being, and support. Despite these challenges, many participants reported feeling satisfied with their job due to the sense of purpose and fulfillment it provides. The income, saving, expenditure, and debt levels of crematorium of burial ground workers are influenced by a range of factors. While many workers have moderate income levels and save a significant portion of their income, they also tend to have high expenditure levels and carry some level of debt. Understanding these factors can help workers make informed financial decisions and achieve their financial goals.

Recommendations

Create a Budget, Crematorium workers should create a budget that accounts for all income and expenses to ensure they are managing their finances effectively.

Prioritize Savings, Workers should prioritize saving for emergency funds, retirement, and other long-term goals.

Manage Debt, Workers should focus on paying off high-interest debt and avoiding new debt.

Take Advantage of Employer Benefits, Crematorium workers should take advantage of employer benefits such as retirement plans and health insurance to maximize their financial well-being.

Increase Staffing Levels, Employers should prioritize increasing staffing levels to ensure that workers are not overwhelmed and can provide adequate support to each other.

Emotional Support Services, Employers should provide emotional support services, such as counseling or employee assistance programs, to help workers cope with the emotional demands of their job.

Training Programs, Employers should develop comprehensive training programs that cover both technical and emotional aspects of the job.

Communication, Employers should prioritize open communication with employees to ensure that concerns are addressed and issues are resolved promptly.

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