

SOCIO-ECONOMIC & HEALTH CONDITIONS OF SCRAP DEALERS IN PUDUCHERRY

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ABSTRACT

The scrap dealers are playing pivotal role in the scrap recycling business as well as they are part of cleaning the society and more helpful to implement 6 R methods in reducing solid waste. In scrap business the wholesale scrap dealers are earning good revenue then the retailer scrap dealers. The retailers meet their investment and expenditure of scrap business with their revenue. Most of the scrap dealers have obtained professional degrees and finding entrepreneurial opportunities in scrap dealing business. Their income as purely depends upon the market price of the scrap like plastic materials, metal items, e-waste, pet bottles, glass waste, cotton boxes and quantity of waste. The scrap dealers are collecting waste from the households and commercials area through rag pickers and garbage collectors. Both wholesaler and retailer selling their scrap to the recycling agent (middleman) to make business and to sustain their livelihoods. But the socio-economic conditions of the retailers are not satisfactory level. This paper makes an attempt to highlights the socio economic and health conditions of the scrap dealers in Puducherry urban limit.

INTRODUCTION

India is the world most populous nation with 1.486 billion people. Through continuously increasing the solid waste generation with highly growing population rate as well as urbanization, migration and technological advancement to produce more products it may cause in attracting the people to buy more commodities in these case people residing in the urban places are also consuming in a higher rate owing to their income level of the people and in the urban centres are lacking with the dustbins, which causing in disposing the waste without any proper segregation and lack of awareness leads to the place into unhygienic and immoral surrounding environment. In such environment the recycling industry plays an important role to reduce and recycle the waste, the recycling industry collecting waste from the scrap dealers and the given income to the scrap dealers. The income has mainly depends on the quantity of waste and types of waste they collected from the scrap dealers. Now a days India is leading to produce more steels product by the steel industries by recycling the scrap and it has helps to control the emissions and help to minimise 50% are only depend on the usage of iron and coal (Saurav Anand 2023).

According to the bureau of international recycling (BIR) has highlighted that the major countries consumption of scrap has decreased compare to the last year. China is the major country consuming scrap but the country has reduced the scrap from 116.2 million tons to 2.9%. In the year 2023 the global import scrap has decreased 8% from the 27 million tons compared to the year 2022 in the first half year and followed by china, turkiye as reduced 9.6 million tons and bharat 5.25 million tons and USA 2.5 million tons. Through the decreasing scrap consumption and import of scrap will leads to decrease the steel production in the market. The first half year decrease the global steel production 1.1% to 943.9 million tons. In Europe country there are 10.9% percent was decreased in January to June month and 3.5% in the north america. The steel market was affected by the high credit rates will leads to slow down the

business activity, inflation and currency devaluation in the many countries of the world. (Yuriy Grigorenko 2023).

Turkey country is one of the far largest importers in the steel scrap throughout the world. In the year 2022 there are 21 million metric tons of steel scrap imported and flowed by turkey India is the second largest country around 8.37 million metric tons of metal import. The steel is one of the largest recycled materials in the world wide (Statista Research Department 2024). The scrap dealers comes under the informal sectors and support to the recycling industries. The whole sell scrap dealers are collecting waste from the retail scrap dealers earning higher income and the small or medium scrap shop dealers are more depends on the waste they are collecting. In most of the scrap shops having two kind of business one is collecting waste from the households, commercial spots, shops, office and other different places through waste collectors like rag pickers, garbage collector & workers were working in the scrap shops. They may collect waste and segregating the waste. The scrap dealers convert the waste into reusable product and selling the waste in weekend market. The products like batteries, fans, plastic items, old books etc. they sell this product and earn extra income. However they are earning are meeting their maintaince, investment and expenditure shops. In Puducherry most of the educated peoples are engaged in this job of scrap dealers and earning more income. Both female & male scrap dealers along with their family members are also engaged in this job. However, their income doesn't matter but their family members and surrounding are not treating them well. Even by working long hours and working conditions cause to addict alcoholic habit and no security benefits is supported by the local authority. Most of the scrap dealers are having more debt because of maintenance of the shop, expenditure and investment in this shop. Sometimes they will get more quantity of waste so they will get higher income and mostly in vacation period they will get higher income but in sometimes the scrap dealers are not getting normal income because of lesser quantity of waste. This paper seeks to assess the socio economic condition of scrap dealers in the Puducherry urban limit.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The lack of appropriate employment opportunities leads to push or declined the educated peoples into the scrap dealing business or even below to rag pickers to earn minimum income. The long working hours, work burden and working conditions may cause to addict with alcoholic and other bad habits. Most of the members around them are not equally treated them and the scrap dealers are playing pivotal role in reducing and recycling the solid waste in urban locality, but the Government or any other agency are not providing any social security measures to the scrap dealers. The scrap dealers are two types whole sell and small or medium scale scrap dealers. The scrap dealers are suffering will lots of financial debts, but they pay a vital role in recycling the solid waste in the society.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To analyse the socio economic condition of the scrap dealers in Puducherry urban limit.
- ❖ To examine the health conditions of the scrap dealers in study area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Puducherry union territory constitutes five municipality such as Puducherry municipality, Oulgaret municipality, Mahe municipality, Yanam municipality and Karaikal Municipality. The present study was carried out from two municipalities such as Puducherry and Oulgaret municipality urban limit of scrap shops. The random sampling method adopted and the sample size of these two municipalities with the 63 scrap dealers. The proper interview schedule was conducted to the scrap dealers from June to September 2023.

ANALYSIS

Table 1: Paired Samples Test

Sl. No	Particulars	Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
1	Gender - Age of the Respondent	-1.25397	1.19094	.15004	-1.55390	-.95403	-8.357	62	.000
2	Gender - Working Hour of the Respondent	-1.69841	.52777	.06649	-1.83133	-1.56549	-25.543	62	.000
3	Work Experience - Income of the respondent	-1.048	2.143	.270	-1.587	-.508	-3.879	62	.000

In Table - 1, represents three Paired tests 1: Gender & Age of the respondents, Pair 2: Gender and Working hour of the respondent, Pair 3- Work experience and Income of the respondent. In the Pair - 1 with the variables Gender and Age of the respondents are statistically significant with 1 percent level and in the class interval such as 36-40 age group occupies nearly one third of the respondents, likewise in the second pair was combined with the variables gender and working hours of the respondents were also statistically significant with 1 percent level along with the standard deviation of 1.19094 and the third pair with the combination of work experience and income of the respondents are also statistically significant with 1 percent level and along with the 95 percent of confidence level.

Table 2 Cross Tabulation of Educational & Gender of the scrap Dealers

Educational Level	Gender of the Respondent		Total
	Male	Female	
Below 10th	46 [90.2%] (82.1%)	5 [9.8%] 71.4%	51 [100.0%] 81.0%
11th - 12th	4 66.7% (7.1%)	2 33.3% 28.6%	6 100.0% 9.5%
Diploma Level	1 100.0% (1.8%)	0 .0% .0%	1 100.0% 1.6%
Under Graduate	4 100.0% (7.1%)	0 .0% .0%	4 100.0% 6.3%
Post Graduate	1 100.0% (1.8%)	0 .0% .0%	1 100.0% 1.6%
Total	56 100.0% 88.9%	7 11.1% 100.0%	63 100.0% 100.0%

The above Table - 2 represents the cross tabulation of education and gender of the scrap dealers the above has clearly shows that utmost 90.2% of male scrap dealers have education below 10th grade, while less than 10 percent are female scrap dealers. Only less than 10 percent of the respondents have obtained higher education such as diploma, under graduate & post graduate and these entire diploma holder respondents are male respondents. They become themselves as entrepreneurs and they are offering employment opportunities to others also.

Table 3 Paired Samples Test

Sl. No	Particular	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
1	Gender - Marital Status of the scrap dealers	.111111	.31679	.03991	.03133	.19089	2.784	62	.007
2	Health Issues - Type of Health Issues	-5.38095	2.93163	.36935	-6.11927	-4.64263	-14.569	62	.000

The above Table – 3, represents the paired test 1: gender and marital status and pair 2: health issues and type of health issues of the scrap dealers. In the pair 1 gender and marital status of the respondents are statistically significant with the 0.7 percent level. This table has been indicates that after marriage females are engaged in the scrap business and supports their partners. likewise in the second pair was combined with the variable health issues and type of health issues were also statistically significant with 1 percent level and along with the standard deviation is 2.93163 and there are 50 respondents are affected by musculoskeletal pain.

Table 4: Correlations of Health issues & Alcoholic & Smoking Habit

Particulars		Type of Health Issues	Alcoholic & Smoking habit
Type of Health Issues	Pearson Correlation	1	.304*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.016
	N	63	63
Alcoholic & Smoking habit	Pearson Correlation	.304*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.016	
	N	63	63

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The above Table – 4, represents the correlation between types of health issues and alcoholic & smoking habit of the scrap dealers. The correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), suggesting that there is a highly correlated between the type of health issues and the habit of alcohol and smoking. There are 48 respondents are addict with alcoholic and smoking habit and 36 respondents are affect with various health issues like respiratory issues, nerves issues. The positive correlation coefficient (0.304) indicates a positive linear relationship between the two variables. The working condition of the scrap dealers will leads to addict with alcoholic and smoking habit that will leads to affected with various health issues.

Figure1: Society Treat Scrap Dealers Working Conditions



The above figure – 1, shows that the society treat working conditions of the scrap dealers. The majority of respondents (58.7%) indicated that society does not treat the working conditions of scrap dealers good, (38.1%) of respondents highlighted that the society treat good and (3.2%) respondent’s highlighted that the society treat moderately good. The highest portion of the figure highlighted that the society as well as their relatives does not treat good of the working conditions of scrap dealers.

FINDINGS

- ❖ In this scrap business both male and female are engaged. Only 7 females and 56 males are highly engaged in this scrap work.
- ❖ In this scrap work female are engaged in the scrap shopwork but there are 20 males engaged with different scrap work like collecting scrap from streets and collecting waste from the households & shops during morning.
- ❖ The male scraps dealers are also engaged in other alternative work like working in hotels, building construction work, welding work, etc. as well as they were having other shop like meat shops. In every weekend shops, they were selling used electronic products and old books. With these alternative works they earn minimum of Rs. 500 to 1000 rupees.
- ❖ The male scrap dealers are engaged in this scrap work from their childhood & adulthood and their age group stands from the age 25 to above 70 old.
- ❖ In this study has highlighted there are 28 family members of the scrap dealers are engaged in the scrap work and 16 scrap dealers children’s are engaged in this scrap work.
- ❖ The scrap dealer’s income depends upon the types of waste and its quantity of collection. The recycling industry has fixed different values to the different waste. The money value of the waste such as; cotton boxes, pet bottles & plastic items, metal items, aluminium items.
- ❖ In scrap business is been categorised into two shops such as retail and wholesale shops. The wholesale scrap shop collecting waste from the retail shop and sell to the recycling industry. The retail shops collecting waste from the public bins, households & commercial areas.
- ❖ These scrap dealers has utilized rag pickers to collect waste and provides them income to their collected waste and some shops provide the basic needs like food, cloth & provide higher money.

- ❖ These scarp business were affected during festival times, every tuesdays & fridays.
- ❖ The wholesale scrap shop were generating per day 1 ton of each waste but the retail shop scrap dealers generating below 50 kg to 70 kg of waste. Some of the shops were collecting only particular waste like cotton boxes & pet bottles, plastic & aluminium materials, metal items, only cotton boxes.
- ❖ All the scrap dealers are educated and only 5 scrap dealers have obtained their studies upto diploma, under graduate and post graduate level.
- ❖ The scrap dealers affected with various health issues like respiratory issues, joint pain, asthma issues etc. and owing to their working conditions leads to addicted smoking and alcoholic habit. All the male scrap dealers are spending of Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 per day for taking alcohol and smoking.
- ❖ In their surrounding environment they have not been properly treated in the society by both their family members as well as their neighbourhoods.
- ❖ The municipality employees or public servants are collecting money from scrap dealers Rs. 1000 every week, this money is hard earned by the scrap dealers.
- ❖ The scrap dealers those who work for longer hour will make more income by collecting more waste materials

CONCLUSION

This article reveals that the scrap dealers also play a pivotal role in the recycling industry by collecting wastes from households, rag pickers, garbage collectors, households, and shops. Some of the retail scrap dealers are suffering from the financial crisis and like debts. Though these scrap dealers play a significant role in cleaning the garbage to keep the society clean and green. Public are not recognising these scarp dealers and their work in a proper way. The local authority fails to avail the basic needs like support schemes and clinical support for the unorganised scrap dealers. Government must come forward to support unorganised scarp dealers and other stakeholders, who makes the society clean and green.

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