

"Expenditure Pattern Of Mining Workers In Ballari District"

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Abstract

Mining is an old occupation recognized as a job with a high risk of injury and sickness. This is because mining workers posed to potentially poisonous or damaging substances, including fuels, solvents, chemicals, coal dust, detergents, silica dust, asbestos, noise, reagents, welding fumes, metal dust, etc. Consequently, several diseases develop over a while. Mining is a multi-disciplinary industry, drawing on several professions and trades. The mining industry has been recognized for the most arduous working conditions and prioritizes worker safety and health widely acknowledged. Mining safety conditions have always drawn researchers' attention. India's mining and metals industry sector has experienced rapid growth recently. The Mining industry is one of the imperative industries for India's highest employment India. The mining industry significantly positively contributes to India's G.D.P.

Nevertheless, it is primarily made up of unorganized workforces of unskilled laborers. Consumption expenditure is an essential indicator of an individual's or household's economic status and living conditions. The expenditure pattern has an impact on the socioeconomic status of mining workers. The study's primary goal is to investigate the socioeconomic conditions of mining workers, with a particular emphasis on the expenditure patterns of mining workers in the study area. The primary data for this study were collected directly from mining workers via structured questionnaires and observation methods. The cross-sectional study was carried out in October 2022. The convenience sampling method was chosen to select 80 respondents from the Sandur and Ballari taluks of the Ballari mining region in Karnataka.

This study fascinated the social and economic conditions of the mining laborers in detail and mainly emphasizes the expenditure pattern of Mining workers, whose income is not enough to meet their day-to-day expenses. Moreover, most respondents revealed that they lack the income to meet their needs. Thus, the study wishes to analyse mining workers' income and expenditure patterns in the Ballari region.

Key Words: Mining workers, Expenditure, Problems.

1. Introduction:

Consumption changes over time reveal information about the State of welfare. In any country, the food consumption pattern of households is an essential indicator of individual welfare and well-being. Furthermore, reforms increased well-being and, as a result, savings and consumption. In consumer theory, "income" refers to the "budget constraint." An income can be spent in varying quantities on one or more goods and services. This income can be spent entirely on goods and services, or a portion can be saved. Many studies have been conducted on the income-consumption relationship using empirical data from various countries and at different times. Consumption expenditure, a primary human activity, has long piqued the interest of social scientists because it is a significant determinant of national aggregate demand. In addition, household consumption expenditure has become very important in fiscal policy-making by budgetary authorities as a financial planning tool and a primary indicator of economic well-being.

2. About the Study Area:

Ballari district is situated on Karnataka's eastern side, and Ballari is known as the 'Steel city of South India.' Ballari district is situated under the administrative control of the Kalaburagi division and development jurisdiction of Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board, Kalaburagi. Undivided Bellary district has Eleven taluks. For administrative convenience, the district is bifurcated into two revenue sub-divisions; Bellary and Hospet (Now Ballari district have bifurcated into two districts). The Ballari district has rich mineral deposits, especially iron ore

and manganese. The Sandur hills are rich in iron and manganese, with an average annual output of three million tonnes. The Ballari district forms economic minerals such as haematitic iron ore and red oxide of iron, manganese ore, white clay, soapstone, etc. Undivided Bellary district has 25% of Iron ore reserves in the country. Vast deposits of lateritoid haematitic iron ore connected with manganese ore from prominent ridges of the Sandur schist belt. The Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) has projected about 1876 million tonnes of iron ore reserve, with about 63 percent of the total iron ore in the Sandur mining belt.

3. Literature Review:

Devata (2010) has attempted to investigate the socioeconomic conditions and status of the mining workers in Orissa state in India. The main objectives of the investigation are to address the problems faced by the mining workers and present an accurate picture of the changing developmental scenario of the Orissa state. The respondent worker's income hinges mainly on wages. Wage is connected with the workers' relative status, obligation to the industry, attitude toward higher authorities, living standards, and moral motivation. The study also found that many private company mines paid lower wages to women workers than men. The mining workers continue working in situations with different occupational diseases and health hazards. These exposed mining workers were working in dejected work environments. Hence study suggests that proper care has to be taken; otherwise, they will continue to suffer from the profit-seeking contractors and capitalists.

Alimi (2013) has attempted to understand the connection between consumption expenditure and income, bestowing the Absolute Income Hypothesis of John Maynard Keynes in Nigeria. Researchers found that as income rises, the average propensity to consume (A.P.C.) is condensed, as Keynes specified. But in the case of the long run, though the marginal propensity to consume (M.P.C.) is less than one, it is not stable. Studies by Deaton (2001) and Zeldes (2005) identified several factors as imperative in determining consumption, including unanticipated shocks, savings, consumer attitudes, liquidity constraints, etc.

Pradhan and Patra (2014) focused on the health conditions of mining workers in the Keonjhar district of Odisha state in India. This research is mainly based on primary data, the respondent's data collected from mining workers in the Banspal block of Keonjhar district. The study found that mining positively impacts employment opportunities and infrastructural development, but its effects on health are adverse due to environmental and occupational health channels.

Absar Ahmad (2015) evaluates the socioeconomic and health status of the mine workers in Sorya Village of Karauli district of Rajasthan state in India. The study used cross-sectional data collected from 20 to 30 May 2014 among 126 respondents in Sorya village, Karauli. The average ages of respondents were 41, and the average household sizes of the workers were six. The majority, 80 percent of respondents, are addicted to substance abuse, and daily they spend an average of Rs. 17. The study also reveals that the average monthly incomes were Rs. 3200, and 39 % of respondents were in more than 1 lakh debt. One of the main reasons for the debt of respondents was father died in debt and carried it forward to the children. Seventy-seven percent of workers belong to the lower caste, and the rest belong to other backward classes 38 percent were malnourished.

Chaudhary (2020) scrutinizes the socioeconomic variations regarding income, consumption, spending, health, and education of migrant families concerning transfer streams. This study is conducted in Musaharniya village in Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari District, Nepal. It was found that remittance can play a dynamic role in growing the socioeconomic conditions, reduction of poverty, and moving social and political consciousness in the village. Due to rising incomes, their spending capacity has pointedly increased over time. Moreover, it is observed that all migrant families possess land, while 1/3rd of families are landless. Additionally, it found that remittances also prompted migration from rural to urban centers to some level.

4. Research Gap:

From the above literature, it is found that few researchers have explained issues related to respondents' socioeconomic status, health status, problems, and other issues. Apart from this, the Researcher found a geographical, time-bound, and subject gap in the above works of literature. As a result, much of the research was carried out in other places in India. Moreover, the more significant part of the studies already done on expenditure patterns of households are old; these studies' outcomes cannot be generalized to the present conditions. However, the research work related to the expenditure pattern of mining workers in the Ballari district was not found. Consequently, the

current study is required to understand the expenditure pattern of mining workers in the Ballari district in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

5. Objectives of Study:

The study has two primary purposes, which are

1. To examine the socioeconomic background of the respondents in the study area.
2. To analyse the expenditure pattern of the mining workers in the study area.

6. Methodology of The Study:

The study examines the expenditure pattern of mining workers in the Ballari district. This study is mainly based on primary data collected directly from the mining workers using structured questionnaires and observation methods. The cross-sectional study was conducted in the month of October 2022. The convenience sampling method was applied to choose 80 respondents from Ballari and Sandur Taluks of the Ballari mining region in Karnataka state. The study uses descriptive statistical tools to derive the results. The data was collected on the demographic features of the iron ore mine workers, their income and expenditure levels, and education and health care expenditure. Information was also obtained on the problems faced by the respondents.

7. Limitations of the study:

The study is restricted to the Ballari district mining areas, and due to time constraints, the sample size is kept at 80.

8. Major Findings of the Study:

8.1 Socio-Economic Profiles of the Respondents:

Socioeconomic status has been operationalized in various ways, most commonly as education, social class, Migration, housing, or income. Therefore, this study attempted to document the critical socio-economic indicators of the respondents of Mining workers in the Ballari mining area, including education level, social status, economic status, house ownership status, family type, etc.

The study shows that 23.75% of mining workers were educated up to secondary education, 25% percent studied up to matriculation level, whereas the majority of 46.25% qualified at I.T.I./diploma level and 5 percent up to Graduate/Post-graduation level. In addition, the majority (77.50%) of Mining workers were Hindu, 18.75% were Muslim, and 3.75% were Christians.

Table.1: Socio-Economic Conditions of Respondents

Socio-Economic Characteristics	Categories	Frequency (Percentage)	Socio-Economic Characteristics	Categories	Frequency (Percentage)
Education	Secondary Education	19 (23.75%)	Ownership of House	Own House	46 (57.5%)
	P.U.C.	20 (25%)		Rented	15 (18.75%)
	Diploma/ I.T.I.	37 (46.25%)		Company Provided	19 (23.75%)
	Graduate/Post Graduate	4 (5%)	Living area	Urban	25 (31.25%)
				Rural	55 (68.75%)
Religion	Hindu	62 (77.50%)	Nature of employment	Permanent	26 (32.5%)
	Muslim	15 (18.75%)			48 (60%)

	Christians	3 (3.75%)		Temporary / Daily Wage	
Caste	SC	12 (15%)	Average Monthly Income	Contract	6 (7.5%)
	S.T.	14 (17.5%)		Less than 10,000	9 (11.25%)
	OBC	39 (48.75%)		10,001 to 20,000	30 (37.5%)
	General	10 (12.25 %)		20,001 to 30,000	32 (40 %)
	Not Informed	8 (10 %)		30,001 and above	11 (11.25 %)
Marital Status	Married	62 (77.75%)	Type of Mine	Government	8 (10%)
	Unmarried	18 (22.5%)		Private	72 (90%)
Family Size	Nuclear Family	73 (91.25%)	Migration	Yes	16 (20%)
	Joint Family	7 (8.75%)		No	64 (80%)

The study also revealed that 8.75% of respondents had joint and 91.25% had nuclear families; 57.5% lived in their own houses, and 68.75% of respondents lived in rural areas. The table also indicates that the number of married respondents (77.75 percent) is far higher than that of unmarried. Further, it was observed that out of the total sampled households, 48.75 percent of households were from the backward class, 17.5 percent from the scheduled tribe, 15 percent of households belonged to the scheduled caste, 12.25 percent of households belonged to the general category, and 10 percent of respondents have not revealed their caste.

Table 2 Expenditure Pattern of Respondents:

Expenditure Pattern of Sandur Taluk Respondents						
Items	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Percentage
Food Items	40	.00	45000.00	1100000.00	27500.00	20.60%
Cloths	40	.00	20000.00	570000.00	14250.00	10.67%
Health and related	40	.00	25000.00	760000.00	19000.00	14.23%
Education	40	.00	55000.00	1500000.00	37500.00	28.09%
House maintenance	40	.00	20000.00	625360.00	15634.00	11.71%
Others	40	.00	30000.00	782800.00	19570.00	14.66%
Expenditure Pattern of Ballari Taluk Respondents						
Items	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Percentage
Food Items	40	.00	46000.00	1155500.00	28887.50	21.27%
Cloths	40	.00	21000.00	612000.00	15300.00	11.26%
Health and related	40	.00	20000.00	615000.00	15390.00	11.33%
Education	40	.00	60000.00	1560000.00	39000.00	28.71%
House maintenance	40	.00	22000.00	644000.00	16100.00	11.90%
Others	40	.00	33000.00	846000.00	21150.00	15.57%

Source: Primary data (Author calculations)

The table-2 exhibits the expenditure pattern of mining workers in Sandur and Ballari taluks of the Ballari mining region. In sandur taluk, the majority of income is spent on the provision of education to their children constitutes 28.09% of total expenditure; remaining are food items (20.60%), others (14.66%), Health and related (14.23%), Housing Maintenance (11.71%) and Cloths (10.67%) simultaneously. On the other hand, in Ballari taluk, here also the majority of income is spent on the provision of education to their children constitutes 28.71% of total expenditure; remaining are food items (21.27%), others (15.57%), Housing Maintenance (11.90%), Health and related (11.33.23%) and Cloths (11.26%) simultaneously.

The tables reveal that in sandur and Ballari taluk, both respondents spend more on education because education plays a vital role in their future, and they understand the impact of education on their standard of living. However, Sandur workers spend more than the Ballari workers in terms of health expenditure. It is because sandur workers are less accessible to health facilities than in Ballari. Moreover, Ballari workers have more access to health facilities and low costs. While coming to food items, housing maintenance, and clothes are little variations in both taluks.

9. Conclusion:

Mining is the riskiest job compared to agriculture and other industrial jobs. However, mining provides lakhs of jobs directly and indirectly to the masses. Therefore, mining significantly impacts on economic development of any country. The present study focused on the Socioeconomic characteristics and expenditure patterns of the respondents in the study area. Respondents spend more on education because education plays a vital role in their future, and they understand the impact of education on their standard of living. However, Sandur workers spend more than the Ballari workers in terms of health expenditure. It is because sandur workers are less accessible to health facilities than in Ballari. Hence government needs to set up multispeciality hospitals in sandur city and provide quality education in this area. From this, it can be possible to reduce the spending on health and education, and it can also improve the accessibility to other goods and services, increasing the standard of living of the people in the Ballari region.

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