

CHAPTER - III

ANALYSIS

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Characteristics of the sample

The main purpose of explaining the characteristics of the sample is to give a clear picture of the respondents and their family backgrounds. In any social science research, it is imperative to explain the characteristics of the sample or conditions under which the study has been conducted. This would help in arriving at generalization of the studied phenomenon.

3.1 Profile of the respondents

Before coming to the analysis point of the study, about adolescent ragpicking girls, one of the aspects relevant is to ascertain their personal and family conditions. Although in general, the conditions of the adolescent ragpicking girls are known, the details about the extent and magnitude of the problem, will give a vivid picture of their profile. Broadly speaking, the major aspects such as age category of adolescent ragpicking girls, demographic variables, educational levels, occupational hazards, household information, economic conditions, their place of living in the respective slum or any other place, period of stay, caste and religious background have been considered here.

Age wise distribution

The age group of the adolescent ragpicking girls was decided between 12 to 18 years. But it is divided into different categories as shown below:

Table No. 3.1

Age wise distribution

Age	Frequency	percentage
12 - 13	55	55
14 - 15	36	36
16 - 18	9	9
Total	100	100

It is found that the girls in the age group of 12 to 13 are more than half percent in the sample while the girls between 16 to 18 are of minimum percentage.

Period of stay in slum

Since all these ragpicking girls are staying in slum areas the question of how many years are they staying in the same area was point under classification. As the age group selected was between 12 to 18 years, the girls were knowing only those years when they had settled in the respective slums. So for more clarity, the total period spent by the ragpicking girls family is divided only in between two groups that is up to 10 years and more than ten years.

Table No. 3.2

Period of stay in slum

Period	Frequency	percentage
up to 10 years	15	15
more than 10 years	85	85
Total	100	100

Among the 100 adolescent ragpicking girls maximum (85 percent) were staying in the same slum more than 10 years and only 15 percent had settled in the slum recently within 10 years.

Caste background

In the introductory part of the schedule the caste background was asked to every respondent and thus a caste backgroundwise distribution was made. The respondents are from different castes as shown in the table.

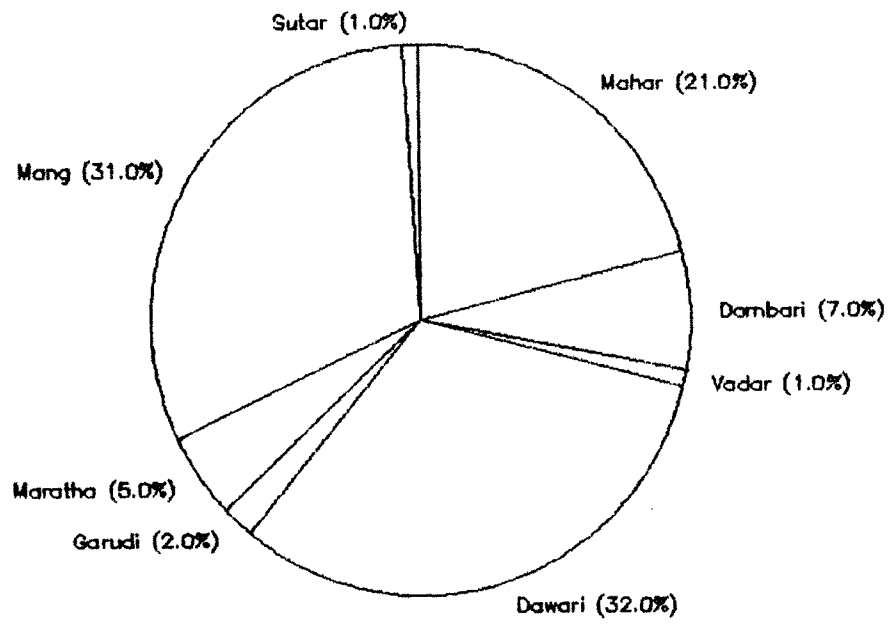
Table No. 3.3

Castewise distribution

Caste	Frequency	percentage
Mahar	21	21
Mang	31	31
Dombari	7	7
Vadar	1	1
Dawari	32	32
Sutar	1	1
Garudi	2	2
Maratha	5	5
Total	100	100

From the caste background of the respondent it was found that 94 percent among them were from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, while only 1 percent was from other backward communities ie Sutar and 5 percent were from open category ie. Maratha.

Castewise Distribution



GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF TABLE 3.3

Aspect of religion

It was found that within the 100 samples, all the girls are from Hindu religion. So the religion wise distribution has no relevance in the classification point.

Nature of family system

The familywise distribution is divided into joint and nuclear families, since the family system, and the family members and the number of reasons to select the job for the ragpicking girls can be related.

Table no. 3.4

Nature of family system

Type of the family	Frequency	percentage
Joint family	15	15
nuclear family	85	85
Total	100	100

From the 100 adolescent ragpicking girls 15 percent were living in a joint family system while 85 percent were in the nuclear family system.

Level of education

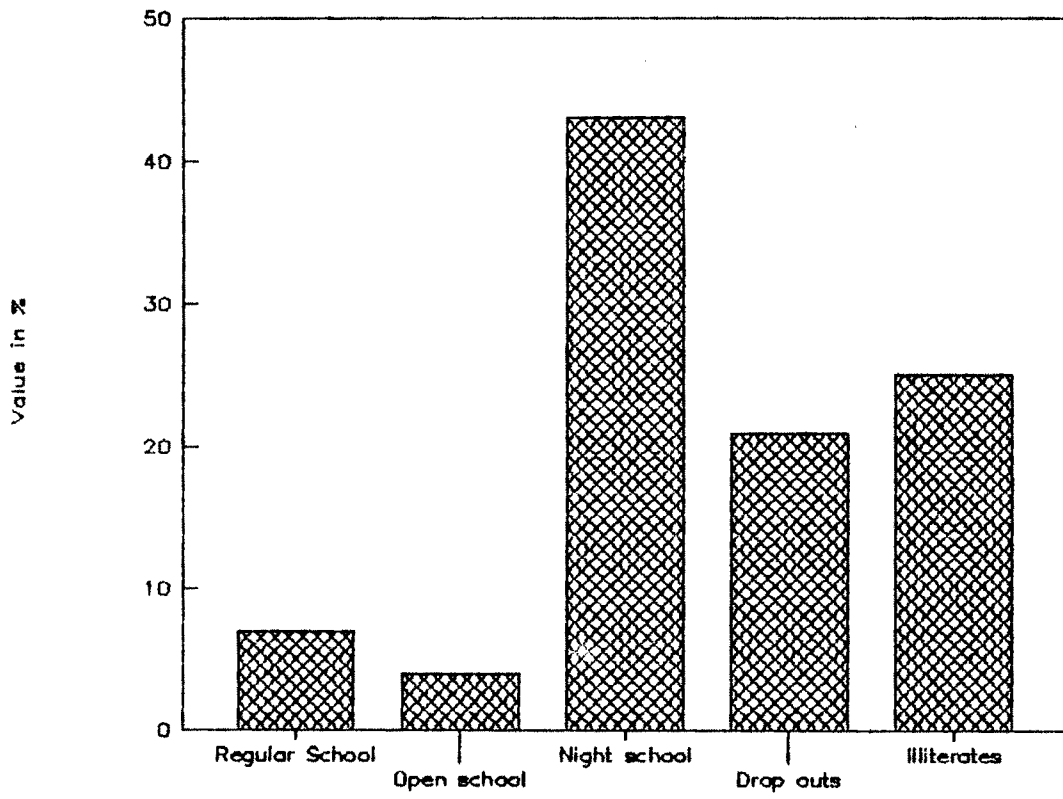
The educational level wise distribution is also related to the economic condition of the ragpicking girls, and the time they spend in ragpicking.

Table no. 3.5
Level of Education

Type of schooling	Frequency	Percentage
regular school	7	7
open school	4	4
night school	43	43
drop outs	21	21
illiterates	25	25
Total	100	100

The ragpicking girls who attend night schools are more in percentage (43 percent). They are engaged in schools at night time and for the whole day they go for ragpicking. This was possible for them because of Non-Governmental organization (Institute for Socially Disadvantaged Groups Educational Improvement, Kolhapur) working for underprivileged children, and running night schools especially for girl child labourers. While 25 percent of them are far away from education (illiterates). While only 7 percent among them are able to attend the day time regular schools.

Level of education



GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF TABLE 3.5

Size of the family

Table no. 3.6

Size of the family

No. of family members	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 5	54	54
6 - 8	42	42
9 - 11	4	4
Total	100	100

From the 100 samples, the families in which the number of family members was up to 5, are more in percentage (54 percent), while over populated families with 9 to 11 members are less in numbers (4 percent).

Sexwise educational ratio

Table no. 3.7

Sexwise educational level of the family members of the adolescent ragpicking girls.

Education	6 - 11				12 - 18			
	Males	%	females	%	Males	%	females	%
Schoolgoing	54	69	19	42	14	42	32	32
Non -school going	24	31	26	58	19	58	67	68
Total	78	100	45	100	33	100	99	100

Table No. 3.7 indicates the correlation between the educational level with sex and age group of the family members of the ragpicking girls. Within the 6 - 11 years age group 69 percent males are school going while 31 percent are non school going, in the same age group 42 percent females are school going and 58 percent are non school going. While 12 - 18 years age group shows that 42 percent males are school going and 58 percent of them are non school going and 32 percent females are school going and 67 percent are non school going.

So both the age groups have non schoolgoing females in both age groups i.e 6 - 11 and 12 - 18 are more in numbers as compared to the percentage of the males in the same categories.

Age and sex ratio

Table No. 3.8

Age and sexwise distribution of the family members

Sex	Age group							
	0 - 5	%	6 - 11	%	12 - 18	%	adults	%
Males	28	51	78	63	33	25	120	52
Females	27	49	45	37	99	75	109	48
Total	55	100	123	100	132	100	229	100

In the age and sex wise distribution of the family members of the 100 adolescent ragpicking girls, the dependent members (0-5 and 6-11) are 33 percentage. While the adult males are more ie. 22 percent in the sample, than the adult females, ie. 20 percent bearing the young ones, while in the 12-18 age group females are thrice in numbers with the males (18:6) from same group.

3.2 Working Conditions

Ragpicking is a hardworking job. To study the working conditions of the adolescent ragpicking girls certain aspects of their occupation are focused.

Parental Occupation

It is seen from the different studies that children show more curiosity in the business where in their parents are engaged. In the case of ragpicking children it is seen that from their childhood they use to help their parents in sorting the collected rags and after growing up to 8-9 years they start accompanying their parents.

Table No. 3.9

Parents occupationwise classification

Occupations	Parents	
	Father Fr.	Mother Fr.
Ragpicking	-	38
Scrap collection	14	18
Labourers	35	11
Stove repairy	14	-
Coolies	12	-
Regular employees	7	4
Vegitable sellers	-	1
Housewives	-	25
Idleing	14	-
Death	4	3
Total	100	100

From the data collected it is found that the adolescent ragpicking girls have an influence of their parental occupation. 56 percent of them are engaged in the same business of their parents.

As the table indicates 38 percent of the ragpicking girl's mothers are in the same occupation and 14 percent fathers are scrap collectors who have their own handcarts to collect the scrap. 18 percent mothers are also collecting

scrap. The hypothesis designed earlier was 'The occupation selected by the ragpicking girls and parents occupation have a positive relationship.' is tested and it has found valid with the above table.

In such cases it can be said that by accompanying their parents the girls started collecting the rags on their own.

Occupational selection

Table 3.10

Occupation selection

Reasons for selecting the job	Frequency	Percentage
Parents force	6	6
Own interest	20	20
No other job to do	14	14
Imitation	60	60
Total	100	100

Like as described in the tables earlier the above table indicates the reasons which lead the adolescent girls for ragpicking. It indicates that more than 50 percent girls (60 percent) have started ragpicking by imitating others. Like the parental occupation the girls by going along with mothers or some times with fathers, are pulled in the same business.

Working condition

The ragpicking does not need any special investment or skill. A large gunny sack along with metal poker, if necessary are all she needs. The skill or rather the endurance which has trained his or her eye to pick out what he wants and an imperviousness to smell, filth and discomfort. This work begins at break of day to collect the early morning rubbish heap before they are cleared away by Municipal vans.

The work is done mostly on individual basis, but sometimes in groups as shown in the following table.

Table 3.11
Collection of rags

	Age groups			
	12 - 13	14 - 15	16 - 18	Total
Individually	37	19	2	58
In groups	18	17	7	42
Total	55	36	9	100

Thus most of them collect rags on their own and sell them directly to the concerned dealers. The groups consists of children belonging to the same family or occasionally to families residing in the same locality. The rag collection

starts in the morning and continues through out the day, In the evening, the children gather at a predetermined place and sort out the material collected into paper, plastic, glass, iron scrap, etc and dispose it at almost entirely on the spot.

The items collected are divided into paper, glass, patra (scrap and metal) plastic including polythene and miscellaneous items like rubber wood, clothes etc. This is the raw material for the industry for recycling of urban and industrial waste and is bought by semi-wholesalers and then wholesaler who in turn sell to recycling units.

Period of working

The occupation takes much time and of course the ragpicker has to walk miles to fill his sack.

Table 3.12

Age group and working hourswise distribution

Working hours	Age groups			Total
	12 - 13	14 - 15	16 and above	
Up to 4	15	10	0	25
5 - 8	36	24	6	66
9 and above	4	4	1	9
Total	55	38	7	100

It means the girls between the age group of 12-13 are more in percentage than those who are working for 5-8 hours a day.

The girls between 12 to 13 years who are working for 9 and more hours are also more in numbers than the other age groups. It means they are working for such a long time which is more than the working hours decided for the adult skilled labourers.

Just like the working hours the following table shows the total days in a week in which the ragpicking girls are engaged in working.

Table No. 3.13
Number of working days

Working days	Frequency	Percentage
Whole week	43	43
Six days	43	43
2 - 3 days	10	10
Only on holidays	4	4
Total	100	100

It means the girls without having a single holiday within a week are similar in percentage as the girls having one holiday a week. It indicates that the girls try to col-

lect the rags as far as possible as it increases their daily income.

Also it leads to the conclusion that they do not have free time for playing, roaming, entertaining and for studying. This free time is important factor at their age.

Attitudes of the society

The ragpicking girls, with their eyes fixed on the road and their shoulders bowed by the weight of their dirty burdens. It is a socially ostracised groups, shunned even by those who work as sweepers and condemned as thieves, for every house holder would prefer to keep a stern eye on them till they are out of sight.

The appearance is heralded in each locality by the yapping of dogs, those street denizens who are pushed away from rubbish heaps by men and women who have been reduced to nearly the same level.

Table 3.14

Problems faced by the society

Problems	Age group		
	12 - 13	15 - 15	16 - 18
Driving out	30	12	-
Blaming for the loss	17	10	3
Teasing	2	12	4
No	6	4	-
Total	55	38	7

The table shows that for the girls between 12 to 13 age group the percentage of driven out by the people is high. Because these girls may enter in their houses and take away things. Where as the ragpicking girls to whom people are blaming for the lost material kept in their compounds or on the walls such as plastic buckets, clay pots, brushes etc., are 17 percent.

But in the agegroup of 14 to 15 and 16 and above the percentage of being teased by the boys on the roads is high. All together 18 percent of them showed the same reaction. As these girls are sometimes found alone and some of them looking quite grown. For this purpose most of them prefer to go for ragpicking with their friends in the same occupation. Those who are, going in search of rags in the early morning

and after the sunset face this type of problems, more.

Also in some cases that is above 3 girls reported that while returning in the evening the drunker people try to misbehave with them.

But the girls between the 12-13 age group, 6 from them told that they do not have met any obstracle. This is happend in the case of looking childish girls, that people are just igonoring in their cases and also in the cases in which the girls are gathering the rags on the dust bins and not from the residntial areas.

Earnings :- As the ragpicking is a daily wage occupation the girls also get their income daily when they sell their collected rag to the scrap merchants. Some of them get the chits from the scrap collector instead of the money, in cash on which the ragpicker's name and the amount the scrap collector has to pay her, is written. When the ragpicker requires the money she can go to the shop and ask for the money. Their daily earning, depends upon the material they collect and its quantity too. Their bags contain 10 to 15 kg rags, but the price they get may differ according to the materials rate.

The following tables show the daily earning of the ragpicking girls, as well as for which material that is rags

they are getting more price.

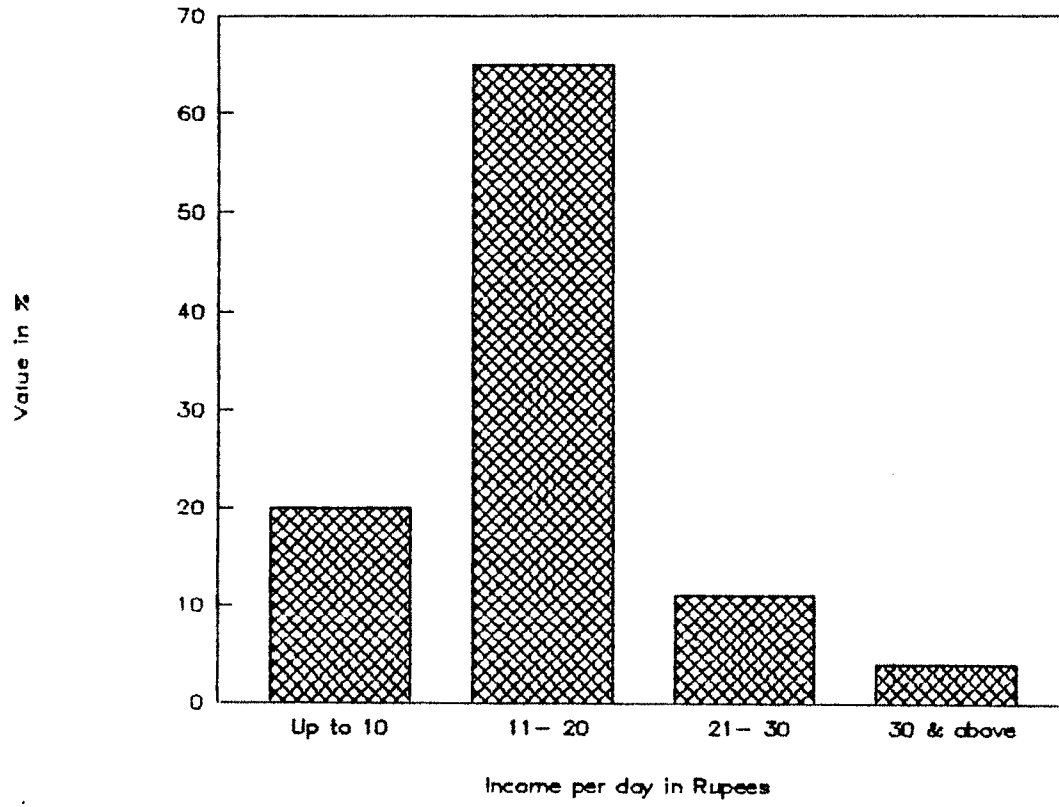
Table No. 3.15

Daily earnings

Income per day in Rs.	Frequency	Percentage
Upto 10 Rs.	20	20
11 - 20	65	65
21 - 30	11	11
30 and onwards	4	4
Total	100	100

It means the ragpicking girls get mostly up to 20 Rupees per day. As their income depends upon the rags they collect every day, it varies according to the material they collect. Even then for working very long (that is 5 to 6 hours on average) their income is not enough having a stressful and hardworking job condition at their age.

Daily Income



GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF TABLE 3.15

As mentioned in the same topic, the ragpicking girl's income depend upon the kind of rags they collect. The rate of the rags according to the scrap collectors in Kolhapur city is given below.

Table No. 3.16

The rates of the rags

Kind	Rate per kg. in Rs.
Milk bags	6 - 00
Tin	3 - 00
Non creased paper	2 - 50
creased paper	0 - 50
glass	0 - 50
Used but plain paper	1 - 00
Beer bottle	2 - 50 per item
Wine or whisky bottle	0 - 50 per item

Along with the rags the wet papers and other minor things such as threads and pieces of cloths are not considered in the weight.

Selling of the rags

The shopkeepers, who buy this waste are called Bhangarwalas. He is the key person in the deal, for quite a few girls don't understand the system of weighing. They depend on the Bhangarwala to give them a fair price. Most ragpicking girls sell to a particular shopkeeper with whom they have been dealing for many days. He may also give loan

to them in times of need. Most ragpickers regard their particular Bhangarwala as a friend and think that he does not a cheat.

Though they do not know how the weighing scale operates they can guess that the shopkeeper is cheating them when they get different weights and money in different shops at different time.

The present study found that the ragpicking girls are facing a crucial problem, that is, the deception in weighing, while in the case, when the scrap dealers give chits they do not have any objection, as the chits afterwards can be paid.

The following table shows the percentage of the problems from the buyers side for the ragpicking girls.

Table No. 3.17
Problems from the buyers

Problems	Frequency	Percentage
Disception in weight	79	79
giving chits	8	8
NO	13	13
Total	100	100

These ragpicking girls are cheated by the scrap collectors by decepeating in weighing system. The 'Bhangarwalas' use

faulty weighing machine and according to that he gives less money to the ragpicking girls.

Lack of education as well as inadequacy of logical thinking and because of money these girls accept the money and whatever the scrap collectors give.

Working season

The ragpicking work is seasonal. Peak time is from Diwali to the year end. During the monsoon, months, when dry waste is hard to come by, ragpickers switch to other jobs such as domestic servants, begging, construction labours or farm workers or some of them just sit in the home and look after their younger siblings, or migrate out of the city. Diwali is the peak season and Monsoons when the dry waste is hard to find is the market bottom.

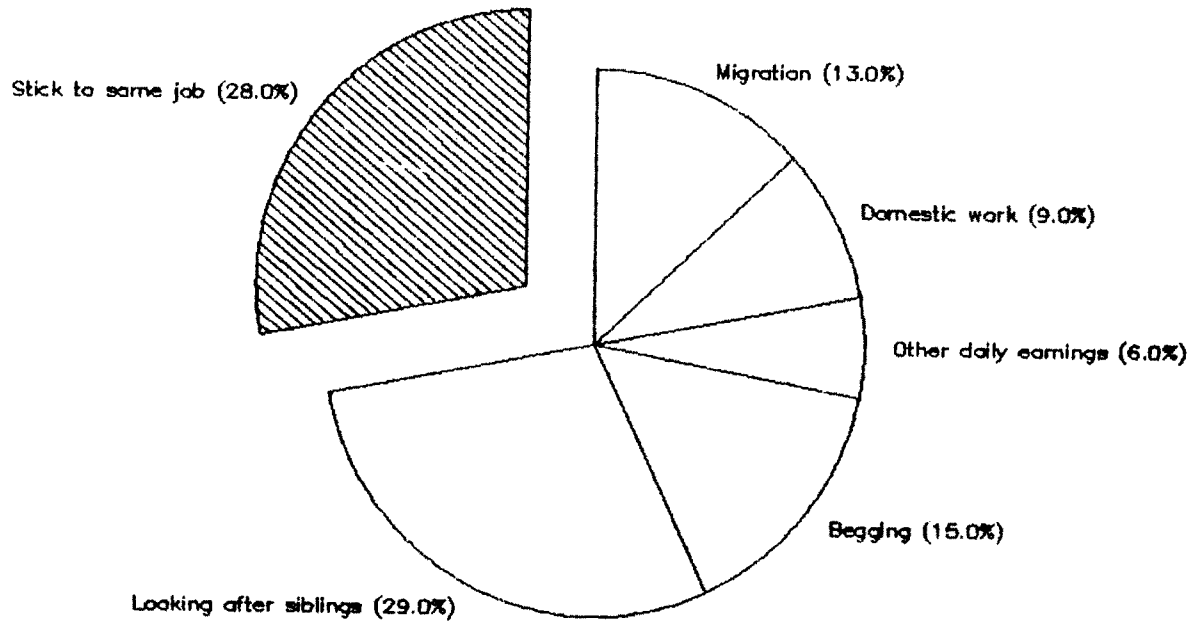
In the present study many girls reported that they are going for ragpicking in the rainy season too, when the rain stops they go out of their houses, so the timing on these days is not fixed. While 13 percent of them are migrating out of the city with their parents and 15 percent go for begging and 9 percent for domestic work, while 29 percent look after their siblings.

Table No. 3.18

Odd season's jobs

Jobs	Frequency	Percentage
Migration	13	13
Domestic works	9	9
Other daily earnings	6	6
Begging	15	15
Looking after sibling	29	29
Stick to the same job	28	28
Total	100	100

ODD SEASON'S JOB



GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF TABLE 3.18

For the odd season that is the months of rainy season the ragpickers accept the other jobs.

But then even it is found that 29 percent of them spend their time in looking after young ones in the family. Otherwise generally the younger ones are looked after the women who are going for daily earning. They take the babies with them at the worksite. But when these girls are free their mothers think to keep the young ones with them.

Also it is found that 28 percent girls in the rainy seasons even stick to the same job. It is because they do not have any other option. At home if no young one is there, at the same time they do not get any other job, and their parents are in need of income from them. In such cases the girls, whenever the rain stops go for ragpicking. But of course the rags they get will be wet and naturally they will be getting less money.

The scrap transaction

The scrap dealer is the bottom layer of a five-tier pyramid that thrives on what the ragpickers forge,. It tapers into bulk buyers, wholesalers, distributors or agents with the waste-processing unit on top. In the present study it was found from the scrap merchants that the waste processing unit as well as the distributors are not available here. But the scrap collectors send their material to the wholesalers

and then they are sent to the distributors in Bombay.

The above table shows the rate of the rags the ragpickers get and the scrap dealers get from the wholesalers.

Table No. 3.19

Rates of the rags in Rupees

Kind	Rate for the ragpicker	Rate for the merchant
Milk bag	6-00	10-00
Tin	3-00	5-00
Scrap paper	0-50	5-00
Non-creased paper	2-50	7-00
Bear bottle(per item	2-50	4 to 5-00
Wine bottle(per item)	0-50	1 to 5-00
Total	100	100

From the table it is clear that the scrap dealers get more than 100 percent profit from the rags. The ragpickers earn between Rs. 10 to 30 per day. About 15 percent of them earn Rs. 25 to 40 a day during the peak season. The wholesaler take home an average 1000 percent to 3000 a day. There is money to be made by everybody in their business except the kids who literally do the dirty work. Some of the processed plastic is turned into cheap toys, buckets, suit cases and sundry products that return a full circle back to the streets to be peddled by hawkers.

3.3 Economic empowerment

For the adolescent girls engaged in ragpicking, their first source of earning and living is their hazardous work. It needs no investment and gives her freedom and money at the end of the day. But the freedom is not related to her expenditure habits, while it is concerned with the job, ie. for getting more and more rags she can freely go far away from her residence but she does not have any type of economic empowerment.

The above aspects can give a more detail idea about the economic empowerment of the ragpicking girls.

Expenditure of the earned money

Though these adolescent ragpicking girls earn 10 to 30 rupees per day they are not free to spend them as per their own wish, But they have certain rules to obey from their parents side. The ways of the spending the earned money are different.

Table No. 3.20

Agegroup and nature of expenditure

Nature of expenditure	Age group						Total
	12-13	Perce- tage	14-15	Perce- tage	16 and above	Perce- tage	
By giving to parents	53	53	33	33	1	1	89
Spending for herself	-	-	1	1	2	2	3
Saving	2	2	4	4	4	4	8
Total	55	55	38	38	7	7	100

It means the girls from the age group 12-13 are giving their daily earning to their parents. And the girls who are of the age group 14 to 18 years can save. The younger girls are not given permission to spend money at this age from their parents because they can spend the money on useless things. While the elder ones who have the saving habits are allowed to spend according to their wish to some extent, because they know the advantages and ways of saving money.

Collection of money

Likewise the expenditure of the earned money, for the ragpicking girls, in some cases, the collection of their income is from their parents. Their parents, in most cases the mothers, in the evening used to go to the Bhangarwala's shop, and collect the money of the rag, their daughters sold to him. So these girls sometimes even do not know how much

money they have earned for the day.

While other girls collect their money on their own. Sometimes they get chits instead of the cash and within 2 days or at the end of the week they get the amount in cash by showing the chit to the scrap merchant.

Table 3.21

Collection of money and age group wise distribution

Collection of money	Age group						Total
	12-13 age	Perce tage	14-15 age	Perce tage	16 and above	Perce tage	
by the mother	22	22	6	6	0	0	28
by themselves	33	33	32	32	7	7	72
Total	55	55	38	38	7	7	100

Likewise the economic independence of the ragpicking girls between the age group of 12 to 13 are not collecting money on their own. Sometimes the scrap collector may cheat them or some time they may loose the money or spend them. This forces the parents mostly their mothers to collect the money of their daughters.

Freedom to spend

As discussed earlier in the previous aspects the ragpicking girls give their earned money, to their parents, and sometimes collected by their parents.

Table No. 3.22

Level of freedom to spend the money

Freedom to spend	Frequency	Percentage
YES	85	85
NO	15	15
Total	100	100

Though as the Table No. 3.22 indicates the 85 percent girls have freedom to spend money which they earned, it is only a little part i.e only enough for their hunger to wander in search of rag not more than 1 to 2 rupees. While 15 percent of them even do not have that much permission from their parents. Again in some cases the parents reaction towards the girls expenditure for her own needs is different and in some cases the girls, though they are willing, cannot afford to spend the money, due to their family's low economic condition.

The hypothesis designed earlier in this research 'In the lower strata of the society earning status and economic independence are not related' has been tested. It has found that though these 100 ragpicking girls are earning all of them do not have freedom to spend the money on their own wish.

Table No. 3.23

Reason for not having freedom to spend the money to the ragpicking girls

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Parents will scold	8	8
due to lower economic condition	7	7
Total	15	15

The lower economic conditions and since the girl, being the only earning member, do not have any freedom to spend their income according to their wish. Also they have the fear of being scolded by their parents.

Saving habits

Some of the adolescent ragpicking girls who have the saving habit, everyday keep some amount of their daily income either with them or in the chitfund.

Table No. 3.24

Saving habits

Way to save	Frequency	Percentage
Keeping with her	2	2
Keeping in chit fund	6	6
Not saving	92	92
Total	100	100

The money of the ragpicking girls who are not investing, is high. They are forced to earn at such young age earning due to their parents inadequate income. So in such situation money saved by them is not that much possible.

Table No.3.25

Saving habits and age groupwise distribution

Way to save	Age group						Total
	12-13	Perce	14-15	Perce	16 and	Perce	
	age	age	age	age	above	age	
Keeping with her	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Keeping in chit fund	1	1	3	3	4	4	8
Not saving	54	54	35	35	1	1	92
Total	55	55	38	38	7	7	100

The percentage of adolescent ragpicking girls investing their money is high for the girls above 14 years. As these girls know the money saving methods in chit funds they try to save their money as much as possible. At the same time they are given permission from their parents to do so. Otherwise in the case of girls who are quite younger than them are not given such independence of saving money.

Thus the economic empowerment the adolescent ragpicking girls have, and also the saving habits, which they have developed, give the idea of their independence to spend their own earnings.

3.4 Future aspirations

Apart from the hazards and bad situations in their life and going through such stressful jobs, the adolescent ragpicking girls have their own world of hopes.

Their aspiration indicates the ambitions. Here in the present study the term future aspiration is used for the ambitions the rag-picking girls have, about their occupations and marital status in future.

Occupational aspirations

The following table indicates the future aspirations of the adolesecent ragpicking girls about their present occupation.

Table No. 3.26

Occupational aspiration of the adolescent ragpicking girls

Aspirations	Frequency	Percentage
Want to continue	20	20
Want to change	80	80
Total	100	100

The table shows that a high number of adolescent ragpicking girls wants to change their occupation.

They being in hazardous and stressful working condition, are not very much interested in their occupation. For that

reason they are willing that, in future at least they can be able to go for another job.

Educational interest

As ragpicking is a day time activity and the lower economic condition of their family does not permit these ragpicking girls to attend the school, they have certain ideas about education.

Table No. 3.27

Educational interest

Interest	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	85	85
No	15	15
Total	100	100

The ragpicking girls who are interested in getting education are more in percentage (85 percent) than the ragpicking girls who are not.

The lower economic condition, lack of interest of parents towards education, overpopulated families and of course the hardworking job, are the root causes leading to a negative attitude among the adolescent ragpicking girls towards education.

Table No. 3.28

Level of education

Type of school	Frequency	Percentage
Regular	7	7
Open	4	4
Night	43	43
Drop-outs	21	21
Illiterate	25	25
Total	100	100

Thus the number of ragpicking girls attending the night school is higher than other type of schooling.

The table indicates that though they are engaged in such stressful jobs, and without having any support from their parental side, whenever they would get free time they would like to attend the school. It also indicates their willingness towards education.

Opinion about marriage

As these girls are of adolescent stage they were asked to give their opinion on the idea they had about their marriage. Different girls replied in different ways giving different ideas.

Table No. 3.29

Opinion about marriage

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Parents will decide after education	17	17
refused to answer	50	50
married	29	29
	4	4
Total	100	100

The marital aspiration of the ragpicking girls are related to their educational aspects.

Many of them replied that they will think of the above aspect after completing their education. So being in such hapazard situation they knew that education is the only thing that can help them to overcome from their present condition. They are aware that before marriage they have to do something on their own.

Thus, being in a negative condition full of frustration these adolescent ragpicking girls have lofty hopes about their future life.

3.5 Health hazards

The rag collection job is a tedious work. These girls with their gunny sacks and a bare feet, have to wander for miles every day, without taking care of the sun, or the cold. It affects their digestive system. While searching the rag

material they eat whatever they get from the hawkers, as early in the morning before preparation of food, they leave their homes. Sometimes they beg from the houses on the roadsides or even some of them eat the thrown eatables near the dustbin too. Also the water from where they get they have to drink and again they start their hunt for the rags in the sun.

Table No. 3.30

Age group and working hours

Working hours	Age group						Total
	12-13	Perce tage	14-15	Perce tage	16 and above	Perce tage	
upto 4	15	15	10	10	0	0	25
5 - 8	36	36	24	24	6	6	66
9 and above	4	4	4	4	1	1	9
Total	55	55	38	38	7	7	100

The table suggest that the ragpicking girls averagely work for 6 hours a day. Daily working for six hours is not that much difficult. But considering their age and their working condition it is problematic for their health point of view.

A path of diseases

The scrap collection work is a very un-hygienic and may pose health hazzards, specially skin diseases and tetanus.

The work kills completely the sense of personal hygiene among those ragpickers and they may never appreciate the values of cleanliness in the rest of their life. It is due to their poverty, that these ragpickers can seldom afford toilet soaps for washing off their hands and body dirt. They do not have in many cases even water facilities for an ordinary bath. The result is that these ragpickers develop several kinds of skin diseases. While collecting, rusted iron pieces, they may receive cuts on their hands and become susceptible to tetanus. The sharp glass pieces lying hidden in the garbage may injure their bare feet and the injury may develop into festering wounds later on. Their habits of consuming left over eatbles from the garbage expose them to several kinds of stomach and intestinal diseases.

Table No.3.31
Health conditaion

Health	Frequency	Percentage
Suffering from diseases	32	32
Normal	68	68
Total	100	100

From the above table it is clear came to know that the majority of the ragpicking girls (68 percent) have a normal health. In future if they are in the same occupation it may

cause a severe health problem.

Table No. 3.32

Diseases

Diseases	Frequency	Percentage
Anemia	5	5
Bronchitis	4	4
Bad oral hygiene	3	3
Skin diseases	4	4
Scalp scabies	2	2
Wax ears	7	7
Warm problems	4	4
Bad dental cond.	3	3
Total	32	32

These ragpickers develop several kinds of skin diseases. Even casual look at their physique and clothing reveals the extent of their poverty and deprivation. While collecting rusted iron pieces they may receive cuts on their hands and become susceptible to tetanus. The sharp glass pieces lying hidden in the garbage, may injure their bare feet and the injuries may develop into festering wounds. However, they are very proud of their work as they feel that they are not beggars but earn their own livelihood.

In the case of ragpicking girls in Kolhapur city, most of them found with a normal health condition and healthy too. The reason may be said that all of these are not street children, they have atleast shelter and a family. In some

cases though their mothers are not accompanying them every time all the way, they have at least positive attitudes towards their daughters.

Sources of health service

Among the all 100 ragpicking girls some of them are getting treatment on their diseases. The table below will show the source of getting health services for these girls.

Table No. 3.33

Sources of getting health services

Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Private hospitals	27	27
Govt. Hospitals	54	54
Both as possible	19	19
Total	100	100

The rate of getting treatment is flexible, it depends upon their earnings.

Apart from these diseases another problem which effect their health, is from the dogs. Some times the dogs wandering on the road in the early morning or at the late evening bite them, which becomes another dangerous health hazard in their way. It becomes another loop hole for their daily earnings. Hence the unhygienic conditions related to their occupation affect their whole health.