

CHAPTER V

WORKING CONDITIONS:

INTRODUCTION:

The good working condition is one of the important aspirations of the worker. Generally the physical conditions are made available in such a way that the worker gets better atmosphere in the factory. These facilities apart from providing one of the important aspirations for worker, also leads to good health and high moral among the workers.

The worker is having certain values and goals which are of great importance from his point of view. These are termed as the aspirations of the worker. The aspiration regarding good working conditions has been considered important for the powerloom weavers at Peth Vadgaon.

If the good working conditions are provided, then one of the important aspiration of worker is being satisfied. For this purpose, the Government of India has introduced certain acts under which welfare facilities are provided at the work place.

The present chapter deals with working conditions of the

powerloom weavers at Peth Vadgaon. The analysis of the conditions of work, where the workers actually work has been done here. The conditions here referred to are regarding ventilation, temperature and lighting.

Proper ventilation is very essential for checking the evil effects on the general health of the workers. Reasonable temperature in work-room is quite basic from the point of view of the efficiency of the workers. In addition, adequate and suitable lighting in places of work is also necessary for the workers. It protects the eye-sight of the workers and the out-put is also increased. Thus the physical environment in which worker works plays a critical element in determining his efficiency in man-machine system.

Taking into consideration these things, the information was collected regarding conditions at work, (ventilation temperature and lighting). Whether the conditions were satisfactory or not. The data pertaining to working conditions at vadgaon are presented following tables:

contd..

TABLE 5.1SATISFACTION REGARDING WORKING CONDITIONS:

<u>Workers' satisfaction</u>	<u>No. of workers</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Satisfied	28	52.8
Not Satisfied	25	47.2
	-----	-----
Total..	53	100.0

The table reveals that the majority of the workers consider that conditions at the work place were satisfactory. The workers commented that, sufficient light comes in the factory due to glasses to the windows at the day time and there was sufficient light due to tube-lights during the nights. The ventilation and temperature arrangements were also sufficient. However, remaining workers (47.2%) were not satisfied with the working conditions at work, because some of the powerloom units were in a small old building having many looms. Due to the lack of proper ventilation and lighting arrangement, these workers were not satisfied with the place of work.

DAILY WORKING HOURS:

The "question of hours worked in a particular industry is next in importance only to the question of wages and the

question of continuity or discontinuity of work in an examination of conditions of employment".

The daily working hours were divided in two categories i.e. shift of 8 hours and 12 hours. Majority of the workers (41, i.e. 77.4%) were working daily for 12 hours while remaining workers (12, i.e. 22.6%) were working daily for 8, hours.

The payment on powerloom is piece rated. Therefore the tendency is to work for more hours to get more payment. So majority of the workers ~~were~~ were working for the shift of 12 hours a day.

AGE AND PHYSICAL STRAIN:

The workers experience physical strain out of work and to some extent it is related to age. So the relation between age and type of physical strain is shown in table 5.2.

TABLE 5.2

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS ACCORDING TO AGE AND PHYSICAL STRAIN:

Age group	Type of physical strain			Total
	Backache	Eyesight problem	No.problem	
18-25	6 (30.0)	6 (30.0)	8 (40.0)	20
26-40	14 (54.0)	6 (23.0)	6 (23.0)	26
41-50	3 (43.0)	3 ((43.0)	1 (14.0)	7
Total..	23 (43.4)	15 (28.3)	15(28.3)	53

The data in table shows that in the physical strain, back-ache and eyesight problems were very common in the powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon (71.7).

As table 5.2 shows, the highest percentage of powerloom workers suffered from back-ache. Some workers suffered from eyesight problems and the remaining workers among the sample had no physical strain.

When the type of physical strain were seen in relation to age of the workers, the distribution revealed some trend.

The main trend indicates that the preportion of the workers, who were not having ~~ax~~ any type of physical strain were mainly from young age group of 18-25. The middle age group of 26-40 years, had the highest percentage of workers who had back-ache problems and in the age-group of 41-50 many workers were suffering from the problem of eyesight. Thus the younger workers were very low, who had no physical strain and the older workers had physical strain like back-ache and eyesight problem.

The work of powerloom weaving is done bystanding near the two looms for 8 hours or 12 hours and they have to keep attention on the weaved dhoti to see whether any thread is missing.

The workers who were in the age-group of 26 and above were suffering from the physical strains like back-ache and eyesight problem. The nature of work and age factor are responsible for this trend. The younger workers on the other hand had no problems of physical strain on equal extent to higher age-group workers.

ACCIDENTS IN POWERLOOM FACTORIES:

The workers were asked whether there were any accidents in their factories. 47 (83.7) workers reported that there were accidents in their factories while 6 workers (11.3) reported that there were no accidents in their factories. The workers commented that accident is the common thing among any powerloom factory.

The nature of accidents in powerloom factories is the up coming of shuttle from its regular path. The upcoming of shuttle sometime creates injuries to the workers working on powerlooms.

To analyze the aspect of accidents in detail, the question was asked whether there had been any accident to the worker. The data shows that, in the total number of sample majority of the workers (34, i.e. 64.2) had not any accident in the factory. But remaining workers (19, i.e. 35.8) reported that they had met with the accidents in the powerloom factories.

The responses of these workers reveals that there are accidents in the powerloom factories.

OTHER HEALTH PROBLEM:

The major health problem for the workers are night shift, work and fatigue after the work. The night shift work has influenced the workers health. Very few workers reported (15.1) they had not any health problem because, they were young workers.

DAILY PROBLEMS:

The workers were asked the problems of their daily life and 49 workers have not replied or answered that they were not having any problem in daily life. The remaining workers 12 (22.6) who were coming to vadgaon from neighbouring villages responded that they get ~~ix~~ tired due to daily cycling. Only 2 workers (3.8) responded that they were nervous due to domestic problems and inflation.

...

REFERENCE

1. Mehta Aban B: "The Domestic Servant Class" p.165