



Research Paper

The impact of social security schemes and welfare programs on beedi rollers: A comparative analysis of beedi making in urban and rural areas of Prayagraj and Kaushambi District

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ABSTRACT :

Beedi making is one of the most popular source of employment among the low level income group of the society. This study aims to determine the impact of social security schemes and welfare schemes on beedi workers living in Prayagraj and Kaushambi district. In this study questionnaire method and interview schedule was used to obtain data. of sample universe of 380, where 250 respondents were taken as a study for discussion as these were the respondents who were working under payroll of factory.

KEYWORDS: Social security schèmes, welfare programs, beedi workers, Prayagraj, Kaushambi

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I. INTRODUCTION

A beedi can be defined as an Indian cigarette which comprises of tobacco flake which is wrapped in a tendu leaf and secured with cotton thread. Although it is a cheaper alternative to cigarette and highly popular amongst the rural and non-affluent people in India, it bears high health risks not only to the consumers but also to beedi manufacturers.¹(Kumar and Bharti, 2010).

Bidi manufacturing is labor intensive, and bidi rolling, which employs the majority of the workforce, is done in almost all major states of India.² More than 80 percent of the beedi making centers are rural in nature. Therefore, beedi making is considered to be a rural-based industry. Beedi workers constitute one of the most vulnerable sections of the country's workforce. Government has been taking efforts to uplift the living of the workers belonging to the urban and rural areas of Prayagraj district by providing social security schemes and welfare programs to them. Beedi making is one of the most popular sources of income in rural and semi-rural areas in Allahabad especially among the women workers.³

In this paper it was found that the majority of beedi workers from urban areas were benefitted by the schemes whereas the workers belonging to the rural areas did not get benefits as expected by the government.

India's social security system comprises of many schemes and programs. There are various laws and regulations imposed by the government to control the social security system in India. These schemes apply to a limited section of the society. Both the Central and State governments have formulated certain specific schemes to support unorganized workers- both promotional and protective. The Karnataka High Court has expanded the provisions of social security benefit to contract labourers.⁴ (Faisal Fasih,2011).

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

The quantitative method was used in this study. It was conducted to examine the impact of social security schemes and welfare programs which were provided by the government A questionnaire was designed and were distributed among the beedi workers of Prayagraj and Kaushambi district (herein referred as urban and rural) Only 250 respondents answered the questionnaire and returned it back. The sample was analyzed according to many categories such as total sample, district, payroll, housing benefit scheme, health, maternity benefit, provident fund, recreation benefit.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The ratio of workers in Prayagraj and Kaushambi area

The area of study was fragmented into two sections Urban and Rural. It was found that around 48% of the population in the study lived in Urban area and 52% in the rural area. It was also observed that beedi making was more popular medium of employment in the rural areas.

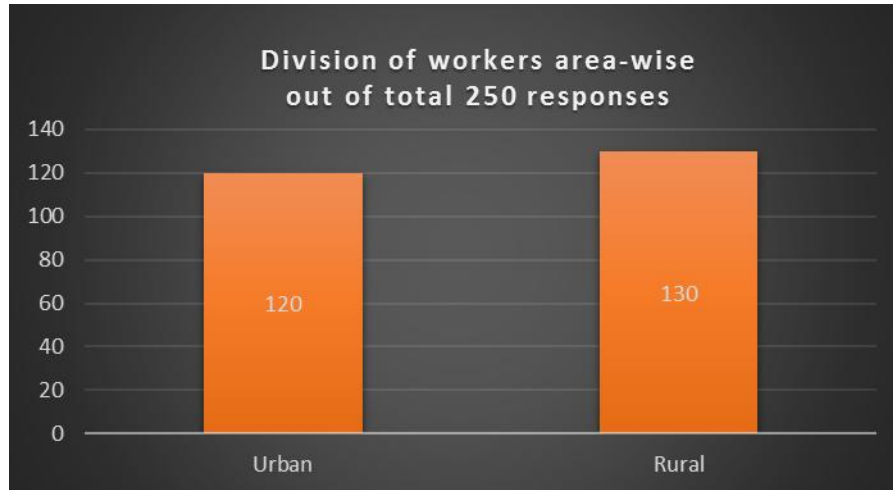


Fig:1

Number of workers working under payroll

Beedi workers being in unorganized sector was difficult to be identified and therefore were needed to be classified hence only those beedi workers were selected as respondents who were registered in the payroll in the factory. According to the study 100% of the Beedi workers in question were on payroll in urban areas whereas in rural area it was found that 34% of the respondents were on payroll.

The study focused on the Social Security and Welfare schemes of beedi workers working on Payroll because it was only those workers on payroll who were entitled to enjoy the benefits of schemes and programs of the government. Workers that were not on permanent nature of job were only employed when needed. Welfare of the employees.

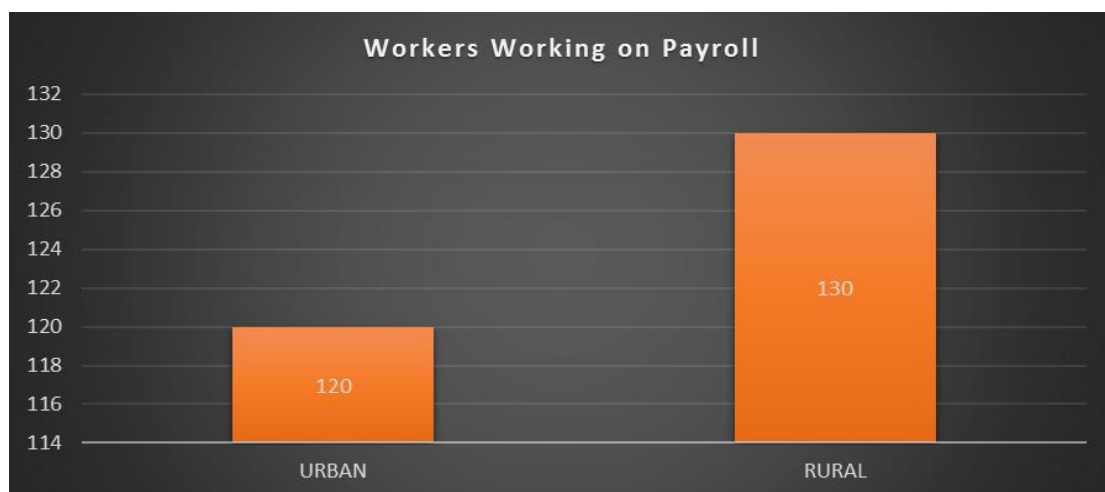


Fig:2

Workers under payroll availing Housing Scheme Benefit

It was seen in fig:2 that out of the total respondents in both rural and urban area very few of the workers had availed housing benefit scheme. It was observed that the workers were usually living in rented houses or in parental houses. When questioning the respondents about Housing Scheme the researcher observed that benefits like Housing Scheme was not properly implemented and workers being ignorant about their right did not avail them.

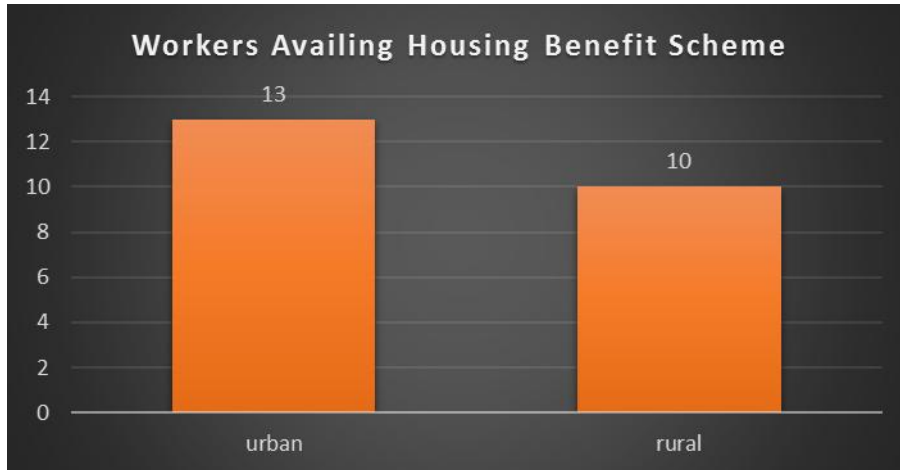


Fig:3

Workers under payroll availing Employee State Insurance Benefit

It was found that in spite of the government having schemes to insure employees there were very few workers availing this scheme. In the urban area only about 33.33% were under ESI and 13% in rural areas. This leaves scope for other researchers to further study the cause and reasons for non-implementation of such employee beneficial scheme.

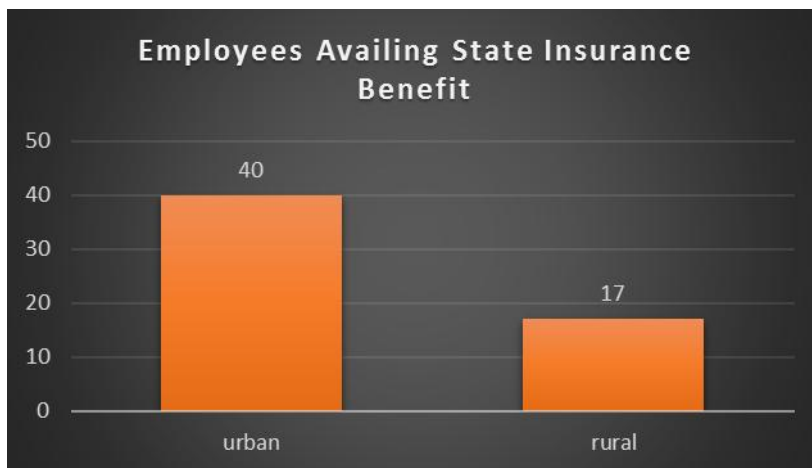


Figure:4

Workers under payroll availing Health Benefit

It is clearly borne out from figure 5 that as far as the health benefits were concerned despite the government measures and efforts it was only 13.83% workers in the rural area who were availing these benefits. One of the reasons was that the workers were not on regular job in spite of being registered in the payroll. In urban areas it was observed that around 54.17% of workers were availing medical benefits.

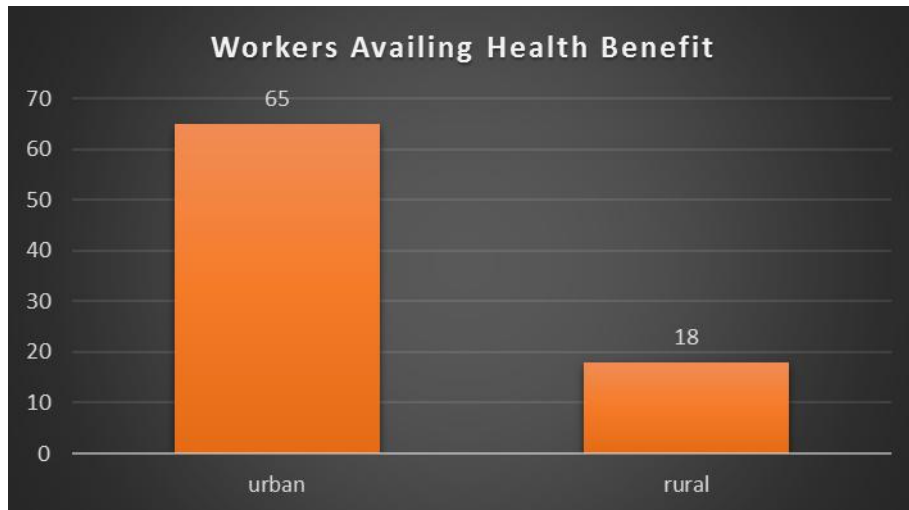


Fig: 5

Workers under payroll availing Maternity Benefit

It was found that there were more female workers in urban and rural areas involved in beedi making. The government had also taken special care for this section of the society. Despite all government efforts it has been observed that only 40 respondents which was 33.33% in the urban and 17 which is around 13.08% in the rural areas that had availed maternity benefits.

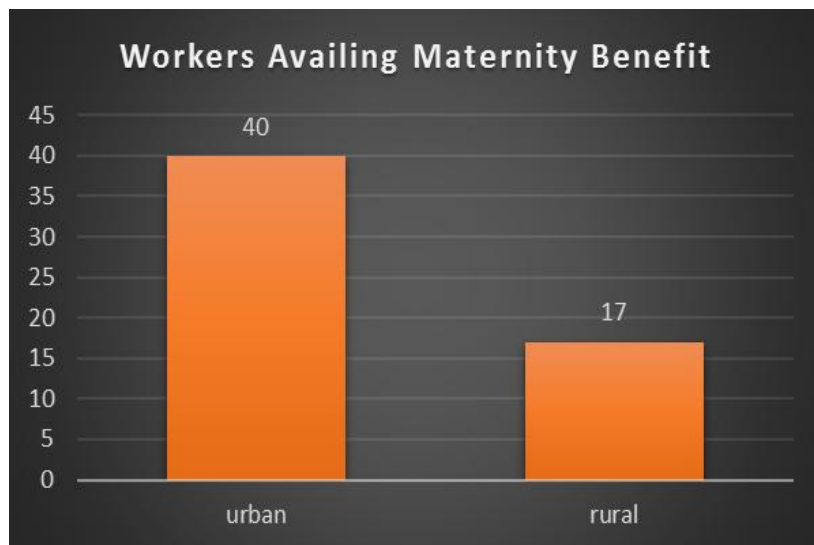


Fig:6

Workers under payroll availing Provident Fund

The workers in the urban areas who were working on payroll and had a regular job were 120 in number which constituted 100 % of the respondents who were entitled to employee provident fund. Although it has been seen that only 29 workers in the rural area were entitled to this scheme.

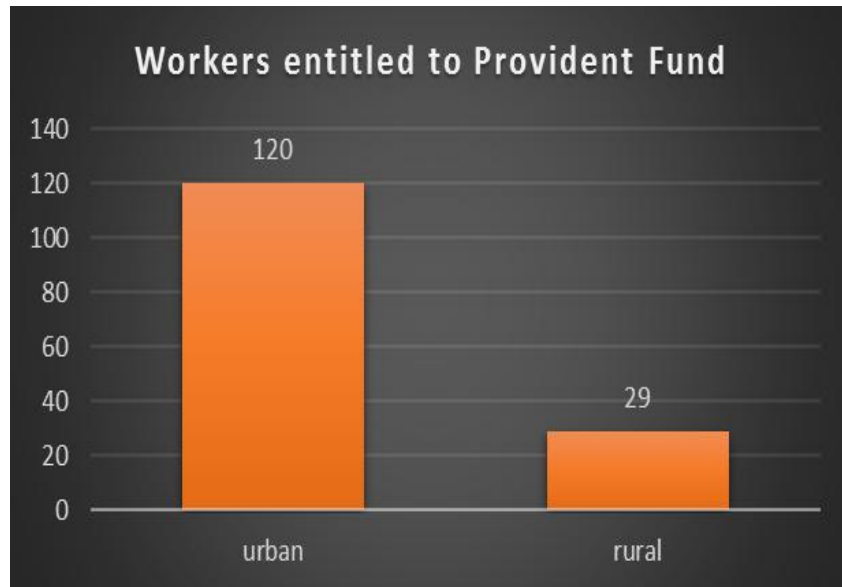
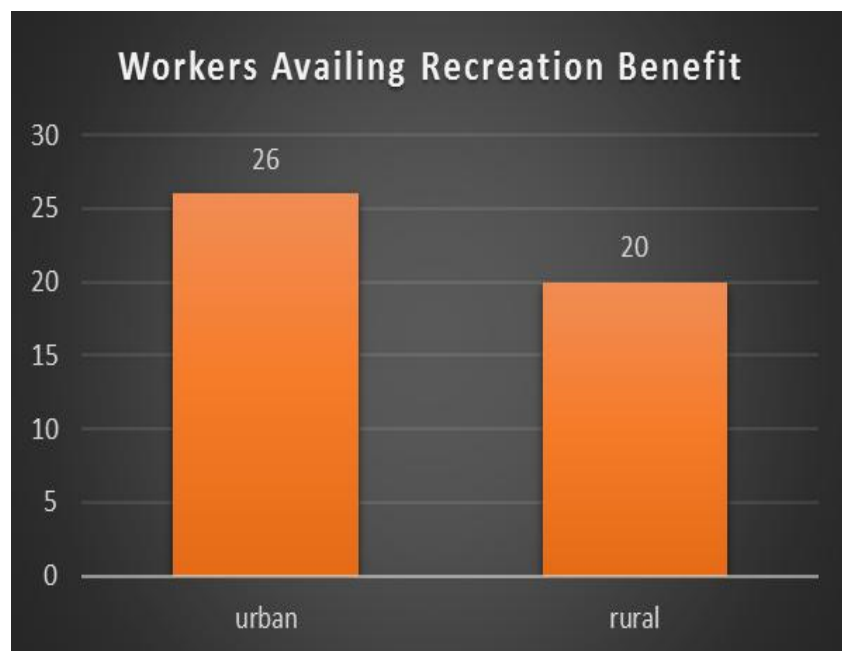


Fig:7

Workers under payroll availing Recreation Benefit

It was found that even in recreational benefit the urban area workers have greater entitlement for benefit than rural workers. A difference of almost 6.29% indicates that the urban workers are more aware and benefitted from the schemes.



IV. CONCLUSION

The current research deals with the impact of social security schemes and welfare schemes which are implemented by the government in Prayagraj and Kaushambi district. The study deals with the plight of the beedi workers who are although registered in the payroll of a factory but are not actually getting the benefits due to the fact that proper implementation of these schemes are not made at the ground level. It has been observed in the research that the schemes like Medical, ESI, Provident fund, Housing, Health and Recreation benefits are availed by the workers who are living in the urban areas of Prayagraj district but the workers residing in the rural areas of Kaushambi district did not get the benefit to the maximum extent.

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