

An executive summary of the final report of the work done on the minor research project of Elias Gerald D'Silva, P.G. Department of Social Work, St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangalore entitled "**Women and Children Rag pickers of Mangalore City : Causes and consequences**" sanctioned by UGC, vide sectioned letter no MRP (H)-0170/12-13/ KAMA002/ UGC-SWRO dated 23 Sept. 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rag picking is very relevant theme to study since it is found in all the major cities. A rag pickers life is very difficult and faces numerous problems. The word rage picking is considered to be something menial by the society. The rag pickers usually are migrants from the other places come in search of jobs, without families and without money.

Over fifteen lakhs individuals across India work as scrap and waste collectors, earning their livelihood from the collection and sale of paper, plastic, metal and glass scrap to recycling industries. Among the most disadvantaged, vulnerable and underprivileged class in the urban labor market, occupying the lowest rung of the poverty groups, is the class of rag pickers. This dynamic but unregulated sector in the expanding economy depends directly on retrieving waste for their livelihood.

Research design

The researcher design used this study is descriptive, because it describes the problems and life style lead by the Women and Children Rag Pickers

Universe\ Population of the study

The researcher has taken Mangalore City as the universe of study. The city of Mangalore that is, situated in the coastal region of Karnataka. This consists of large dumping yard, and waste management by the corporation some efforts are put in to manage the waste. The rag pickers beside this do some work in separating the recyclable that live in very poor statues of the society. It comprises of 50 respondents both women and children, engaged in rag picking. A sample of 50 will be covered in the study; 25 children and 25 women. Snow bowl method will be applied in the study, since it is difficult to find them in random order, respondents will guide the investigator the where about of other respondents,

Limitations :The researcher selected some of the areas of the city which is limited, in order to collect the data on this particular problem. The researcher while doing the data collection had certain shortcomings and they are: language problem, coverage is limited and also the researcher has made it only for the sake of the study.

Tool of data collection: Researcher has used interview method to collect the data. A structured questionnaire was prepared on the topic and was administered personally through interview with the respondents. Kannada, Tulu, Tamil, and Malayalam languages were used by the researcher since the respondents were familiar with these languages. The secondary sources were from newspapers, magazines, internet and also from unpublished data.

Major Findings:

The majority of the rag-pickers consisted between the age of 11 to 19, that is 35%, which is also could be termed as child labor. The children of this age are not getting what they suppose to get that is education which is most essential part of life and they are exploited both physically and mentally by the elders and owner by paying with minimum amount of wage.

There are both men and women both equally involved in rag-picking which is 50%. Women would suffer the most since they have to work in both places outside and in the dwelling place taking care of the children and also the husband. Most of the women are being used by the outsiders.

It is very surprising to note that vast majority of them respondents that is 85% of them did not even go to school while the remaining that is 15% of them have just entered 1st standard. With this percentage the problem that is prevailing is very clear. The problem of literacy none of the respondents went to school except 3 out of 20 respondents.

The study on rag-picker though includes the city of Mangalore the local people are less in number. The language spoken by the local people is Tulu while the data collection shows that 15% of the respondents spoke Malayalam, 25% of the respondents spoke Kannada, 45% of the respondents spoke Tamil, 5% of the respondents spoke Urdu and 10% of the respondents spoke Tulu. Through this it is very vivid that most of the people who carried out this work were primarily from other place or migrated from other place.

The respondents with regard to the bad habits 70% of the respondents said that they had habit of drinking alcohol, 15% of the respondents have the habit of smoking and 15% of the respondents

had habit of gambling. With this percentage it could be explained that all the respondents are involved in one or other type of bad habit which is injurious to health.

The respondent faced health problems as well, 65% of the respondents had skin disease and 35% of the respondents suffered from injuries. The rag-pickers are facing health problems due to lack of prevention measures and also due to lack of treatment of those diseases.

Suggestions

Children who are involved in the rag-picking need be rehabilitated so that they could have a good future.

The government could provide a night shelter for the rag-pickers so they would have feeling of security and other type of social problems could be prevented.

Government as well as none-governmental organizations could take steps in bringing awareness on the significance of education which is the tool of development.

Government could provide some kind of material helps like: free shoes, slippers, gloves, and free medical check-up regularly which would enhance the health condition of the rag-pickers.

Social workers could organize this people into group so that they can fight for their human rights and also mobilize the resource that would be useful for the people.

The rag-picker could be provided vocational training on different trades so that they would join the society with rest of the people.

Conclusion: Rag pickers certainly suffer from varies social problems like: poverty, illiteracy, ill health, bad habits, exploitation, physical and mental harassment. Hence they are prone to problems of different kinds. The researcher during study has illustrated some the problems faced by the rag-pickers in Mangalore city. The situation of the rag-pickers need be improved and for that, the NGOs and government need to take various measures to better the situation of the rag-pickers. When we go to the root cause of the rag-picking it is important to know that since the waste management is not done properly like; organic waste, recyclable waste and hazardous waste, these rag-pickers are involved in segregation of waste. The waste management should be done in each of the houses so that it would reduce the numbers rag-pickers in the society.
