

A STUDY ON SOCIAL, HEALTH AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF AUTO RICKSHAW DRIVERS IN BELAGAVI CITY, KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

In India auto-rickshaws are main mode of public transport in urban and areas. Health has always been closely linked with occupation. Auto drivers are exposed to harmful environment like pollutant gases, continuous noise and whole-body vibration as well harmful lifestyle like irregularity of meals, bad posture while driving and stressful occupational conditions due to their working conditions. auto-rickshaws and their drivers face considerable criticism from the public, the media and policy makers. There is a contentious public debate about the perceived faults of auto-rickshaws and their drivers, and the policies to address these issues in Indian cities. Our objective is to provide balance and nuance to this debate, and to enable the perspective of drivers to be more effectively considered, along with that of auto-rickshaw users and the wider travelling public, in policy-making. This study was undertaken to assess the social health and economical condition of auto rickshaw drivers in belagavi.

KEY WORDS: Auto Rickshaw, Drivers, Health, Social, Financial, .

INTRODUCTION

Smart city Belagavi (previously known as Belgaum) have population of 4.88 Lakhs (according to 2011 census) and according to Belagavi statistical report 1988 auto rickshaw were registered as on 31-03-2018. The role of auto rickshaw drivers in the city is very significant in urban mobility. Health has been a major cause of concern in driving occupation especially among auto rickshaw drivers. Drivers spend a considerable amount of time in an environment full of pollutant gases, noisy, continuous cacophony and whole body vibration. Further harmful lifestyle are practised like irregularity of meals, no proper rest rooms, awful quality of sanitary toilets, bad posture while driving and stressful occupational conditions during their working hours. Such working parameters may be associated with various gastro intestinal disturbances, musculo- skeletal, cardio-vascular, respiratory, hearing and other problems which can hardly compromise with driving safety issues. Auto-rickshaws provide flexible, low-cost niche mobility in city. However, these vehicles and their drivers face criticism. Auto rickshaw impacts are at variance with public and policy-maker perceptions. Despite perceptions of over charging, drivers face significant economic hardship, Policy reform is needed particularly related to the permit system and fare setting.

OBJECTIVES:

- To analyze the social, health and financial conditions of auto drivers.
- To identify the level of satisfaction acquired by drivers by choosing this profession.
- To study the challenges faced by auto drivers in city.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Lisa Elongo, 2018, Tamil Nadu a study conducted on socio-economic and health status of auto drivers of Tirupattur, vellore district, by this study they have analyzed and found out that public transport is less in tirupattur taluka. Hence it was the beneficial profession to men. But because of poor socio- economic and financial conditions auto drivers are dissatisfied and the level of stress among them is high due to the challenges faced by them.

Debashish Debbarma, 2017, Tripura a study conducted on health problems of the auto rickshaw drivers in Agartala city particularly Nagarjula nodc. According to him this profession is gradually deteriorating the health of auto rickshaw drivers, they are facing many hazardous problem like ENT

problems, ocular system problem, nervous system problem. Auto rickshaw drivers are not realizing the impact of their profession on their health, even if they realize due to financial constraints they are neglecting their health. Creating social awareness among them was their major aim of study.

Madhav G.Badami 2016, A study conducted in Indian cities: public perceptions and operational realities. They opinion that auto rickshaw provide flexible, low cost mobility because of their low earning their standard of living is also low. Indian people's perception towards auto drivers is awful they think that this profession is meant for uneducated and poor people, auto drivers face many criticism.

Anita Ramchander, 2015, Bangalore is the third most populous city in India and it growing rapidly. Many people get into this auto driving profession with hope of earning a decent income. The lives of auto rickshaw drivers is one of the financial struggle with low income and saving. They belongs to economical backward class. They are not much educated, the analysis showed that the level of education does not increase their capacity to earn more and save more.

Emma Shlaes, 2013, Mumbai City culture is on the rise throughout the world. India is the best example. Rural people of the India are migrating to urban areas. This migration places stress on urban infrastructure that is constantly catching up with this rapid growth, urban transportation is in high demand as new resident need ways to go to their work. The researchers analyzed that auto rickshaw drivers certainly provide benefits of fast and affordable service to residents but this profession does not represent a full sustainable livelihood.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- The Primary data has been used to carry out project which included structured questionnaire
- For the study 20 days survey was conducted from 27 Nov 2019 to 16 Dec 2019.
- Various books, Journals and websites are also referred to understand the past researches and to trace out the research gaps.

LIMITATIONS

- This study is limited to auto rickshaw drivers of only Belagavi city.
- Due to time constraint only 100 respondents are considered. Hence the results cannot be generalized.
- The responses from the autorickshaw drivers are subject to their individual opinion and the perception of the respondents.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION

Table No 1. Frequency of economic factor of the respondents

	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
Age	15-25 years	23	23%
	25-35 years	38	38%
	35-45 years	30	30%
	More than 45	9	9%
	Total	100	100%
Marital status	Single	37	37%
	Married	63	63%
	Total	100	100%
Driving experience	0-5 years	22	22%
	5-10 years	17	17%
	10-15 years	27	27%
	15-20 years	30	30%
	More than 20	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Average No of hours of driving.	4-6 hours	17	17%
	6-8 hours	29	29%
	8-10 hours	49	49%
	More than 10 hours	5	5%
	Total	100	100%
Average No of days in a week driving	1-3 days	12	12%
	3-5 days	23	23%
	5-7 days	65	65%
	Total	100	100%
Average no of trips in a day	5-10 trips	25	25%
	10-15 trips	15	15%
	15-20 trips	47	47%
	More than 20 trips	13	13%
	Total	100	100%
Expenditure on fuel per week	Rs. 500- 1000	29	29%
	Rs. 1000- 1500	36	36%
	Rs. 1500- 2000	31	31%
	Rs. 2000- 2500	4	4%
	Total	100	100%
Monthly income	less than 4000	16	16%
	4000-8000	35	35%
	8000-12000	31	31%
	More than 12000	18	18%
	Total	100	100%
Cost of vehicle	200000-250000	45	45%
	250000-300000	30	30%
	30000-350000	18	18%
	More than 350000	7	7%
	Total	100	100%
Vehicle is on loan	Yes	55	55%
	No	45	45%
	Total	100	100%
Other source of Income	Yes	29	29%
	No	71	71%
	Total	100	100%
Night shift	Never	31	31%
	sometimes	59	59%
	always	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

INTERPRETATION

From table No. 1 It is analyzed that the many respondents age is between 25-45(68%), majority are married (63%), they have driving experience of 15-20 years (30%), averagely they drive 8-10 hours per day(49%), 15-20 trips a day(47%) and 5-7 days in a week(65%). Auto rickshaw drivers usually spend 1000-1500 Rs on fuel in a week (36%) and they are able to earn monthly income ranging from 4000-8000/ month(35%). There cost of vehicle is 200000-250000 Rs (45%) which majority of them

are taken on loan (55%). The majority of the respondent agrees that they does not have any other source of income (71%). The auto rickshaw drivers frequently does not prefer night driving (59%).

Table No 2. Frequency of health factors of the respondents.

Particulars		No. of respondents	Percentage
Driving vehicle all day cause you back pain, headache, respiratory problem.	Strongly agree	65	65%
	Agree	17	17%
	Neutral	8	8%
	Disagree	5	5%
	Strongly disagree	5	5%
	Total	100	100%
Night driving is not convenient to auto drivers.	Strongly agree	22	22%
	Agree	28	28%
	Neutral	24	24%
	Disagree	14	14%
	Strongly disagree	12	12%
	Total	100	100%
Poor road condition cause health problems.	Strongly agree	42	42%
	Agree	34	34%
	Neutral	16	16%
	Disagree	3	3%
	Strongly disagree	5	5%
	Total	100	100%
Health insurance.	Yes	25	25%
	No	75	75%
	Total	100	100%
Occupational stress lead to consumption of	Alcohol	26	26%
	Tobacco	20	20%
	Smoking	20	20%
	Mixed combination	16	16%
	None of the above	18	18%
	Total	100	100%

The table No 2. shows the frequency of health factor of the respondents. The above analysis shows that driving vehicle all day have effect on health of the auto drivers, majority of them strongly agree that they suffer from back pain, headache, respiratory problem(65%). Auto drivers have mixed find of opinion that night driving is not convenient to auto drivers 28 respondents agree(28%) where as 24 respondents have neutral opinion(24%). they strongly agree that poor road condition cause health problems(42%) and majority of them does not have health insurance(75%). Financial difficulty and driving profession leads to consumption of Alcohol(26%), Tobacco (20%), smoking(20%), mixed combination of these (16%) and 18 respondents does not consume anything of this (18%).

Table No 3. Frequency of Social factors of the respondents.

Particulars		No. of respondents	Percentage
Auto driver don't have proper social	Strongly agree	57	57%
	Agree	27	27%

status in society.	Neutral	11	11%
	Disagree	3	3%
	Strongly disagree	2	2%
	Total	100	100%
Auto driver doesn't have job satisfaction	Strongly agree	37	37%
	Agree	32	32%
	Neutral	20	20%
	Disagree	8	8%
	Strongly disagree	3	3%
	Total	100	100%
There is no social security in this profession.	Strongly agree	49	49%
	Agree	23	23%
	Neutral	18	18%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly disagree	4	4%
	Total	100	100%
Due to low income they have low saving habit.	Strongly agree	27	27%
	Agree	37	37%
	Neutral	19	19%
	Disagree	11	11%
	Strongly disagree	6	6%
	Total	100	100%
Able to maintain work life balance.	Yes	33	33%
	No	49	49%
	May be	18	18%
	Total	100	100%

The table No 3. shows the frequency of social factor of the respondents. The research interpret that majority accept that they don't have proper social status in society(57%) and they also strongly agree that they are not satisfied with there profession due to financial difficulty and illiteracy they are doing this job (37%). they says that this profession does not provide social security(49%). They also agree that due to low earning they have low savings habit(37%). The extremely irregular working hours constitute an added work load for the auto rickshaw drivers. The physical working environment can also rise to work loads, due to this majority of the auto drivers does not able to maintain work life balance.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The earnings of the auto drivers are less which in turn pushes them to borrow money for running out their life. Harassment by the policemen, insecurity for personal life, lesser income, lower fares fixed by the government, inflation in petrol prices, pressure for payment of dues for autos from moneylenders, family and financial stress leads to consumption of unhealthy products, lack of social status and lesser job satisfaction are the major causes of financial health and social factors.

SUGRESSIONS

The problems addressed are to be resolved with the intervention of government in an organized way. It is recommended to restructure the policies and procedures for operating and smooth functioning of autos. The auto drivers are suffering a lot due to unexpected hike in petrol prices without any slab for increasing the minimum fare rate fixed by the government. This should be taken care by the government so as to protect the socio economic life of auto drivers. As the prevalence of various

health complaints is very high among auto-rickshaw drivers there should be regular health checkups and appropriate preventive and promotive interventions .

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