



A Study on Problems Faced By Street Cleaners in Tenkasi District

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ABSTRACT

Street cleaners in India face numerous challenges, including poor working conditions, low wages, and social stigma. Many come from marginalized communities, especially the Dalits, and endure discrimination. They work with inadequate tools and without proper protective gear, exposing them to health risks like respiratory problems and injuries. Their jobs often lack job security or benefits, making them vulnerable to financial instability. Additionally, street cleaners have limited access to healthcare and social welfare. In this study main objectives problems faced by street cleaner in Tenkasi District. The researcher has used both primary and secondary data. The researcher has concluded that to address these issues, it is crucial to implement systemic reforms that improve their wages, provide better protective equipment, ensure job security, and promote social recognition. Additionally, investing in modern waste management infrastructure and enhancing the social welfare system will help alleviate many of the hardships they face. By supporting street cleaners and addressing these barriers, society can create a more equitable and sustainable urban environment for all.

Keywords: Street Cleaner, Challenges, Problems, Working Condition.

I. INTRODUCTION

Street cleaners in India face numerous challenges, including poor working conditions, low wages, and social stigma. Many come from marginalized communities, especially the Dalits,

and endure discrimination. They work with inadequate tools and without proper protective gear, exposing them to health risks like respiratory problems and injuries. Their jobs often lack job security or benefits, making them vulnerable to financial instability. Additionally, street cleaners have limited access to healthcare and social welfare. The lack of modern sanitation infrastructure and effective waste management adds to their burden. Women in this profession face gender-specific issues, including harassment and a double workload. Migrant workers are often exploited and live in poor conditions. Despite their crucial role, street cleaners receive little recognition or support. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reforms to improve their wages, working conditions, and social standing.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To analysis the socio-economic factors of street cleaners in Tenkasi District.
- To analysis the problems faced by the street cleaners in Tenkasi District.

III. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive and analytical research design has been applied to the present study. There are seven taluks in Tenkasi district such as Tenkasi, Kadayanallur, Thiruvengadam, Sankarankovil, Shenkottail, Veerakerakanpudur and Alangulam. The research has used a convenience sampling method to identify the respondents for the present study. The research has selected 56 street cleaners in Tenkasi district. The researcher has used both primary and secondary data for the present study. The primary data were collected from the problem



of street cleaners in Tenkasi district. The researcher has used percentage and weighted average method.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

An Audit of Mechanized Road Sweeping Operations in National Capital of India- A case study”, Thus there is a need to establish the linkage of contracts with outputs and effectiveness of the sweeping operation. Further, since these are special machines and require spares that are not easily available in the market, with ULBs maintaining these machines, they remain on breakdown for approvals which take time in their process. **Sourabh Manuja et al. (2020)**. Occupational Health hazards of street cleaners”, The researcher found that the hazards result from physical, chemical, and biological exposures, but may also be due to physiological and psychological burdens or inadequate safety aspects. **Vera van Kampen et al., (2020)**. Assessment of Occupational Health Hazard of Street Sweepers in Ilorin Metropolis. The researcher found that the study revealed the demographic information on the street sweepers, use of PPE, training, and knowledge of occupational Health Hazards by the street sweeping, and the health status or health challenges of street sweepers in Ilorin Metropolis. **O.S Olafimihanet al.,(2020)**. Study on cleaning performance of small road sweeper vehicle, The researcher found that after researching and developing the cleaning system of the small road cleaning machine carried on the single factor and orthogonal experiment research, analysis the primary and secondary factors which affected the sweeping efficiency of the road followed by disk brushes roller speed, disc brush speed, driving speed. **Qingliang Yang et al., (2018)**. A cross-sectional study to assess the health profile of street sweepers and sanitary workers in a zone of Greater Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu,

India”. The researcher found that This study concludes that the majority of the problems faced by sweepers and sanitary workers may be attributed to improper working posture and inappropriate broomsticks, improper usage of personal protective equipment, and lack of awareness regarding health problems and vaccination. **Joy Patricia Pushparani et al., (2018)**. Occupational health hazards in street sweepers of Chandrapur city, central India”, the researcher found that The findings of the study provide evidence that street sweepers are suffering from several health ailments such as musculoskeletal, and respiratory, dermatological, headache and gastrointestinal problems during work and allergies, cough and cold, asthma and bronchitis lungs, hearing disorders, malaria, typhoid, fever, and vomiting after completion of work. **Priyanka V. Patil & R. K. Kamble.,(2017)**. Health-problems of Sanitary Workers Working in Private Multi-specialty Hospitals in Tirunelveli City, TamilNadu, The researcher found that the study proved that pain in the Neck, back, waist and shoulder, sleeplessness, weight loss, and skin problem are some of the important and foremost health-related problems of sanitary workers. **Rajan & Vijayalakshmi (2016)**. Occupational Stress among Sanitary Workers”, the researcher found that the results of the study proved that receiving mixed and conflicting messages from the same person, long working hours and a shift working system, lack of salary, and performing multiple works at the same time are the top stressors of sanitary workers. **Rajan (2012)**. The Life and Days of (Dalit) Sweepers in Bangladesh. The researcher found that They have been deprived of all types of civil facilities including education and health care services. They have been passing their days in unbearable sorrow and suffering without electricity, pure drinking water, and a supply of gas. **Masud & Muzibu Rahman (2006)**.

TOOLS WITH ANALYSIS

Table : 1
Demographic Profile of the Street Cleaners

S. No	Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	18	32
2	Female	38	68
	Total	56	100
Sl.NO	Age	Number of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 30 Years	5	9
2	30-35 Years	10	18



3	35-40 Years	20	36
4	Above 40 Years	21	37
	Total	56	100
S.No	Marital status	Number of the respondents	Percentage
1	Married	41	73
2	Unmarried	4	7
3	Widow	11	20
	Total	56	100
S. No	Education Qualification	Number of the respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	16	28
2	2nd std- 5th std	19	34
3	6th std- 10th std	21	38
	Total	56	100
S.No	Income Level	Number of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Below Rs.5000	12	21
2	Rs.5000-Rs.10000	29	52
3	Rs.10000-Rs.15000	15	27
4	Above Rs.15000	-	-
	Total	56	100
S. No	Awareness	Number of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Newspaper	10	18
2	Television	2	4
3	Friends & Relatives	44	78
	Total	56	100

Source: Primary data

The above Table1 reveals that out of 56 respondents, 68 percent of the respondents belong to females, and 32 percent of the respondents belong to males. Hence, the majority of the respondents belong to females.

Table reveals that 9 percent of the respondents are below 30 years, followed by 18 percent of the respondents are 30-35 years and 36 percent of the respondents are 35-40 years and 37 percent of the respondents are in the age group above 40 years. Thus the majority of the respondents are in the age group of above 40 years.

Table Concluded that 73, Percent of Respondents had married 7 Percent of Respondents were

unmarried and 20 percent of respondents had a widow. Hence, the majority of the respondents belong to married marital status.

Above Table found that of 56 respondents, 28 percent of the respondents had Illiterate and 34 percent of the respondents had 2nd -5th standard and 38 percent of the respondents had 6th-10th. Hence, it can be said that the majority of the respondents belong to 6th-10th education qualification.

The above table explained that out of 56 respondents,21 percent of the respondents income level is below Rs. 5000, 52 percent of the



respondents monthly income level is Rs. 5,000 to Rs.10,000, and 27 percent of the respondents income level is Rs. 10,000 to Rs.15,000. Hence, it can be said that the majority of the Respondents income level is Rs.5000 to Rs.10,000.

According to Table, 18 percent of the respondents are aware of Newspapers, 4 percent of the respondents are aware of Television, and 78 percent of the respondents are aware of Friends and Relatives. As a result, the vast majority of respondents are friends and Relatives.

PROBLEM FACED BY STREET CLEANERS

The Researcher has identified seven problem of Street cleaner. They are Family Problem, Health Problem, and Disrespect in the society, Overtime Work, Economic Issues, Co-Workers, and Problem in Government providing quality material for cleaning.

The researcher has used to find out the weighted-average for measuring the Problems level of Street Cleaners. The Table 2 shows the actual score of Problem Level of Street Cleaners.

Table 2
Actual Score Problem level of Street Cleaners

S.No	Particular	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Family Problem	2	5	9	21	19	56
2	Health Issue	1	2	6	30	17	56
3	Disrespect in the society	1	0	5	13	37	56
4	Overtime Work	1	4	16	26	9	56
5	Economic Issue	2	8	9	27	10	56
6	Co-Workers	8	12	4	25	7	56
7	Problem in quality material for cleaning	9	13	12	12	20	56

Source: Primary Data

The Table 2 discusses the actual score problem faced by the street cleaners.

The researcher has given the actual score in the descending order from 1-5 (1- Strongly Disagree, 2- Disagree, 3- Neutral, 4- Agree, 5- Strongly Agree).

WEIGHT SCORE AND MEAN SCORE OF PROBLEM LEVEL OF STREET CLEANERS

Mean Score=Total Weight Score/ Total Respondents

The Table 3 shows the mean score and rank of the Problem level of Street Cleaners.

Table 3
Weight Score and Mean Score

S. No	Particulars	Weight					Total	Mean	Rank
		5	4	3	2	1			
		Weight Score							
1	Family Problem	2	10	27	84	95	218	3.89	IV
2	Health Issue	1	4	18	120	85	227	4.05	II
3	Disrespect in the society	1	0	15	52	185	253	4.52	I
4	Overtime Work	1	8	48	104	45	206	3.67	V
6	Economic Issue	2	16	27	108	50	203	3.63	VI
7	Co-Workers	8	24	12	100	35	179	3.20	VII



8	Problem in quality material for cleaning	9	26	36	48	100	219	3.91	III
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Source: Primary Data (Computed Table)

The Table 3 points out that the Problem level of Street Cleaners 1st Problem level is “Disrespect in the society”, 2nd Problem level is “Health Issue”, 3rd Problem level is “Family Problem” and 4th Problem level is “Problem in quality material for cleaning”, 5th Problem level is “Overtime Work”, 6th problem level is “Economic Issue”, 7th Problem level is “Co-Workers”.

V. Conclusion

The challenges faced by street cleaners in India highlight deep-rooted issues of social inequality, inadequate infrastructure, and poor labor conditions. These workers, who play an essential role in maintaining public health and hygiene, often endure unsafe working environments, low wages, and discrimination. To address these issues, it is crucial to implement systemic reforms that improve their wages, provide better protective equipment, ensure job security, and promote social recognition. Additionally, investing in modern waste management infrastructure and enhancing the social welfare system will help alleviate many of the hardships they face. By supporting street cleaners and addressing these barriers, society can create a more equitable and sustainable urban environment for all.

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