



## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF AUTO RICKSHAW DRIVERS IN KOLHAPUR CITY**

**ASHWINI R. BATE**

Research Student  
Department of Social Work,  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur  
(MS) INDIA

### **ABSTRACT**

*In India auto rickshaw's play's an important role in public transport health conditions has been always concern linked with this occupation. Auto rickshaw drivers are always exposed to polluted environment like pollutant gases, noisy surrounding and vibration of whole body as well as challenging lifestyle like irregularity of meals ,bad posture of driving and stressful occupational conditions is a part and parcel of this occupation. This study was undertaken to understand the socio-economic conditions of auto rickshaw drivers.*

**Keywords-** *Socio-economic conditions of auto rickshaw drivers, occupational challenges.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Auto rickshaw occupation is very much welcomed by the city dwellers wherein thousands of families are surviving on this occupation. But at the same the different challenges associated with this occupation needs to bring the attention at large.

Generally the auto rickshaw drivers faces different types of health problems like backpain, piles, eye sight, respiratory health diseases etc. In connection with this the types of addictions of the auto rickshaw drivers are also a concern part of present study. Very few studies so far have been conducted on this issues that to from present study area therefore the study was undertaken titled as. 'Socio-economic conditions of auto rickshaw drivers in Kolhapur City'.

### **Objectives-**

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1. To study the socio-economic conditions of auto rickshaw drivers.
2. To assess the working conditions of auto rickshaw drivers.
3. To know the health status and addictions of selected auto rickshaw drivers.
4. To give the suggestions.

## Methods-

The present study was collected in Kolhapur city. The ten major location of auto rickshaw stands were selected from different parts of the city. Starting from Kolhapur Central Bus Stand, Kolhapur Railway Station, Mahalaxmi Temple, Bindu Chowk, Dasara Chowk, Gangavesh , Bhavani Mandap, New Palace, Rankala Mahadwar Road. From this selected auto rickshaw locations ten auto rickshaw drivers from each location were selected and interviewed. This study was done in a span of one month. The collected data was analyzed with tables and inferences.

## Results-

Out of 100 auto rickshaw drivers the average age ranging between 41 to 50 years that constitutes 54% of the respondents. The starting age of auto rickshaw drivers were 21 years and it continues even after the age of 60 years too. 66% of the auto rickshaw drivers are staying in nuclear family which is very obvious in city life and majority of them stays in simple house i.e. 70%. The average income per day ranging between Rs.200 to Rs.400 per day depends upon the type of season. Further it classifies that 56% of the respondents averagely monthly income is upto Rs.10,000/- per month by having the same amount monthly expenditure. Almost all the respondents follow the various types of addictions starting from Ghutka 22%, Cigarette 12% and Tobacco 46%.

Apart from this the health related conditions reveals that 38% backpain, 22% piles, heart diseases 14%, respiratory problem 8%, eyesight 10% and 5% each from heart disease and stress.

The average age of the respondents was 21 years onwards and majority 54% respondents were from the age group of 41 to 50 years. The 52% of the respondents were educated upto secondary standard while 6% were illiterate. 34% respondents belong to open cast while 66% remain in rest of 64% respondents were from SC, OBC and other background. 66% of the respondents work almost 8 to 10 hours a day with the daily income between Rs.200 to Rs.400 averagely. Almost all the respondents face different physical and mental unrest starting from backpain 38%, piles 22%, heart diseases 14% and so on.



## Discussion-

The occupational health problems faced by the auto rickshaw drivers has been observed very commonly. So far the study is conducted also reflects that majority of the auto rickshaw drivers faces the health complaints frequently and so the further findings of the present study also shows the association of different types of addictions by the auto rickshaw drivers .Majority 78% of the respondents reported that their economic status is very average while more than 80% respondents stated that they have very low status in the society and so when the researcher asked about the future aspirations of the respondents the young drivers replied to wish to change the present occupation and majority of them wish to have 66% government job.

## CONCLUSIONS

The present study concluded that a comparatively low socio-economic conditions is associated with this occupation irrespective of this majority of the people follows this occupation due to the minimum eligibility criteria to start this occupation. Even by not having much money to invest with them they can follow rented auto rickshaws and continue their livelihood. At the end researcher would like to bring the attention for the concern authority that the concern authorities like Regional Traffic Office, Auto Rickshaw Unions and other welfare organizations should take appropriate action to reduce the challenges facing by the auto rickshaw drivers.

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