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Income Generation From Beedi Rolling And Associate Factors: A Study Of Tufanganj Subdivision Of Koch Bihar District, West Bengal

Sangita Karmakar * & Prof. Ranjan Roy**
***Research Scholar,**Professor of Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal*

Abstract:
Beedi manufacturing is the biggest cottage industry in India which requires an intensive labour force. It is very popular among the people of weaker economic class in our country who don't have adequate education and skill to look for alternate job .Beedi rolling is mainly preferred by women because it can be carried out at home along with domestic chores. Thus, they supplement family income along with managing the household activities. In this paper, the economic status of women beedi workers has been discussed. Income generation from beedi rolling and the associate factors have been analyzed using multiple linear regression model. A sample of 150 women respondents from Tufanganj Subdivision has been selected for the study. The study reveals that the women struggle for survival despite low wages. They work for more than 8 to 10 hours per day and earn hardly 2000-3000 per month which is very low to maintain a decent standard of living. Government should increase the minimum wage rate and should provide all the facilities to beedi workers for the upliftment of their socio economic conditions.

Keywords: *Beedi rolling, income generation, multiple linear regression, associate factors.*

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I. Introduction

Beedi industry is traditional agro forestry based 2nd largest industry which needs an intensive labour force. As per GOI (1995), the beedi industry is the 4th largest employment generating sector in India after agriculture, handloom and construction (Ramakrishnappa, Kumari, & Vishwanatha, 2014). An estimated 4.4 million people are employed in beedi industry and majority of them are home based workers (Nandi, Ashok, Guindon, Chaloupka, & Jha, 2014). The beedi industry seems to be a simple way for people in the lower class to make a living in light of the rising population, unemployment, and poverty.

For the millions of vulnerable people in society, beedi industry offers an additional source of income (Barman & Sarkar). According to the All India Bidi, Cigar and Tobacco Workers Federation, women make up around 90 percent of the workforce in the beedi sector. The majority of the beedi workers in India belong to disadvantaged group in society, with more than three-fourth living below the poverty line (Ansari & Raj, 2015) .They adopt beedi rolling as a source of income due to their lack of resources (Srinivasan & Ilango, 2012). Although beedi rolling keeps people from escaping the cycle of poverty, yet low wages and high levels of exploitation by agents and factory owners are severe issues (Bhatty, 1980). One of the main outcomes of their work is the socioeconomic stress. Majority of the workforce in beedi industry (70 percent) is employed by a contractor. According to 2017 yearly Report of the beedi industry, the average annual wage of a registered beedi worker is only 17 percent of the annual wages of workers in other industrial sectors (Arora, et al., 2020). As a result, a sizable portion of beedi workers lacks any employment benefits or social security. Beedi rolling is mainly done by women because of two main reasons: first, women can roll beedi at home while taking care of their children and performing all domestic duties, and second, women's nimble fingers are most suited for rolling beedi (Mathew, 2015)

II. What is Beedi?

Beedi is a cheap form of tobacco consumption and extremely popular among the adult Indians. It is commonly known as the poor man's smoke and sometimes poor man's cigarette (Singh, 2017). It is made by rolling about 0.2 gram tobacco flacks (Mathew, 2015). The main row materials which are required for making beedi are as follow.

1. Tendu leave
2. Jardi

3. Cotton thread

The process of beedi making involves several stages. The first phase, which involves cutting the beedi leaves into a specific form and size, requires specific skills because the worker's ability determines how many pieces, can be extracted from the leaf. After that, the tobacco is rolled in the leaf and tied with thread. The final stage is the folding of the beedi head; the complete beedis are then bundled and finally labelled and packed. The Munsi or middle man provides the raw materials to the women workers and after rolling beedi they collect it from them (Mathew, 2015).

III. Objective

The following objectives have been taken into consideration for the study.

1. To study the demographic status of women beedi workers in Tufanganj Subdivision.
2. To study the income generation from beedi rolling and economic status of women beedi workers in the study area.
3. To find out the factors determining the monthly income of women beedi workers in the study area.

IV. Methodology

The following methodology has been used for the study**.**

Data Collection

The study is mainly based on primary data. Total 150 respondents from Tufanganj Subdivision have been selected adopting purposive random sampling. Out of 150 respondents 75 respondents from Tufanganj block I and 75 respondents from Tufanganj block II has been selected. Schedules were used to collect primary data for the study. The survey was done during October 2022 to December 2022.

Tools and Techniques

Graphical representations like bar graphs and column graphs have been constructed to analyse the data. Multiple linear regression has been done in SPSS 23 version to find out the factors determining the monthly income from beedi rolling.

Table 1.List of Variables for Multiple Linear Regression

Dependent Variable	
Y	Monthly income of women beedi workers
Independent Variables	
X1	Age
X2	Nature of employment (Dummy variable, 1= factory based worker,0= home based worker
X3	Wage rate
X4	Hours of beedi rolling
X5	Number of beedi made per day
X6	Year of service
X7	Mode of wage payment

V. Study Area

Tufanganj subdivision is a subdivision of Koch Bihar district, West Bengal. It mainly consists two community development blocks namely Tufanganj I and II consisting of 25 gram panchayats and Tufanganj municipality. The subdivision has it’s headquarter at Tufanganj. Extension of the subdivision is 26°32' N and 89°67'E.

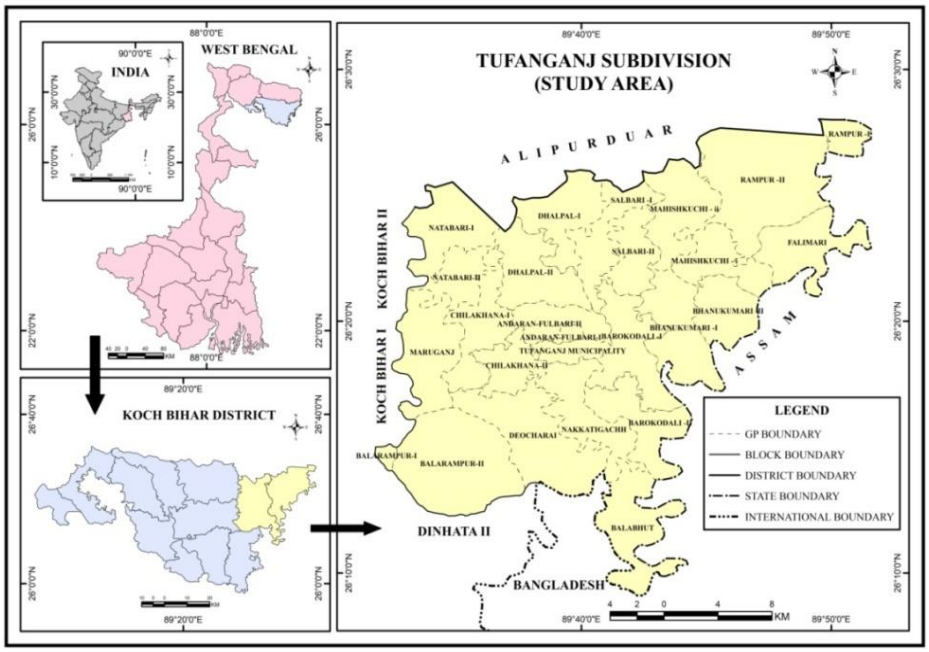

Fig 1: Location map of Study Area

VI. Analysis and Discussion

Age Structure of the Respondents

Age structure of women beedi workers in study area has been shown in Table 1. It is found from the table that the majority (38.33 percent) of the workers are from 21-40 years age group followed by 41-60 years age (26.25 percent), and more than 60 years (19.17 percent). A significant proportion of respondents are from less than 20 years (16.25 percent). It indicates that the younger aged women in the study area are also involved in this activity. Age profile of women beedi workers in both Tufanganj block I and block II shows a similar trend. The block wise data shows that the highest percentage of workers from less than 20 years age (17.50 percent) and more than 60 years age (20.83 percent) both have been found in Tufanganj block II. And the highest percentage of workers from 21-40 years (39.17 percent) and 41-60 years (28.33 percent) age can be been found in Tufanganj block I.

Table2. Age Structure of the Respondents

Age	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<20years	15.00	17.50	16.25
21-40 years	39.17	37.50	38.33
41-60 years	28.33	24.17	26.25
>60 years	17.50	20.83	19.17

Source: Field Survey

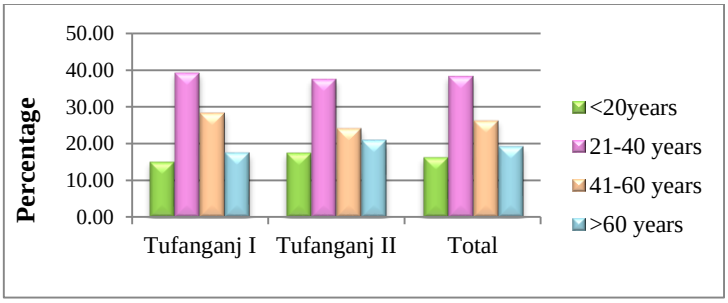

Fig 2: Age Structure of the Respondents

Religious Structure of the Respondents

Religion may be defined as a particular system of faith and worship. Religious structure of the respondents shows that majority of the respondents in the study area are Hindu (64.17 percent) followed by Muslim (26.67 percent). A significant proportion of Christian (5.83 percent) and other religion (3.33 percent)

have also been found in the study area. Block wise distribution shows that majority of the Hindu respondents (68.33 percent) have been found in Tufanganj block II and majority of the Muslim respondents have been found in Tufanganj block I (29.17 percent). Both Tufanganj block I and II show an insignificant proportion of respondents from Christian and Other religion.

Table3. Religious Structure of the Respondents

Religion	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Hindu	60.00	68.33	64.17
Muslim	29.17	24.17	26.67
Christian	6.67	5.00	5.83
Other	4.17	2.50	3.33

Source: Field Survey

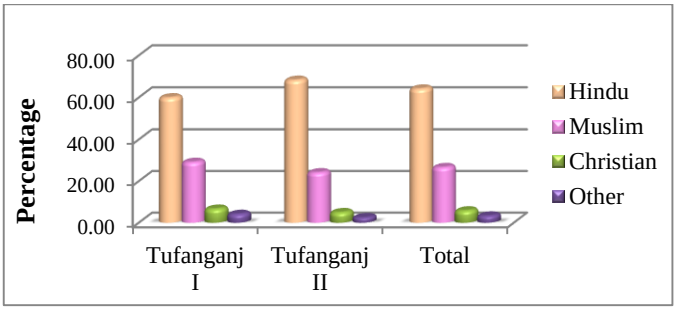

Fig 3: Religious Structure of the Respondents

Caste Composition

A caste is a fixed social group into which an individual is born within a particular system of social stratification. Caste composition of the women beedi workers in the study area has been depicted in Table 4.

Table4. Case Composition of the Respondents

Caste Composition	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
General	18.33	15.83	17.08
OBC	39.17	41.67	40.42
SC	30.83	35.00	32.92
ST	11.67	7.50	9.58

Source: Field Survey

It is clear from the table that majority of the respondents belong to OBC category (40.42 percent) followed by SC category (32.92 percent). It is also found that 17.08 percent respondents belong to General category and 9.58 percent respondents belong to ST category. Block wise analysis shows that in Tufanganj block I 39.17 percent respondents belong to OBC category followed by SC (30.83 percent), General (18.33 percent) and ST category (11.67 percent) and in Tufanganj block II 41.67 percent respondents belong to OBC category followed by SC (35 percent), General (15.83 Percent) and ST category (7.5 percent).

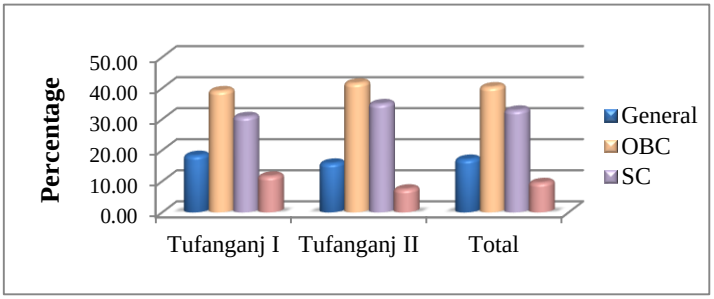

Fig 4: Case Composition of the Respondents

Marital Status

Table 5 shows the marital status of women beedi workers in the study area.

Table5. Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Unmarried	12.50	15.83	14.17
Married	56.67	45.83	51.25
Widow	22.50	26.67	24.58
Separated	8.33	11.67	10.00

Source: Field Survey

It is depicted from the table that the majority of the respondents are married (51.25 percent) in the study area followed by widow (24.58 percent). Besides this, 14.17 percent respondents are unmarried and 10 percent are separated. Block wise data shows that the highest percentage of married respondents can be found in Tufanganj block I (56.67 percent). On the contrary, Tufanganj block II has been recorded with the highest percentage of unmarried (15.83 percent), widow (26.67 percent) and separated (11.67 percent) women beedi workers.

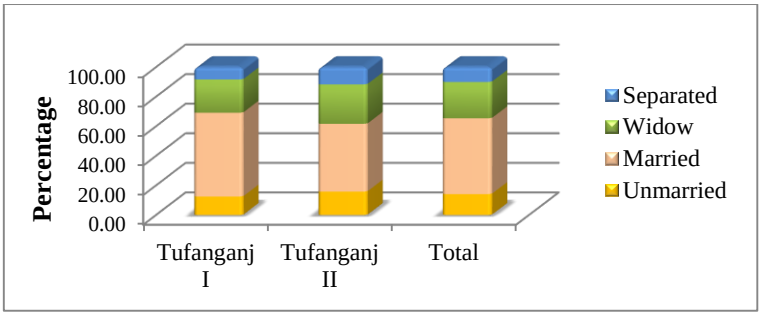

Fig 5: Marital Status of the Respondents

Educational Level of the Respondents

Level of education of women beedi workers in the study area has been shown in Table 6. It is clear from the table that the literacy rate among the respondents is very much less. 10.83 percent respondents have literally no education. They are even unable to write their names. Educational profile of the respondents shows that 41.67 percent respondents have primary level of education, 27.92 percent respondents have secondary level of education, 12.50 percent respondents have higher secondary level of education and only 7.08 percent have above higher secondary level of education. Block wise distribution shows that the highest percentage of illiterate respondents has been found in Tufanganj block I (11.67 percent). It is noted that Tufanganj block I also recorded the highest percentage of respondents having primary level of education (45.83 percent) and above higher secondary level of education (7.50 percent). Similarly, Tufanganj block II recorded the highest percentage of respondents having secondary (30.83 percent) and higher secondary level of education (15 percent).

Table6. Educational Level of the Respondents

Education Level	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Illiterate	11.67	10.00	10.83
Primary	45.83	37.50	41.67
Secondary	25.00	30.83	27.92
Higher Secondary	10.00	15.00	12.50
Above Higher Secondary	7.50	6.67	7.08

Source: Field Survey

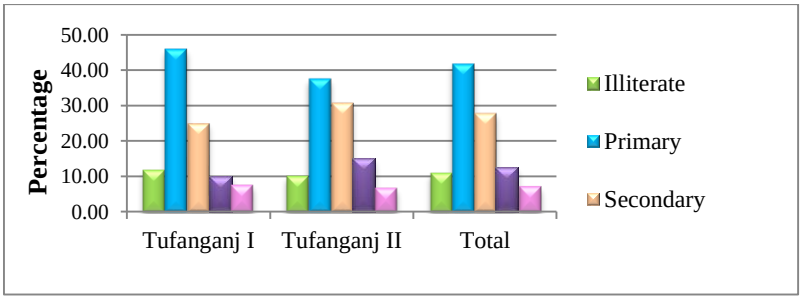

Fig 6: Educational Level of the Respondents

Monthly Income of the Respondents

Monthly income of women beedi workers in the study area has been shown in the following table. The data clearly reveals that the monthly income from beedi rolling is very much less. Majority of the respondents(39.58 percent) monthly income is 2001-4000/- per month followed by 25.83 percent respondents who earn 4001-6000/- per month and only 21.25 percent respondents reported to earn more than 6000/- per month. A significant proportion of the respondents (14.58 percent) have reported to earn less than 2000/- per month which clearly indicates that the income generation from beedi rolling is not as per standard to maintain a decent way living. Still a major proportion of vulnerable women lacking education and skill rely on beedi rolling. Block wise data shows that in Tufanganj block I, 15 percent respondents earn less than 2000/-, 37.50 percent respondents earn 2001-0400/-, 23.33 percent respondents earn 4001-6000/- and only 23.33 percent respondents earn more than 6000/- per month. The secnerio is more or less same for block II where 14.17 percent respondents earn less than 2000/-, 41.67 percent respondents earn 2001-34000/-, 28.33 percent earn 4001-6000/- and only 19.17 percent respondents reported to earn more than 6000/- per month.

Table7. Monthly Income of the Respondents

Monthly Income	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<2000	15.00	14.17	14.58
2001-4000	37.50	41.67	39.58
4001-6000	23.33	28.33	25.83
>6000	23.33	19.17	21.25

Source: Field Survey

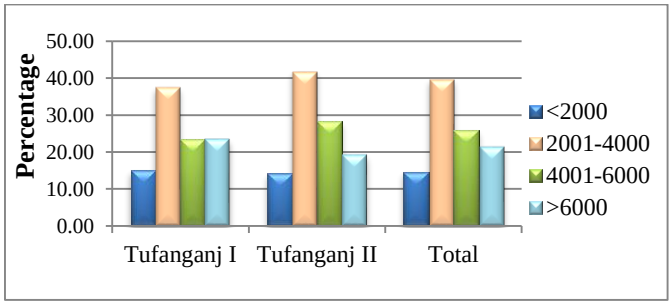

Fig 7: Monthly Income of the Respondents

Wage Rate

Nationally accepted wage rate for rolling 1000 beedi is Rs-169/- but the West Bengal Beedi Merchant and Trade Union restricted it to only 130/-. But in reality workers get less than 130/- in some areas of Tufanganj Subdivision. It is seen from the table that in study area, 37.5 percentages of workers are getting 130- 140/- wages for rolling 1000 beedis and only 17.50 percent workers are getting more than 140/- wages for rolling 1000 beedis. It is noted that the highest percentage of workers getting wage more than 140/- can be found in Tufanganj block I (18.33 percent) followed by Tufanganj block II (17.50 percent).

Table8. Wage Rate Received by the Respondents

Wage Rate	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
110-120	15.00	15.83	15.42
120-130	30.00	29.17	29.58
130-140	36.67	38.33	37.50
>140	18.33	16.67	17.50

Source: Field Survey

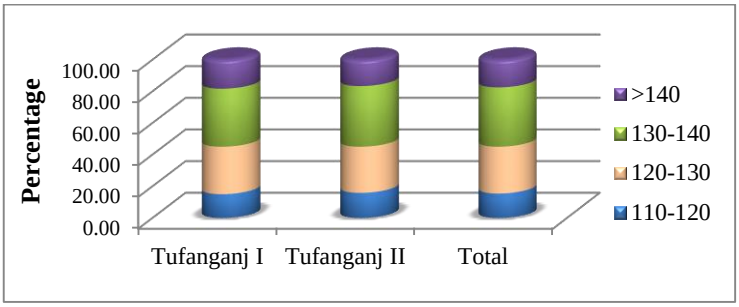

Fig 8: Wage Rate Received by the Respondents

Nature of Employment

In beedi industry generally factory owners appoint contractors who act as middlemen to communicate between the workers and the factory owners. They supply the raw materials to the workers and collect the finished products from them. Thus the contractors also control the distribution of wages to the workers. As a result they keep commissions from the wages and pay them less. But in case of direct system, workers are directly appointed by factory owners and get wages as per factory allotted rates. Thus, the workers working under contract system get lower wages compared to the workers working under direct system. The workers not having ID cards can also be involved in the contract system but workers are only allowed to work in factory when they have valid ID cards. Table 9 shows the nature of employment of workers in beedi industry in the study area. It is depicted from the table that 71.63 percent workers are working under contract system and only 28.33 percent are working under direct system. Block wise data shows that the highest percentage of workers working under contract system can be found in Tufanganj block I (75 percent) followed by Tufanganj block II (68.33 percent) and the highest percentage of workers working under direct system can be found in Tufanganj block II (31.67 percent) followed by Tufanganj block I (25 percent).

Table9. Nature of Employment

Nature of Employment	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Contract System	75.00	68.33	71.67
Direct System	25.00	31.67	28.33

Source: Field Survey

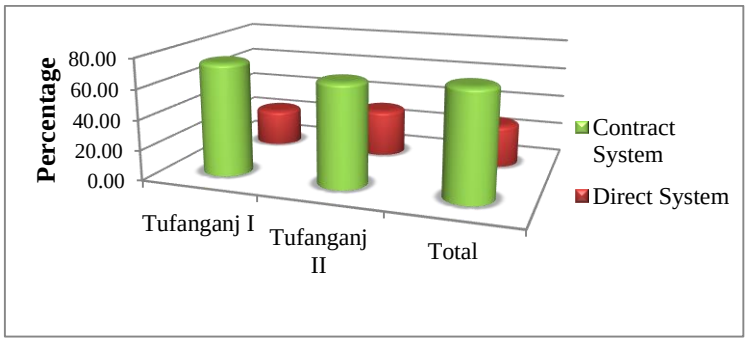

Fig 9: Nature of Employment

Number of Beedi Made per Day

Workers are paid through piece rate system in the study area. In this system, workers get wages as per the number of beedi made by them. For this reason, workers try their level best to roll maximum number of beedis in a single day. It is found from the table that 39.58 percent workers roll more or less 1000 beedi in a day whereas 34.58 percent workers roll 1001-1200 beedis in a single day. Study found 25.83 percent workers who roll more than 1200 beedis in a single day. The highest percentage of workers rolling more than 1200 beedis in a day have been found in Tufanganj II (26.67 percent) and the highest percentage of workers rolling 1001-1200 beedi in a day can be found in Tufanganj block I (35 percent) followed by Tufanganj II(34.17 percent).

Table10. Number of Beedi Made per Day

No. of Beedi made per Day	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<1000	40.00	39.17	39.58
1001-1200	35.00	34.17	34.58
>1200	25.00	26.67	25.83

Source: Field Survey

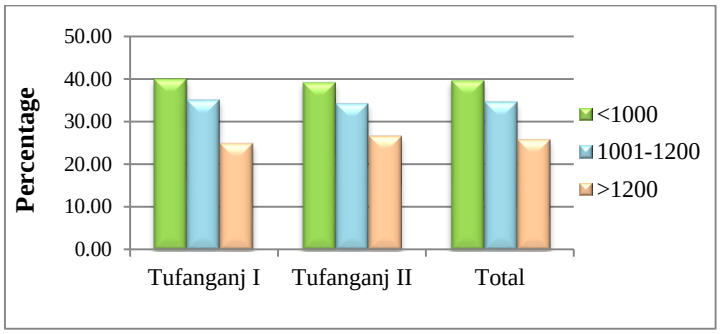

Fig 10: Number of Beedi Made per Day

Mode of Wage Payment

Mode of wage payment to the workers has been shown in the following table. It is seen from the table that 48.33 percent workers are paid when they supply their product followed by 34.17 percent workers who are paid on monthly basis, and 17.50 percent workers who are paid on weekly basis. Block wise data shows that the workers who are paid immediately after they supply their product is found highest in Tufanganj block II (50 percent) followed by Tufanganj block I (46.67 percent). Workers who are paid on monthly basis can be found highest in Tufanganj block I (36.67 percent) and the workers who are paid on weekly basis can be found highest in Tufanganj block II (18.33 percent).

Table11. Mode of Wage Payment

Mode of Wage Payment	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Weekly	16.67	18.33	17.50
Monthly	36.67	31.67	34.17
When supply product	46.67	50.00	48.33

Source: Field Survey

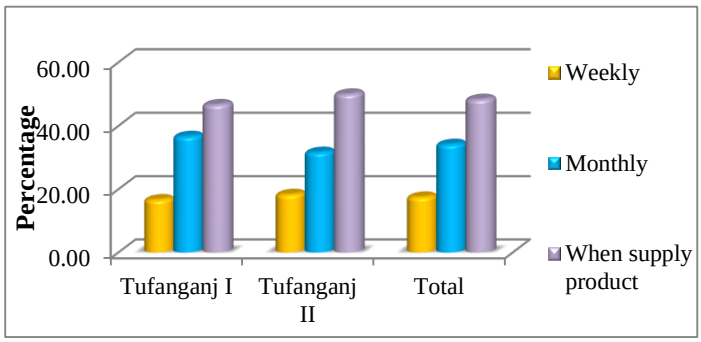

Fig 11: Mode of Wage Payment

Hours of Work

Table 12 shows the duration of work of women beedi workers in the study area. It is evident from the table that 37.08 percent workers work for 8-10 hours per day followed by 26.25 percent workers who work for more than 10 hours in a day. Study found that 25 percent workers have reported to work for 6-8 hours and only 11.67 percent workers have reported to work for less than 6 hours in a day. Blok wise data shows that the highest percentage of workers working for more than 10 hours in a day has been found in Tufanganj block II (29.17 percent). Meanwhile, workers working for 8-10 hours and 6-8 hours and less than 6 hours in a day both have been found highest in Tufanganj block I (37.50 percent, 26.67 percent and 12.50 percent respectively).

Table12. Hours of Work

Hours of Work	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<6 hours	12.50	10.83	11.67
6-8 hours	26.67	23.33	25.00
8-10 hours	37.50	36.67	37.08
>10 hours	23.33	29.17	26.25

Source: Field Survey

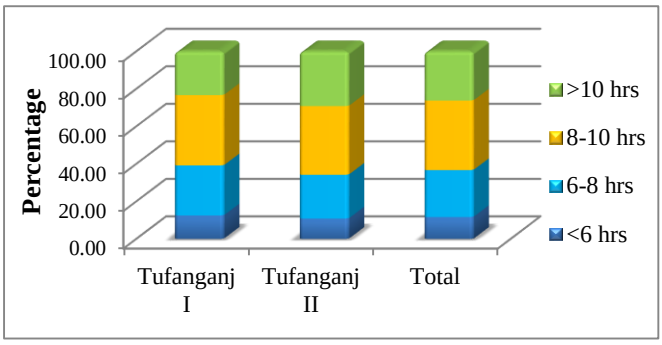

Fig 12: Hours of Work

Work Experience

Since beedi rolling is a traditional occupation, workers are engaged for long years in this activity in the study area. It has been found that 35.83 percent workers are engaged for 10-15 years in beedi rolling activity followed by 31.25 percent workers who are engaged for 15-20 years, 19.58 percent workers who are engaged for less than 10 years in beedi rolling. Study has significantly reported 14.17 percent workers who are involved in this occupation for more than 20 years. It is also seen from the table that the highest percentage of workers who are engaged in beedi rolling for more than 20 years and less than 10 years both have been found in Tufanganj block I (15 percent and 20.83 percent respectively). And the workers who are engaged in beedi rolling for 10-15 years and 15-20 years both have been found highest in Tufanganj block II (36.67 percent and 31.67 percent respectively).

Table12. Work Experience of the Respondents

Work Experience	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<10 years	20.83	18.33	19.58
10-15 years	35.00	36.67	35.83
15-20 years	30.83	31.67	31.25
>20 years	15.00	13.33	14.17

Source: Field Survey

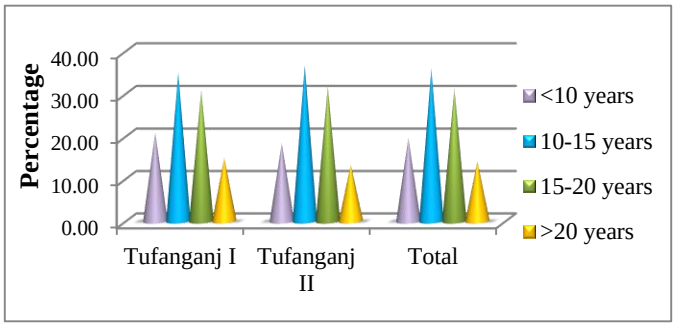

Fig 12: Work Experience of Respondents

Savings

Since the income from beedi rolling is very much less, the workers are unable to save money. It is depicted in the following table that 78.33 percent respondents do not have any savings while only 21.67 percent respondents have savings. Block wise data shows that the highest percentage of respondents having no savings is found in Tufanganj block I (79.17 percent).

Table13. Savings of the Respondents

Savings	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Yes	20.83	22.50	21.67
No	79.17	77.50	78.33

Source: Field Survey

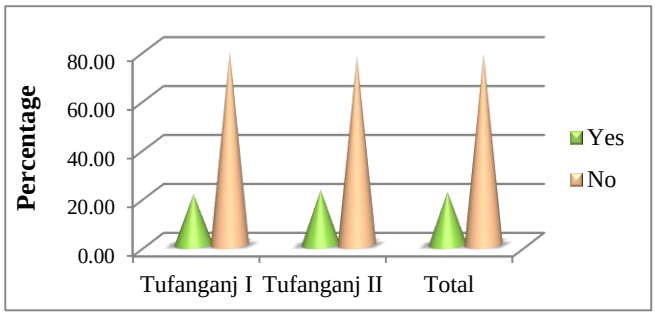

Fig 13: Savings of the Respondents

Borrowed Taken

It is evident from the study that women beedi workers are more accustomed to borrow money since their income from beedi rolling cannot meet their needs. 71.67 percent respondents have opined that they have borrowed money either from banks or from factory owners with a high interest rate for maintenance of their households. Study found only 28.33 percent respondents who didn't borrow money. Block wise it is seen that the workers who have borrowed money have been found highest in Tufanganj block I.

Table 13. Borrowed Taken by the Respondents

borrow	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
Yes	72.50	70.83	71.67
No	27.50	29.17	28.33

Source: Field Survey

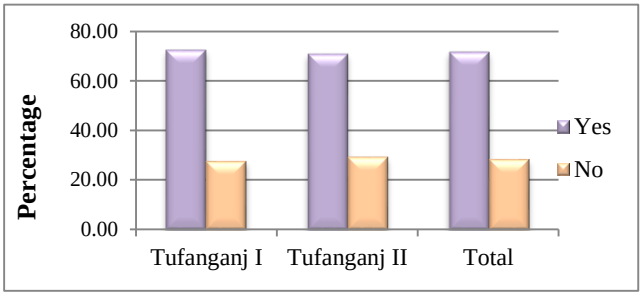

Fig13. Borrowed Taken by the Respondents

Borrowed Amount

Table 14 portrays the details of borrowed amount taken by the respondents in the study area. It is evident from the table that 37.92 percent respondents have borrowed 10001-15000/-, 23.75 percent respondents have borrowed 5001-10000, and 21.67 percent respondents have borrowed more than 15000/-. Study found 16.67 percent respondents who have taken less than 5000/-. Block wise data shows that the highest percentage of workers who have taken more than 15000/- as borrow has been found in Tufanganj block I (23.33 percent).

Table14. Borrowed Amount taken by the Respondents

Borrowed Amount	Tufanganj I	Tufanganj II	Total
<5000	18.33	15.00	16.67
5001-10000	20.83	26.67	23.75
10001-15000	37.50	38.33	37.92
>15000	23.33	20.00	21.67

Source: Field Survey

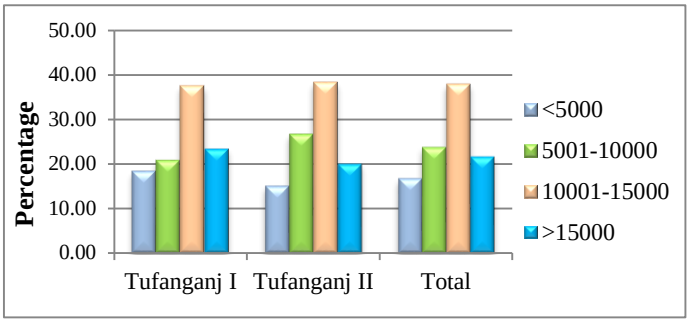

Fig 14: Borrowed Amount taken by the Respondents

Purpose of Borrowing

The following table shows the purpose of borrowing of women beedi workers in the study area. It is observed that 40.83 percent respondents have borrowed for household expense, 27.08 percent respondents have borrowed for medical purpose, 16.25 percent respondents have borrowed for the expense of children education, 10 percent respondents have borrowed for occasional purpose and 5.83 percent have stated some other reasons to borrow money. The highest percentage of workers who have borrowed for household expense and medical purpose both have been found in Tufanganj block II (42.50 percent and 28.33 percent) while Tufanganj block I has recorded the highest percentage of workers who have borrowed money for their children education, occasional purpose or some other purpose which they have not mentioned.

Table15. Purpose of Borrowing

Purpose of Borrowing	**Tufanganj I**	**Tufanganj II**	**Total**
Household Expense	39.17	42.50	40.83
Medical Expense	25.83	28.33	27.08
Children Education	17.50	15.00	16.25
Occasional Purpose	10.83	9.17	10.00
Other	6.67	5.00	5.83

Source: Field Survey

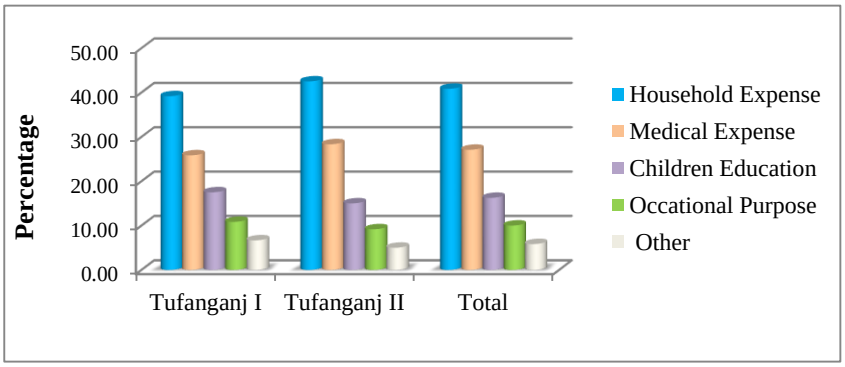

Fig 15: Purpose of Borrowing

VI. Factors Affecting the Monthly Income of Women Beedi Workers

A multiple linear regression has been employed to find out the factors determining the monthly income of women beedi workers in the study area.

Table 16. Model Summary of Multiple Linear Regression

Model Summary[b]					
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.732[a]	.710	.592	956.38582	2.521
b. Dependent Variable: Monthly income					

Here, the R^2 value is .710 indicating that the predictor variables can explain 71% of the variation in the outcome variable. The residuals also appear to be negatively correlated (Durbin Watson= 2.521).

Table 17. ANOVA Table

ANOVA[a]						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	336182884.081	7	48026126.297	52.506	.000[b]
	Residual	504899955.204	552	914673.832		
	Total	841082839.286	559			
a. Dependent Variable: Monthly income						

ANOVA table shows that the model is significantly effective in predicting the factors determining the monthly income of women beedi workers (sig=.000).

Here co-linearity between the independent variables has been examined.

Table18. Multiple Linear Regression

Coefficients[a]								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	11.368	11.926		2.410	.023		
	X1	1.368	1.369	.331	5.360	.102	.800	1.250
	X2	2.368	1.257	.247	5.254	.021	.906	1.104
	X3	.602	.657	.157	8.257	.000	.852	1.173
	X4	.258	.145	.199	3.657	.000	.542	1.847
	X5	.751	.365	.370	2.741	.000	.847	1.181
	X6	.354	.652	.114	1.157	.081	.538	1.859
	X7	1.587	3.257	.087	2.571	.150	.880	1.136
a. Dependent Variable: Monthly income				Calculated by the Researcher				

The regression coefficient of the nature of employment (X2) is found to be statistically significant, at 5% significance level, showing that a woman beedi worker who works in a factory earns .247 times more than a beedi worker who works at home. This is mostly because of the middleman who controls the wage rate. It is found that the middlemen's commissions lead to earn less money to the home based beedi workers. Contrarily, factory employees deal directly with the factory owners and receive pay at the rate set by the factory.

The coefficient value of wage rate per 1000 beedi (X3) is significant with a p value of .000($p<0.05$) at 5% significant level. It suggests that the monthly income can be increased by a factor of .157 units for every 1 rupee increase in wage rate.

The coefficient of beedi rolling hours (X4) has also a significant effect on workers' monthly income ($p<0.05$), showing that an additional hour of beedi rolling can enhance monthly income by a factor of.199 units.

It is found that with a p value of 0.000, the number of beedi made per day (X5) also has a substantial impact, increasing monthly income by.370 units for each additional beedi rolled per day.

Study found no statistically significant relationship between age (X1), year of service (X6), and the mode of wage payment (X7) with the income generation from beedi rolling.

The above analysis reveals that the monthly income of women beedi workers is determined by several factors such as nature of employment, wage rate, hours of beedi rolling and number of beedi made per day. Depreciation in the middle man's commission can also enhance the monthly income of women beedi workers in the study area.

VIII. Conclusion

The occupation of beedi rolling is boon to the women in Tufanganj Subdivision who are socio economically backward. Though they are treating this job as a part time job but they spare most of their valuable time, effort and health on it. Considering the amount of time and also the nature of work, the wages paid to them are very low and therefore it is claimed that beedi making is exploiting women more while empowering them less. To protect these vulnerable beedi rollers from exploitation , skill building programmes for transitioning to viable alternative livelihoods and amendments to various welfare schemes /laws are very much necessary.The minimum wages and social benefits to the women beedi rollers should be strictly implemented by the Govt to ensure workers social security. Registration of all beedi workers and issue of ID Cards to all of them should be mandatory .Govt should also provide health and other social benefits like health insurance, widow pension, provident fund scheme to the workers. However, the Governments (both the central and state governments) have made laws and various welfare schemes for the welfare of beedi workers but the most surprising and unfortunate

thing is that beedi workers themselves are not aware of their legal rights and provisions.

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