

Health Problems and Socio-Economic Determinants of Female Home-based Bangle Worker in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT: Bangles have been a significant attraction for women in many parts of the world, especially in sub-continent Women, especially married, who feel incomplete without bangle because they are considered a symbol of joy and happiness. The study aimed to find out the respondents' problems and investigate the impact of wages on socio-economic determinants, including health. The researcher used techniques such as frequencies, basic descriptive statistics, standard deviation, and mean for the analysis. The regression researcher used ordinary least square (OLS) methods to determine the significance between health and other variables. This study was carried out in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan. Data were analyzed through Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) and STATA to investigate the correlation between variables and regression. Bangle worker faces several problems in small home-based work or bangle industry. There is no transportation facility, provision of health services, Medicare facility, and precaution measures for the women labor within the factory. Their wages are deducted when they have to do off during illness. They are also exposed to security threats as well as at different stages of bangle work. They suffer from eyesight vision and other diseases. This also happens to ensure the financial stability of household workers and their families working at homes It can be socially and economically workers are suffering from many problems due to the low salary and extra working hours they could not do any other works.

KEYWORDS: Homebased, Health, Socio-economic, Wage, Pakistan

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Introduction

Bangle manufacturing serves as a key source of livelihood for nearly one million individuals, with approximately 70% being home-based women workers and the remaining 30% employed in the organized sector. Bangles are an integral part of our customs and traditions, and primarily women bangle wear in the hands in special events and some women mentioned in many folk songs during the dance program. In Pakistan, women and girls give much importance to the bangle, but especially wear them on every occasion, like weddings or festivals (ILO, 2004)

The versatility of the bangles designed in the present days is liked and put on by females as traditional jewellery: today's young girls and most married females. Nowadays, bangles are mainly used on eid, festivals, marriages, and other cheerful occasions. The change in colours, lovely designs, and patterns, and ornaments appeal to feminine nature. The musical jingle and the traditional values of bangles have made this product survive even in the modern age. Pakistani women still consider bangles a fashion accessory that enhances the beauty look. However, Hyderabad, Pakistan, is currently the hub for small-scale and cottage industries for bangles. Hyderabad, situated in Sindh Province.

It is assumed that the large-scale production of bangle had its predecessor as a cottage farm, has grown in size and over recent decades. Different types of bangle rings are popular fashion accessories in Pakistan and South Asia (Hassan, 2014). As such, the market of this industry is mainly the domestic market, and the demand for products is concentrated in the periods of the year characterized by celebrations (Agarwal P 2014).

There is relatively few research on working conditions in this area. Most of the existing literature focuses on two problems, female worker and child labor their potential impact on health. Due to the traditional relationship in the industry, it is expected that there will be labor standards of low security, social background, conventional forms of forced labor arrangements, most of whom work at home, including all family members and their children. As in the case of learning and construction, it has focused on three issues. Identify the workforce field adjustments, second socio-economic problem and third one health problem.

Purpose of the Study

Bangle worker faces several severe problems in Pakistan, such as inadequate education, health, safety, social security, saving, and limited access to productive resources. We need to know what home-based worker means to refer to the general category employees of an informal or organized sector. These workers usually relate to a poor family, their background low-income people of different age groups and have little or no education. They also have virtually no social protection. The labor Union is ineffective and are not working for the most significant interest of labor in the bangle industry. The labor union is not providing labor benefits. Hyderabad women's home-based workers represent a marginalized category, especially for informal workers in the country. They fall into the lowest income group, almost non-skilled, and live under risky conditions, leading to different health problems.

Objective of the Study

- ▶ To determine the relationship between health and socio-economic determinants
- ▶ To determine the relationship between health and wage
- ▶ To find the health issues of female home-based workers

Review of Literature

The history of bangle in Sindh has a long history. Bangle industry workers belonged to India in 1947. Most bangle worker emigrants settled in Hyderabad Sindh, and some bangle workers started at a trim scale level. Meanwhile, later all the communities that remain involved in the bangle industry earn their livelihood, and thus many people adopted bangle-making as their profession. Homebased Pakistan is a network of organizations working to promote and protect women's rights. It is a non-governmental, non-profit

organization registered in the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in 2005 (Ayesha, 2007). Domestic female workers are scattered, unorganized, and work independently. Very often, they have nothing to do with each other. They do not have a platform to join and think about their problems and benefits. Similarly, organizations work for their well-being (Geissdoerfer, 2017).

Moreover, non-formal female workers are deprived of the efforts of the trade unions for workers' rights. Hercules's goal is to organize associations and to improve home-based work. Around 538 HBW have been registered throughout the country, including 59,2118 female workers. After this process began to be understood by 2005, statistics on HBWs will provide a good foundation for policies and laws for their welfare, especially for female workers who are significant contributors (Ghouse, 2012). In addition to these HBWs and organizations, we will be able to learn and share experiences. It will also enable them to raise their voices for their excellence. Home Net Pakistan (HNP) wants homeowners to recognize employees, producers, and investors as national economies. The HNP says HBW should be recognized in labor legislation, which considers them legitimate for legal and social protection (Labor Education Foundation, 2010).

In addition, fixed values, norms, and social habits limit young girls and women (Kamran, 2016). During the main study, most women and girls have appeared in this informal industry due to the most challenging economic conditions in their families, lack of other job opportunities, and high poverty levels in the Hyderabad district. They did not allow to leave their homes. They were proud that their family members supported them. Their world is locked in a one-room house, and there is no other awareness of the capacity (Hashmi, 2012). A girl born in a girl gets her first breath with her bangle, and she plays with the circles of the house. They inherit the work her mother does. From that moment on, she has given birth to her childhood for the first time since her fresh and golden days with her life, and the old days worked in her last breath, preparing beautiful circles for other women (Prügl 1996) (Chandra, 2009). It is estimated that the more than 100 million home-based domestic women laborers in the world, and South Asia, more than half of this number, of which about 75% are women. Pakistan is one most significant number of females involved in paid worker or unpaid home-based worker and this sector has expanded rapidly (Ratna, 2011). This expansion can be related to the industries for efficient production tools through low wages cost women labor. These labor women contribute to the national economy and export earnings (Sharma, 2017) (Mahato, 2018). Still, unfortunately, they are left to the government, and no action is taken by the authorities to protect or regulate them. They are refused to provide any form of legal protection, including social security and minimum wage benefits (Donna, 2007).

According to a World Bank, more than 11 million females in Pakistan are involved in home-based sectors such as clothes, bangle, shoes, embroidery, and carpet fabrics in other areas (World Bank, 2021). Despite their contribution to the economy, these workers still lack social and legal protection and are some of the most indescribable members of society (Synek, 2011). Badly home-based workers do not have access to social benefits, security, and long working hours without operational safety and health standards at their workplace (Meena, 2014).

Research Methodology

The nature of the study was preferred to collect data under the mixed-method approach, including qualitative and quantitative data, and analyze it through STATA and SPSS. Both quantitative and qualitative methods will use for data collection. Quantitative methods are used to verify the hypothesis about the phenomena. For

this purpose, structured methods are used to describe the characteristics of the population, measure variations, and predict causal relationships among the variables. A comprehensive interviewing schedule was developed covering almost all aspects of the problem under study

Furthermore, the researcher used techniques such as frequencies, basic descriptive statistics, standard deviation, and mean for the analysis. The regression researcher used ordinary least square (OLS) methods to determine the significance between health and other variables. This study was carried out in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan, a random sampling of labor who worked in factories and others who worked at home. A sample size of 500 women from the target area. In this research, probability sampling methods are used for data collection. The total sample size of this study was 500. The sample size of 460 samples from different bangle industries female bangle workers and those female bangle workers worked at home-based s and bangle industries. Around 300 collect data through a questionnaire randomly and other 40 selected workers for the questionnaire and the discussions. From this perspective, all knowledge is based on individual values, ideas, and judgments and is local and contextual.

Results and Discussion

Empirical Analysis (Table. 1)

Variable	Wage
Education	0.495*** (0.0479)
Social Security	-1.731*** (0.264)
Saving	0.784** (0.274)
Health Problem	0.1515032*** (.0185)
Family Situation	0.892*** (0.295)
Constant	-1.388** (0.655)
No of Obs.	520
R squared	0.3762
Adj. R squared	0.3702

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

The interrelationship among the wage and socio-economic determinants, including health, has been analyzed by ordinary least square method (OLS) statistical of women bangle workers. The wages imply all socio-economic determinants for the women worker. The estimation results show that education, saving, health problem, and family situation have positively correlated with the wage significantly at .01, .05, and 0.10 levels. Only social security has insignificant relation with wage. The R-Square and the probability of the model are also considerably positive.

Table 2

Correlations

Variable	Wage	Education	Social Security	Saving	Health Problem
Education	.407**				
Social Security	.347**	.240**			
Saving	-.339**	-.198**	-.117**		
Health Problem	.228**	.169*	.240**	-.166**	
Family Situation	.179**	.224**	.125*	-.231**	.197*

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
 * . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 represents most of the positive and statistically significant correlations among the wage and socioeconomic determinants, including health problems. The saving variable only has non-significant correlations with the wage. However, Education, social security, health problem and the family situation generally had a strong relationship with the wage.

Graph 1

Level of Education

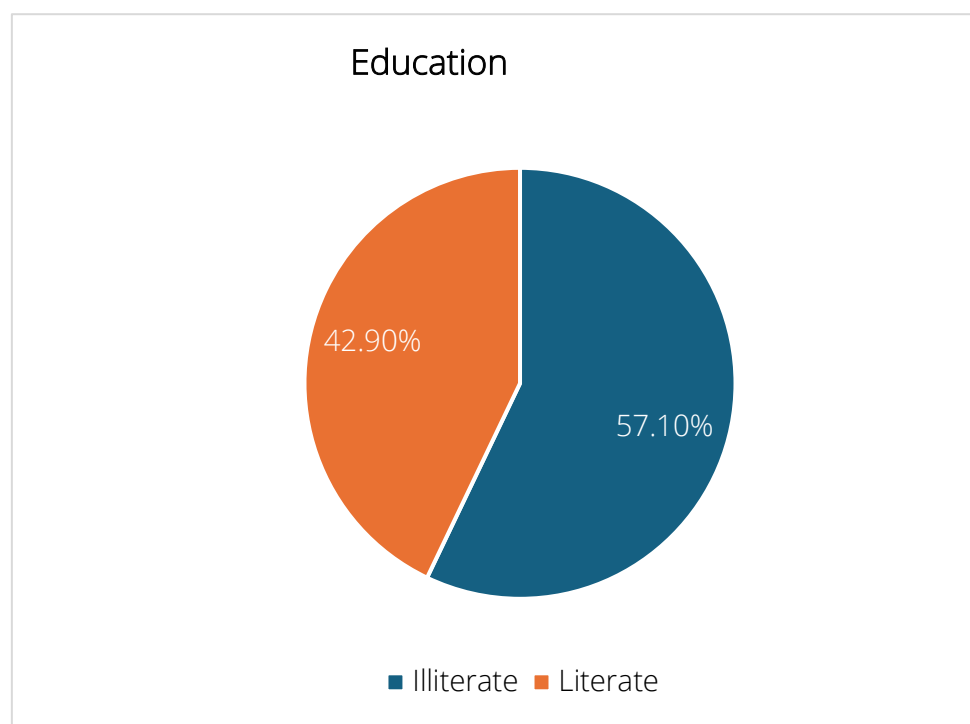
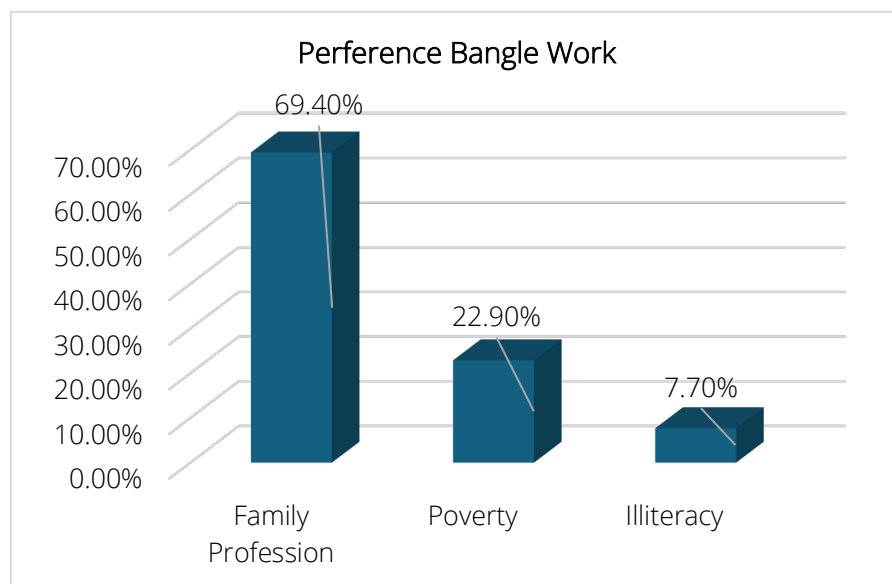


Figure.1. This figure represents the 57% of the home-based women worker are illiterately involved in home-based bangle work. The illiteracy rate is high due to the lack of facilities in their areas, government schools, and poverty. Approximately 20% of women have passed an average educational criterion, including those who only had past three classes. Only 16% percent of women complete their primary education. 7% of them didn't finish, and the other one came out of school.

Figure 2

Reason to Preference Homebased Bangle Work

Mostly female bangle worker family background related to India, in 1947 most bangle worker emigrants settled in Hyderabad Sindh, and some bangle workers started at a trim scale level. Mostly are home profession and don't have good education for adjusting another sector, so thus many people adopted bangle-making as their profession and started manufacturing bangles at trim scale level for surviving life.

The bangle industry worker belongs to the low social condition in their community. They live in a dusty and unhygienic poor environment. A majority of these large employees, about 84%, are unqualified job opportunities and unskilled labor. Only 16% are equipped with some training, and their family members work with them in their homes. Approximately 75% of Hyderabad's workforce is involved in this informal sector for many reasons, including poverty, lack of skills, illiteracy, and closure of other industries' anti-worker legislation. Most workers in the bangle factory are illiterate, with only a few having completed primary or secondary education, and very few having pursued higher education. They earn low daily wages, typically between 500 to 600 PKR, which are insufficient to cover their household expenses. According to the workers, their compensation does not reflect the effort they put into their jobs. Many are compelled to work overtime—either to earn extra income to support their families or to fulfill large orders, particularly during festive seasons such as Eid or Rabi-ul-Awal. Additionally, the workers are not officially registered, lack employee identification cards, and are not entitled to social security, labor rights, or any form of job permanency. Aside from their regular wages, they receive no additional benefits from the factory.

HBWW's health condition has deteriorated due to the lack of requirements, awareness, and staff use. There are widespread chronic illnesses. Workers, especially working women, have no access to any medical facility in their area. Some Bangling processes require a lot of time for working women to sit in an exact position. Usually suffer from knee, joint, and backbone pain. Electric fans or desert coolers can't keep ventilation, which causes more heat and annoyance in the room, which is also your workplace. Workers are exposed to multiple risks, including chemical effects on the face, finger-point points used to make sheet metal, and electric shock. In the stuffy room, inflammation of the chemicals causes asthma, cm, and other lung

diseases. Although the bangle industry is an informal sector, there is no concept of medical institutions for home-based female labor. In all these diseases, they have no alternative. Otherwise, they will work, and the contractor will stop the supply of work with them (Kulshreshtha, 2013). About 92% of home-based workers respond to different types of health issues this sector faces daily. Skin problem, cut hands and feet with small glasses, asthma, TB, lung diseases, weakness, injuries/eye problem, pain in the spine and joints.

There is no transportation facility, provision of health services, Medicare facility, and precaution measures for the women labor within the factory. Workers face wage deductions when they take time off due to illness. Around 75% of them suffer injuries related to their work, and 60% express dissatisfaction with the hygiene conditions in their factories. Workers experience various health issues, including frequent minor injuries caused by broken glass scattered around the factory. They are forced to work in high temperatures, and there is no access to clean drinking water within the facility.

Conclusion

The situation of women in Pakistan is very alarming. They must deal with immense pressures and stand against a seemingly insurmountable obstacle that does not allow us to become effective and influential citizens in our society. This also happens to ensure the financial stability of household workers and their families working in their homes. It can be said that socially and economically, all workers suffer from many problems due to the low salary and extra working hours they could not do any other works. They cannot give the proper time to their family and other relatives. It is disturbing their social life, and due to this type of work, they are suffering from other eternal and external diseases. There is no special health care policy or particular facility provided by the factory owners. There are no law and regulation applied in the favor of worker equal treatment of minimum wages and salaries. Labor should apply to the training of non-governmental or industrial owners for safe employment relationships, benefits from social security, registration rights for domestic home-based workers.

Bangle factory workers lack awareness of their rights and have little understanding of the role and significance of labor unions. Ninety-five percent do not raise concerns or seek solutions to the problems faced by women workers in the industry. According to the workers, meaningful reforms are needed, starting with workers actively voicing their demands to secure their rights. This includes many women who work as household workers without a labor bill that will earn a salary. They are also exposed to security threats as well as at different stages of bangle work. They suffer from eyesight vision and other illnesses. Also, their wages are worse, and the industry owners, traders, and retailers bring maximum benefit. There are about 30 factories in Hyderabad (Sindh), where labor law and industry managers do not facilitate workers.

Recommendations

The government should try to solve the problems of home-based workers about their status as workers, security currently applicable only to employees in the formal employment sector. By adopting a law, the extension of social benefits the satisfaction of basic labor standards with the right to all rights and services available to another payroll who perform similar job work. Easy access to relatively cheaper loans through a series of ongoing programs, easy access to markets for their products, and non-industrial crafts promotion.

By implementing these measures, the prices of locally manufactured products may increase slightly, but this can help sustain competition by focusing on improving the quality of domestic labor. Enhancing worker well-being can boost their self-esteem and ensure that their families benefit more, while also contributing to greater overall productivity and profits. It is essential to offer workers permanent employment through proper registration, issuance of employee ID cards, and access to social security, labor rights, and old-age benefits. Providing medical care either within or outside the factory, along with adopting safety and health measures, is also crucial. Additionally, educating workers about labor laws and raising awareness about their rights is necessary for their empowerment.

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