

International Journal of Statistics and Applied Mathematics



ISSN: 2456-1452
Maths 2023; SP-8(3): 30-33
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<https://www.mathsjournal.com>
Received: 23-04-2023
Accepted: 26-05-2023

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Hindrance and opinion towards recommended suggestion of bamboo artisans

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Abstract

The study was conducted in 2019-2020 in North Karnataka districts. The respondents were interviewed personally to elicit the primary information by using self-structured interview schedule. Exploratory research design was used. Random sampling method was applied to select a sample size of 120 bamboo artisans' family. Cent per cent of the respondents experienced non availability of bamboo as major general problem and stated that weight of the tool caused more discomfort while performing cutting and stripping activities, whereas majority per cent of the respondents faced the domestic problem of difficulty to balance between family and work life (95.83%), difficulty to move and travel alone was the major problem as social constraints (93.33%). First rank was given towards the recommended suggestion-availability of bamboo at reasonable price should be provided by government followed by provisions of drudgery and time saving devices to the artisans by government. Comfortable tools should be manufactured and made available to the artisans so that there can be ease while they work without facing any discomfort while they work.

Keywords: Bamboo, Medar, artisan, social discrimination, plastic

Introduction

Bamboo is called as "poor man's timber" as it feeds millions of traditional workers. Bamboo is the main source for the tribal's who are called Medar in Karnataka who weaves handicrafts from bamboo. It takes long way to collect bamboo these days compare to before. Before bamboo was available very easily and even in lost cost, but now it is no more the same situation. Bamboo is not available easily because bamboo is not grown as much as it was grown before. And to grow bamboo takes couple of years.

The main problem of the bamboo artisans is non availability of raw material. There is lack of availability of bamboo stems and it is still reducing day by day due to which bamboos are sold for very high price which is difficult to the artisans. If it continues bamboo products and artisans will be vanished soon. A single bamboo is priced between 100 to 250 rupees which cost rupees five to twenty many years back. The reason for high price is non-availability of bamboo, exploitation by intermediaries, intermediaries buy bamboo products from the artisans in cheaper rate and sell those products in higher price, and producers do not get the fair price for their valuable products, the main enemy of bamboo is plastic. Since the day plastic has been arrived in market bamboo products selling has been reduced and ruined artisans occupation because consumers prefer plastic products more compare to eco friendly products like bamboo products. Consumers prefer more plastic as it is low cost, easily available and it requires less maintenance. But people are not aware that plastic is not eco-friendly product which harms our environment. Bamboo of course is a seasonal product and during rainy season it makes a tremendous financial problem for the people who are involved in the bamboo product making.

Sometimes artisans face social discrimination in the society due to their lower status. The bamboo is cut and stripped by heavy tools which are not ergonomically designed. The weight, shape and size of tools is not comfortable to use, which creates discomfort while cutting and stripping the bamboo.

Based on these situations the following objectives have been framed

1. To study the general problem faced by the bamboo artisans
2. To review respondents opinion towards recommended suggestions to combat the general problems

Review of literature

Lakhimi and Anjan (2014) ^[6] depicted that maximum per cent of the respondents said problem like cost of raw materials (88.70%) followed by lack of access to raw materials (83.00%) caused the problem whereas 53.20 per cent of them said difficulty due to middlemen involvement and domestic problems like family responsibilities come first and social issues.

Sourabh and Surojit (2015) ^[10] depicted that most of the artisans sold their products to the middleman who buys them at cheaper rate and sold those products in market for a higher price. This was an absolute loss to the workers.

Data *et al.* (2016) ^[3] observe that the entrepreneurs should depend on the middlemen for marketing their products which was cause of the negative impact for their occupation.

Jayasree *et al.* (2016) ^[5] indicated that majority of the women belonged to medium entrepreneurial behavior category (58.75%) and there was more involvement of middle men in the product selling which was negative significant relationship in the study.

Alemu (2018) ^[2] revealed that bamboo entrepreneurs faced many problems such as lack of product quality, training for workers, selling place, marketing linkage and support service.

Taiebur and Dhanonjoy (2018) ^[11] depicted that majority of the respondents (62.70%) expressed scarcity of raw material was an important problem for sustaining their profession.

Puna (2019) ^[8] resulted that maximum (80.00%) of the respondents said irregular supply of bamboo was the problem for the workers and only twenty per cent of the final price goes to the artisans and rest will be given to the middleman.

Methodology

Locale of the study

The study was conducted in three districts of Northern Karnataka *viz.*, Dharwad, Uttar Kannada and Belagavi districts.

Selection of taluks and villages

Selection of taluk: One taluk from each district was selected.

Selection of villages: Two villages were randomly selected from each selected taluk in the study area.

Selection of respondents

Representative sample of 20 bamboo artisans were randomly selected from six selected villages of the study area. Thus the total sample comprises of 120 bamboo artisans including both women and men.

Sampling Procedure

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study, random sampling technique was adopted. Totally 120 bamboo artisans families were selected for the study.

Research tools and method of data collection

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, self-structured interview schedule was prepared. The data was collected by using self structured interview schedule with personal

interview method. The data was collected from bamboo artisans related problems faced by the bamboo artisans.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 has showed the problems of bamboo artisans (fig1) and cent per cent of the respondents experienced non availability of bamboo as a major general problem followed by high price of bamboo and, middle man involvement while purchasing bamboo raw materials and plastic hinders their selling. More than sixty per cent of the respondents faced problems like lack of knowledge about eco friendly products among people. Whereas maximum per cent of the respondents faced the domestic problems like difficulty to balance between family and work life followed by family responsibilities come first and respondents cannot take business decision by their own. Major per cent of the respondents mentioned difficulty to move and travel alone followed by difficulty due to caste and social status as major social constraints. Identical study done by Lakhimi and Anjan (2014) ^[6] resulted that there is lack of access to raw materials followed by cost of raw materials, difficulty due to middlemen involvement, domestic problems like family responsibilities come first and social issues.

Other study done by Minto (2014) ^[7] showed that main problem faced by the tribe was lack of marketing facilities and lack of entrepreneurial knowledge etc. Results of Sourabh and Surojit (2015) ^[10], Alemu (2018) ^[2] and Taiebur and Dhanonjoy (2018) ^[11] are in line with our findings.

Respondents opinion towards recommended suggestions to overcome the problems (Table 2) first rank was given to the towards the recommended suggestion- availability of bamboo at reasonable price should be provided by government followed by provisions of drudgery and time saving devices to the artisans by government (II rank), third rank was given to advertisement of the bamboo products to be made through T.V., radio, newspaper and magazine, fourth rank given for artisan's an opportunity for participating in melas and exhibition to sell their products, government should take the responsibility of not involving the middleman for selling bamboo products was ranked fifth and sixth was given for the financial assistance from the government for the construction of work station among the suggestions to overcome general problems.

First rank was given for suggestion to overcome domestic problem- provision of government financial support to the artisans by the government followed by encouraging women in for decision making (II rank) and third rank was given for teaching of work life balance.

First rank is given for suggestions to overcome the social constraints- transportation facilities provided by the government followed by arranging workshops for innovative marketing and communication skills while selling (II rank), third rank- was given for initialization of adult education for the artisans by government and NGO's and fourth rank for provision of facilities for motivational classes for the artisans by the government.

Recommendations of Jamir and Natarajan (2014) ^[4] and Puna (2019) ^[8] are in line with our research finding in which they quoted that government should give training to the artisans frequently and give financial support to them, products should be reasonable with good quality and, products should be discouraged which are imported and government should provide proper facility for marketing the products restrict the inflow of products from outside.

Rahman and Kumar (2018) [9] suggested that loan should be given to the artisans by the government and non-government agencies so that it will support the cottage industries in Bangladesh. The care should be taken that the middlemen

involvement shouldn't be present and products should be sold in a right price and most of all government should take a steps to protect our tradition like cottage industries.

Table 1: Problems faced by selected bamboo artisans N=120

Sl. No.	Problems	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	General problems	Plastic hinders their selling	110	91.66
		Lack of knowledge about eco friendly products among people	91	75.83
		Difficulty due to credit sales	76	63.33
		Non availability of bamboo	120	100
		High price of bamboo	118	98.33
		Middle man involvement while purchasing bamboo raw materials	115	95.83
		Market is very far	70	58.33
2	Domestic problems	Lack of support from family	60	50.00
		Cannot take business decision own	80	66.66
		Family responsibilities come first	110	91.66
		Difficulty to balance between family and work life	115	95.83
		Taking care of agricultural responsibilities and other mental jobs	-	
3	Social constraints	Wrong attitude of society towards artisans	80	66.66
		Difficulty to move and travel alone	112	93.33
		Difficulty due to caste and social status	99	82.50
4	Discomfort with the use of tools	Weight of the tool	120	100
		Shape of the tool	82	63.33
		Length of the tool	98	81.66

Note- Multiple responses

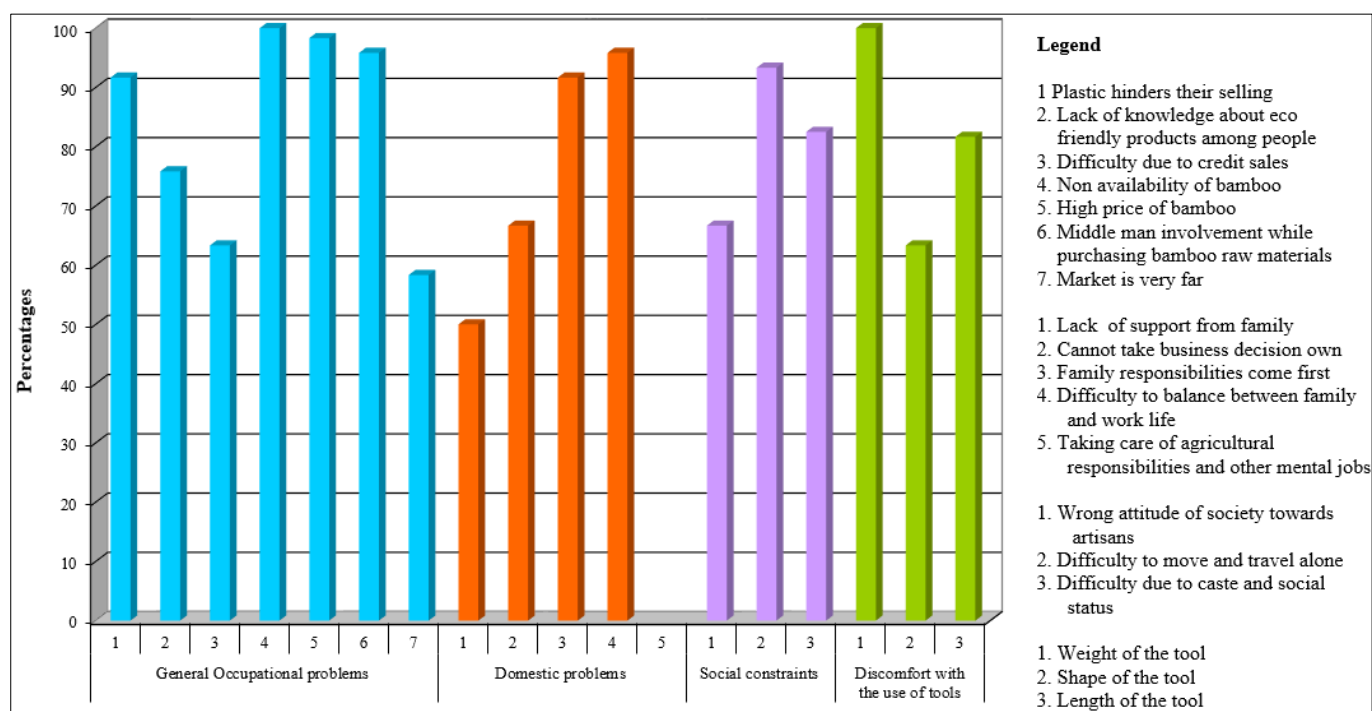


Fig 1: Problems faced by selected respondents

Table 2: Respondents opinion towards recommended suggestions to overcome the problems N=120

Sl. No.	Problems	Particulars	Garrett score	Garrett rank
1	General occupational problems	a. Provision of bamboo at reasonable price by government	520	I
		b. Government should take the responsibility of not involving the middlemen for selling bamboo products	315	V
		c. Government should facilitate the financial assistance for construction of workstation	312	VI
		d. Advertisement of the bamboo products should be made through T.V., radio, newspaper and magazine	402	III
		e. Artisans should be given opportunity for participating in melas and exhibition to sell their products	320	IV
		f. Drudgery and time saving devices should be provided to the artisans by government	412	II
2	Domestic problems	a. Government should provide financial support to the artisans	355	I
		b. Women's should be encouraged for decision making	280	II

		c. Work life balance should be taught	220	III
3	Social issues	a. Government and NGO's should start adult education for the artisans	350	III
		b. Government should provide the facility for motivational classes for the artisans	280	IV
		c. Government should make the transportation facilities	420	I
		d. Workshops should be arranged for innovative marketing and for communication skills while selling	385	II
4	Tools	a. Introduction of technology/tools or bamboo cutting machine for reduction of pain and health hazards	880	I
		b. Comfortable grip handle for manual bamboo cutting tool	763	II
		c. Handle for wooden plank	652	III

Conclusion

Bamboo artisans face many of the problems, cent per cent of the respondents experienced non availability of bamboo as a major general problem followed by high price of bamboo and, middle man involvement while purchasing bamboo raw materials and plastic hinders their selling. More than sixty per cent of the respondents faced problems like lack of knowledge about eco-friendly products among people. First rank was given towards the recommended suggestion-availability of bamboo at reasonable price should be provided by government followed by provisions of drudgery and time saving devices to the artisans by government. Comfortable tools should be manufactured and made available to the artisans so that there can be ease while they work without facing any discomfort while they work.

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