



Volume: 2, Issue: 10, 299-304  
Oct 2015  
www.allsubjectjournal.com  
e-ISSN: 2349-4182  
p-ISSN: 2349-5979  
Impact Factor: 5.742

**Irumjahan Khan**

Research student,  
Department of Zoology,  
Sadguru Gadge Maharaj  
College, Karad, Dist-Satara,  
Maharashtra, India.

**Rajan More**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Zoology,  
Sadguru Gadge Maharaj  
College, Karad, Dist-Satara,  
Maharashtra, India.

## Study of socio-economic status of female workers in some selected brick Kilns in Karad, Maharashtra, India

**Irumjahan Khan, Rajan More**

**Abstract**

India ranks second in brick manufacturing sector in world and have annual turnover of more than 10000 crores. It generates employment of seasonal nature. Workers in brick industry are from deprived sectors and whole family work as a unit. Half of the workers in the brick industry are woman. Females work to earn money as well as do the job of bearing and rearing the children. Thus woman plays two roles of reproduction and production. The work of female workers in brick industry is least recognized and effect of the work on health of female workers is less studied. Female workers are introduced into the work at an early phase of their life due to poverty and most of them remain uneducated. Family size of the female is large and majority of them show addiction. Socioeconomic status of female workers in brick industry is very low. Female suffer from many reproductive and health problems. Objective of our study was to study the socioeconomic status of female workers in brick industry.

**Keywords:** Brick industry, women worker, socioeconomic status.

### 1. Introduction

Brick industry in India still remains unorganized and no official authentic data is available regarding its status. Brick industry is one of the unorganized industries in India. India is second largest producer of clay fired bricks accounting for more than 15% of global production. Brick industry in India is labor intensive industry employing million of workers. Earning in brick industry is meager but contribute more to economic and employment in India. A worker in brick industry is mostly migrant and economically poor. According to census (2011) more than 85% of the working population in India works in unorganized sector and out of these at least 120 million are women. Female workers in brick industry are almost equal in number to male workers. Female workers carry work of bearing and rearing of children along with work in brick kiln. Female workers come from poor economic class and are mostly illiterate in brick industry. Female worker are seen in mixing and molding and loading and unloading sections. Workers live in the same working environment with their families. Female workers are not benefitted with adequate wage and medical facilities. Working for long hours in same position, lack of rest and improper diet female workers get affected physiologically and psychologically.

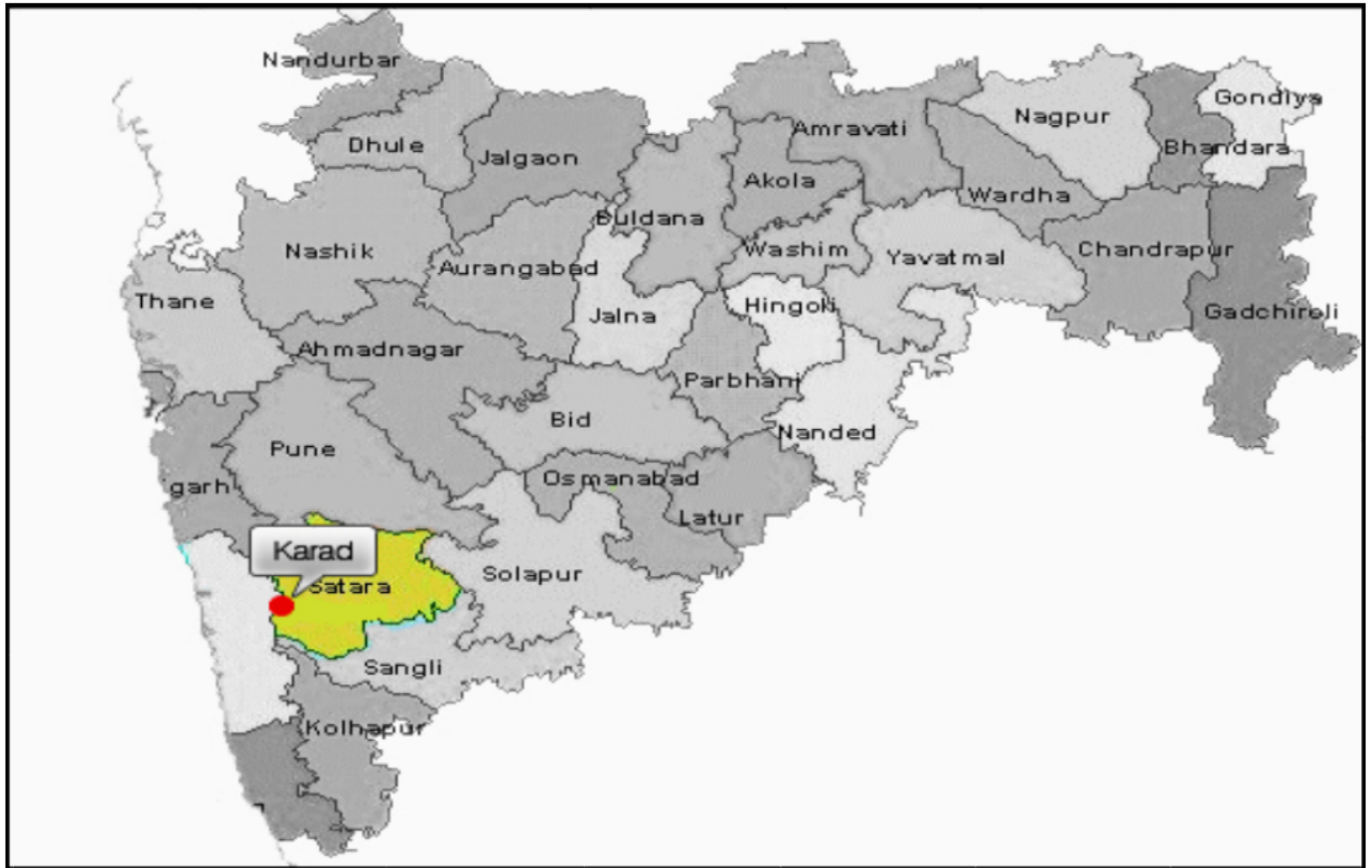
### 2. About The Study Area

Karad is one of the brick manufacturing regions in Satara district in Maharashtra. Karad block is in upper Krishna sub basin from where ample alluvial soil is available as main raw material for brick manufacturing. Karad has approximately 300 kilns operating in each season. In Karad mostly clamp kiln are manufacturing 1, 00,000 bricks/kiln/year. Bricks are manufactured manually with help of hand mold, dried in open area with solar energy and burned on traditional kilns. Four brick kiln was selected in Karad for the study of socio economic status of female workers. Study was conducted with total 100 female workers from selected kilns.

**Correspondence**

**Irumjahan Khan**

Research student,  
Department of Zoology,  
Sadguru Gadge Maharaj  
College, Karad, Dist-Satara,  
Maharashtra, India.



**3. Objectives of the Study**

1. To discuss about the brick industry in Karad.
2. To examine the socio-economic conditions of female worker engaged in some selected brick kiln.
3. To make concluding remark.

**4. Methodology**

**4.1. Survey of the Brick Kiln**

Survey of the brick industry was done so that we get appropriate number of female workers for the study of health hazards.

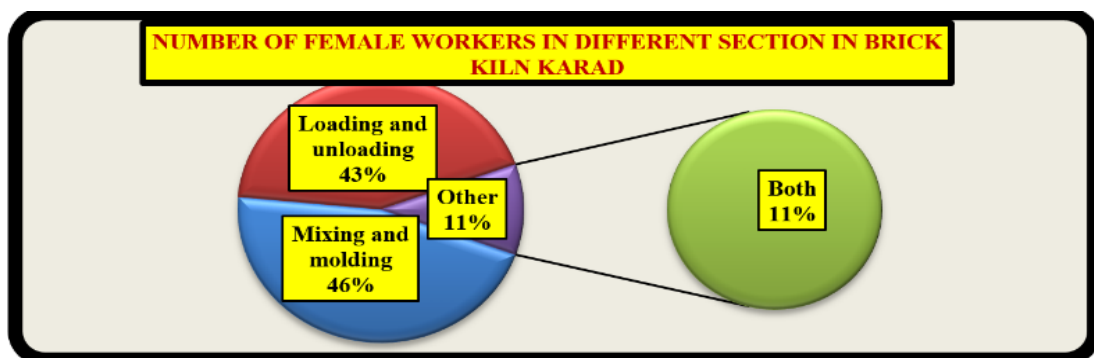
**4.2. Socioeconomic Study**

After the selection of six brick kiln, hundred female workers were selected for the study. These female workers were interviewed as per standard questionnaire to gather socioeconomic information. Owners and contractor were also interviewed to get the information. Social, educational and economical conditions of the female workers were studied.

**5. Results**

1) Socioeconomic Condition of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

A) Social Conditions of Female Workers



**Chart 1:** Distribution of Female Workers in Brick Kiln According To Type of Work

Female workers were seen working in mixing and molding and loading and unloading sections some female workers were also found doing both type of work in brick kilns.

**Table 1:** Work Experience of Females in Brick Kilns in Karad

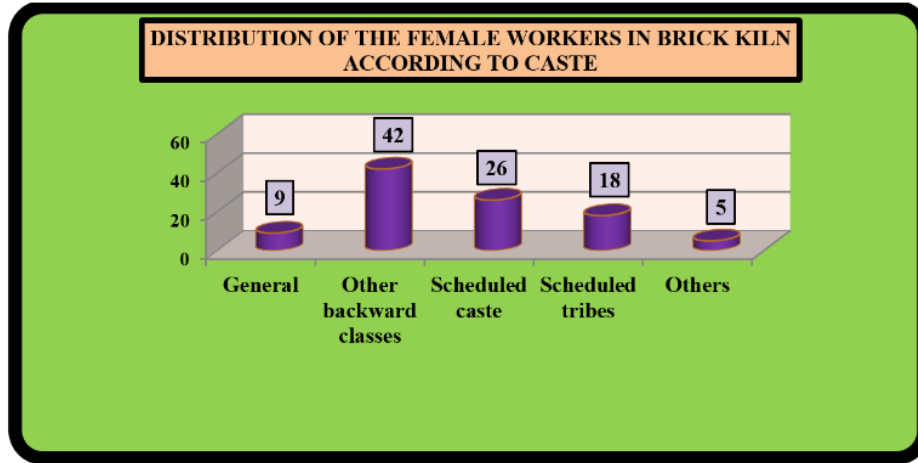
Work experience in yrs	Number of female workers
Up to 5	64
6-10	15
11-15	8
16-20	6
21-25	4
26 and above	3

From the study it was revealed that 64% of female workers were working from up to five years and few female workers showed experience of more than 25 years.

**Table No-2:** Religion of Female Workers in Brick Kiln

Religion	Number of Female Workers
Hindu	46
Muslim	54

Analysis of the data obtained revealed that 54% of the female workers selected are Muslims and 46% are Hindus.



**Chart 2:** Distribution of Female Workers According To Their Caste

Female workers in brick kiln in Karad are from other backward classes in more numbers which is followed by scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, general and others.

**Table 3:** Family Size of the Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

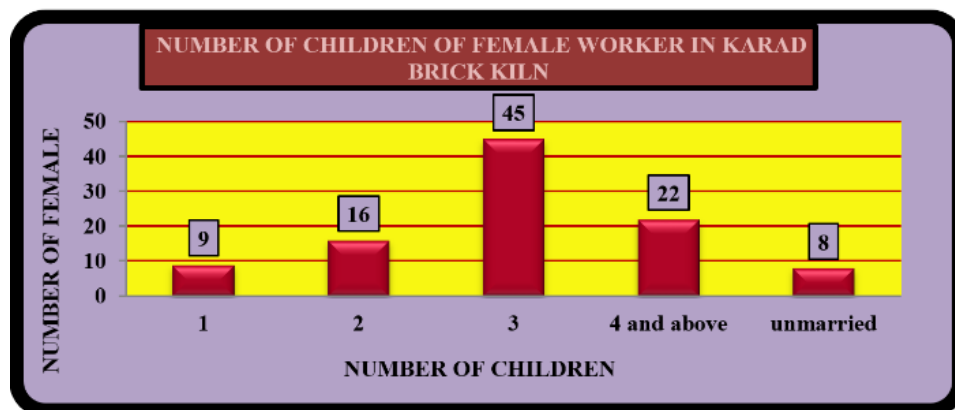
Number of family member	Number of female workers in brick kiln
1-3	28
4-6	55
7 and above	17

Female workers showing 4-6 family members in the family are more in the selected brick kiln in Karad.

**Table 4:** Age of Marriage of Female Workers in the Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Age at marriage	Number of female workers
Below 16	18
16-18	32
19-21	26
21 and above	16

Most of the female workers are married at an age of 16-18 in selected brick kilns Karad.



**Chart 3:** Number of Children of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Most of the female workers in selected brick kiln in Karad have three children while very few have only one child. Eight female workers were unmarried.

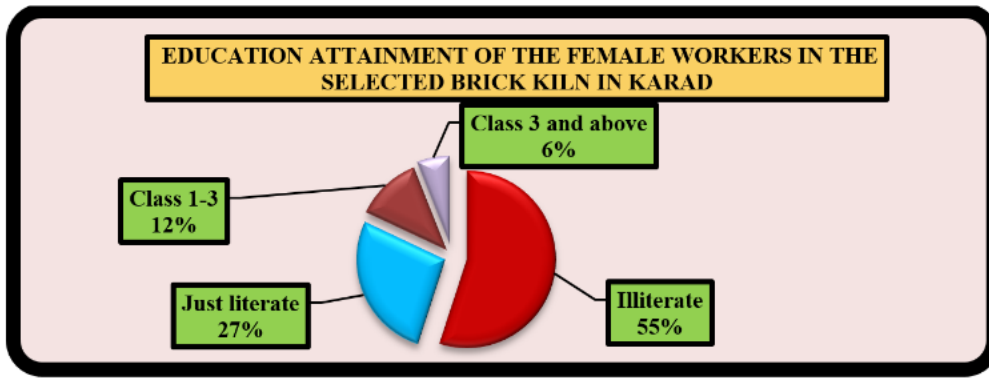


Chart 4: Education Attainment of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Majority of female workers in selected brick kiln in Karad were illiterate. Very few female workers studied some classes.

**B) Economic Condition of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad**

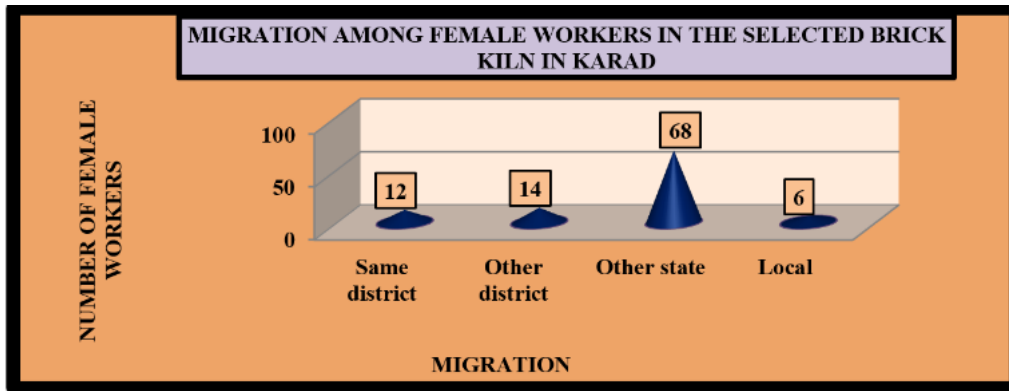


Chart 5: Migration among Female Workers in the Selected Brick Kiln Inkarad

Sixty eight female workers working in selected brick kiln in Karad were from other states. Only six local female workers were found working in selected brick kiln in Karad.

Earning members in family of most female workers in selected brick kiln in Karad were three. Only six female workers were working alone for their family.

**Table 5:** Earning Members in Family of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Earning members in family	Number of female workers in brick kiln
1	6
2	9
3	47
4	23
5 and above	15

**Table 6:** Annual Income of Female Workers in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Annual income	Number of female workers
15000-20000	63
20000-25000	37
25000and above	-

Sixty three female workers were working for annual income of 15000-20000 while no female workers received above 25000 annually in selected brick kiln in Karad.

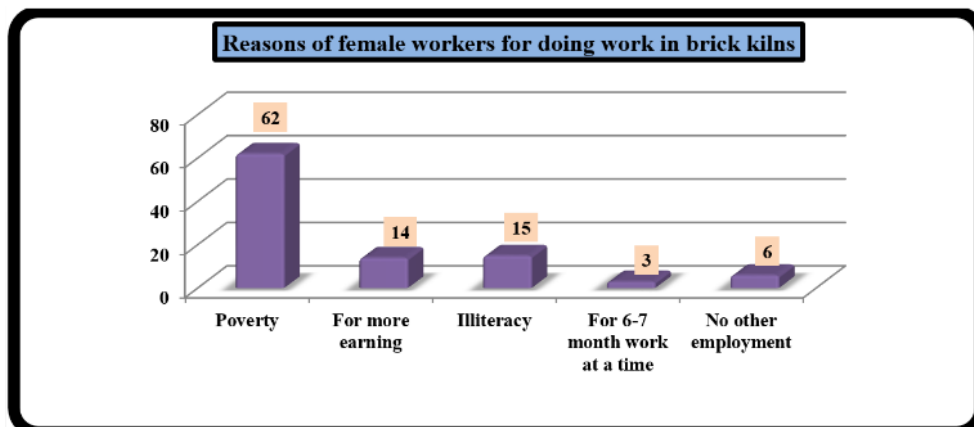


Chart 6: Reasons of Female Workers for Doing Work in Selected Brick Kiln in Karad

Poverty was the main reason for doing work in brick kiln by female workers. Other reasons after poverty were illiteracy and for more money earning. Very few female workers gave the reason of no other work available and work at a single place for six to seven months.

**Table 7:** Sources of Family Income (Other Than Brick Kiln) of the Female Workers in the Brick Kilns in Karad

Sources of income	Number of female workers
Agriculture	42
Construction	26
Any work	14
No work	18

Our survey revealed that agriculture and agriculture labor is the major source of income of female workers in brick kiln after brick work. They have to depend on other activities, as the brick kilns remain operative for 6-7 months in each year. So all the workers cannot depend solely on the brick kiln work round the year. During the remaining part of the year they engage themselves in other work.

**Table 8:** Types of Demand of Female Workers to Brick Kiln Owner

Type of demand	Number of female workers (%)
Wage hike	92
Job security	64
Social security	24
Bonus and advance	35
Clothing and fuel	9
No demand at all	-

From the data it is clear that 92% of female workers demanded for wage hike to maintain their families. 64% female workers asked for job security and 24% for social security. 35% of female workers demand for bonus and advances and only 9% asked for clothing and fuel.

## 6. Discussion

Female workers were present in two sections mixing and molding and loading and unloading. On basis of the result of socioeconomic condition of female workers it can be concluded that female workers show poor social and economic condition. Most of the female workers in selected brick kiln in Karad are from other backward classes which are followed by scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. There are more married females compared to unmarried working in the brick kiln in Karad. Female workers are introduced into the work at very early stage of her life to increase the income of the family. Female workers in selected brick kiln were married at an age of 16 and they gave birth to the first child at a very young age. Family size of the female workers is large and many females have more than two children. Most of female workers are migrant and few are locals reasons given by the female for working in brick kiln is mostly due to poverty and illiteracy while local females gave reasons of work available at a single place for 6-7 months. Female workers are given wages of about 20-25 thousand annually. Female workers get money according to the bricks they mold or load and unload.

Bricks are manufactured manually in Karad by hand molds. Brick kiln environment shows dust which is constantly moved along with air in the working area. When bricks are fired toxic fumes are emitted from kilns. Female workers live in the same

environment with their families and exposed to all these harmful substances. They are provided with electricity and water from tube well. Female workers live in kuttcha house (made up of brick and mud) with their family in the same working environment. Family of the female workers work as a unit. A female worker doing molding has to make the molds, keep it for drying and after bricks are dried has to arrange it on upon other leaving some space between each brick. A molder female worker molds 1000-1200 bricks per day. Female worker in loading section has to carry the bricks to form a kiln and also to load and unload the bricks from the vehicle. Female worker carry 12-14 bricks on her head. A female worker carries 1500 bricks per day. Female workers in molding section wakes up before sunrise at 3-4 am for molding as molding in hot environment becomes difficult due to drying of the clay prepared to form molds. Due to less sleep and continuous work female workers become disinterested and their health is affected. Female workers have no working hours and they work continuously without rest and complained about loss of appetite affecting their health. Anemia is common in female workers. Lactating and pregnant female workers received no assistance from the owner. They receive no medical facilities and amenities. Money is borrowed from the owner for medical emergency and it is deducted from the wages of workers. Female worker have no proper lunch time. Female workers showed addiction to tobacco, misri. Few females are also alcohol consumer. All the stressful condition, restless work, brick kiln environment, addiction; domestic pressure affects the health of female workers badly. Female workers face many social problems, domestic problems, economic and health problems. There is a strong need for certain regulation in unorganized sector especially for female workers.

## 7. Recommendation

- Nation develops if women are developed. It is duty of our government to pay attention for the well-being of women in unorganized sector.
- Female workers should be provided facilities of pure water and sanitation properly. They should have separate neat and clean toilets for female workers.
- Pregnant females should be given proper maternity benefit
- Labor department should come forward for the welfare of female workers I brick kiln workers.
- Special group should be appointed for health checkup and proper counseling of female workers in brick kiln.
- Female workers should be given proper knowledge by counseling regarding ill effects of early marriage and child birth and also about importance of family planning.
- There is a need to provide adequate housing facilities at the brick kilns.
- Worker friendly technology can be introduced to reduce the hardships associated with brick work.
- Exhaustive and comprehensive legislation is urgently needed for regulating working conditions, wage structure, welfare measures of the women workers in the brick kilns.

## 8. Acknowledgement

The first author is much thankful to Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi for granting DST INSPIRE Fellowship. Authors are thankful to Principal of Sadguru Gadge Maharaj College, Karad and Head, P.G Dept of

Zoology for providing necessary laboratory facilities in the study.

## 9. References

1. Geeta Birnur, Patil NH. "Socio-economic status of brick workers: case study of Gulbarga city"; Golden Research Thought, 2014, 4(5).
2. IN Khan, RB More. "Work stress and its effect on physiological profile of female workers in brick kiln industry; Bionano frontier 2015; 8(3):130-133.
3. Mandal, Amal. Women Workers in Brick Factory, Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 2005.
4. Manohar KM. Socio-Economic Status of Indian Women, Seema Publication, New Delhi, 1983.
5. Palwasha, Rakhshanda Noor. "Socio-Economic Conditions of the Poor: A Case Study of Bricks Industry", J Glob. & Sci. Issues., 2013, 1(3).
6. Rabin Das. "Socio-Economic Standing of Female Workers in Brick Kilns: Mistreatment to Social Wellbeing."-An Assessment on Khejuri CD Blocks in Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal". International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention. 2015; 4(1):39-49
7. Santa Athena. "Socioeconomic status of brick workers in Coimbatore", Language in India, ISSN 2013; 13(8):1930-2940.
8. Singh DP. 'Women workers in the brick kiln industry in Haryana, India', Indian Journal of Gender Studies., 2005, 12(1).
9. Sinha Manju. 'Condition of women workers in brick kilns', Man in India, 1994, 74(1).
10. Swapan Kumar Roy. "Socio-economic conditions of women workers in some selected brick kilns in West Bengal: an empirical study with special reference to Nadia district; International journal of research in commerce, IT and management 2012; 2(7):121-127.