

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 7; Issue 8; August 2024; Page No. 388-392

Received: 12-06-2024
Accepted: 21-07-2024

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Work profile of female sweepers in Hisar and Fatehabad district

¹Monika and ²Dr. Kiran Singh

¹Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Family Resource Management, I.C. College of Home Science, CCSHAU, Hisar, Haryana, India

²Professor, Department of Family Resource Management, I.C. College of Home Science, CCSHAU, Hisar, Haryana, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2024.v7.i8f.953>

Corresponding Author: Monika

Abstract

Cleaning is a fundamental occupation that employs millions of individuals worldwide, both men and women. Now a day, sweeping in India is not yet well recognized as other significant jobs. It is still considered as a very low status job which is usually done by uneducated people and most of them are women. Cleaning tasks encompass a range of activities, including dusting, mopping, sweeping, swabbing, vacuuming, and buffing. The study was conducted in Hisar and Fatehabad district of Haryana state. For the study the sample size was 280 from both the district. Data was collected with the help of structured interview schedule individually through face to face interview in their local language. This study examines the demographic, educational, and socio-economic profiles of sweepers in Hisar and Fatehabad districts, focusing on their working conditions and material possessions. Findings reveal that most respondents are aged 20-30 years, with educational attainment primarily up to middle school. A significant proportion of respondents come from families with low educational backgrounds and work in elementary occupations. The majority have a monthly income between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees and save between 500 and 1000 rupees monthly. Most respondents fall into the upper-lower socio-economic category. The typical working hours are from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, with over half having 2-4 years of service. Sweepers primarily engage in brooming and mopping, with varied rest periods and work intensities. The data highlights inadequate protective measures and basic facilities at the workplace, underscoring the need for improved working conditions and socio-economic support.

Keywords: Mopping, sweeping, contractual, buffing

Introduction

Cleaning is a fundamental occupation that employs millions of individuals worldwide, both men and women. It plays a crucial role in our daily lives, encompassing domestic and professional settings, and occurs in various environments, both indoors and outdoors. Cleanliness since ages was priority for everyone. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Swachh Bharat Mission at Rajpath in New Delhi. On 2nd October 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement. "A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary in 2019," Cleaning tasks encompass a range of activities, including dusting, mopping, sweeping, swabbing, vacuuming, and buffing. Times from last decade in country could be counted as golden age for satisfaction in India.

Sweeping is practice that has been done since ancient times. Sweeping the floors was considered as an act of cleaning. Cleaning the home was also a priority for the Greeks, and they used brooms made of twigs to sweep their floors. They would also use a mixture of water and vinegar to clean surfaces and disinfect their homes. In medieval times, scullery maids would sometimes care for stone floors by sweeping up the rushes they used to mitigate unpleasant aromas before using harsh lye soap to scrub up dirt and stain.

Maintaining clean work areas also enhances productivity and the quality of work output. Unclean or untidy environments can increase the risk of accidents, and the absence of proper cleaning procedures can expose individuals to irritants, potentially resulting in issues like allergic reactions and respiratory ailments. According to 2015 data from the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are approximately 67 million female workers globally, and this number continues to increase. In 2010, the ILO reported that there were around 52.6 million individuals engaged in such work.

Objectives

1. To study the socio-demographic profile of female sweeper.
2. To analyze the work profile of female sweepers.

Methodology

The study was conducted in two districts Hisar and Fatehabad of Haryana state. The government and private institutes were selected from each district as the locale of the study. A sample of 280 females sweepers engaged in similar types of sweeping activity (dusting, brooming, washing of washrooms and mopping) was randomly selected from both districts. A list of government and non-government institutes was procured from mini secretariat of both the districts. From that list 8 government and 9 private

institutes from Hisar and 7 government and 6 private institutes from Fatehabad were selected and then from these selected institutes the female sweepers engaged in sweeping activity were selected randomly to attain the sample size of 70 female from both the institute i.e. government and

private of both district. Data was collected with the help of interview structured questionnaire individually through face to face interview in their local language of respondents.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Socio-personal profile of female sweepers in Hisar and Fatehabad district (N=280)

Variables	Category	Hisar (n=140)		Fatehabad (n=140)		Total (N=280)
		Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	
Age (in years)	20-30	33(47.14)	27(38.57)	26(37.14)	36(51.42)	122(43.57)
	30-40	17(24.28)	27(38.57)	28(40.00)	27(38.57)	99(35.35)
	40-50	20(28.57)	16(22.85)	16(22.85)	7(10.00)	59(21.07)
Education of respondent	Illiterate	10(14.28)	9(12.85)	11(15.71)	16(22.85)	46(16.42)
	Primary school	21(30.00)	16(22.85)	8(11.42)	13(18.57)	58(20.71)
	Middle school	23(32.85)	20(28.57)	16(22.85)	17(24.28)	76(27.14)
	High school	10(14.28)	13(18.57)	19(27.14)	13(18.57)	55(19.64)
	Post high school diploma	16(22.85)	12(17.14)	16(22.85)	11(15.71)	55(19.64)
Educational qualification (head of family)	Illiterate	5(7.14)	12(17.14)	3(4.28)	12(17.14)	32(11.42)
	Primary school	8(11.42)	7(10.00)	6(8.57)	10(14.28)	31(11.07)
	Middle school	16(22.85)	13(18.57)	16(22.85)	10(14.28)	55(19.64)
	High school	24(34.28)	20(28.57)	27(38.57)	18(25.71)	89(31.78)
	Post high school diploma	17(24.28)	18(25.71)	18(25.71)	19(27.14)	72(25.71)
Family education status	Low (1-4)	42(60.00)	54(77.14)	35(50.00)	39(55.71)	170(60.71)
	Medium (4-8)	20(28.57)	17(24.28)	25(35.71)	22(31.42)	84(30.00)
	High (above 8)	07(10.00)	10(14.28)	05(7.14)	04(5.71)	26(9.28)
Family type	Joint	35(50.00)	21(30.00)	19(27.14)	20(28.57)	95(33.92)
	Nuclear	28(40.00)	38(54.28)	36(51.42)	44(62.85)	143(51.07)
	Extended	7(10.00)	11(15.71)	15(21.42)	6(8.57)	39(13.92)
Family size	Small (upto 4 member)	28(40.00)	40(57.14)	36(51.42)	44(62.85)	148(52.85)
	Medium (5-6 member)	35(50.00)	20(28.57)	19(27.14)	20(28.57)	94(33.57)
	Large (7 & above)	7(10.00)	10(14.28)	15(21.42)	6(8.57)	38(13.57)
Family occupation	Unemployed	20(28.57)	20(28.57)	11(15.71)	16(22.85)	67(23.92)
	Elementary occupation	50(71.42)	50(71.42)	59(84.28)	54(77.14)	213(76.07)
Material possession **	Refrigerator	10(14.28)	20(28.57)	17(24.28)	16(22.85)	63(22.5)
	Television	70(100.0)	70(100.00)	70(100.0)	70(100.0)	280(100.0)
	Motorcycle	16(22.85)	15(21.42)	17(24.28)	18(25.71)	66(23.57)
	Mixer grinder	13(18.57)	12(17.14)	10(14.28)	9(12.85)	44(15.71)
	Washing machine	13(18.57)	15(21.42)	15(21.42)	14(20.00)	57(20.35)
	Mobile phone	70(100.00)	70(100.0)	70(100.0)	70(100.0)	280(100.0)

*Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage **Material possession has multiple response

Age: Perusal of table 1 indicate that majority of the respondents (43.57%) were in age group of 20-30 years followed by respondents (35.35%) in 30-40 years and remaining (21.07%) were falling in 40-50 years of age group. Table further denotes that in private institutes of Hisar (22.85%) and Fatehabad (10.0%) were in age group of 40-50 years. Majority of due respondents working in private institute of Fatehabad (51.42%) were in age group of 20-30 years.

Education of respondents: Data reveals that majority of respondents (27.14%) were educated up to middle school and respondents 20.71 per cent had primary school education, 19.64 per cent of respondents had both high school and post high school diploma and remaining 16.42 per cent were found to be illiterate.

Education qualification (head of family): Table 1 illustrate that from the pooled data majority of respondents 31.78 per cent were high school based and 25.71 percent were found to be obtained education up to post high school diploma and illiterate (11.42%).

Family education status: Table 1 further depicts that from collective data less than two third of respondents (60.71%) had low family education status and about one third (30.00%) of them had medium and (9.28%) respondents had high family education status.

Family type: Regarding family type the results in table 1 unfold that 62.85 per cent from private institutes of Fatehabad were having nuclear family similarly near about half of them (54.28%) from Hisar district were also having nuclear family. From the cumulative data about half of respondents (51.07%) in total sample were having nuclear family, joint family (33.92%) and (13.92%) were had extended family.

Family size: Data in table 1 revealed that from pooled sample majority had small family size (52.85%) whereas 33.57 per cent were having medium family size (5-6 members) and (13.57%) were having large family having more than 7 members. Further table 1 unveiled that respondents of private institutes of Fatehabad (62.85%) and Hisar (57.14%) also had small family. About half of

respondents (50%) from government institutes of Hisar district had medium sized family.

Family occupation (head of family): In the combined sample, a significant majority of respondents 76.07 per cent were engaged in elementary occupations, with 23.92 per cent being unemployed. The table also highlights that in Hisar district, the majority of respondents (71.42%) from both government and private institutes were employed in elementary occupations. In Fatehabad district, an even higher proportions of respondents from government institutes (84.28%) and from private institutes (77.14%)

were also found to be in elementary occupations. However, in Hisar district around 28.57 per cent of respondents were unemployed.

Material possession: The data in the table indicates that cent percent of the respondents had access to television and mobile phones. Following this, 23.57 per cent of respondents had motorcycles, 22.5 per cent possessed refrigerators, and 20.35 per cent had washing machines. Only a small percentage of respondents, specifically 15.71 per cent of the total sample, had mixer grinders.

Table 2: Socio-economic profile of female sweepers in Hisar and Fatehabad district (N=280)

Variables	Category	Hisar (n=140)		Fatehabad (n=140)		Total (N=280)
		Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	
Total family monthly income	10,000-20,000 rupees	46(65.71)	61(87.14)	38(54.28)	60(85.71)	205(73.21)
	20,000-30,000 rupees	18(25.71)	9(12.85)	28(40.00)	10(14.28)	65(23.21)
	30,000-40,000 rupees	6(8.57)	0(0.00)	4(5.71)	0(0.00)	10(3.57)
Monthly saving	500-1000 rupees	39(55.71)	45(64.28)	40(57.14)	35(50.00)	159(56.78)
	1000-1500 rupees	25(35.71)	16(22.85)	26(37.14)	28(40.00)	95(33.92)
	1500-3000 rupees	6(8.57)	9(12.85)	4(5.71)	7(10.00)	26(9.28)
Socio- economic status (Kuppuswamy scale 2021)	Lower (below 5)	2(2.85)	2(2.85)	0(0.00)	1(1.42)	5(1.78)
	Upper lower (5-10)	68(97.14)	68(97.14)	70(100.0)	69(98.57)	275(98.21)

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage

Total family monthly income: The table 2 presents data on the total family monthly income of respondents. In the pooled sample, a significant majority (73.21%) had reported a monthly income between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees. About 23.21 per cent had an income range of 20,000 to 30,000 rupees, and a meager of them (3.57%) had a monthly income exceeding 30,000 to 40,000 rupees. Specifically, in Hisar district, the majority of respondents from government institutes (65.71%) and private institutes (87.14%) had a monthly income of 10,000 to 20,000 rupees. In Fatehabad district, 40.00% of respondents from government institutes and 14.28% from private institutes reported an income between 20,000 and 30,000 rupees monthly. Only a small

proportion of respondents, i.e. 8.57 per cent from Hisar and 5.71 per cent from Fatehabad government institutes exceeding income of 30,000 rupees. Though none of them had monthly income exceeding rupees 30,000.

Monthly savings: In the pooled sample, less than two third of the respondents (56.78%) reported monthly savings ranging from rupees 500 to 1000. Additionally, 33.92 per cent of the respondents had savings between 1000 and 1500 rupees, and a smaller percentage (9.28%) had savings falling within the 1500-3000 rupees range. In the context of Hisar, around one-third of the respondents reported monthly savings in the range of 1000-1500 rupees.

Table 3: Work profile of female sweepers in Hisar and Fatehabad district (N=280)

Variables	Category	Hisar (n=140)		Fatehabad (n=140)		Total (N=280)
		Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	
Nature of job	Permanent	6(8.57)	0(0.00)	4(5.71)	0(0.00)	10(3.57)
	Contractual	64(91.42)	70(100.0)	66(94.28)	70(100.0)	270(96.42)
Mode of receiving income	Monthly	28(40.00)	47(67.14)	30(42.85)	39(55.71)	144(51.42)
	More than month	42(60.00)	23(32.85)	40(57.14)	31(44.28)	136(48.57)
Working shift	Morning	45(64.28)	50(71.42)	40(57.14)	38(54.28)	173(61.78)
	Evening	25(35.71)	20(28.57)	30(42.85)	32(45.71)	107(38.21)
Work duration at workplace	7.00 am-5.00 pm	39(55.71)	33(47.14)	16(22.85)	25(35.71)	113(40.35)
	8.00 am-5.00 pm	16(22.85)	22(31.42)	20(28.57)	25(35.71)	83(29.64)
	9.00 am-5.00 pm	15(21.42)	15(21.42)	34(48.57)	20(28.57)	84(30.0)
Females engaged in sweeping activity	2-5	59(84.28)	41(58.57)	60(85.71)	46(65.71)	206(73.57)
	More than 5	11(15.71)	29(41.42)	10(14.28)	24(34.28)	74(26.42)
Total service years in institution	Up to 1 year	16(22.85)	29(41.42)	12(17.14)	20(28.57)	77(27.5)
	2-4 years	45(64.28)	36(51.42)	31(44.28)	32(45.71)	144(51.42)
	More than 5 years	9(12.85)	5(7.14)	27(38.57)	18(25.71)	59(21.07)
Duration of rest period	20-30 minutes	16(22.85)	29(41.42)	8(11.42)	27(38.57)	80(28.57)
	30-60 minutes	45(64.28)	41(58.87)	54(77.14)	43(61.42)	183(63.35)
	More than 1 hour	9(12.85)	0(0.00)	8(11.42)	0(0.00)	17(6.07)

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage

Socio-economic status: The analysis of the socio-economic status of the respondents was conducted using the Kuppaswamy scale in 2021. The data showed that the vast majority (98.21%) fell into the upper-lower socio-economic status category, while a meager percentage (1.78%) had lower socio-economic status. Further examining the data, in Hisar, cent percent of respondents from government institutes had an upper-lower socio-economic status. Only a small fraction (2.85%) of respondents from Hisar had a lower socio-economic status. In Fatehabad district, all respondents from government institutes also had an upper-lower socio-economic status, with none falling into the lower socio-economic category.

Nature of job: The table 3 findings indicate that the huge majority of respondents working under outsource policy on contractual basis government institutes Hisar (91.42%) and Fatehabad (94.28%) were employed on contractual basis related to sweeping activities within the institutes. The respondents in these government institutes had permanent jobs, with (8.57%) in Hisar and (5.71%) in Fatehabad. In private institutes located in both Hisar and Fatehabad districts, all of the respondents were engaged on contractual basis. When considering the combined data from government and private institutes, the overwhelming majority (96.42%) of respondents contractual jobs, remaining with permanent jobs 3.57%.

Mode of receiving income: The table 3 outlines the mode of receiving income for sweepers. In the collective sample, approximately half of the respondents received their income (wages) on a monthly basis, while the remaining 48.57% received their income less frequently than once a month. It was noticed that respondents working in government institutes of Hisar (40.00%) and Fatehabad, (42.85%) as per system. In private institutes also Hisar (67.14%) and Fatehabad (55.71%) received their income on a monthly basis. More than half of the respondents in government institutes of both districts getting their income with delays than once a month.

Working shift: The data on working shifts highlighted that in government institutes, sweepers in Hisar (64.28%) and Fatehabad (57.14%) worked in the morning shift. Similarly, in private institutes, less than third fourth of sweepers, with (71.42%) in Hisar and (54.28%) in Fatehabad, were assigned to the morning shift. About one-third of the sweepers in both government and private institutes in Hisar and Fatehabad districts worked during the evening shift. Conclusively 61.78 per cent of female sweepers worked in the morning shift, while 38.21 per cent worked during the evening shift.

Work duration at workplace: Based on the table 3 and data, it's evident that the majority of respondents in government institutes in Hisar (55.71%) and Fatehabad (22.85%) had a working duration from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Similarly, in private institutes, the majority of respondents of Hisar (47.14%) and Fatehabad (35.71%) had same working hours from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Looking at the combined data from both districts, the most common working duration was from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, with 40.35% of respondents falling in this category. The other most prevalent durations noticed from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (30.00%) and from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (29.64%).

Females engaged in sweeping activity: The data presented in the table 3 membered strength of highest proportion of respondents (73.57%) were engaged in sweeping activities alongside 2-5 females. Following this, 26.42% of respondents reported working with more than 5 females in their respective institutes.

Total service years in institution: The data in the table 3 indicates that half of the respondents (51.42%) had accumulated 2-4 years of service in their institution. 27.5 per cent of the respondents reported having up to 1 year of service, and 21.07 per cent had more than 5 years of total service in their respective institutions. In private institutes located in Hisar district, only a small percentage (7.14%) had more than 5 years of total service in the institution.

Table 4: Intensity of work done by female sweepers in different activities (N=280)

Activity	Frequency of doing task	Hisar (n=140)		Fatehabad (n=140)		Total (N=280)
		Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	Government (n=70)	Private (n=70)	
Dusting	Daily	-	-	-	-	-
	Alternative	15(21.42)	18(25.71)	12(17.14)	14(20.00)	59(21.07)
Brooming	Daily	50(71.42)	70(100.0)	48(68.57)	57(81.42)	225(80.35)
	Alternative	20(28.57)	-	22(31.42)	13(18.57)	55(78.57)
Area covered for brooming	700-1000sq/ft	52(74.28)	63(90.0)	48(68.57)	60(85.71)	223(79.64)
	1000-1200sq/ft	18(25.71)	7(10.00)	22(31.42)	10(14.28)	57(20.35)
Moping	Daily	60(85.71)	70(100.0)	58(82.85)	70(100.0)	258(92.14)
	Alternative	10(14.28)	-	12(17.14)	-	22(7.85)
Area covered for moping	700-1000 sq/ft	58(82.85)	60(85.71)	48(68.57)	60(85.71)	226(80.71)
	1000-1200 sq/ft	12(17.14)	10(14.28)	22(31.42)	10(14.28)	54(77.14)
No. of Washroom	2-5	42(60.0)	48(68.57)	52(74.28)	49(70.0)	191(68.21)
	5-7	28(40.0)	22(31.42)	18(25.71)	21(30.0)	89(31.78)
Frequency of cleaning washrooms	Once a day	26(37.14)	32(45.71)	36(51.42)	40(57.14)	134(47.85)
	Twice a day	44(62.85)	38(54.28)	34(48.57)	30(42.85)	146(52.14)

Duration of rest period: Table 3 presents data on the duration of rest periods. The findings in the table reveal that more than half of the respondents were having a 1-hour rest period. Additionally, 28.57 per cent of the respondents

indicated a 30-minute rest, and a smaller percentage (6.07%) reported having a rest period exceeding more than 1 hour. In government institutes, the majority of respondents in both Hisar (64.28%) and Fatehabad (58.87%) were

having one hour rest. In private institutes in both Hisar and Fatehabad, less than two third of the respondents had rest period of one hour. The respondents (11.42%) of Hisar were allowed to have 30-minute rest only and in Fatehabad, (38.57%) also same.

Table 4 presents information on the intensity of work carried out by female sweepers. The data indicates that 21.07 per cent of sweepers occasionally performing dusting. More than three fourth of the sweepers (80.35%) engage in daily brooming activities in both government and private institutes in Hisar and Fatehabad districts. Additionally, about 78.57 per cent of sweepers perform brooming on alternate days, and approximately (79.64%) of sweepers covering areas ranging from 700-1000 square feet.

Regarding mopping activities, about (92.14%) of sweepers in private institutes in Hisar and Fatehabad perform mopping on a daily basis. The majority of these sweepers (80.71%) are tasked with covering areas of 700-1000 square feet, while 77.14% handle areas ranging from 1000-12000 square feet. When it comes to washroom cleaning in government institutes in Hisar and Fatehabad, (60.0%) and (74.28%) have 2-5 washrooms, respectively. Additionally, (40.0%) in Hisar and (25.71%) in Fatehabad have 5-7 washrooms. In private institutes in both districts, more than half of the institutes have 2-5 washrooms, and approximately one-third of the institutes have 5-7 washrooms. Overall, the majority of institutes (68.21%) have 2-5 washrooms, while 31.78 per cent have 5-7 washrooms. For washroom cleaning frequency, around half of the respondents clean the washrooms twice a day in government institutes in Hisar and Fatehabad, while 37.14 per cent in Hisar and 51.42 per cent in Fatehabad clean them once a day. In private institutes in Hisar (54.28%) and Fatehabad (42.85%), the washrooms are cleaned twice a day, while in Hisar (45.71%) and Fatehabad (57.14%), they are cleaned once a day. The pooled data shows that more than half of the respondents clean the washrooms twice a day, and (47.85%) clean them once a day.

Conclusion

The data reveals a predominantly young, middle-to-low-income group of respondents, mostly engaged in elementary occupations with significant representation in both government and private institutions. The majority work on a contractual basis, with most receiving income monthly and working primarily morning shifts. Family structures are predominantly nuclear, and most respondents have small family sizes. Educational levels vary, with many holding middle school diplomas and a substantial proportion having low family education status. Monthly incomes largely fall between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees, and savings are modest. The socio-economic status is largely upper-lower, with minimal variation across districts. The work involves extensive sweeping and mopping, with washroom cleaning being a frequent task. Overall, the findings highlight the challenging economic conditions and work environments faced by respondents, emphasizing a need for improved financial and job stability.

References

1. Alison FB, RS J. Risk of musculoskeletal injury among cleaners during vacuuming. *Ergonomics*. 2012;55(2):237-247. DOI: 10.1080/00140139.2011.592605.
2. Balaji S, Anubupriya M. Influence of neural adaptation on repetitive stress pathology among women sweepers: a narrative study. *Eur J Mol Clin Med*. 2020;7(6):1606-1610.
3. Charles LE, Loomis D, Demissie Z. Occupational hazards experienced by cleaning workers and janitors: a review of the epidemiologic literature. *Work*. 2009;34(1):105-116.
4. Das R, Pardhan S, Mandal S, Ali K, Maiti S, Ghosh D. Impact of health awareness intervention among the women sweepers working under the Midnapore Municipality of West Bengal. *Bangladesh J Med Sci*. 2013;12(1):49-54.
5. Jayakrishna T, Jeeja MC, Bhaskar R. Occupational health problems of municipal solid waste management workers in India. *Int J Environ Health Eng*. 2013;2(1):42-47.
6. Kumar R, Kumar S. Musculoskeletal risk factors in cleaning occupation: a literature review. *Int J Ind Ergon*. 2006;38(2):158-170.
7. Mishra T, Sukhsohale N, Mankeshwar R. Occupational health morbidities and associated socio-demographic variables among sweepers in metropolitan city. *Int J Community Med Public Health*. 2020;7(10):4001-4005.