

Parenting Problems and Family Well-Being Among Sanitation Workers in Pollachi Taluk

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Abstract:

Sanitation workers play an important role in maintaining cleanliness and public health. However, their long working hours, work-related stress, low income and physical exhaustion may create difficulties in managing their parenting responsibilities. The present study aims to identify the major parenting problems faced by sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk and to examine the impact of these problems on family well-being. The study was conducted among 100 sanitation workers using a structured questionnaire. Mean, standard deviation, ranking, factor analysis and one-way ANOVA were used for analysis. The findings show that lack of time for family interaction, financial difficulties in supporting children's education, difficulty in helping children with studies and work-related stress are major parenting problems. The study suggests that better financial, educational, childcare and family support measures are needed to improve the well-being of sanitation workers and their families.

Keywords: Sanitation Workers, Parenting Problems, Family Well-being, Occupational Stress, Parenting Responsibilities, Child Welfare, Socio-economic Conditions, etc.,

Introduction

Sanitation workers play a vital role in maintaining public health, environmental cleanliness and the overall well-being of communities. Their work includes activities such as waste collection, street cleaning, drainage maintenance, sewage-related work and other sanitation services. Despite the importance of their contribution to society, sanitation workers often experience occupational, economic and social difficulties. Long working hours, physically demanding tasks, occupational hazards, low and uncertain income, inadequate safety measures and social stigma can affect their overall quality of life.

The challenges associated with sanitation work may extend beyond the workplace and influence the family lives of workers. Parenting requires time, emotional involvement, supervision, financial support and active participation in children's education and development. However, demanding work schedules and physical exhaustion may restrict the time and energy available for childcare and meaningful parent-child interaction. Financial constraints may further affect parents' ability to meet children's educational, nutritional, healthcare and other developmental needs.

Family well-being is closely connected with the economic security, health, emotional relationships and social environment of the household. Sanitation workers may experience difficulties in balancing occupational responsibilities with household duties and parenting responsibilities. Work-related stress and limited opportunities for family interaction can potentially influence parent-child relationships, family communication and children's well-being.

Parenting problems among sanitation workers therefore need to be examined not only as individual family issues but also in relation to their socio-economic and occupational conditions. Understanding these problems can help identify the factors that affect their parenting responsibilities and family well-being. Such an understanding is

important for developing appropriate social welfare measures, occupational support systems, childcare assistance and family-oriented interventions for sanitation worker households.

Review of Literature

Author(s) & Year	Title of the Study	Methodology	Major Findings
Apurva Olwe (2025)	Social Reproduction of Dalit Sanitation Workers Families in Mumbai	Qualitative ethnographic study examining the work and home lives of women sanitation workers, including family and kinship relationships.	The study found that sanitation workers experience interconnected workplace and family pressures shaped by caste, class and gender. Women undertake both paid sanitation work and undervalued domestic/reproductive work. Family and kinship networks strongly influence their everyday lives and occupational continuity.
Ayusheeka Krishnan Patel & Namita Batra(2025)	Occupational Health Problems among Manual Scavengers in India and Role of Community Health Nurse	Review-based study examining occupational health problems and the role of community health nursing.	The study reported serious respiratory, skin and musculoskeletal problems, along with mental-health difficulties associated with stigma. The findings demonstrate how occupational hazards can affect the overall well-being of sanitation workers and their families.
A. Kumar(2025)	Enduring Margins: A Socio-Economic Analysis of Sewage Workers in Delhi-NCR	Socio-economic analysis of sewage workers focusing on employment, economic conditions, education and social marginalisation.	Sewage workers experienced economic exploitation, unsafe working conditions and limited educational opportunities for their children. The study highlights the interaction of caste, class, poverty and social exclusion and its implications for children's opportunities.
Sulochana S. & Karthikeyan V. P. (2025)	Struggles Behind Clean Streets: A Gendered Analysis of the Challenges and Realities of Women Sanitation Workers in Coimbatore	Structured questionnaire survey among 357 women sanitation workers, examining socio-economic status, workplace conditions, health and social perceptions.	The study identified low wages, inadequate safety measures, health risks and lack of social security. Women also faced social stigma and difficulties in balancing occupational and household responsibilities, demonstrating the importance of examining work–family relationships.
Deeptesh H. Kadam, Nilesh Gawde & Shaileshkumar Sahebrao Darokar(2023)	‘Sick Guardians of Public Health’: A Qualitative Inquiry into Caste, Occupation and Health among Sanitation Workers of Solid Waste Management, Mumbai Municipal Corporation, India, from a Social Epidemiology Lens	Qualitative inquiry using a social epidemiological perspective to examine the relationship between caste, occupation, social environment and health.	The study found that sanitation workers experience a high burden of disease and disadvantage, with caste, occupation and social environment interacting to influence their health. These occupational and social disadvantages can have wider implications for family well-being.

Research Gap

In Pollachi Taluk, sanitation workers play an important role in maintaining cleanliness and public health in the community. However, they often face various occupational, economic and social problems such as long working hours, physical exhaustion, occupational hazards, low income, inadequate safety facilities and social stigma. These problems may affect their family life and parenting responsibilities. Sanitation workers may experience difficulties in spending sufficient time with their children, supervising their activities, supporting their education, providing proper care and maintaining regular parent–child communication. Financial difficulties may also create problems in meeting children's educational, nutritional and healthcare needs. In addition, work-related stress and physical tiredness may affect family relationships and emotional well-being. Although several studies have examined the occupational and socio-economic problems of sanitation workers, limited attention has been given to their parenting problems and family well-being. Therefore, the present study attempts to examine the parenting problems faced by sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk and understand their influence on family well-being.

Objectives of the study

- To identify the major parenting problems faced by sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk.
- To examine the impact of parenting problems on the family well-being of sanitation workers.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive research design. The study was conducted among 100 sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire. Convenience sampling was used to select the respondents. A five-point Likert scale was used to measure parenting problems. The data were analysed using mean, standard deviation, ranking, factor analysis and one-way ANOVA. Factor analysis was used to identify the major dimensions of parenting problems, while ANOVA was used to examine differences in family well-being based on selected demographic variables. The data were analysed using SPSS.

Limitations of the Study

- The study is limited to sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk.
- The sample size is limited to 100 respondents.
- Convenience sampling was used for selecting the respondents.
- The study is based on the personal responses of the respondents.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table No.1

Major Parenting Problems Faced by Sanitation Workers in Pollachi Taluk

S. No.	Parenting Problems	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rank
1	Lack of sufficient time to spend with children	3.84	0.94	VI
2	Difficulty in helping children with their studies	4.05	0.92	III
3	Difficulty in attending school meetings and functions	3.61	1.03	IX
4	Inability to provide adequate financial support for children's education	4.18	0.86	II
5	Difficulty in monitoring children's activities	3.76	0.97	VII
6	Lack of time for family interaction and recreation	4.32	0.81	I
7	Difficulty in meeting children's health and medical needs	3.54	1.05	X
8	Stress and fatigue affecting parenting	3.98	0.96	IV

9	Difficulty in providing emotional support to children	3.91	0.89	V
10	Problems in managing household and childcare responsibilities	3.69	1.01	VIII

The table shows that lack of time for family interaction and recreation ranks first with the highest mean score of 4.32, indicating that it is the most severe parenting problem faced by sanitation workers. Inability to provide adequate financial support for children's education ranks second with a mean score of 4.18, followed by difficulty in helping children with their studies with a mean score of 4.05. Stress and fatigue affecting parenting ranks fourth with a mean score of 3.98, while difficulty in providing emotional support to children ranks fifth with a mean score of 3.91. Difficulty in meeting children's health and medical needs ranks last with a mean score of 3.54, indicating that it is comparatively less severe. Overall, the findings reveal that time constraints, financial difficulties, educational support and work-related stress are the major parenting problems faced by sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk.

Table No. 2

Impact of Parenting Problems on Family Well-being of Sanitation Workers Based on Selected Demographic Variables

Demographic Variable	df (Between)	F-Value	Sig. (p-value)	Result
Age	2	4.321	0.014	Significant
Gender	1	1.268	0.261	Not Significant
Marital Status	1	3.846	0.051	Not Significant
Educational Qualification	3	5.127	0.002	Significant
Monthly Income	2	4.536	0.012	Significant
Work Experience	3	3.982	0.009	Significant
Nature of Employment	1	2.174	0.142	Not Significant
Type of Family	1	3.426	0.065	Not Significant

The table shows the impact of parenting problems on the family well-being of sanitation workers across selected demographic variables. The results indicate that age, educational qualification, monthly income and work experience have a significant association with family well-being, as their p-values are less than 0.05. This suggests that family well-being differs significantly among sanitation workers based on these demographic characteristics. However, gender, marital status, nature of employment and type of family are not significant, as their p-values are greater than 0.05. Therefore, these variables do not show a significant difference in the family well-being of sanitation workers. Overall, the findings indicate that certain socio-economic and work-related characteristics influence the family well-being of sanitation workers experiencing parenting problems.

Table No:3

Factor Analysis of Major Parenting Problems Faced by Sanitation Workers

S. No.	Parenting Problems	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
1	Lack of sufficient time to spend with children	0.812			
2	Lack of time for family interaction and recreation	0.786			
3	Stress and fatigue affecting parenting	0.754			
4	Difficulty in helping children with their studies		0.824		
5	Inability to provide adequate financial support for children's education		0.801		
6	Difficulty in attending school meetings and functions		0.746		
7	Difficulty in providing emotional support to children			0.835	
8	Problems in managing household and childcare responsibilities			0.779	
9	Difficulty in monitoring children's activities			0.812	
10	Difficulty in meeting children's health and medical needs				0.861

Factor	Dimension	No. of Items	Eigenvalue	% of Variance
Factor 1	Time and Work-related Problems	3	2.684	26.84
Factor 2	Educational and Financial Problems	3	2.341	23.41
Factor 3	Emotional and Family-related Problems	3	2.106	21.06
Factor 4	Childcare and Health-related Problems	1	1.127	11.27
Total		10	8.258	82.58

The factor analysis identifies four major dimensions of parenting problems faced by sanitation workers. Factor 1, named Time and Work-related Problems, consists of lack of sufficient time to spend with children, lack of time for family interaction and recreation, and stress and fatigue affecting parenting. Factor 2, Educational and Financial Problems, includes difficulty in helping children with their studies, inability to provide adequate financial support for education, and difficulty in attending school meetings and functions. Factor 3, Emotional and Family-related Problems, comprises difficulty in providing emotional support, problems in managing household and childcare responsibilities, and difficulty in monitoring children's activities. Factor 4, Childcare and Health-related Problems, consists of difficulty in meeting children's health and medical needs. The four factors together explain 82.58 per cent of the total variance, indicating that the identified dimensions adequately represent the major parenting problems faced by sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk.

Suggestions of the study

- Sanitation workers should be provided with flexible working hours wherever possible to enable them to spend adequate time with their children.
- Employers should provide suitable leave facilities to help sanitation workers attend school meetings, functions and other important activities of their children.
- Awareness programmes should be organised to help sanitation workers understand effective parenting practices and child development.
- Special educational support programmes should be provided for the children of sanitation workers, particularly for children who require assistance with their studies.
- Financial assistance, scholarships and educational benefits should be made accessible to the children of sanitation workers to reduce the financial burden of education.

Conclusion

The study concludes that sanitation workers in Pollachi Taluk face several parenting problems due to the nature of their occupation, limited time, work-related stress and financial constraints. The major problems identified include lack of time to spend with children, difficulties in supporting children's education, limited participation in school activities, financial difficulties and stress affecting family responsibilities. The findings also indicate that these parenting problems have an impact on the family well-being of sanitation workers. The study highlights the need for better work support, educational assistance, financial benefits, childcare facilities and counselling services for sanitation workers and their families. Strengthening welfare measures and family support systems can help sanitation workers manage their occupational responsibilities while improving their parenting ability and the overall well-being of their families.

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