



Social Study of Brick Kilns Owners in A Palus Tehsil of Sangli District

Mr. Kailas Balaso Madane¹ & Dr. S. M. Kamble²

¹Research Scholar, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Karad

²HoD of Geography/Research Guide, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Palus

Corresponding Author – Mr. Kailas Balaso Madane

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.18491778

Abstract:

There are many brick kilns in Palus tehsil of Sangli district. The area has the availability of raw materials and other necessary geographical conditions for the brick industry. This research paper attempts to study the social status of brick kiln owners. This research paper is based on primary and secondary data. A total of 11 brick kiln owners in Palus tehsil are male and five brick kiln owners are in the age group of 40 to 50. There is no illiterate brick kiln owner. Four brick kiln owners have completed their education graduation. Seven brick kiln owners are married and one brick kiln owner is a widower. The brick kiln owners live in joint families. All the brick kiln owners are Hindus. There are five brick kiln owners in the OBC category. There is no brick kiln owner from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category. The monthly income of the five brick kiln owners in Palus taluka is between 50,000 and 1,00,000 rupees; only one brick kiln owner earns more than 1,50,000 rupees. The brick kiln owners face problems related to laborers, raw materials, land, modern technology, worker health, and environmental issues and government policies etc.

Keyword: Small-scale industries, Illiteracy, OBC category, Nuclear, Brick Kiln owner.

Introduction:

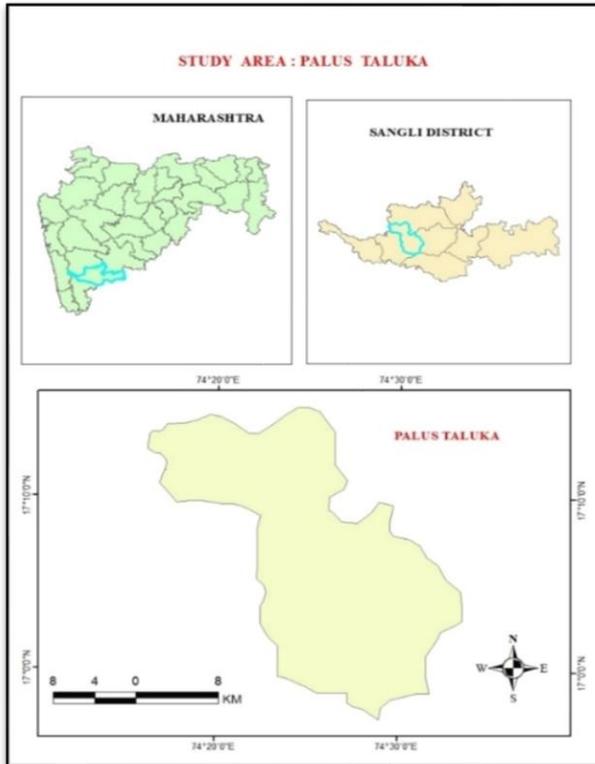
In India, clay bricks have been manufactured in traditional small-scale industries since ancient times. Brick is an invaluable building material. After China, India produces more bricks than any other country in the world. Brick kiln industry is a top industry which generates more employees and revenue. About 10,000 crore of revenue is generated from the brick industry annually. Soil is the primary raw material for brick making and can be easily collected from river banks or waste land. There are many brick kiln industries in Palus tehsil but many other factors like availability of market, raw material, coal and labor etc. affect the ability to produce bricks here. The brick industry has an impact on the socio-economic development of Palus tehsil and its surroundings. The rural

economy around this city is dominated by the brick industry. The brick industry is recognized as an important source of employment. In India and other countries where the demand for bricks remains high, brick kiln owners contribute significantly to local economies by creating employment opportunities and supporting related industries such as transportation, construction, and machinery maintenance. Despite facing challenges such as rising input costs and the push for cleaner, more sustainable production methods, these owners remain central to the supply chain that underpins housing, infrastructure, and urban development. The brick industry in the study area is operated in a traditional manner without the use of technology.

As a result, here large number of people were able to find work in this industry. But this

sectors face the problem of inadequate skilled professionals, market advisors, material experts and trained workers.

Location And Study Area:



Palus is a town in Sangli district of Maharashtra state. Palus is a place of tehsil and is known as a transport hub and also an important center for the total brick production of the district. Palus is one of the industrially developed tehsils of Sangli district. Its industrial zone comprises industries functioning in steel, foundry, workshops, food processing, printing, and flexi including agro based products.

Palus tehsil is situated between 17°05'17" North Latitude and 74°27'25" East Longitude. The average elevation of the study area is 592 meters above sea level Total area of Palus tehsil is 297 sq. km and its population is 164909 as per census 2011. In the study area, there are three different types of soil that are mostly alluvial, black and laterite which are suitable material for making bricks. The Palus region experiences monsoon weather with moderate rainfall. In

winter and summer that is from November to May are primarily the best times for brick manufacturing. There are 11 brick kilns are found in Palus tehsil and 175 workers are working in this industry. The brick industry developed in the region not only due to the market demand but also due to the economically cheaper raw materials like soil, bagasse, coal and water.

Objectives Of Study:

1. To find out the social profile of owners engaged in the brick kilns of Palus tehsil.
2. To investigate the problems of brick kiln owners and suggest appropriate remedies in study area.

Materials And Methods:

The main data gathered from the fieldwork provides the basis for the entire empirical investigation. A set of questionnaires is used to collect the data from different related perspectives which creates the corpus of data in this direction along with different angles to draw the valid conclusions. The collected information is organized, classified and tabulated and used for the analysis. On the basis of analysis, cartographic techniques and statistical methods are used for drawing the graphs and diagrams.

Limitations Of the Study:

1. The study is only confined to Palus tehsil only.
2. The data collected from the human resources may be subjective and as per an individual's knowledge that may add subjectivity to the study.

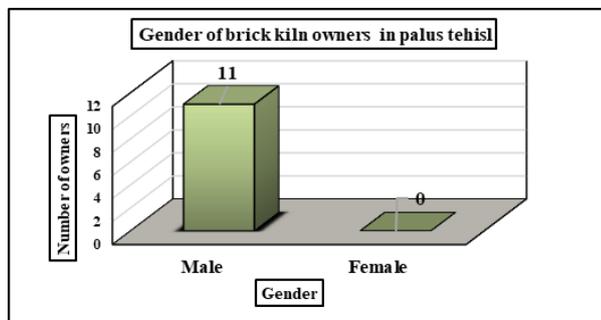
Social Conditions Of Brick Kilns Owners:

This study provides detailed information (data) on the owners of various brick kilns in the study area. The collected data has been classified and coded as follows.

Table No. 1 Gender of Brick Kiln owners

Gender	Number of owners	Percentage
Male	11	100
Female	0	0
Total	11	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

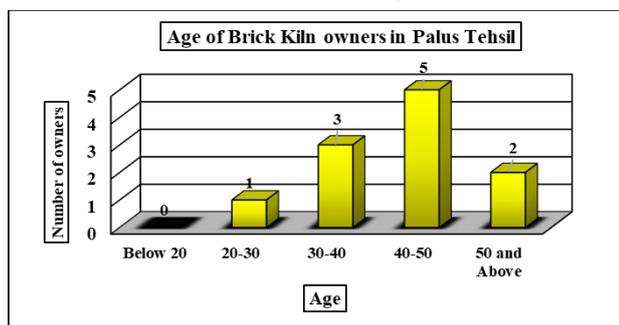
**Fig. No. 1 Gender of brick kiln owners**

In the above table, all the brick kiln owners are male and there is no female brick kiln owner.

Table No. 2 Age of Brick Kiln owners in Palus Tehsil

Age	Number of owners	Percentage
Below 20	0	0.00
20-30	1	9.09
30-40	3	27.28
40-50	5	45.45
50 and above	2	18.18
Total	11	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

**Fig No. 2 Age of Brick Kiln owners**

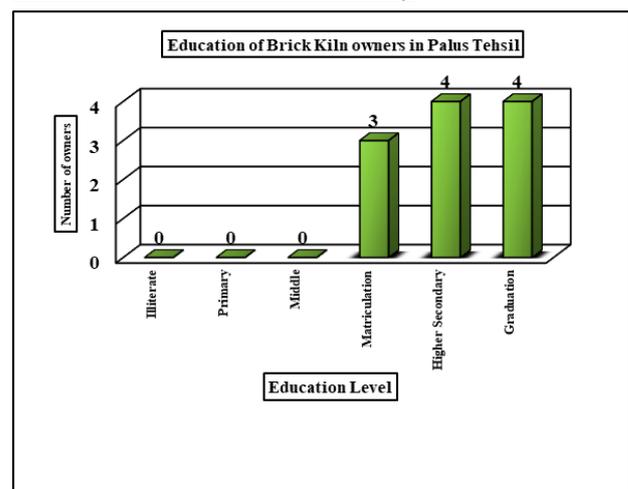
The above table is of the age group of brick kiln owners in Palus tehsil. There is one brick kiln owner in the age group of 20-30, three brick kiln owners in the age group of 30-40, five brick kiln owners in the age group of 40-50 and

two brick kiln owners above 50 years. Their percentage is given 9.09%, 27.27%, 45.45% and 18.18% respectively.

Table No. 3 Education Status of Brick Kiln Owners

Education Level	Number of owners	Percentage
Illiterate	0	0.00
Primary	0	0.00
Middle	0	0.00
Matriculation	3	27.28
Higher Secondary	4	36.36
Graduation	4	36.36
Total	11	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

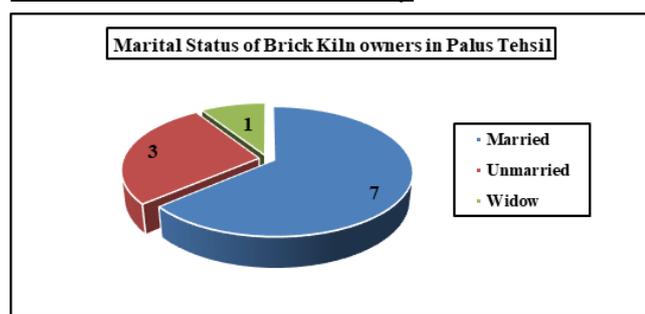
**Fig. No 3 Education of brick kiln owners**

The above table shows the education of the brick kiln owners. All the brick kiln owners are well-educated; three brick kiln owners have an education up to matriculation, four brick kiln owners have higher secondary education, and four brick kiln owners have an education up to graduation. There are no illiterate brick kiln owners.

Table No. 4 Marital Status of Brick Kiln owners

Marital Status	Number of owners	Percentage
Married	7	63.64
Unmarried	3	27.27
Widow	1	9.09
Total	11	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

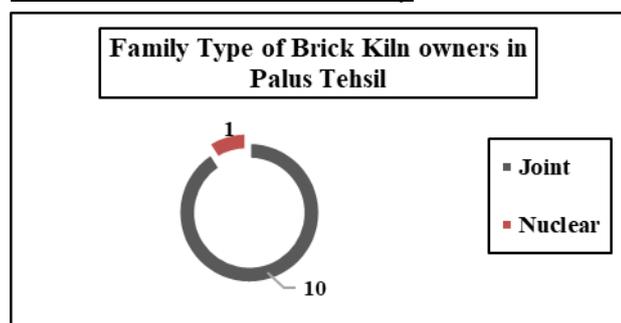
**Fig. No 4 Marital status of brick kiln owners**

The above table shows the marital status of the brick kiln owners; out of the total brick kiln owners, seven brick kiln owners are married. Three brick kiln owners are single and one brick kiln owner is a widower. Their percentages are 63.64%, 27.27% and 9.09% respectively.

Table No. 5 Family Pattern of Brick Kiln owners in Palus Tehsil

Family Pattern	Number of owners	Percentage
Joint	10	90.91
Nuclear	1	9.09
Total	11	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

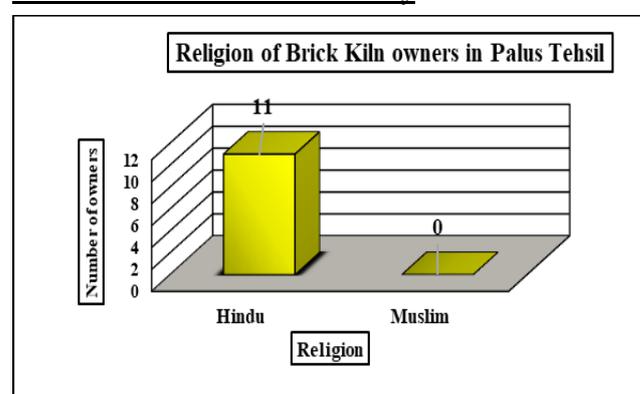
**Fig. No 5 Family type of brick kiln owners**

Out of the total brick kiln owners, 10 brick kiln owners live in a joint family system. While one brick kiln owner lives in a nuclear family system. Their percentage is 90.91% and 9.09% respectively.

Table No. 6 Religion of Brick Kiln owners

Religion	Number of owners	Percentage
Hindu	11	100
Muslim	0	0
Total	11	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

**Fig. No. 6 Religion of brick kiln owners**

The above table shows the religion of the brick kiln owners. All the brick kiln owners are Hindus. None of the brick kiln owners is Muslim.

Table No. 7 Category of Brick Kiln owners

Category	Number of owners	Percentage
SC	0	0.00
ST	0	0.00
OBC	5	45.45
NT	1	9.09
EWS	3	27.28
OPEN	2	18.18
Total	11	100.00

Source: Based on Field Survey

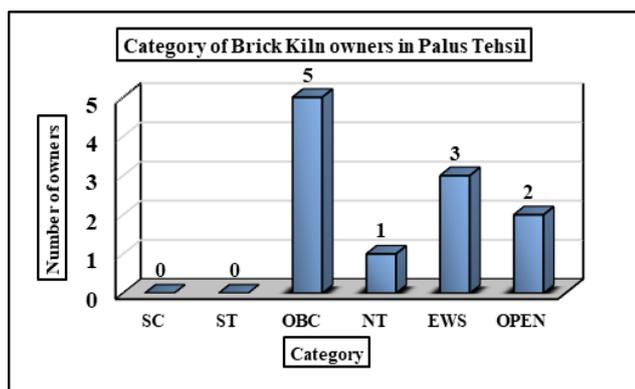


Fig No. 7 Category of Brick Kiln owners

The above table shows that 5 brick kiln owners belong to the OBC category, one brick kiln owner belongs to the NT category, 3 brick kiln owners belong to the EWS category and two brick kiln owners belong to the open category. The maximum number of brick kiln owners in the OBC category i.e. from the Kumbhar caste is there. There are no brick kiln owners from SC and ST categories.

Table No. 8 Monthly Income of Brick Kiln Owners

Monthly Income	Number of workers	Percentage
Less than Rs. 50000	1	18.18
Rs. 50000 To 100000	5	45.45
Rs. 100000 To 150000	3	27.27
Rs. 150000 Above	2	9.10
Total	11	100

Source: Based on Field Survey

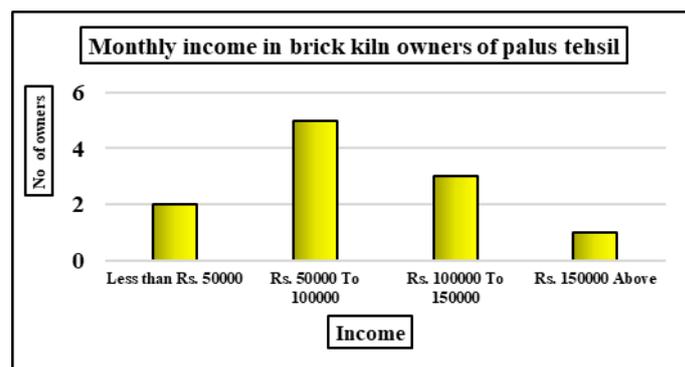


Fig. No 8 Monthly income

The monthly income of brick kilns owners has been studied and it is found that, there are 1 brick kiln owners have income less than Rs 50,000 which is 18.18% percentage. 5 brick kiln owners belong to the income group of Rs 50000-100000 and their percentage is 45.45%. 3 brick kiln owners belong to the Rs 100000-150000 group with a percentage of 27.27% and 2 brick kiln owners have income more than Rs 150000 and their percentage is 9.10%.

Problems Of Brick Kiln Owners:

1. Irregular availability of coal and rising fuel prices disrupt continuous kiln operations.
2. High land acquisition and lease costs increase fixed expenses for brick kiln owners.
3. Legal issues related to land use zoning and environmental clearance delay kiln functioning.
4. Lack of modern kiln technology results in low energy efficiency and higher emissions.
5. Increasing transportation costs reduce competitiveness in distant markets.
6. Dependence on traditional production methods limits productivity and quality control.
7. Frequent inspections and complex compliance procedures increase administrative burden.

8. Health and safety issues of workers indirectly affect productivity and kiln reputation.
9. Unorganized market structure leads to price instability and unfair competition.
10. Limited awareness of government schemes restricts access to subsidies and support programs.

Conclusion:

Due to growing economy, growing population and urbanization of the country, the demand for bricks for residential, commercial buildings, industrial, public buildings and other physical infrastructure is increasing day by day. This paper deals with the social status of brick kiln owners in Palus tehsil. There are a total of 11 brick kilns in Palus tehsil. The owners of the brick kilns are male. There is one brick kiln owner in the age group of 20-30. Five brick kiln owners are in the age group of 40-50. All the brick kiln owners are literate and four brick kiln owners have completed their graduation. 7 brick kiln owners are married and three brick kiln owners are single. Out of the total brick kiln owners, ten brick kiln owners live in joint families. All the brick kiln owners are Hindus and none of the brick kiln owners are Muslims. There are five brick kiln owners in the OBC category and three brick kiln owners in the EWS category, two brick kiln owners in the open category and one brick kiln owner in the NT category. There are no brick kiln owners in the SC and ST categories. The monthly income of one brick kiln

owner is less than 50,000 rupees, while the income of five brick kiln owners is between 50,000 and one lakh rupees. Brick kiln owners face many problems such as the availability of laborers and raw materials, lack of government policies, lack of modern technology, brick prices, and environmental issues.

Reference:

1. Seal S. Brick Industry and its Socio-Economic Impact-A Case Study of Sandeskhal Block, N 24 Parganas, WB. ILEE 2012; 35(1):399-402.
2. Irumjahan khan & Rajan More (2015), "Study of socio-economic status of female workers in some selected brick kilns in Karad, Maharashtra, India", International Journal and Multidisciplinary Research and Development, vol. 2, Issue: 10, PP. 299-304.
3. Palwasha Rabial, Rakshanda Noor, & Bushra Bibi (2013). "Socio- economic conditions of the poor: A case study of Bricks Industry", vol-1, issue: 3, PP.
4. Aggarwal, M.L. 1959. 'Socio Economic condition of brick kiln workers in the Gazipur Village', students research abstracts in Social Work, TISS Mital Publications, New Delhi.
5. Mr. K.B. Madane and Dr. S.M. Kamble (2024), "Socio-Economic Study of Brick Kiln Workers in a Palus Tehsil of Sangli District", Researcher, ISSN No. 2394-5990, PP.70-74.