

Health issues of town bus conductors in Salem district

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Abstract: Health issues are one of the major factors which affects a large group of the populace across the world almost on a consistent basis. Health iproblems also occurs in a variety of wats for various groups of people, based on various factors such as their age, family history, etc. Lifestyle also plays a predominant role in taking a toll on the health of the people who work in various sectors and fields in a plethora of positions and hierarchies. Bus conductors happen to work tirelessly to ensure smooth running and functioning of services in various cities and towns. However, it to be noted that they face countless problems on an everyday basis during their work schedule. The current research study focusses on the health and socio-economic issues faced by the conductors working in the town busses in Salem district, Tamil Nadu. The study will empoy quantitative research approaches in the form of interview schedule to elicit response from the respondents.

Key Words: Health issues, Socio-economic issues, Town bus, Conductors, Salem,

1. INTRODUCTION :

1.1 Socio-economic status and health inequalities:

According to Kawachi and Berkman (2000), high SES individuals posses a variety of resources viz. Money, knowledge, prestige, power etc. As new diseases emerge, new inequalities emerge. As new preventive measures or cures are developed, inequalities in use or access to those innovations are established. A study by Glymour, M. M., Avendano, M., & Kawachi, I. (2014) noted the importance of socioeconomic conditions for health being recognized for centuries.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.1 Socio-economic and health challenges:

A study conducted in California demonstrated a difference in the survivsl of people over an 18-year period for people with various levels of family income [Hochshtim (1970)]. Higher socio-economic status ws associated with higher rates of survival. D.R. Williams (1999) observed in his study that there were higher disease rates for blacks (or African Americans) compared to whites are pervasive and persistent over time.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The research study adopts quantitative research approaches in the form of interview schedule and the sample of the study is 100.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To explore the socio-economic status of town bus conductors in Salem district.
- To explore the health issues faced by town bus conductors in Salem district.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

Table 5.1 Monthly income of the respondents

Income per month	Frequency	Percentage
Rs. 12000- 15000	40	40
Rs. 15001-18000	24	24
Rs. 18001-20000	24	24
Rs. 20001 and above	12	12
Total	100	100



Figure 5.1

40% of the respondents said that their monthly income was Rs. 12000-15000. 48% of the respondents said that their monthly income was Rs. 15001-18000 and 18001-20000 with 24% each. Respondents whose monthly income was Rs. 20001 and above were the least with 12%. (Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1)

Table 5.2 Health issues faced by respondents

Health issues	Frequency	Percentage
Back pain	10	10
Piles	10	10
Eye sight defects	15	15
Heart diseases	20	20
Respiratory problems	10	10
Stress	15	15
Hypertension	20	20
Total	100	100

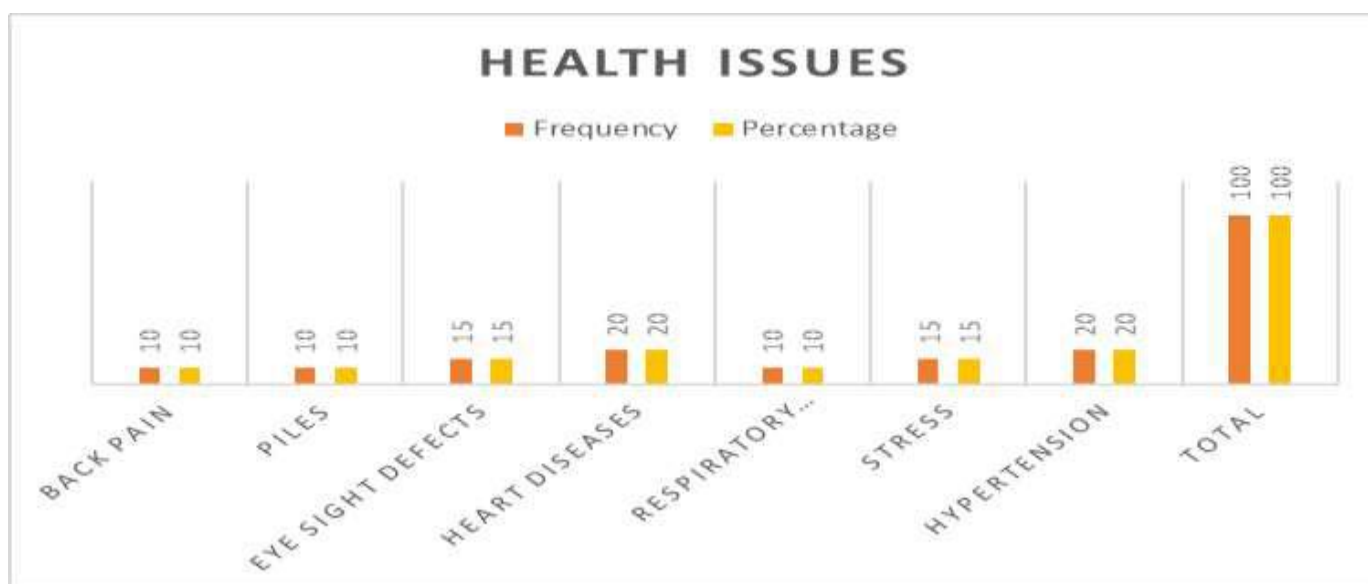


Figure 5.2

Respondents who had heart diseases and hypertension were the highest with 20% each followed by those with eye sight defects and stress with 15% each. Respondents who had back pain, piles and respiratory problems were the least with 10% each. (Table 5.2 and Figure 5.2)

6. CONCLUSION:

Bus conductors happen to be among one of the lower strata in terms of salary paid among government employees. They are paid a few grades higher than sanitary workers working for the respective corporations. Despite having not provisions for having higher grade pay like the regular bus conductors working in metro cities, the health issues faced by the town bus conductors are similar. The current research study was envisioned to look into the health issues faced by town bus conductors in Salem district. The study revealed that a majority of the conductors had heart diseases and hypertension apart from other types of illness such as eye sight defects, stress, back pain etc.

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