



Socio-economic Condition of Rickshaw pullers in Patna

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Public transportation is an important part of the nation's economy. With only around 10% households owning motorcycles and 0.7% cars, public transport is both a necessity as well as a convenience. In Patna (Bihar), this percentage goes even lower. Thus, Cycle Rickshaws form a prominent feature in the local transportation system of Patna. Rickshaws are mode of human powered transport and it is referred to as a runner drawn two wheeled cart which seats 1 to 2 persons. Here, a casual observer can see that a large number of commuters use rickshaw as their medium of transport. They carry the passengers to and fro at anytime of the day unmindful of their health, bad weather conditions and the inconvenience caused due to rough and rugged roads and lanes of Patna. These are migrants from different parts of Bihar, in search of jobs, but as they do not have any skill and higher education they opt rickshaw pulling as their occupation. It was also observed that they live in poor condition with no facilities like education, health hygiene and housing etc. Thus, the objective of this paper is to assess the socio-economic condition of these rickshaw pullers whose livelihood depends solely on the mercy of their customers.

Key words:- Human powered transport, Education, Poverty, Unemployment.
