

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002.**

Annual/Final Report of the work done on the Major Research Project.

(Report to be submitted within 6 weeks after completion of each year)

1. **Project report No. 1st /2nd /3rd/Final :** Final
2. **UGC Reference No.F.** 43-355/2014 (SR) dated: 11/09/2015
3. **Period of report: from** 14/07/2016 to 18/012/2020
4. **Title of the research project:** LIVELIHOOD PATTERN AND HAZARD VULNERABILITY OF THE INFORMAL COAL CARRIERS ON BICYCLES FROM RAMGARH COAL REGION TO THE CITY OF RANCHI IN JHARKHAND
5. (a) **Name of the Principal Investigator:** Dr. Abhay Krishna Singh
- (b) **Dept.:** University Department of Geography, DSPM University (Formerly Ranchi College, Ranchi), Ranchi
- (c) **University/College where work has progressed:** Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi (Formerly, Ranchi College, Ranchi)
6. **Effective date of starting of the project:** 14/07/2016
7. **Grant approved and expenditure incurred during the period of the report:**
- a. **Total amount approved** Rs. 9,49,400/-
- b. **Total expenditure** Rs. 892972.48
- c. **Report of the work done: (Please attach a separate sheet)**
- i. **Brief objective of the project** A Separate Sheet Attached
- ii. **Work done so far and results achieved and publications, if any, resulting from the work (Give details of the papers and names of the journals in which it has been published or accepted for publication** ‘ Displacement, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement in Coal Mining Area of Rajrappa, Jharkhand: A case study of the Affected Villages.’ Published in ‘Journal of Adivasi and Indigenous Studies, A bi-annual peer-reviewed online journal posted on Academia.edu)
- Vol. VIII, No.1, February 2018: 1–15 © 2018 JAIS, ISSN (online) 2394-5524**

iii. Has the progress been according to the original plan of work and towards achieving the objective. if not, state reasons (A Separate Sheet Attached)

iv. Please indicate the difficulties, if any, experienced in implementing the project

The Primary survey for the study was conducted in two phases parted by a time frame of three months. The first survey had Informal Coal-Carriers on Bicycles as the respondents. The coal carriers were surveyed en route from the coal mines areas from Karma Project (Near river Damodar, Ramgarh and Rajrappa coal mines in Rajrappa) to the city of Ranchi. The second phase was the household survey, spread over fourteen villages in and around the two coal mine areas mentioned above. Implementation of the project went off smoothly saving some hiccups in the course. These minor difficulties which were overcome, are enlisted below.

1. Rapport building: winning the trust of the respondents was a herculean task for the administration of the questionnaire for the primary survey. Initially, the cycle coal carriers were not only reticent and non-cooperative but were also hostile at times. It took some time and lots of convincing sessions to win them over for willingly participating in the survey. Once, a certain level of trust quotient was reached, administration of survey in both the phases became easier.
2. Most of the coal-carriers tend to under-report their income. Impressing upon them to correctly respond to the items on the questionnaire was also a task meticulously undertaken by the Principal Investigator and the Project Fellow.
3. The inadvertent stagger of the project due to Covid-19 and subsequent nationwide lockdown came as a stumbling block in the implementation of the project.
4. The Project fund transfer to the institution and further to the Project's account got significantly delayed on some technical grounds. In want of the fund, the project couldn't get a kick start in time.

v. If the project has not been completed, please indicate the approximate time by which it is likely to be completed.

A summary of the work done for the period (Annual basis) may please be sent to the Commission on a separate sheet.

vi. If the project has been completed, please enclose a summary of the findings of the study. One bound copy of the final report of work done may also be sent to the University Grants Commission.

vii. Any other information which would help in the evaluation of work done on the project. At the completion of the project, the first report should indicate the output, such as

(a) Manpower trained: N/A

(b) Ph. D. awarded N/A

(c) Publication of results:

The ***FINAL REPORT*** and Executive summary of the report, Research documents, monograph, academic papers related to the project is posted on the website of the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi web site. Further, the outcome of the project is to be published in book form, with permission from the UGC in this regard.

(d) other impacts, if any :

N/A

SIGNATURE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

REGISTRAR/PRINCIPAL
(Seal)

SIGNATURE OF THE CO-INVESTIGATOR

c. Report of the work done: (Please attach a separate sheet)

(i) Brief objective :

Following are the objectives of the study. These objectives laid down at the onset of the study and by the time of completion of the project, were achieved satisfactorily.

Objective 1

To understand the livelihood pattern of informal coal carriers. they are in this trade/practice voluntarily or are forced into it.

Objective 2

To assess the total contribution of income of these informal bicycle coal carriers in the Regional Economy.

Objective 3

To determine the social acceptability of bicycle informal coal carriers in terms of 'inclusion or exclusion' in the mainstream of society. Does society consider them as part and parcel of the social setup or they are taken as only a mechanical tool/ medium of bringing cheaper coal to their doorsteps, who cease to exist psychologically after delivering their loads?

Objective 4

Since livelihood includes the income as well as the expenditure of the households as well as the individuals, it is important to keep an account of expenditures incurred under the head of 'medical care or treatment' to have a better understanding of the livelihood pattern. Care has been taken to incorporate the 'reported' cases instead of 'recorded' ones in the primary health centres or the government hospitals.

Objective 5

The whole process of procuring the raw coal and burning (igniting) it in the shallow depressions (Khudi) and covering it with slack (coal dust) when considered hot enough to remove volatiles from the heap of coal and turning it into crude coke, loaded in small gunny bags and taken to by pushing the cycles to the city of Ranchi covering a distance of more than 50 km, involves a tremendous amount of risk. The magnitude of the risk (all kind) and the coping mechanism needs to be looked into separately.

iii. Has the progress been according to the original plan of work and towards achieving the objective. if not, state reasons

The project as designed initially progressed as desired and was well within the stipulated time frame saving some unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances. The project was given an extension of six months by the UGC in the light of the principal investigator not attending the scheduled mid-term evaluation of the project at the office of the UGC, New Delhi. The absence was later condoned and a fresh mid-term evaluation was scheduled on 26th March 2018 and a six-month extension to the project was granted. Further delay is explained on the ground of Corona Pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdown.

The objectives stated and laid down before the commencement of the project was largely achieved.

The Primary Survey for the project was conceived and designed into two-phases. The first phase included the coal- carriers on the bicycles as the respondents while the second phase was dedicated to the household survey, spread over fourteen villages geographically located in and around the coal mining regions(study area) of the project in Ramgarh district.

In both phases, the most important part was the rapport building exercise aimed at earning the trust of the community in the trade of Informally coal-carrying the on bicycles. The easily explainable scepticism and general apprehension was the greatest deterrent. However, once a rapport was established and trust quotient increased, the author found the cycle pullers very warm and congenial and also quite forthcoming while responding to the items in the questionnaire.

The work progressed in the desired and planned manner.