



PROBLEMS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN NAVI MUMBAI CITY

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Abstract

The present study aims to outline problems faced by construction workers in Kamothe, Navi Mumbai city. Construction sector comes under unorganised sector of an economy. The term unorganised labour has been defined as those workers who have not been able to organise themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishment. Construction sector plays a major role in the development of the economy, where the construction workers face many problems in their day-to-day life. Some of the problems are discussed in this study. The major problems are working for more number of hours, staying away from home, bad habits, and absence of social security, misunderstanding, arguments, stress, skin and physical health problems.

Keywords: *Construction Workers, Health Problems, & Navi Mumbai*



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Introduction:

Construction sector comes under unorganised sector of an economy. The term unorganised labour has been defined as those workers who have not been able to organise themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishment. Modernization and industrialization has paved a good way to the construction industry. Worker migration is generally defined as a cross-border movement for the purposes of employment and better living conditions. The term “worker migrant” can be used restrictively to only cover the movement for the purpose of employment. Construction workers face many problems like mistreatment and discrimination. Both skilled and unskilled migrant worker are required to complete many construction projects work. According to the Indian constitution article 19

provides people basic freedom to move to any part of the country and the right to reside and earn a livelihood in the place of their choice. Poverty, unemployment and helplessness force people to leave their place of origin and to go to unknown places to work in extremely difficult condition. The construction sector is an important sector of the economy and contributes significantly to GDP .Construction workers' is one of the major problems in India. Nowadays, construction sector plays a major role in which construction workers face so many problems in their day-to-day activities.

The study of wages and working conditions of construction workers in Madurai city in India the study was highlight on migratory nature, recruitment, social profile of organised construction workers, methods of wage payment, wage structure, level of differential working conditions, legislative protection, and socio economic characteristics of the organised construction workers. Proper enforcement of welfare measures can be improved the status of construction workers (M. L. Jesudoss, 1990). Another study was the employment relationships in construction labour in Nairobi, Kenya reveals that informal construction workers are mostly young men below 45 years of age. They operate under difficult working environment. They have no 24 formal employment contracts, social security, health insurance, and are exposed to several health hazards. There are no relevant policies and regulations aimed at addressing the problems facing the sub sector. Most of the construction workers interviewed have skills and some further training (formal or informal) in their areas of specialisation which are predominantly masonry, plumbing and electrical work. However, experience and reputation are the main requirements of employment within the informal construction system. These construction workers are spread across the width and length of the country (Mitullah and Wachira, 2003).

The workers who are migrated from different regions and states leaving their native villages in These people in general are nomadic in their life and usually do not return to their birthplace or natives. They travel from one area of work to other area along with their families and live in a place, which is either provided by the owner of the construction company or somewhere nearby, building temporary shelters. They have maximum mobility because of the nature of their work. These workers are engaged in huge industrial constructions, residential flat constructions, city beautification works, these construction workers, as a part of unorganized work force remain the most exploited ones even after five decades of independence. Most of the construction workers migrate to cities and metros are from poor families and are illiterate. Their lack of education and skill make their choice very

limited. When they come to big cities, they have to face number of problems because of their inexperience and lack of skill. They become easy victim of exploitation and have to work for their day today sustenance.

The present study aims to analyse the problems of construction workers in Kamothe, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra in which the construction business is booming is a vast proportion and there is greater migration construction workers. Since there is need to discuss the issues of construction workers

Nature of work:

Workers in the construction field are scattered in nature and unorganised. Most of them were migrated and poor. The strength of employer is superior. Hence, the nature of employment in construction sector remains casual and uncertain. No one either contractor or owner gives an assurance of job to the workers. Construction activity is in slack in rainy season, which results in less demand for workers. Again when there is a shortage of water in summer season, the construction work falls in danger, which ultimately turns into unemployment of workers required. As such, the nature of employment in construction sector remains causal and uncertain.



“Map showing Geographical Location of Kamothe, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra (Area of the Present Study)”

Need of the Study:

The study of construction workers in Kamothe, Navi Mumbai city is of great significance for the growth and reconstruction of urban areas in India. People movement from rural areas to urban areas since their living condition is better in urban areas. In rural areas, they face many problems like poverty, high population pressure, lack of health care facilities, education, etc.

In addition, people migrate due to local conflicts and natural disasters such as cyclonic storms, flood, earthquake, Tsunami, drought. In this present study the problems of construction workers and their level of study has been analysed.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the socio-economic profile of construction workers,
2. To understand problems of construction workers, and
3. To suggest the intervention plan for life improvement of construction workers.

Research Methodology:

The descriptive research methodology was used in present study. A questionnaire and interview technique was used as tools of data collection. A structured questionnaire has been administered to the respondents and primary data have been collected in the year 2013-14. The data has collected from 85 construction workers in Kamothe, Navi Mumbai by using purposive sampling method.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table - 1 shows the classification of 85 respondents (construction workers) based on their age, educational qualification, marital status, wages per week, type of family, Native region; Construction work was initiated due to, Type of work performed in construction, etc.

Table 1: Profile of construction workers

Sr. No.	Particular	Variables	Numbers	Percentage (%)
01	Age	Below 20yrs	20	23.52
		20 – 40 yrs	41	48.23
		40- 60 yrs	24	28.23
		Total	85	100
02	Sex	Male	63	74.11
		Female	22	25.88
		Total	85	100
03	Educational Status of construction workers	No Formal Education	27	31.76
		School level	56	65.88
		Graduate	02	2.35
		Total	85	100
04	Educational Status of workers children	Literate	11	12.94
		Neo- literate	09	10.54
		illiterate	65	76.47
		Total	85	100
05	Marital status	Married	70	82.35
		Unmarried	15	17.64
		Total	85	100
06	Wages per week	Up to Rs.3000	24	28.23.
		Rs.3000 – Rs.4000	37	43.52
		Rs.4000 – Rs.5000	17	20

		More than 5000	07	8.23
		Total	85	100
07	Type of family	Joint	67	78.82
		Nuclear	18	21.17
		Total	85	100
08	Native Region	North	66	78
		South	16	18
		East	01	1.17
		West	02	2.35
		Total	85	100
09	Construction work was initiated due to	Own interest	19	22.32
		Family	23	27.05
		Friends	37	43.52
		Advertisement	06	8.23
		Total	85	100
10	Type of work performed in construction	Iron Worker	12	14
		Mason	19	23
		Plasterer	16	18
		Labourer	38	45
		Total	85	100
11	Working Hours Per Day	8-10 hours	69	81.17
		10-12 hours	11	12.94
		12-13 hours	4	4.70
		More Than 13 hours	00	00
		Total	85	100
12	Have u faced any problem at the work place	Yes	85	100
		No	00	00
		Total	85	100

Major Finding of the Study:

Major findings of the study are mentioned below:

1. A majority 48 % of construction workers are 20-40 age groups, while 28% age groups of 40-60 are of construction workers.
2. Majority 74% construction workers are male and 26% construction workers are female.
3. Educational Status of construction workers are 66% school level, 32 % of construction workers are no formal education and 2% are graduate
4. A majority percentage education of construction workers children's are illiterate (76%), while 13% children's are literate and 11% children's are neo –literate.
5. Majority of 82 % construction workers got married and 18 % construction workers are unmarried
6. Wages of construction workers 44% are in the range Rs 3000-4000, 28 % are in the range are Rs 3000 and 8% are more than Rs 5000

7. Majority 79% Construction workers are living in joint family, while 21 % workers are living nuclear family.
8. Maximum number 78% construction workers are from north region, 18 % construction worker are from south region , 1% are east and 2 % from west region .
9. The sanitation and hygiene of the construction site and the temporary shed are very poor
10. 79. % of construction companies is not making provision of crèches to the workers' children.
11. The construction sites do not have any toilets or toilets having substandard quality. 44 % construction work was initiated by friends, 27 % construction works initiated by family and 22% construction works initiated by their own interest.
12. A considerable percentage of type of work performed by construction workers on construction site are (44%) as labourer,(23%) as mason, while (18%) are plasterer and (14%) are as iron worker
13. 81 % construction workers are works on site for 8-10 hrs, while 13% workers works for 10-12 hrs and 5 % construction workers are works for 12-13 hrs
14. Majority (100 %) construction workers have facing so many problems on the construction site.

Intervention Plan for Life Improvement of Construction Workers:

1. Create awareness of construction workers duty & rights.
2. Organize public medical camps where constructions sites are located.
3. Ensuring decent working conditions and proper contract systems and providing basic health care for construction labourers.
4. Adequate intervention from the government authorities required ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the construction labourers. NGOs working for child welfare should consider the difficulties of the construction workers and plan strategies to ensure free education of these children.
5. Organize public medical camps where constructions sites are located
Encourage the construction workers saving habit by initiating banking awareness.
6. Ensure adequate insurance facilities for the construction workers.

Conclusion:

The contribution of this study in the area of construction workers' involvement in economic growth activities is immense; they remain largely invisible. These construction workers are

predominantly young people who migrate due to poverty, face poor living and working conditions and lack of education and skills, they lack proper identity and representation. They, thus, remain excluded from public services, protection and opportunities for advancement in a growing economy. To ensure that constructions workers are safe and secure, and are able to access their entitlements as Indian citizens workers both at the destination and source states, the study enumerates a host of interventions: promoting awareness within the workers' community to sensitize members to their vulnerability to discrimination and exploitation, as well as to their health, education and legal rights, addressing the concerns of woman issues specifically.

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