

Economic Conditions of House Construction Workers

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Abstract:

Background: Indian Construction Industry is highly fragmented. There are mostly unorganised players in the industry which work on the subcontracting basis. As the Construction activity being labour intensive, construction companies have been mainly focusing on mechanization over past few years. The construction workers are mostly migrant, socially backward, unskilled and uneducated with low bargaining power. Economic conditions of these are very poor. Their lifestyle is very much limited with the lack of proper infrastructure.

Objective:

- To study economic conditions of House Construction Workers
- To make a study of working and living conditions and its impact on health of workers
- To recommend measures for improving their quality of life.

Keywords: *Construction Workers, Working condition, Health effect.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Economic growth does not seem to have changed the lives of construction workers from the time of the Asiad in 1982, to the Commonwealth Games of 2010 to the Bangalore Metro in 2014. Not a day passes without reports of construction workers falling to their death from high-rise buildings under construction, or of such buildings collapsing due to non-observance of safety measures, killing or gravely injuring workers.

The construction industry is a major source of employment worldwide, arguably the second largest after agriculture, and generally the primary one in urban areas. Building construction (both new build and maintenance) are labour-intensive activities, generating many jobs per unit of investment both on and off the building site.

A construction worker is someone who does many basic tasks that require physical labour on construction site. Construction workers do a variety of construction-related activities during all phases of construction. Although most are generalists—such as those who install barricades, cones, and markers to control traffic patterns—many others specialize. The Construction industry of India is an important indicator of the development as it creates investment opportunities across various related sectors. The construction industry has contributed an estimated ₹ 6708 billion to the national GDP in 2011-12 (a share of around 9%).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Tony Jacob (2011), has characterized in his paper The unorganized sector in India, about unorganized sector workers problems and their challenges how they suffer from cycles of excessive seasonality nature of their job, scattered work place, lack of formal employee – employer relationship, complex stratification in rural areas, bondage and indebtedness of employees, lack of attention from trade unions etc.

Unorganized workers (UW) in India have increased many folds post independence. Around 52% of UW's are engaged in agriculture & allied sector and they constitute more than 90% of the labour work force. UW also contributes 50% to GDP (according to National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector i.e NCEUS). So it is of utmost importance to look into the plight of this poverty-stricken and downtrodden class of India.

India's Ministry of Labour, in its 2008 report, classified the unorganised labour in India into four groups. This classification categorized India's unorganised labour force by

- occupation,
- nature of employment,
- specially distressed categories
- service categories

According to 2001 Census, India had 12.6 million children, aged 5–14, who work either part-time or full-time. Of these over 60 percent work in unorganised agriculture sector, and the rest in other unorganised labour markets. Poverty, lack of schools, poor education infrastructure and growth of unorganised economy are considered as the most important causes of child labour in India.

Despite the mountain of funds available, one keeps seeing women workers carrying babies at their waist even as they struggle to carry basins of mud on their head due to the lack of day-care centres for their children at most work-sites. Worse, one reads about workers' kids falling fatally into open sumps or into construction pits.

Domestic migrant workers have been estimated to be about 4.2 million. These workers range from full-time to part-time workers, temporary or permanent workers. They are typically employed for remuneration in cash or kind, in any household through any agency or directly, to do the household work, but do not include any member of the family of an employer. Some of these work exclusively for a single employer, while others work for more than

one employer. Some are live-in workers, while some are seasonal. The employment of these migrant workers is typically at the will of the employer and the worker, and compensation varies.

III. LIFESTYLE

"There are two types of construction workers - those living in the cities, and those who are migrants. The workers are recruited from villages by contractors who employ them for public and private projects. The contractors are responsible for accommodation, transport to and from the site, and decide their pay and working conditions. Its food habit is to eat rice, Dal and other vegetables which are easily available in market(bazar). The unhygienic practices are followed because of the lack of sufficient infrastructure in the domicile area. The contractors are not providing such facilities for their workers because of that they facing a problem like they make small room with wood, big stones, bricks & clothes(temporary room). Due to lack of facility like toilet, food they facing problem with health like Malaria, Fever, cold, head ache etc. All the workers were migrants. Maximum migration was seen from the state of Madhya Pradesh (58.1%) followed by Bihar (19.4%), Rajasthan (12.8%) and Jharkhand (3.2%).

We are taking 100 workers and see regarding the health issues, Workers suffering with Fever, cold, head ache were 24. The slide positivity rate for the malaria was 13. In all, 50 of the workers consumed tobacco and 15 consumed alcohol.

Parameters	Workers
Health Complaints	N=100
Diarrhea	3
Malaria	13
Teeth ache	3
Fever, cold, head ache	24
Skin problem	5
No complaints	52
Habits	
Alcohol	50
Tobacco chewing , Smoking, etc	15

IV. AWARENESS ABOUT GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND SUGGESTIONS

The workers are happy with the situation, yet unknown about their rights. The workers were not aware about the schemes that are available for the construction workers. Neither their contractor nor the supervisor mentions them about their rights from government.

Suggestions are given below.

- Awareness about different Govt. Schemes for construction workers.

- Savings to be deposited in banks, post offices but not in chit funds.
- Awareness may be create on bank account opening for saving money.
- Improve leaving quality for better health.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we studied about health , lifestyle of House Construction Workers in India and unorganised labour. The working conditions along with their health have lots of scope for improvement. It is very necessary to all workers to know about Government Schemes.

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