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A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Economics

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ABSTRACT

The paper attempts to analyse on Status of Construction workers in Tirunelveli district. This study is based on 100 construction workers. Most of the family depends on the construction industry and they are illiterate, so their children also involved these work. Construction workers have been facing lot of problems. They do not have any basic facilities. The welfare scheme for construction workers are not reaching them. They are deprived of then basic rights and they are exploited by the contractors. So there is an urgent need for the protection of construction workers to overcome in their lives.

KEYWORDS:

Wages, Income, Correlation, Economic conditions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Construction activity is an integral part of a country's infrastructure and industrial development; it includes hospitals, schools, townships, offices, houses, and other buildings, urban infrastructure (including water supply sewerage, drainage) highways, roads, ports, railways, airports, power system, irrigation and agriculture systems, telecommunications etc. The construction becomes the basic input for socio–economic development of country. Besides, the construction industry generates substantial employment and provides a growth impetus to other sectors through backward and forward linkages. Therefore, this vital activity is nurtured for the healthy growth of the economy. The Government of India has done massive investment in creating physical infrastructure during the 10thplan. Therefore, the construction industry would play a crucial role in this regard and it will gear itselfto meet the challenges. In order to meet the intended investment targets in time, the current capacity of the domestic construction industry would need tostrengthened.

Statement of the Problem

In Tirunelveli District, most of the peoples worked in construction sector. It does not provide sufficient income for the construction workers. So it decreased the standard of living of construction workers. Most of the family depends on the construction work and they are illiterate so their children also involved these work. It will affect the children study and also their health. Construction workers in Tirunelveli district live as a community and facing several problems such as low wages, health hazards, exploitation and denial of their rights. Their children do not get proper child care and medical facilities.The problem selected for the investigation is, Employment and Economic Conditions of Construction workers in Tirunelveli District.

Scope of the Study

Construction workers contribute in building up the high class buildings and bungalows. Yet they do not receive much respect in the eyes of people. The present research work "Status of Construction Workers in Tirunelveli district" will analyse the concerning problems of construction workers, and will put the focus on futureprospects.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are as follows–

1. To know the working conditions of the construction workers in Tirunelveli district.
2. To understand the payment of wages pay to the workers.
3. To know the problems of construction workers in Tirunelveli district.
4. To offer suitable suggestions based on the findings of the study.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on 100construction workers in Tirunelveli district. The primary data for the study were collected through questionnaires. Primary data were collected from the construction workers and secondary data gathered from leading journals, magazines, paper cuttings, website etc., relating to the topic chosen for the study.The researcher has adopted convenience random sampling technique.100 samples were selected from the population of construction workers living in the area of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sex wise Classification of the Respondents

From Table 1, it is clear that out of the 100 sample respondents, 82 per cent of the sample respondents are male and the remaining 18 per cent of the sample respondents are female. This is because there is male domination in construction work. It is evident from the table that majority of the sample workers are male have been involved in construction work.

Table 1 - Sex wise Classification of the Respondents

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	82	82
Female	18	18
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

Age-wise Classification of the Respondents

Table 2 reveals that 13 per cent of the sample respondents are in the age group of below 25 years, 39 per cent of the sample respondents are between 26 and 35 years, 21 per cent of the sample respondents are between 36 and 45 years, 22 per cent of the sample respondents fall under the age group of 46 to 55 years and 5 per cent of the sample respondents fall under the category of above 55 years.

Table 2 – Age-wise Classification of the Respondents

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 25	13	13
26-35	39	39
36-45	21	21
46-55	22	22
Above 55	5	5
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

It is clear that majority of the construction workers (39%) belong to 26 to 35 years. This is due to the fact that 26 to 35 years is the period when the construction workers has good health and can work efficiently. Construction work spoils the health and hence there is lesser percentage in the age group of above 35 years.

Educational Status-wise Classification of the Respondents

Table 3 clearly shows that 43 per cent of the sample respondents are

secondary school qualification, 34 per cent of the sample respondents are primary school qualification, 18 per cent of the sample respondents are degree qualification and 5 per cent of the sample respondents are uneducated.

Table 3 - Educational Status-wise Classification of the Respondents

Educational Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Primary	34	34
Secondary	43	43
Degree	18	18
Uneducated	5	5
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

Monthly Income of the Family

From Table 4, it is clear that 40 per cent of the sample respondents family monthly income was below Rs.10000, 34 per cent of the sample respondents family monthly income was between Rs.10000-15000, 17 per cent of the sample respondents family monthly income was between Rs. 15001-20000 and only 9 per cent of the sample respondents family monthly income was above Rs.20000. Hence, it is inferred that 40 per cent of the sample respondent's family monthly income was below Rs.10000.

Table 4 - Monthly Income of the Family

Monthly income of the family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below Rs.10000	40	40.0
Rs.10000-15000	34	34.0
Rs.15001-20000	17	17.0
Above Rs.20000	9	9.0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

Number of Days Working in a Month

Table 5 shows that 27 per cent of the sample respondents are working 24 days in a month, 24 per cent of the sample respondents are working below 20 days in a month, 20 per cent of the sample respondents are working 22 days in a month, 10 per cent of the sample respondents are working 21 days in a month, 7 per cent of the sample respondents are working 23 days in a month, about 6 per cent of the sample respondents are working 26 days in a month and another 6 per cent of the sample respondents are working 25 days in a month. It is inferred from table that majority of the sample respondents are working 24 days in a month because they do not get regular work and sometimes they take rest.

Table 5 - Number of Days Working in a Month

Number of Days	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 20 days	24	24
21 days	10	10
22 days	20	20
23 days	7	7
24 days	27	27
25 days	6	6
26 days	6	6
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

Occupational Pattern of the Respondents

Table 6 clearly shows that 36 per cent of the sample respondents are masons, 20 per cent of the sample respondents are mastery, 34 per cent of the sample respondents are helpers and only 10 per cent of the sample respondents are contractors,. It is inferred from table that most of the sample respondents are masons have been covered in the study because the study area has more masons.

Table 6 - Occupational Pattern of the Respondents

Occupational Pattern	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Contractors	10	10
Mastery	20	20
Mason	36	36
Helpers	34	34
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

Wages of the Respondents

Table 7 shows that 62 per cent of the sample respondents are getting wages of above Rs.500, 16 per cent of the sample respondents are getting wages of Rs.300-400, 15 per cent of the sample respondents are getting wages of Rs.401 to 500 and 7 per cent of the sample respondents are getting wages of below Rs.300. It is clear from table that most of the sample respondents are getting wages of above Rs.500 because most of the sample respondents are masons, they are getting more wages.

Table 7 - Wages of the Respondents

Wages	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below Rs.300	7	7
Rs.300-400	16	16
Rs.401-500	15	15
Above Rs.500	62	62
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

Problems faced by the Construction Workers

In order to find out the significant difference in problems among different construction workers such as contractors, mastery, mason and helpers in Tirunelveli district, 'ANOVA' test is attempted with the null hypothesis, **"T**here is no significant difference in problems among construction workers of contractors, mastery, mason and helpers in Tirunelveli district". The result of 'ANOVA' test is presented in the Table 8.

Table 8 shows the mean score of problems faced by the construction workersalong with its respective 'F' statistics. The important problems among the contractors' are hard and very difficult work and highly unhygienic condition exists in working place and their respective mean scores are 3.3308 and 3.2769. Among the mastery, the important problems are hard and very difficult work and highly unhygienic condition exists in working place and their respective mean scores are 3.3909 and 3.3500. Among the mason, the important problems are hard and very difficult work and leisure time is very short and their respective mean scores are 3.5798 and 3.4524. The important problems among the helpers' are hard and very difficult work and leisure time is very short and their respective mean scores are 3.5833 and 3.5789.

Table 8 - Problems faced by the Construction Workers

Problems	Type of Construction Workers				F Statistics	p Value
	Contractors	Mastery	Mason	Helpers		
Treatment at worksite is bad	3.0789	3.0923	3.2182	3.4881	2.006	0.113
Leisure time is very short	3.2462	3.3450	3.4524	3.5789	2.395	0.068
Hard and very difficult work	3.3308	3.3909	3.5798	3.5833	1.483	0.219
Highly unhygienic condition exists in working place	3.2769	3.3500	3.4211	3.4643	0.624	0.600
Friendship with co workers is not good	3.2231	3.3375	3.3571	3.5658	1.426	0.235
Proper training is not given before entering the main occupation	3.2000	3.2050	3.2500	3.3553	0.773	0.510

Source: Primary Data
Note: *-Significant at 5 per cent level

Regarding the problems, no significant difference among the different type of construction workers such as contractors, mastery, mason and helpers, are identified in the case of treatment at worksite is bad, leisure time is very short, hard and very difficult work, highly unhygienic

condition exists in working place, friendship with co workers is not good and proper training is not given before entering the main occupation since the respective 'F' statistics are not significant at 5 per cent level, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Level of Inter relationship between Educational Status and Occupation

Construction workers with high education have good occupational status. Construction workers with low education have poor occupational status. Hence there is a direct relationship between educational status and occupation. The inter-relationship between educational status and occupation of construction workers in the study area is analysed through correlation co-efficient. The null hypothesis as "There is no relationship between educational status and occupation of construction workers in Tirunelveli district". The computed correlation co-efficient between educational status and occupation in the study area is presented in Table 9.

Table 9 - Relationship between Educational Status and Occupation-Correlation

Particulars	Educational Status	Occupation
Pearson Correlation	1.000	-0.332(**)
Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
N	100	100

Source: Primary data
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 9 shows the relationship between educational status and occupation of construction workers in Tirunelveli district. The table reveals that educational status is negatively related to the occupation with a co-efficient correlation of -0.332. It is found that there is a relationship between educational status and occupation of construction workers in Tirunelveli district.

Level of Inter relationship between Income and Expenditure

Construction workers earning high income, they spend highly. Construction workers earning low income they do not spend highly. Hence there is a direct relationship between income and expenditure. The inter-relationship between income and expenditure of construction workers in the study area is analysed through correlation co-efficient. The null hypothesis as "There is no relationship between income and expenditure of construction workers in Tirunelveli district". The computed correlation co-efficient between income and expenditure of construction workers in the study area is presented in Table10.

Table 10 - Relationship between Income and Expenditure-Correlation

Particulars	Income	Expenditure
Pearson Correlation	1.000	-0.412(**)
Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0.000
N	100	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 10 shows the relationship between income and expenditure of construction workers in Tirunelveli district. The table reveals that income is negatively related to the expenditure with a co-efficient correlation of -0.412.It is identified that there is a relationship between income and expenditure of construction workers in Tirunelveli district".

Suggestions

- The literacy percentage in the study area was found to be low. To improve the literacy percentage, the special attention to be given. The implementation of adult education campaign is essential in the study area and creation of night schools with all facilities on the field sites will result in increasing / improving of literacy rate.
- Living conditions of the construction workers are very poor it must be improved.Essential and adequate health service at their residential areas should be provided. The health care must be supplied by the house owners or the building contractors or the labour contractors.
- No social security schemes were implemented by the owners or contractors, so it is the need of time to implement. Social security schemes may be provided by the Government and give the assurance of work to the employees.
- So far as working conditions are concerned it must be carefully seen that rest shelter, safe drinking water and first aid facilities are invariably provided by the employers at the work site at their own cost.
- To improve an economic and social status of theconstruction workers, proper implementation of Public distribution System, with the help of fair price shop is essential; Government authorities should take the necessary action in this regard.
- Some of the above suggestions may increase the cost of house construction but will definitely improve the socio-economic conditions of house construction workers in the study area.

4. CONCLUSION

Construction workers have been facing lot of problems. They do not have any basic facilities. The welfare scheme for construction workers are not reaching them. They are deprived of then basic rights and they are exploited by the contractors. So there is an urgent need for the protection of construction workers to overcome in their lives. The researcher has identified the employment and economic conditions of construction workers which will help the government to take remedial measures to promote the welfare of construction workers and to protect their rights.

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