



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Arts**

**WOMEN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR HEALTH IN NAGERCOIL**

**KEY WORDS:** Construction, Health, Economic, Women, Hazardous

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**ABSTRACT**

The construction sector is one of the leading employers of women next to agriculture in India. Construction work is frequently described as a polluted, complicated and hazardous job. It is one of the most harmful and disaster-prone actions as reported by International Labour Organization. To find out the social-economic conditions of the women constructions workers. To study the problems faced by the women construction workers. The present study is explanatory in nature which describes the problems faced by women construction workers. The data of the present study includes the women construction workers looking for job from place like Nagercoil and surroundings. The study used convenient sampling method for collecting the sample. Hundred and twenty women construction workers were selected. The researcher used interview schedule for collecting primary data on demographical details. There are many studies discussing the cause why female workers inhibited gone from construction industry. The unorganized sector workers public protection, Act 2008 where a variety of schemes on maternity, family benefit and health policy are proposed and the domestic workers social security Act, 2010 which insists on provided that improved working conditions for women and children some of the other schemes which were promoted by the government broken up as failures.

**INTRODUCTION**

The construction sector is one of the leading employers of women next to agriculture in India. Construction work is frequently described as a polluted, complicated and hazardous job. It is one of the most harmful and disaster-prone actions as reported by International Labour Organization (ILO). Construction sectors involves work that are very dangerous like working in severe heights, welding, cutting, centering, carrying material to high places without the use of any kind of machinery. Globally, 17% of all work-related losses are in the construction sector (ILO). So far as women construction workers are troubled their circumstances are even poorer. Women construction workers may hold single loads of up to 51 kg, far more than the weight limit suggested by work safety and health standards for women. They also have a propensity to carry heavier loads when they have to go up a job site and a recurrence of this kind of work takes a levy on the women, and their bodies. Most of the women construction workers are facing plenty of difficulties like deficiency of social protection, low salary, sexual irritation, gender inequity, etc are the major things of unawareness and illiteracy, small and extend amount of firm. They are working under unsecured situation or work background.

**Problems Faced By Women Construction workers**

Construction work is one of the unorganized sectors. Organized sector workers are famed by regular compensated jobs with clear knowledge of service, social security and protection. In developing countries leads to enlarge in women workers in unorganized sector. The dominance of women workers in construction sector is important in rural areas. The construction sector, lying on the other hand, has no such clear-cut employer-employee associations and lacks the bulk of social protection. Having no permanent employer, these workers are informal, contractual, immigrant habitat based workers who effort to receive a income from anything paltry resources and skills they have. This sector is characterized by the occurrence of factors viz. wage inequity of men and women, lack of job protection, no minimum wages, lack of minimum amenities at work position, more physical work and sexual exploitation etc. They are occupied in behavior like household work, building work, tiny trades like brick manufacture, coir and case weaving, household industries etc. In rural unorganized sector women are occupied in farming activities, mammal husbandry, dairy, fisheries etc.

**Women in Construction Industry**

Construction sector is the main source of employment for workers in the unorganized sector. It is the next leading group and covers the related field of behavior in the social,

mechanical and electrical part also. Currently, a great number of workers are occupied in the construction sector s eparately from the agricultural sector. There are many studies discussing the cause why female workers inhibited gone from construction industry. The unorganized sector workers public protection, Act 2008 where a variety of schemes on maternity, family benefit and health policy are proposed and the domestic workers social security Act, 2010 which insists on provided that improved working conditions for women and children some of the other schemes which were promoted by the government broken up as failures.

**Statement of the problem**

Nowadays more rural and urban women were departing for construction works. The cause for such transfer in profession is concentrated agricultural behavior appropriate to poor rainfall & expenditure scramble. As the income cost in soaring to make ends assemble women prefer substitute jobs. She has to beat at home, place of work, physical condition difficulty, family problems, sexual aggravation and social issues. The researcher has mentioned many construction workers in place like, Nagercoil and surroundings. These women appear to be in stress to identifying the accessibility of works, expanse to be travelled to new workplace, lack of confidence and reaching home not on time in evening. This unfair the researcher to do research about such women working in construction field.

**Objectives of the study**

To find out the social-economic conditions of the women constructions workers.

To study the problems faced by the women construction workers.

**Research Design and Method Of Data Collection**

The present study is explanatory in nature which describes the problems faced by women construction workers. The data of the present study includes the women construction workers looking for job from place like Nagercoil and surroundings. The study used convenient sampling method for collecting the sample. Ninety women construction workers were selected. The researcher used interview schedule for collecting primary data on demographical details

**Age Composition of the respondents**

Age composition is one of the important factors in demographical study.

Source: Primary data

Age (in years)	No. of respondents	Percentage
Below 29	30	25
30-34	25	20
35-39	31	25.8
44 Above	34	28.2
Total	120	100.0

Note : Mean age of the respondents 34.79 years

Table 1 shows that 30 (25 percent) belonged to the age group of 25-29 years, 25 (20 percent) of them belonged to the age group of 30-34 years 31 (25.8 percent) comes under the age group of 35-39 years and 34 (28.2 percent) of them 40-44 years. Mean age of the respondents worked out to be 34.79 years.

**Marital Status**

Marriage for women is universal. Marriage is an important social institution and it considered as the essential part of the human life.

Marital Status	No of respondents	percentage
Married	98	81.7
Widowed	16	13.3
Divorced	6	5
Total	120	100

Source: Primary data

Table 2 shows that 81.7 percent of them got married and were living with their husband and children. 13.3 percent of them were widowed and 5 percent of them Divorced.

**Education status of the respondents**

Education is one of the factors of socioeconomic status.

Education	No of respondents	Percentage
Illiterates	41	34
Middle school	33	28
High school and above	46	38
Total	120	100

Source: Primary data

Table 3 reflects that, 66 percent of them are illiterates, 28 percent of them studied middle school level, 38 percent of them were studied high school level.

**Religious, Community and Type of family**

Religion	No of respondents	Percentage
Hindus	33	27.5
Christian	79	65.8
Muslim	8	6.7
<b>Community</b>		
SC	17	14
BC	77	64
MBC	26	22
<b>Type of Family</b>		
Nuclear Family	107	89
Joint Family	13	11

Source: Primary data

Table 4 shows that 25.7percent of them were Hindus, 65.8 percent of them belonged to Christian and 6.7 percent of them were Muslims. 64 percent of them belonged to Backward Class 14 percent of them were Scheduled Caste and 22 percent of them were Most Backward Class. 89 percent of the respondents belonged to nuclear family. On the other hand remaining 11 percent of them are living in joint family.

**Nature of Work, Period of Work, and Wages**

Nature of employment, period of work and wages are the important factor of construction sector. The following were presented in a Table 5

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
<b>Nature of Work</b>		
Regular	76	63
Temporory	26	22
Seasonal	18	15
<b>Days of Work</b>		
18-20	25	21
20-22	69	57
22-24	17	14
24-26	9	8
<b>Wage per Day</b>		
500-550	58	48
550-600	43	36
600-650	19	16
<b>Hours of Work</b>		
7	63	53
8	37	31
9	20	16

Table 5 explained that, out of the 120 workers, 63 percent workers had regular employment opportunities, 22 per cent workers were temporary and 15 per cent workers were seasonal workers.

On the other hand 21 per cent workers worked for 18-20 days in a month, 57 per cent workers for 20-22 days, 14 per cent workers for 22-24 days and 9 per cent workers worked for 24-26 days in a month.

Most of the workers works at 63 (53 per cent) workers had worked for 7 hours per day, 37 (31 per cent) workers worked for 8 hours and 20 (16 per cent) workers worked for 9 hours per day.

Workers earned wage in the range between 58 (48 per cent) workers having wage in the range of 500-550, 43 (36 per cent) workers having 550-600, 19 (16 per cent) of workers having 600-650.

**Problems faced by the house construction workers**

The problems faced by the women construction workers for physically. The following are the main problems of construction workers.

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Respiratory/ Lungs	18	15
Skin Allergy	30	25
Dust Allergy	40	33
Backache	26	22
None of the above	6	5
Total	120	100

The above Table shows that the problem of women construction workers 18 (15 percent) of workers having respiratory/ lungs problem, 30 (25 percent ) of them having skin allergy, 40 (33 percent ) of them having dust allergy and 26 (22 percent ) of them having backache .None of them were having any diseases.

**CONCLUSION**

The result of this study exposed that different types of health problems were common amongst the workers in construction industry. The study highlights that the construction workers have a trouble of warm related pain and ill health, mainly dust and skin allergy. Rapid increase, in urbanization, and common heat. This population should be a solution spotlight of heat illness prevention actions, and sustained supportive efforts between the public and private sectors to defend the health of these necessary workers should be optimistic .

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