



MIGRATED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR CHALLENGES - SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MYSURU CITY

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Abstract:

The construction industry is one of the oldest industries in India, which employs a large number of workers of poor socioeconomic status. Mysore city is growing rapidly and large number of commercial buildings, houses, apartments, roads, and many more are under construction hence has seen significant rise in the number of migrants from various parts to work in construction industry. These workers suffer from lack of basic amenities leading to decreased quality of life which have been neglected seriously. To understand their challenges and to suggest remedies from social work point of view, the present study was conducted. To understand the same, the researcher has done literature survey and review. Further, has adopted exploratory research design and through self-developed interview schedule 200 respondents were interviewed based on random selection technique among 65 wards of the Mysore city corporation. Later respondent data was grouped and analysed using SPSS statistical 16.0 software to determine the awareness of welfare measures and Scheme. The study reveals that majority of construction workers were between the age group of 18-30 years having poor physical, social, and psychological Quality of life. Tobacco usage and smoking found to be common among men respondents. Few women respondents also used to tobacco chewing.

Key words: Mysore city, Construction workers, Migrant workers, Challenges.

Introduction:

Migration is a significant factor of population change after fertility and mortality. Migration is nothing but the movement of people from one permanent place to another permanent or temporary place for a significant period of time by breaking social and cultural ties. People have been on the move since time early ages. However, in recent

years, global change has increased migration significantly. Rapid urbanization and industrialization of the areas have generated more employment opportunities and also created better infrastructure. People migrate to such regions perceiving them as better place. For many people around the state moving away from their home town or village can be the best and in sometimes the only options open to improve their life chances. Migration can be vastly effective in improving the income, education and participation of individuals and families and also enhancing their children's future prospects. (Human Development Report, 2009) Migration in India is mostly influenced by social structures and pattern of development. The development policies by all the governments since independence have enhanced the process of migration. Irregular development among families is the main cause of migration. Migrant labourers, who account for roughly one-third of India's population, work long hours, are paid low wages, and work in unsafe environments, besides the other ills of social isolation and poor access to basic services, such as education, water, sanitation, and health. Mysore has seen significant growth in the number of migrants from various parts to work in construction industry. These workers suffer from lack of good accommodation, basic sanitation facilities, health facilities, stressful working conditions, and poor social life. This study focuses on the various challenges faced by the migrated construction workers in Mysore city.

Methodology:

This study was conducted at Mysore city. The aim of the study is to understand challenges faced by the migrated adults in the field of construction work and to suggest social work measures for improved social and healthy life. To understand the same, the researcher has done literature survey and review. Further, has adopted exploratory research design and through self-developed interview schedule 200 respondents were interviewed based on convenient random selection technique among 65 wards of the Mysore city corporation. Later respondent data was grouped and analysed using SPSS statistical 16.0 software to determine the awareness of welfare measures and Scheme.

The study reveals that 35% belong to the age group 18-30 years. The next major group to which respondents belongs is 31-40 years age which amounts to 33% of the total study population. 18.5 % of the respondents fall in the age group 41-50 years and 13.5% respondents belong to the age group 51-60 years. This shows that people at early adulthood join construction work.

Majority of the respondents are male, contributing 94% of the total study group. Related to their educational level, 52.5% of the respondents have completed their primary education whereas 22% of them have completed secondary education. 16.5% of them are illiterate. 8.0% of the respondents have done PUC and only 1% have completed their degree.

Table 02: Nature and characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Classification	Frequency N= 200	Percent
Nature of migration	Permanent	50	25.0
	Temporary	150	75.0
Number of years since migration	1-5 Years	55	27.5
	5-10 Years	68	34.0
	10-15 Years	41	20.5
	Above 15 Years	36	18.0
	11-15 Years	39	19.5

Age at the time of migration	16-20 Years	75	37.5
	21-25 Years	57	28.5
	26-30 Years	29	14.5
Purpose of migration	Job	194	97.0
	Education	6	3.0
Previous Job of the respondent	Coolie	132	66.0
	Tailoring	1	0.5
	Carpentry	2	1.0
	Plumber	5	2.5
	Agriculture	1	0.5
	Factory	9	4.5
	No Job	50	25.0
Frequency in changing the job	Not changed	54	27.0
	Once	113	56.5
	Twice	28	14.0
	Thrice	4	2.0
	Above Three	1	0.5

Table 02: explains the nature and characteristics of the respondents. It shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 75% of the total study population have migrated temporarily whereas 25% of them have migrated permanently for the sake of job. Regarding number of years since migration, 34% of the respondents have completed 5-10 years since migration. 27.5% of the respondents have completed 1-5 years after migration, 20.5% of the respondents have completed 10-15 years and 18% have completes more than 15 years after migration. The researcher probed into age at migration it reveals that 37.5% of the respondent's age was 16-20 years at the time of migration. 28.5% of the respondent's age was between 21-25 years of age. 19.5% of the respondent's age was in-between 11-15 at the time of migration. By the table it is clear that 14.5% of the respondent's age was in-between 26-30 during the time of migration.

The major purpose of the migration is employment (97%). The married respondent had a responsibility to feed the family hence had to migrate in search of job. Very few of the respondent (3.0%) of the total study population migrated for the purpose of education. For them education is the main tool to improve the standard of living. They opined that their children have to study well and obtain a secured job and they never want their children to carry out the same job what they used to do.

According to the study majority of the respondent i.e. 66.0% had workers on daily wages before migration and 25.0% were unemployed . 4.5% of the respondents worked in a factory. Rest of the respondents i.e. less than 5.0 % were self employed.

Challenges faced by the construction workers

Variables	Classification	Frequency N= 200	Percent
Type of toilet at residence	Indian	177	88.5
	No	23	11.5
source of lighting at residence	Electricity	172	86.0
	Kerosene	28	14.0
Distance from construction site to	0-2	61	30.5
	2-4	131	65.5

the residence	4-6	2	1
	6-8	6	3.0
Mode of transport to reach the site	Contractor pickup	2	1.0
	Walk	20	10.0
	Cycle	30	15.0
	Bike	75	37.5
	Bus	31	15.5
	Train	42	21.0
Time required to reach the construction site	5 - 10 min	1	0.5
	10-30 min	81	40.5
	31-1 hr	79	39.5
	More than 1 hr	39	19.5
Presence of child labour at construction site	Yes	4	2.0
	No	196	98.0
Type of pollution at the construction site	Air	136	68.0
	Water	22	11.0
	Sound	19	9.5
	Air & Water	7	3.5
	Air, Water & Sound	1	0.5
	Air & Sound	9	4.5
	Water & Sound	3	1.5
	No pollution	3	1.5
Source of drinking water at residence	Tap water	162	81.0
	Well water	15	7.5
	Tube well	23	11.5
Fuel used for cooking at residence	Kerosene	9	4.5
	Gas	175	87.5
	Firewood	16	8.0

The table consists of nine parts explaining the challenges faced by the construction workers. The study revealed that 88.5% of the study population had Indian toilets. The remaining study population i.e. 11.5% no toilets. The researcher found that in some of the sites in which the construction was at the beginning stage, the employer did not provide toilets as a result workers used open place for urination and few of them used public toilets. Regarding source of lighting, majority of the respondent i.e. 86% of them had electricity, 8% depends of fire wood and 4.5% were dependent on kerosene. The availability of firewood and kerosene is again a challenge through the suffering is not by majority population. Regarding travelling distance from construction site to the residence, 65.5% of the study population had to travel 2-5 kilometres to the construction site from their residence. 30.5% of the respondents travelled 0-2 kilometres where as 3.0% travelled for 6-8 kilometres and only 1.0 % travelled between 4-6 kilometres from residence to the construction site. To reach the destination, 35.7% of the respondent travelled through bikes. Researcher found that for respondents owning at least a second hand bike was not a difficult. Few of them borrowed money from a friend to purchase a bike. 21.0 % of the respondent travelled by train and 15.5% used buses whereas 15.0 % used cycles as mode of transport and 10.0% came by walk. The duration of travelling says that 40.5 % of the respondents required 10-30 minutes time to reach the construction

site from their house. Whereas 39.5% of the respondent need 31 minutes to one hour to reach the site. 19.5% had to travel more than one hour to reach the construction site. 0.5% of the respondents require 5-10 minutes to reach the site. The peaceful issues is that 98% respondents have acknowledged child labour free working environment. But, 2.0% of the respondents acknowledge the practice of child labour involved in curing work.

Regarding pollution at work place, 68 % of the respondents experienced air pollution, 11.0% complaints about water pollution and 9.5% respondents mentions about sound pollution. Very few respondents (1.5%) mentions about pollution free environment. Further, the study reveals that majority of the respondents depended on tap water (81.0%), 11.5% of the respondents depended on borewells where as 7.5% had well water as a source of drinking water.

In sum, majority of construction workers were between the age group of 18-30 years who are unmarried men. The majority of the population highlight the challenges as expenditure on travel, availability of basic amenities such as toilets, safe drinking water and kerosene and firewood. Though travelling mode and time is not an issue for these workers, the money spent on the same is a botheration. Further, it is interesting to understand that they are not bothered about their job security and physical safety. For many respondents pollution was the main challenge that they were expecting their employer to focus on. In this regard the employer has to strictly see that their workers are provided with safety tools.

In conclusion, construction workers are being one section of underprivileged among unorganised sector, have poor quality of life. For many respondents purpose of migration is only bread earning and for very few educating their children was the priority. The employer should provide minimum safety tools like mask, gloves for workers involved in construction. Also guarantee safe drinking water at the site. The study opines to recommend policies and schemes to improve the physical, social, and psychological well-being of this weak population through strict and vigilant legislations. As a social work intervention the respondents were educated regarding the registration of construction workers in state building and other construction worker's welfare board under section 12 of building and other construction worker's (Regulation of employment and conditions of service) act, 1996, which entitles them for a temporary living accommodation, with a separate cooking place, bathing and washing facilities for a period as building or other construction work is in progress.

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