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Socio-Demographic Characteristics And Employment Of Construction Workers

S. Raman*, K.Anitha**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Kamaraj College.Thoothukudi-628003.Tamil Nadu, India.(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli) E Mail ID:ramanmsu@gamil.com
**Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Kamaraj College (Autonomous).Thoothukudi-628003.Tamil Nadu, India. (Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu)

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ABSTRACT

Construction is usually done or coordinated by general contractors, who specialize in a single type of construction namely residential or commercial building. Cost structure of the construction industry is fixed by the raw material cost and subcontracting cost. The prime objective of this study is to analyses the socio-demographic characteristics of the construction workers in Tirunelveli district. The construction workers are classified into three types. They are skilled, semiskilled and unskilled and it is influenced by many socio-demographic factors. Considering both the time available for the study and the need to have a large sample of 711 construction workers were selected randomly for the statistical analytic study. It is these factors which determine whether the construction workers employment enables the respondents to improve their position or not.

Keywords: Employment condition, Distribution, Educational Status and Construction workers.

1. INTRODUCTION

Construction work is considered to be one of the hardest and riskiest jobs in the world. It is the job which has tremendous growth all over the world. Workers gain more money in the construction field but still workers around the southern Asian construction especially in the southern part of the Indian country says that they haven't received the expected pay in construction work. To obtain some more pay in this construction career they must possess certain qualifier and skills which are related to their construction jobs. The job related skills are made to be necessary by many recruiters in construction work. These skills and qualities can be acquired through education, training and experience.

Construction work is physically hard and must be carried out in conditions which are difficult and hazardous. There are serious hazards of accidental injury and even death due to objects or persons fallings from height, collapse of scaffolding caving in of earth work, handling of explosives and etc.

Construction is one of the four industries that is of common importance in all countries. Its role cuts across differences in resource endowments, social policies and existing levels of development. Some of the ancient civilizations had human settlements with well-planned layouts and service facilities which we associate today with urban development. The Middle East, India and China have traditions of city buildings that go back to 3,000 years.

Objectives of this Study

1. To discuss the employment, wage and wage structure and working conditions of the construction workers;
2. To offer suitable suggestions on the basis of the findings of the stud

2. METHODOLOGY

Empirical method is used in this study to collect and analyze the data. Both primary and secondary data is used while applying this method in the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Classification of Construction Workers of the Respondents

Before starting the construction work most of the workers remained agricultural and allied workers and their involvement in economic activities was insignificant. After starting their work construction industry, workers enrolled themselves as mason and other skilled works. Their occupational status has been improved due to this transformation. In turn, the standard of living of the construction workers had improved.

The construction activities afford employment opportunities for a sizable number of people adult men and women. The present research studies only the three groups of workers namely skilled, semiskilled and unskilled

workers for analytical purposes. Group-wise distribution of the sample respondents is given in Table 1.

Table: 1 – Group-wise distribution of the respondents

Worker Groups	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Skilled	144	20.25
Semiskilled	136	19.13
Unskilled	431	60.52
Total	**711**	**100.00**

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 shows that, out of the total sample respondents, 144 respondents by 20.25 per cent are skilled workers. About 136 respondents at 19.13 per cent are semiskilled workers and the remaining 431 respondents at 60.52 per cent are unskilled workers.

3.2. Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Gender analysts argue that equality of sex ratio assumes critical significance for the social development. Gender composition is an important factor in the determination of nature of working persons of households. As composition of gender plays an important role it is considered to analyses the pattern of distribution of construction workers in the household and in the study area.

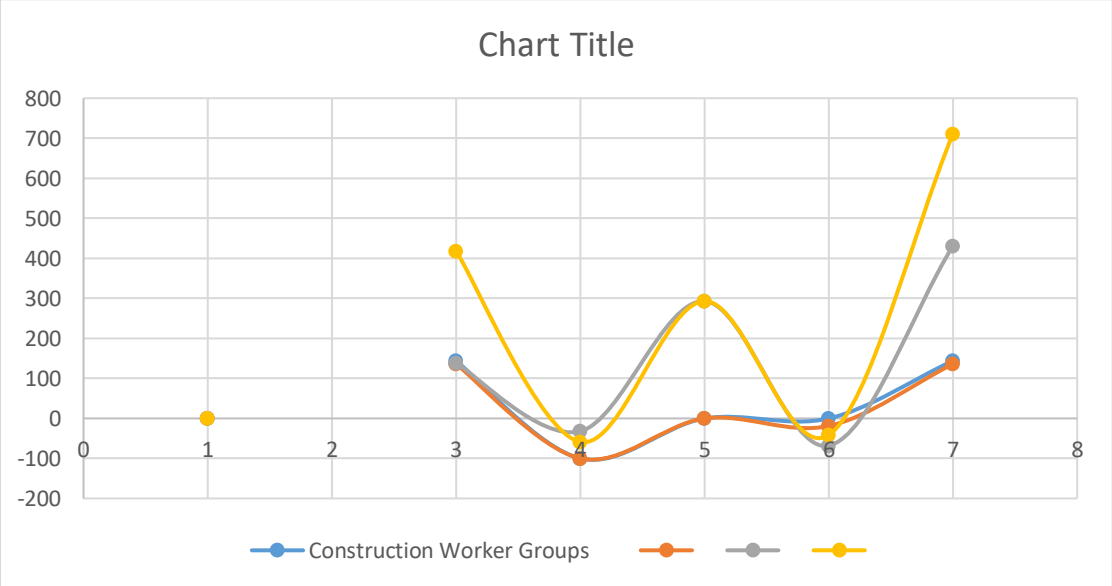
Table: 2 – Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Gender	Construction Worker Groups			Overall
	Skilled	Semiskilled	Unskilled	
Male	144 (100.00)	136 (100.00)	138 (32.00)	418 (58.80)
Female	0 (0.00)	0 (18.75)	293 (68.00)	293 (41.20)
Total	**144** **(100.00)**	**136** **(100.00)**	**431** **(100.00)**	**711** **(100.00)**

Source: Field Survey

Note : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

Figure: 1 – Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents



Above the table shows that out of 711 respondents, 418 workers were male construction workers and the remaining 293 were female construction workers. It also shows that majority of the construction workers are male. The female construction workers participated only in the unskilled work. Such female workers works as coolie, stone breaker, carpentry helper, earth worker, water sprayer, watchman and helper.

3.3. Educational status-wise distribution of the Respondents

Education is one of the important determinations of income. Education is the basis of employment. Education plays an important role in molding an individual's life and its main aim is to provide better, richer, peaceful and purposeful life. It develops the capacities of an individual. Those who are well qualified can migrate to any place for better jobs. But illiterate workers find it difficult to move from the rural area. Hence they become village artisans or agricultural labourers. Therefore, education plays a vital role in the economic and social emancipation of the construction workers. The allocation of sample members according to their educational status is portraying in Table 3.

Table: 3 - Educational status-wise distribution of the Respondents

Education	Construction Workers			Overall
	Skilled	Semiskilled	Unskilled	
Illiterate	37 (25.69)	36 (26.47)	131 (30.39)	204 (28.69)
Primary	42 (29.17)	48 (33.82)	138 (32.02)	226 (31.79)
Secondary	45 (31.25)	32 (23.53)	104 (24.13)	181 (25.46)
Hr. Sec.	13 (9.03)	11 (8.09)	21 (4.87)	45 (6.33)
College/ Technical	7 (4.86)	11 (8.09)	37 (8.58)	55 (7.74)
Total	**144 (100.00)**	**136 (100.00)**	**431 (100.00)**	**711 (100.00)**

Source: Field Survey

Note : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

Table 3, reveals that out of the 144 skilled construction workers, 45 (31.25%) of them have studied up to the level of secondary level, 42 (29.17%) of them have studied upto primary school education, 13(9.032%) of them possess higher secondary level education and only seven (4.86%) of them were college / technical education but 37 (25.69%) of them were illiterates.

Out of the 136 semiskilled worker respondents, 48 (33.82%) of them have primary level education followed by 36 (26.47%) of them have illiterates, 32 (23.53%) with secondary level education and 11 (8.09%) of them have possessed higher secondary education and another 11 (8.09%) of them have possessed college and technical education.

In the case of unskilled workers, 138 (32.02%) of them have completed primary education and followed by 104 (24.13%) respondents have completed secondary education, 21(4.87%) of them have completed higher secondary and 37 (8.58%) college / technical in the study area. 131respondnets (30.39 per cent) of them were illiterates.

Thus it may be concluded from the above analysis that almost all the construction workers had primary level education followed by secondary education and 28.69 illiterate workers are also there in the study area.

3.4 Employment Status

Construction workers in Tirunelveli district develop their skill through experience, on the basis of experience or employment status they are classified into different categories namely masons. Mazdoors, carpenter, painters, electricians and others. On the basis of the category of the respondents, classification is made and it is presented in Table 4.

Table: 4- Employment Status of Construction Workers

Type of Workers	Construction Workers			Overall
	Skilled	Semiskilled	Unskilled	
Masons	49 (34.03)	--	--	49 (6.89)
Carpenters	38 (26.39)	--	--	38 (5.34)
Painters	32 (22.22)	--	--	32 (4.50)
Electricians	25 (17.36)	18 (13.24)	--	43 (6.05)
Fitter & Welder	--	42 (30.88)	--	42 (5.91)
Centry Workers	--	76 (55.88)	--	76 (10.69)
Helpers	--	--	168 (38.98)	168 (23.63)
Water Sprayer & Watermen	--	--	35 (8.12)	35 (4.92)
Coolies	--	--	228 (52.90)	228 (32.07)
Total	**144 (100.00)**	**136 (100.00)**	**431 (100.00)**	**711 (100.00)**

Source: Field Survey

Note : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

Table 4, reveals that out of the total 144 skilled workers, 34.03 per cent of the respondents are mason. However 26.39 per cent are termed as carpenter, 22.22 per cent are painters and 17.36 per cent are electricians as they have gained an experience of more than five years in their respective work.

Among the 136 semiskilled workers, 13.24 per cent of the respondents are electrical workers, 30.88 per cent of the respondents are fitter and welders and the remaining 55.88 per cent are centry workers, Further out of the 431 unskilled workers, 38.98 per cent of them helpers, 8.12 per cent of them water sprayer and watermen and the remaining 52.90 per cent of them collies.

The table reveals that, out of the 711 construction worker respondents, majority 32.07 per cent of them are coolies followed by 23.63 per cent are helpers. The remaining 10.69 per cent, 6.89 per cent, 6.05 per cent, 5.94 per cent, 5.31 per cent, 4.92 per cent and 4.52 per cent are centry workers, masons, electricians, fitters and welders, carpenters, water sprayers and watermen and painters respectively.

4. Conclusions

This study reveals that almost all the construction workers had primary level education followed by secondary education and 28.69 illiterate workers also are there. The table 4 shows that majority of the construction workers are male. The female construction workers are only in the unskilled work, such females are coolie, stone breaker, carpentry helper, earth worker, water sprayer, watchman and helper. The minimum age of the workers in unskilled workers and maximum age in semiskilled workers.

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