

## ECONOMIC STATUS OF FEMALE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Economic characteristics reflect the standard of living of the people. In India, the unorganised sector gives more employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers. Generally the construction sectors workers are manual workers. Women workers effect will be more than that of male workers. This study was carried out by assessing the economic status of female workers in construction industry by way of their occupation, category of work, wages, working hours, savings etc. **Material and Methods:** In this study, the researcher has using the convenience sampling method. For this research, the researcher collected the sample of fifty female construction workers in Tirunelveli city. The primary data collected by means of well-structured interview- schedule and the secondary data are from journal, websites, Government notifications etc. The resources collected the data using SPSS statistics analysis tested through percentage analysis, Anova and t test for this research. **Results and conclusion:** Our study that most of them middle aged workers especially with their lower literacy level. Most of the workers are married and they are live in a nuclear family at their own accommodation. Hence this study is valuable in providing the information about the economic status of female construction workers.

**Keywords:** Construction sector, Economic status, Female workers, Unorganised sector.

### INTRODUCTION

The Renaissance of research over the past two decades in India and it has seen a significant increase in the construction sector despite the improvement in the labour

workforce. Today construction workers are the backbone of the economy as they create the infrastructure necessary for our economic growth. In a globalizing economy, workers are constructing the new economy. In India three cores of construction workers are literally the modern builders. They are contributing the infrastructure development by way of roads, highways, cities, malls, schools, etc. that are creating new forms of wealth and the most important impervious for construction are to workers satisfaction. Therefore, it is impervious to understand the nature of the job and their working conditions. In developing countries, unorganized sector plays a vital role in the employment opportunities for men and women on the whole. Informal employment is that which is not monitored by a government. According to census 2011 told that more than 85% of the worker populations are working under the unorganized sector; out of these 120 million are women workers. This shows that unorganized sector employment comprises one-half to three-quarters of non-agricultural employment in developing countries. In general, female construction workers are given more effort on their work when compared to male workers. On construction sites, they play a major role. Women construction workers done at various activities in their sites such as cleaning the building sites, carrying bricks, gravel, mortar and water up to the carpenter and masons. They are working in a number of years, but there are not too upgraded from unskilled to skilled workers. This mind-set led to create work allocation and wage distribution for gender discrimination in this sector. Economic status reflects the workers' standard of living by way of the nature of work, working conditions, hours of work, tenure of payment, health conditions etc. So this study was undertaken to assess the economic status of female construction workers.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To know the demographic profile of female construction workers.
- To identify the employment status of female construction workers in Tirunelveli city.
- To study the economic status of female construction workers in Tirunelveli city.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study is a descriptive nature. The resources collected both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected in the form interview schedule. The secondary data collected from books, journals, websites etc.

## TOOLS FOR DATA ANALYSIS

In this study, the researcher used some statistical technique like percentage analysis, Anova and t test through SPSS software. So that the present study, undertaken to assess the Economic status female construction workers in Tirunelveli city.

## HYPOTHESE OF THE STUDY

- There is no significant relationship between age wise classifications of the respondents with respect to their improvement of economic conditions.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Agarwala (2009)** the author illustrates how an economic sociology of work affected the nature of the informal economy and the social and political lives of its people under globalized working environment. It is true that every country is favouring the free movement of the product and services. In particular, the premises of economic sociology offer a comprehensive definition of the informal economy that is termed as, “relational”. In contrast to definitions based on modernization and neoliberal assumptions of isolated economies, relational definitions of the informal economy expose the structures, networks, and political institutions that intertwine informal workers with the formal economy, society, and the state. Operational using the relational definition in labour surveys ensures the inclusion of previously invisible informal workers, especially those who operate at the intersection of the informal and formal economy.

**Kapur et.al (2014)** in this paper the researcher tries to make an effort to understand the working and living conditions of workers in the unorganized sector and tried to identify the gaps between organized and unorganized sector. Unorganized sectors are characterized by seasonal employment and contractual work situation. There are no social security and welfare legislations. In this sector people face problems like poor health conditions, substandard working life, and harassment at work, inadequate and unequal wage structure, long working hours, poor housing facilities, lack of safety measures, and no proper education for children of the workers. To improve the conditions of the workers in this sector Government should interfere and should take necessary action.

**Patnaik et.al (2014)** the authors discussed the various socio economic issues faced by the people staying in slums. In this quantitative study, three slums are taken into consideration to study the impact. Most of the people are engaged in informal sector and have little earnings. Low level of earning is creating havoc impact on their socio economic status. Lack of income generating opportunities is a problem which restricts them to access quality education and healthcare facilities. The study concluded that these are the main problems areas in most of the slums. Adequate arrangements should be made so as to deal with these challenges.

**Chitra (2015)** in this paper author tried to identify the problems of women workers in construction industry at Tiruchirappalli. It was aimed to find out the social-economic conditions of the women constructions workers. It also tried to find out the association between the social-economic, occupational, personal and family aspects of women constructions workers. Organized sector workers are eminent by regular salaried jobs with well-defined terms and conditions of employment, clear-cut rights and obligations and fairly comprehensive social security protection where the unorganized sector, on the other hand, has no such clear-cut employer-employee relationships and lacks most forms of social protection. It has been suggested that Government and the NGO's has to motivate the rural population on eco-friendly toilets and that usage. Because most of rural form rural is do not have toilet in their home. The unorganized welfare association must to organized general health camp twice in the year as the women construction workers are in work 24X7.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table 1.1 Demographic Profile of Female Construction Workers**

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
<b>Age wise classification</b>		
18 – 28	13	26.0
28 – 38	9	18.0
38 -48	14	28.0
48 – 58	12	24.0
Above 58	2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		

Illiterate	5	10.0
Primary	33	66.0
Middle	4	8.0
SSLC /HSS	8	16.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Type of Family</b>		
Nuclear family	44	88.0
Joint family	6	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Type of Residence</b>		
Owned house	43	86.0
Rented house	7	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
Up to Rs. 3000	3	6.0
Rs.3000 – Rs6000	10	20.0
Rs.6000 – Rs.9000	24	48.0
Above Rs. 9000	13	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Saving Habit</b>		
Chitt fund	13	26.0
Gulu	17	34.0
LIC	11	22.0
Post office / Bank	5	10.0
No savings	4	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Know /Aware of TNCWWB</b>		
Aware	22	44.0
Not Aware	28	56.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data.

The above table 1.1, it is inferred that 28 percent consists of workers are in the age group of 38 – 48 years. With regards to the educational level majority of (66 %) the workers studied the under primary level. In construction sector most of the workers live in nuclear

family with their own house. Majority of the workers have the capacity of earning maximum of Rs.6000 to Rs.9000 pm, Most of the workers saving the amount in to Gulu and most of them not know/aware the Tamilnadu construction workers welfare Board.

**Table 1.2 Employment Status of Female Construction Workers**

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
<b>Experience in Years</b>		
1 -3 years	12	24
3 -5 years	17	34
Above 5 years	21	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Type of work</b>		
Mason	0	0
Helper / Chital	50	100
Plumber	0	0
Carpenter	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Working days in a month</b>		
Up to 10 days	3	6.0
10 – 15 days	10	20.0
15 – 20 days	24	48.0
20 – 25 days	13	26.0
Whole days in one month	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mode of Payment</b>		
Daily	16	32
Weekly	34	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data.**

Out of sample group, 42 % have the maximum experience of above 5 years, 48 % workers spend their time into work for 15 – 20 days in a month. In construction sector, female workers are mostly worked under unskilled labours. So they are coming under the

category of helper/ chital. The female workers are getting wages per day Rs. 400 and 68 % of the workers are received their earning on weekly basis.

**Table 1.3 Work Place - Welfare Measures of Construction Workers**

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
<b>Refreshment</b>		
Yes	47	94.0
No	3	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Work place condition</b>		
Good	23	46.0
Fair	20	40.0
Bad	7	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Benefits - After the completion of work</b>		
Cash	2	4.0
Material	25	44.0
Both (Material & Cash)	5	16.0
No	18	36.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data.

The above table, it shows that 94% of workers getting refreshment from their workplace. Out of 50 workers, 22 workers are feel their working conditions is to fair and most of the workers getting dress materials after the completion of work from their building owners.

**Table 1.4 T Test - Workers Opinion about Reasons for Working in Construction**

Particulars	t	SD	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean	95% Level	
					Lower	Upper
Reduce debts	26.149	1.054	.00	3.90	3.6003	4.1997
To meet the family expenditure	25.548	1.084	.00	3.92	3.6117	4.2283
Poor education	24.134	1.119	.00	3.82	3.5019	4.1381
Improvement of economic condition	23.063	1.152	.00	3.76	3.4324	4.0876

Strengthen the family	22.804	1.147	.00	3.70	3.3739	4.0261
Children's education	22.092	1.158	.00	3.62	3.2907	3.9493
In and around there is no heavy wages	21.38	1.250	.00	3.78	3.4247	4.1353
Pay	20.338	1.147	.00	3.30	2.9739	3.6261
To increase savings	20.24	1.173	.00	3.36	3.0264	3.6936
Self-interest	18.835	1.081	.00	2.88	2.5727	3.1873
Continuous work	18.529	1.167	.00	3.06	2.7281	3.3919
My friends are working in construction sites	14.206	1.343	.00	2.70	2.3181	3.0819

Source: Computed data.

As per the t test it is noted that the statement reduced debts rank first with the t value of 26.149 which is followed by the statements To meet the family expenditure, Poor education, Improvement of economic conditions, Strengthen the family, Children's education, In and around there is no heavy wages, Pay, To increase wages, Self-interest, Continuous work and the last one is workers' friends are working in construction sites. The mean is high for reduced debts (3.90) and low value is worker friends are working in construction sites (270), the standard deviation is high for worker friends are working in construction sites (1.343) and the low value is reduced the debts (1.054). The above table shows that all the statements taken for the study is statistically significant as per the p values are 0.00 which is lower than the standard limit of 0.05. Hence it is concluded that the all the variables are influenced by the reasons of female workers working in construction sectors.

### **OPINION REGARDING THE AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF FEMALE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

In construction sectors, there are different age group of female workers are working. In order to find out, the significant deference between the age wise classifications of female construction workers among their improvement of economic conditions. ANOVA attempted with the null hypothesis as, "There is no significant difference between the age wise classifications of female workers with respect to their improvement of economic conditions". The result of ANOVA for opinion regarding the age wise classification of female workers among their improvement of economic conditions is presented in Table 1.6



**Table 1.6 Opinion regarding the Age wise classification of Female Workers with respect to their Improvement of Economic Conditions**

Particulars	Age wise classification	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Improvement of economic conditions	Between groups	.205	4	.051	.209	.932
	Within groups	11.015	45	.245		
	Total	11.220	49			
The Grand Mean : 1.34						

Source: Computed data.

From the ANOVA test it is found that the F value is .209 for improvement of economic conditions towards the age wise classification of female construction workers, which is significant at 5% level with P value is .932. Since, P value is greater than the .005. So null hypothesis is rejected in this case. Therefore it may be concluded that there is a significant relationship between the age wise classifications of female construction workers with respect to their improvement of economic conditions.

## SUGGESSTIONS

- In this research, most of the female construction workers are not aware the TNCWWB. So the Government or NGO is taking steps to create Awareness and Compulsion of registration as a member in TNCWWB.
- It found that, most of the female construction workers have completed the education under up to primary level. So supervisor/ specialist gives idea to use technical equipment's and should be educated to make them aware of their own rights.
- In this study, majority of the female workers having good experience but at the same time they are working as helper/ chital. Workers are able to create a good mind-set through ungraded from unskilled workers to skilled workers.

## CONCLUSION

In developing countries, Informal sector plays a number of employment opportunities for female workers. This study has been conducted among 50 female construction workers in Tirunelveli city. The researcher found that most of them married and middle aged person with lower levels of literacy. The majority of workers are entering the construction as the reason is to reduce their debts. The researchers conclude the results; there is a significant

relationship among age wise classifications with respect to the workers improvement of economic conditions. In general, economic status of female construction workers improved by way of good working conditions, nature of work, their family type and their accommodation. Most of the female construction workers having a good experience, at the same time, workers ready to create upgraded the knowledge and too upgraded from unskilled to skilled workers. Hence, this study helps to assess the economic status of female construction workers and leads to empowering them and make significant developments in the economic status.

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