

**A STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN WORKERS IN BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
TIRUNELVELI TALUK**

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Abstract

The main aim of the study is to identify the problems faced by women workers in building construction industry and analyze the relationship between area of residence and problems faced by women workers in building construction industry. The researcher used the descriptive design for this study. The research is interested in studying about women workers in building construction industry. The research purpose is to describe the problems faced by the women workers in building construction industry. The sample respondents for this study were taken from the Tirunelveli Taluk, Tirunelveli District in Tamilnadu. In this study the researcher adopted the purposive sampling method. The sample size for the study is 150. The researcher has collected data self prepared interview schedule. It is found

that lack of skill and lack of self-confidence are the important personal problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area. It is further identified that lack of skill and being a women feels unsecured are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area. It is observed that responsibility to care children and dual role as a worker and home maker are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area. The leisure time of the workers must be increased and there should be a humane treatment at the worksite. To solve all these problems the workers must register themselves in the construction workers federation and create a fence to safeguard them.

KEY WORDS: Women Workers, Construction Industry, Problems and Unorganised Sector

INTRODUCTION

In recent year, women participation in the labour force has risen in many developing countries. There are at least three factors that explain this trend. With the economic development and the ensuing shift of population from rural and agricultural sectors, more women choose to participate on the labour force. Rise in female participation in the labour force has been accompanied by a shift in employment from agriculture to non-agriculture.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The unorganized sector is characterized by the presence of factors viz. long hours of work, wage discrimination of men and women, lack of job security, no minimum wages, lack of minimum facilities at work place, ill-treatment, heavy physical work and sexual exploitation etc. The labouring women generally work in unorganized sector. They are outside the reach of Protective Labour Laws and Trade Union Organizations. They are not offered fair wages and decent terms of work. There are hardly any opportunities to improve their income because in this sector, females work generally as

laborers in unskilled occupations, do traditional work as domestic servants.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the problems faced by women workers in building construction industry.
2. To analyze the relationship between area of residence and problems faced by women workers in building construction industry

HYPOTHESES

H₀: There is no significant difference in personal problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area

H₀: There is no significant difference in family problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area

H₀: There is no significant difference in work related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area

H₀: There is no significant difference in health related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area

H₀: There is no significant difference in financial problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used the descriptive design for this study. The research is interested in studying about women workers in building construction industry. The research purpose is to describe the problems faced by the women workers in building construction industry. The sample respondents for this study were taken from the Tirunelveli Taluk, Tirunelveli District in Tamilnadu. In this study the researcher adopted the purposive sampling method. The sample size for the study is 150. The researcher has collected data self prepared interview schedule.

ANALYSIS

AND

INTERPRETATION

Personal problems among different residential area of women construction workers

In order to find out the significant difference in personal problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area, 'ANOVA' test is used with the null hypothesis as, "There is no significant difference in personal problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area". The result of 'ANOVA' test for personal problems among women construction workers belong to different residential area is presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Personal problems among different residential area of women construction workers

Personal problems	Residential Area [Mean Score]			F Statistics
	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	
Illiterate/uneducated	3.79 89	3.76 74	3.61 45	1.362
Not having employable education	4.02 30	3.67 47	3.55 81	2.628*
Lack of skill	4.44 19	4.20 69	3.74 70	3.565*
Not having income generating assets	3.86 05	3.74 77	3.41 38	1.858
Lack of self-confidence	4.15 52	3.85 54	3.79 07	1.445
Being a women feels unsecured	3.84 48	4.13 49	3.52 56	3.554*
Dual role as a worker and home maker	3.90 23	3.87 95	3.79 74	1.133
Responsibility to care children	4.14 37	4.04 82	3.92 23	1.178
No other livelihood support	3.86 78	3.67 47	3.39 53	1.501
Gender exploitation and abuse	3.69 67	3.65 67	3.57 21	1.636
Forced to meet the undesired sexual attention	3.75 90	3.65 17	3.40 23	1.232
Not able to	4.01	3.50	3.44	4.092*

come back to home daily	15	60	88	
Not able to meet the family members/friends/relatives	3.9483	3.8313	3.7140	1.286

Source: Primary data

*-Significant at five per cent level

From the above table, it is understood that lack of skill and lack of self-confidence are the important personal problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area as their mean scores are 4.4419 and 4.1552 respectively. It is further understood that lack of skill and being a women feels unsecured are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area as their mean scores are 4.2069 and 4.1349 respectively. Table further shows that responsibility to care children and dual role as a worker and home maker are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area as their mean scores are 3.9223 and 3.7974 respectively. Regarding the personal problems among different residential area of women construction workers, not having employable education, lack of skill, being a women feels unsecured

and not able to come back to home daily are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.

Family problems among different residential area of women construction workers

In order to find out the significant difference in family problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area, 'ANOVA' test is used with the null hypothesis as, "**There is no significant difference in family problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area**". The result of 'ANOVA' test for family problems among women construction workers belong to different residential area is presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Family problems among different residential area of women construction workers

Family problems	Residential Area [Mean Score]			F Statistics
	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	
Drunkard husband	4.2651	4.2011	4.1395	1.188
Husband unwilling to go for work	4.7831	4.6047	4.5000	3.286*
Sole bread	4.5904	4.4253	4.2093	2.184

winner for the entire family				
Abandoned by the husband / Divorced	3.6386	3.5581	3.5057	1.764
Joint family with many children	4.4940	4.3488	4.0782	2.835*
Unhealthy husband or family members	3.8072	3.6897	3.5581	1.938
Harassment by husband	4.6952	4.3920	4.3581	5.723*
Harassment by in-laws	3.7218	3.5814	3.4301	1.112
Not able to take care of the children due to late arrival from work	4.7627	4.4186	4.1897	2.852*
Difficult to balance work and life at home	4.0578	4.3908	4.3608	3.477*

Source: Primary data

*-Significant at five per cent level

From the above table, it is understood that husband unwilling to go for work and not able to take care of the children due to late arrival from work are the important family problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area as their mean scores are 4.7831 and 4.7627 respectively. It is further understood that husband unwilling to go for work and sole bread winner for the entire family are the important family problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area as their mean scores are 4.6047 and 4.4253 respectively. Table further shows that husband unwilling to go for work and difficult to balance work and life at home are the important family problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area as their mean scores are 4.5000 and 4.3608 respectively. Regarding the family problems among different residential area of women construction workers, husband unwilling to go for work, joint family with many children, harassment by husband, not able to take care of the children due to late arrival from work and difficult to balance work and life at

home are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.

Work related problems among different residential area of women construction workers

In order to find out the significant difference in work related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area, 'ANOVA' test is used with the null hypothesis as, "There is no significant difference in work related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area". The result of 'ANOVA' test for work related problems among women construction workers belong to different residential area is presented in Table 3.

Table 3
Work related problems among different residential area of women construction workers

Work related problems	Residential Area [Mean Score]			F Statistics
	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	
Bad verbal treatment at the worksite by the contractors and other	4.5349	4.4819	4.3023	1.386

workers				
Lesser leisure time to take rest and to take the lunch	4.6627	4.4651	4.3103	7.449*
Heavy manual work	4.5116	4.4065	4.3096	3.281*
Taking the building materials in the temporary made ladder up and down	4.6779	4.5783	4.4025	1.008
Exposed to man handle at the workplace due to male chauvinism	3.7701	3.7033	3.6386	2.815*
Exposed to gossip and slander in the workplace	4.6470	4.3874	4.1558	4.072*
Lack of sufficient breaks during working hours for	3.5805	3.6986	3.6512	1.508

attending the nature calls				
Irregular working hours	4.6067	4.5057	4.1628	4.634*
Work for long hours	4.3793	4.3506	4.1839	2.509*
Made to stay in the building site even after the work for a long period	4.5907	4.3711	4.2145	1.113
Difficult to manage the attitude of contractors/owners due to their arrogance or abusiveness	4.7108	4.6512	4.4609	1.472
Travel long distance to work	4.5542	4.2093	4.1447	1.191

Source: Primary data

*-Significant at five per cent level

From the above table, it is understood that difficult to manage the

attitude of contractors/ owners due to their arrogance or abusiveness and taking the building materials in the temporary made ladder up and down are the important work related problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area as their mean scores are 4.7108 and 4.6779 respectively. It is further understood that difficult to manage the attitude of contractors/owners due to their arrogance or abusiveness and taking the building materials in the temporary made ladder up and down are the important work related problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area as their mean scores are 4.6512 and 4.5783 respectively. Table further shows that difficult to manage the attitude of contractors/owners due to their arrogance or abusiveness and taking the building materials in the temporary made ladder up and down are the important work related problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area as their mean scores are 4.4609 and 4.4025 respectively. Regarding the work related problems among different residential area of women construction workers, lesser leisure time to take rest and to take the lunch, heavy manual work, exposed to man handle at the workplace

due to male chauvinism, exposed to gossip and slander in the workplace, irregular working hours and work for long hours are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.

Health related problems among different residential area of women construction workers

In order to find out the significant difference in health related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area, 'ANOVA' test is used with the null hypothesis as, "There is no significant difference in health related problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area". The result of 'ANOVA' test for health related problems among women construction workers belong to different residential area is presented in Table 4.

Table 4
Health related problems among different residential area of women construction workers

Health related problems	Residential Area [Mean Score]			F Statistics
	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	
Dust allergy related diseases like	3.8847	3.8434	3.7069	3.261*

tuberculosis and asthma				
Skin related diseases	4.7209	4.6749	4.5690	1.079
Body pain due to heavy manual work	3.7674	3.6506	3.6839	1.392
Back bone and disc problems	4.6747	4.5814	4.4805	1.321
Sprain and muscle problem	3.6279	3.5783	3.5517	1.710
Uterus related diseases	4.3373	4.0930	3.9080	3.210*
Hernia diseases	3.7647	3.6663	3.5690	1.038
Kidney related diseases due to poor water intake	4.6279	4.4165	4.3115	1.750

Source: Primary data

*-Significant at five per cent level

From the above table, it is understood that skin related diseases and back bone and disc problems are the important health related problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area as their mean scores are 4.7209 and 4.6747 respectively. It is further understood that skin related

diseases and back bone and disc problems are the important health related problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area as their mean scores are 4.6749 and 4.5814 respectively. Table further shows that skin related diseases and back bone and disc problems are the important health related problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area as their mean scores are 4.5690 and 4.4805 respectively. Regarding the health related problems among different residential area of women construction workers, dust allergy related diseases like Tuberculosis and asthma and uterus related diseases are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.

Financial problems among different residential area of women construction workers

In order to find out the significant difference in financial problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area, 'ANOVA' test is used with the null hypothesis as, "**There is no significant difference in financial problems among the women construction workers belong to different residential area**". The result of 'ANOVA' test for financial problems among women construction workers

belong to different residential area is presented in Table 5.

Table 5
Financial problems among different residential area of women construction workers

Financial problems	Residential Area [Mean Score]			F Statistics
	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	
Inadequate wages to meet the basic needs	3.7108	3.5977	3.5349	1.798
Often forced to borrow even before receiving wages	4.5663	4.4186	4.0517	5.766*
Borrowing money from the local money lenders for higher rate of interest	3.6977	3.6092	3.5504	1.294
Lack of collateral security to borrow loans	4.3855	4.0930	3.7149	5.270*

from bank					education and to meet their education expenses				
No regular work to earn income	3.7663	3.6770	3.5419	1.462	Lack of savings for the future needs	3.9070	3.7590	3.6149	1.642
Difficulties in the repayment of loan due to uncertain income	4.0462	3.8372	3.6839	1.891	Not able to get rented house due to the financial instability of the nature of job	3.9302	3.9277	3.8908	1.353
No prompt payment of wages by the contractors	4.6386	4.5349	4.3506	2.777*					
Borrowing money to settle the previous loan	3.6386	3.5814	3.4540	2.025					
Difficult to manage the hospital expenses	4.7349	4.3023	4.1701	1.019					
Not able to pay for the children's	4.2558	4.1928	3.7644	1.927					

Source: Primary data

*-Significant at five per cent level

From the above table, it is understood that difficult to manage the hospital expenses and no prompt payment of wages by the contractors are the important financial problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area as their mean scores are 4.7349 and 4.6386 respectively. It is further understood that no prompt payment of wages by the contractors and often forced to borrow even before receiving wages are the important financial problems among the women

construction workers who belong to semi-urban area as their mean scores are 4.5349 and 4.4186 respectively. Table further shows that no prompt payment of wages by the contractors and difficult to manage the hospital expenses are the important financial problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area as their mean scores are 4.3506 and 4.1701 respectively. Regarding the financial problems among different residential area of women construction workers, often forced to borrow even before receiving wages, lack of collateral security to borrow loans from bank and no prompt payment of wages by the contractors are statistically significant at 5 per cent level.

SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ The leisure time of the workers must be increased and there should be a humane treatment at the worksite. To solve all these problems the workers must register themselves in the construction workers federation and create a fence to safeguard them.
- ✓ The construction workers Board must come forward to provide incentives and assistance to women workers.
- ✓ Accident and death benefit must be made available to the women workers. Social security measures

should also be extended to women workers. Construction workers should come forward to become the members of trade unions. They must be organised together. Thus they may enjoy the benefits of organised sector. It is the responsibility of the government of Tamilnadu to lift construction workers from a hand to mouth life to a better standard of living with safety and security.

CONCLUSION

The problems of women construction worker in the workplace are one of the major issues in the contemporary social problems. It is found that lack of skill and lack of self-confidence are the important personal problems among the women construction workers belong to rural area. It is further identified that lack of skill and being a women feels unsecured are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to semi-urban area. It is observed that responsibility to care children and dual role as a worker and home maker are the important personal problems among the women construction workers who belong to urban area.

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