

## An Empirical Study on Socio Economic Conditions and Problems of Women Workers in Construction Sector Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh State

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**ABSTRACT :** The present study is under taken to know the socio economic conditions and problems of unorganised women labour in construction sector, Amaravati. For the purpose of the study, convenience random sampling method is adopted to carry out the study by the researcher. Design of this study is the survey and place in the area of descriptive research. The statistical populations of research are composed of 150 women construction workers in Amaravati. After sample selection, was use women workers problems questionnaire that their validity simple percentage. A questionnaire is used for present study know the opinions of workers socio economic conditions and problems. The results of the study reveal that majority of workers are facing wage discrimination, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, lower wages, health hazards, safety issues. This study attempts to estimate the economic burden of women labour.

**KEYWORDS -** Construction, Problems, Socio Economic Conditions, Unorganized Labour, Women

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### I. INTRODUCTION

“Empowering Women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their value systems lead to the development of a good family, good society and ultimately good nation” – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Construction industry is the backbone of a country as it creates the infrastructure necessary for economic and industrial growth. The Arjun senguptha committee’ report estimated that there are over 340 million (approximately 34 to 37 crores) workers in the unorganised sector in India, and they contribute around 60% of the national economic output of the country. Most of the labours are working in construction industry. Among them women the female labour force constitutes one third of the rural workers in India.

The exploitation of female labourers in construction sector happens both horizontally and vertically. It is time to address the issues and discuss the kind of policy reforms and institutional changes required for the emancipation and empowerment of rural female labour force. Empowerment should aim at changing the nature and direction of the power structures which marginalise the women labourers.

Women employed in the construction industry in major cities like Amaraavati are mostly unskilled labourers coming from the neighboring districts of Amaravati, states like Odissa, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. They face serious problems related to their work environment, viz., wage discrimination, gender and sexual harassment, lower wages, health hazards, safety issues. Despite these problems, construction industry attracts female workers. Their skills are never upgraded to major skilled jobs in the construction industry like, mason, bar benders, carpenter, plumber, fabricator or painter etc as they are allowed to perform only certain types of work and usually they assist the male work force.

Amravati is one of the fastest growing cities in India and world. There are several policies adopted by Government of Andhra Pradesh and Central Government of India for the development of infrastructure in Amaravati to accommodate the ever expanding population. On account of IT and BT industries employing huge workforce from and across India, there are major real estate, housing, commercial and infrastructure developments happening in Amaravati to meet the growing demands.

### ABOUT WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION AND UNROGANISED LABOUR

Indian economy is to a great extent characterized by large number of people working in unorganized sectors as unorganized workers. In the absence of economic opportunities in their own states, many workers migrate across the other states of India to seek employment. Construction industry depends almost entirely on migrant workers, majority of which are women. Women workers have to perform dual role of both outside employment with or without violent working conditions and also manage their homes .These women workers

have a very tough life. At last Women join as unskilled workers and remain unskilled till the end of their working life span.

## **PROBLEMS AND SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION WOMEN WORKERS IN AMARAVATI**

The exploitation of female laborers in construction sector happens both horizontally and vertically. The main reason for women to enter the construction sector is lack of education and lack of quality education system in Indian society. Illiteracy is the major problem because they do not get time to educate themselves. And low income of the family is the compelling factor for the women common to choose for seeking jobs in unorganized sectors to increase the family earning to sustain livelihood. Unemployment and temporary work are more common among women. Work related factors, most women workers do not have any social security or access to health care benefits. It is strongly recommend that mere framing of policies and acts may not serve the purpose. Minimum wages also does not providing for women in this sector, particularly in democratic India. And women are facing sexual harassments in constructing sector by contractors, supervisors and fellowmen workers through Sexual or inappropriate jokes, making sexual comments, displaying sexually suggesting posters, Sexual gestures. Women are facing many unhealthy problems in construction like maximum rates of musculoskeletal disorders, hearing loss, skin diseases (silicosis, asbestosis and cancer), respiratory diseases and psychosocial health problems.

## **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**R. Rajarathinam [2001]** of Tirunelveli District in Tamilnadu, South India has made a study about Dalit unorganized workers living in Rural areas of Tirunelveli District. In his study he focused on the reasons for illiteracy, poor living and working conditions.

**Dr. B. Ravi Kumar [2013]** stated that the study show that many women construction workers are illiterate, widows, only earning members of the family from depressed class and some low income families when compare to men construction workers.

**M. Keerthana, Dr. J. Godwin Prem Singh (2014)** This is the time to give awareness about the problems of women construction workers rather than organized workers. When these levels of factors are equalized, then automatically the problems will be reduced. Their standard of living will also be increased with betterment life. The study was made in Trichy District where construction work was held.

**Dr. K.A. Rajanna (2015)** Conducted a study on 300 women construction labours in Chikmagalur District of Karnataka. Government of India should provide equal rights and opportunities to both the genders. In addition, there are specific provision for protection and welfare of working women many of the labour laws. The socio-economic and cultural development must empower women at greater choices and giving in change of their own future and makes them self-reliant and confident.

**S. Rasheedha Banu (2017)** Studied in the article point out 36 respondents from Mannachanallur Taluk, Trichirappalli District in Tamilnadu that the problems of women construction worker in the workplace are one of the major issues in the contemporary social problems. Majority of the women construction workers are facing lots of difficulties like absence of social security, low wages, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, etc Main things ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishment. They are working under unsecured environment or work culture.

**Sarika Patel and Rameshwari Pandya (2017)** Study has shown that the economic and social condition of women is dismal. These women workers suffered from recurrent periodic spells of unemployment, contributing to high degree vulnerability, further impeding the prospects of economic and social mobility. The work available to these women is almost always poorly paid, mentally and physically unhealthy, demeaning and insecure. Women workers lives and works under many constrains. They faces a crushing work burden of work for income, work for subsistence and work for the household and care and work for children and the aged.

**Dr. I. Pandi Devi (2018)** Shows her survey are women workers have to perform dual role of both outside employment with or without violent working conditions and also manage their homes. Lack of education and low income of the family is the compelling factor for the women folk to opt for seeking jobs in unorganised sectors to augment the family earning to sustain lively hood. Most women workers do not have any social security or access to health care benefits.

**Dr. Sandhya et. al (2015 )** There is a definite gender bias and sexual harassment at work of women workers in the construction industry in Bengaluru. There are many health hazards, social and cultural implications and lesser opportunities for these women workers due to many interventions.

## **III. NEED OF THE STUDY**

The state of Andhra Pradesh, after the bifurcation of the united Andhra Pradesh, is going to establish a new Capital for the administrative convenience. Because of this reason the construction industry gained

momentum in surrounding areas of the new capital city named as Amaravati. Hence, the main motive of this manuscript is to discuss the unorganized women problems and their socio economic conditions in the construction field in the people's capital Amaravati city.

#### IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To distinguish the impediments and problems faced by women construction workers in Amaravati.
2. To evaluate socio economic status of the defendants.
3. To study the mode of recruitment, wage payment, transportation, level of job satisfaction and involvement towards trade unions.
4. To study the awareness about the social security measures available in working area.
5. To determine the factors that influences the wages of men and women construction workers
6. To offer suggestions for the betterment of women construction workers.

#### V. METHODOLOGY

**Population and Sample:** The population selected for this particular survey in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh. The technique that is used is questionnaire through interview method. The sample size 150.

**Study area:** Amaravati region is an important part and has been ruled by many kingdoms from ancient history. It is capital of Andhra Pradesh.

**Collection of data:** the data for this study was collected from primary sources. A simple interview, multiple choice questionnaires schedule was used for collecting data from 150 respondents by using simple random sampling method.

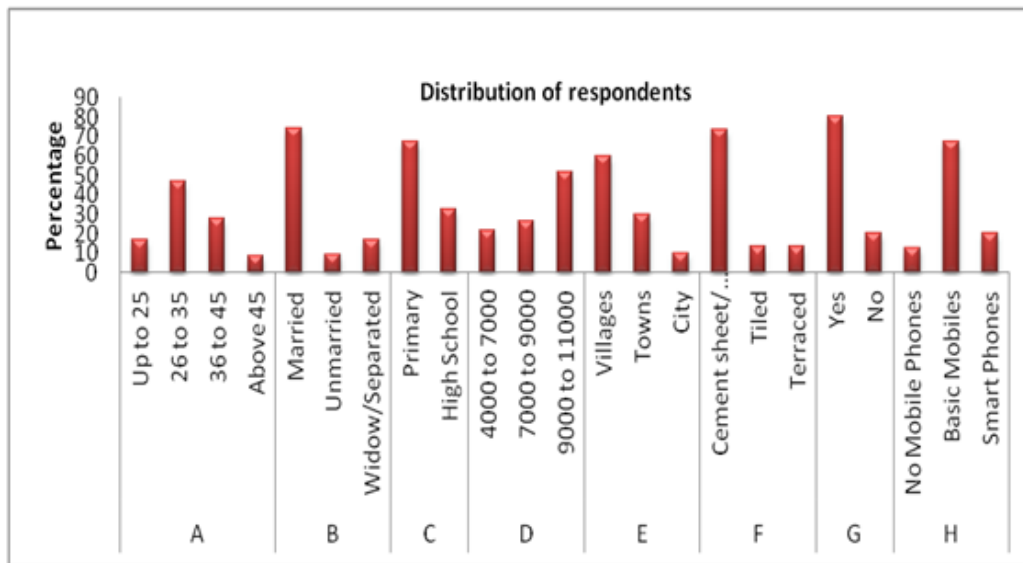
**Tools for analysis:** Percentage analysis test were used to study the socio economic conditions and problems of unorganised construction women labours in Amaravati.

#### VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table: 1 Sample Distribution of the Respondent

S. No.	Factors	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Age	Up to 25	25	16.66
		26 to 35	70	46.66
		36 to 45	42	28
		Above 45	13	8.66
2	Marital Status	Married	111	74
		Unmarried	14	9.3
		Widow/Separated	25	16.66
3	Educational Qualification	Primary	101	67.33
		High School	49	32.66
4	Income	4000 to 7000	32	21.33
		7000 to 9000	40	26.66
		9000 to 11000	78	52
5	Residence	Villages	90	60
		Towns	45	30
		City	15	10
6	House type	Cement sheet/Thatched	110	73.33
		Tiled	20	13.33
		Terraced	20	13.33
7	Toilet Facility	Yes	120	80
		No	30	20
8	Mobiles	No Mobile Phones	19	12.66
		Basic Mobiles	101	67.33
		Smart Phones	30	20

Source: Primary Data

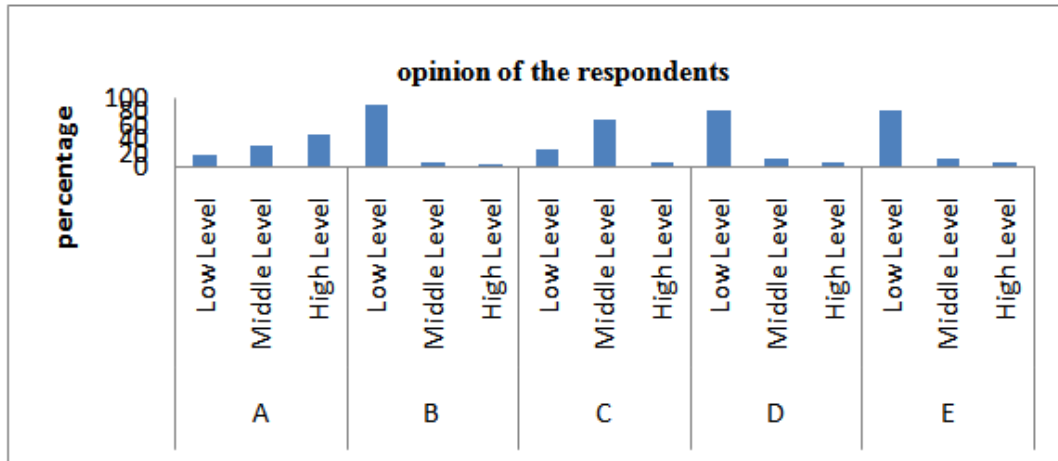


The above table shows that each of 46.66% of the women respondents are of 26-35 and 36-45 years of group which means that economic conditions compels the respondents to continue their job at this age. 74% of the respondents are married and 25% of the respondents are widows or separated with their husbands. More than half of the respondents' education is up to primary and secondary which shows that they did not give much importance to it. 60% of the respondents are living in village. 52% of the respondents' salary is between Rs.9000 to 11000. 73.33% of the respondents are residence in cement sheet or thatched houses. 56% of the respondents have no toilet facility in their home. 80% of the respondents have toilet facility and 67.33% are using basic models of mobile phones.

Table 2 Opinion of Respondents

S. No.	Factors	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Insecurity	Low Level	28	18.66
		Middle Level	49	32.66
		High Level	73	48.66
2	Gender Discrimination	Low Level	133	88.66
		Middle Level	10	6.66
		High Level	7	4.66
3	Health Issues	Low Level	38	25.33
		Middle Level	102	68
		High Level	10	6.66
4	Work Related Accidents	Low Level	121	80.66
		Middle Level	18	12
		High Level	11	7.33
5	Sexual Harassment	Low Level	121	80.66
		Middle Level	19	12.66
		High Level	10	6.66

Source: Primary Data



The above table states the problems faced by the women workers in the construction sector as a five major problems regarding the categories of low, middle and high level of distribution. Regarding the high level of problem faced by the women workers in the construction sector shows that the insecurity factor 48.66%, gender discrimination factors are low level of 88.66; health issues factor is middle level of 68%. Work related accidents and Occupational hazards and Health Issues are low level of 80.66% and lastly sexual harassment is low level of 80.66% construction women labours in Amaravati.

#### VII.CONCLUSION

In this study examined the socio economic conditions and problems of women who are working in construction sector in Amravati. It is found that women are facing so many problems like In security, gender discrimination, health issues, work related accidents, sexual harassments etc. So Government should take necessary action on women construction unorganized issues.

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