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Golden Research Thoughts



SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR: A CASE STUDY OF BELLARY DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

norganised or casual area constitutes a significant part of the Indian economy. More than 90 for every penny of workforce and around 50 for every penny of the national item are represented by the casual economy. A high extent of socially and financially underprivileged areas of society are moved in the casual monetary exercises. The present study focuses its attention on the profiles, working conditions and employment and the economic correlates of the status of the life of the construction workers in Bellary city. The study based on primary data. Simple random sampling technique was used for selection of 250 respondents from selected 20 construction sites. It attempts to explore the socio- economic conditions of construction workers in Bellary city in a broader perspective. The aims are to study this unexplored area and to offer a few suggestions for implementation of schemes for the betterment of this unwept, for unsung and unacknowledged sector of humankind. The country needs them and their services and it is time that the nation should take care of them in the name of humanity.

KEYWORDS :Informal Sector, Construction Workers, Employment, Wages, Income, Expenditure, Saving, Diseases, Transportation and Association.

1.INTRODUCTION

Unorganised or informal sector constitutes a pivotal part of the Indian economy. More than 90 for every penny of workforce and around 50 for every penny of the national item are represented by the casual economy. A high extent of socially and monetarily underprivileged areas of society are amassed in the casual monetary exercises. The



abnormal amounts of development of the Indian economy amid the previous two decades are joined by expanding informalisation. There indicate developing interlinkages amongst casual and formal financial exercises. There has been new dynamism of the casual economy regarding yield, business and profit. Speedier and comprehensive development needs uncommon consideration regarding casual economy. Maintaining large amounts of development are likewise entwined with enhancing household request of those occupied with casual economy, and tending to the requirements of the area as far as credit, abilities, innovation, promoting and framework.

The development business today is a whirlpool of chances and headways

advancing at a quick speed. It is crucial due to the urgent requirement for foundation improvement. The level of a nation's advancement is reflected by its foundation. One might say that the development business is the framework of the foundation business. Development Industry is the second biggest business after farming, utilizing around 31 million people in the nation.

According to the "Construction Industry Report -11th Five Year Plan" the present asset creation potential of the construction industry is estimated at Rs. 3, 10,000 crores. The share to the GDP works out 12 per cent and in terms of the employment generation construction sector provides employment to 14 per cent of employable citizens. The manufactured goods (Construction materials and Equipment) accounts for approximately 8.6 per cent of GDP included in the gross share defined above. With over 105 billion pounds of investments promised by various private players in the next five years, India's infrastructure is set to improve rapidly with an estimated compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15 per cent. India requires investment worth 37 billion pounds every year for the next four years to support the planned infrastructure enhancement activities. The Planning Commission of India has estimated that investment requirement in infrastructure to the tune of about Rs. 14, 50,000 crore or US\$ 320 billion during the 11th Five Year Plan period. According to the report construction industry is estimated to create 15.13 million new jobs in the country by the year 2015. It is therefore established that construction, as an economic entity has a profound impact on the GDP and overall economy of the Nation. Combining the potential for employment and providing the critical infrastructure for practically every economic activity. The construction industry plays a decisive role in the development of the nation.

Karnataka presents huge business opportunities for the construction industry, as the State is embarking on major infrastructure development projects in roads and flyovers, industrial infrastructure and power.

CONCEPT AND DEFINITIONS OF INFORMAL SECTOR:

In 1972, the term informal sector was first used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to denote a wide range of small and unregistered economic activities. Since then, the term has been debated much for want of a universally acceptable definition. In the Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (15th ICLS) held in 1993 at Geneva, the Labour Statisticians discussed various issues relating to the concept and definition of informal sector and took a resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector. Later, the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993) recommended by the United Nations also endorsed this resolution units which, according to the definitions and classifications provided in the United Nations System of National Accounts (Rev. 4), form part of the household sector as household enterprises or, equivalently, unincorporated enterprises owned by households.

CONSTRUCTION LABOUR:

India has a total workforce of 459 million involved in the organised and unorganized sectors. Of which 433 million work in the various unorganized sectors. According to National Commission for enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS), only 6 per cent of the unorganized workers are organised. There are 26 to 30 million people working in the construction sector. In Karnataka, there are 2.35 crore workers, of which 1.73 crore workers are engaged in the unorganized sector. It is estimated that 12 to 15 lakh workers are involved in the construction activities in the state. The employment in the construction sector is characterized by its causal nature, temporary relationship between employer and employee, uncertain working hours, contracting and sub-contracting system, lack of basic continuous employment and amenities and inadequacy of welfare facilities etc., Agrarian background, migratory

nature and a very high degree of transitory employment characterize the profile of employment and labour in the construction industry. Government itself considers construction as a major source of employment generation in rural areas, where agriculture and landless laborers are provided employment on a temporary basis in construction activities to compensate for unemployment during the non-harvesting seasons, droughts, floods and other natural calamities. The construction workers are vulnerable to wide variety of health hazards and accidents due to non–existent legislative protection despite the enactment of the Act in the year 1996. With the exception of few states, majority of the states have not framed rules for the Act. Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi are the states which framed State Rules to implement the Act. The main advantage of the construction sector in employment generation lies in the fact that it (i) absorbs rural labour and unskilled workers (in addition to semi-skilled and skilled) (ii) provides opportunity for seasonal employment thereby supplementing workers' income from farming; and (iii) permits large-scale participation of women workers.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

Informal sector is playing vital role in Indian economy. Large number of i.e. 93 per cent of population depends on this sector. But unfortunately construction workers suffering from many problems i.e. low wages, lack of job security, lack of social security etc. the problem of labour is not limited to one or poor country but it is worldwide problem and prevalent even in highly industrialized countries like USA, England etc. however, this problem is rather particularly serious in developing countries. The problem of informal labour is rather somewhat highly researched at the micro level. Now a day's micro level study are also increasing in number but still there is enormous scope for the study of the problems of construction labour at the micro level that's why researcher have undertaken this study with particular reference to Bellary district in Karnataka.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY AREA:

The present study is confined to Bellary district. Among the 30 districts of Karnataka, Bellary has a total land area of approximately 8420 sq. km., which is 4.40 per cent of the total State area. It is bordered by Raichur District on the north, Koppal District on the west, Chitradurga District and Davanagere District on the south, Anantapur District and Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh on the east. It comes under the administrative control of Gulbarga division and development jurisdiction of H.K.D.B, Gulbarga. it has seven talukas namely – Bellary, Siruguppa, Hospet, Sandur, Kudligi, Hagaribommarnahalli and Hadagali. It has 2 revenue sub divisions, Bellary subdivision and Hospet subdivision, which in all have seven talukas. The Bellary sub-division has 3 talukas, while there are 4 talukas in Hospet sub-division. There are 27 hoblies, 189 Gram Panchayats, One Corporation, one City Municipal Council, two town municipality, six town panchayats, 554 revenue villages (524 Inhabited and 30 uninhabited) and 436 thandas/habitations. As per Census 2011, Bellary district has a population of 25.3 lakh persons i.e. 4.1 per cent of the State population. Majority of the population (65.1 per cent) lives in rural areas. The district's literacy rate is 57.4 per cent, which is significantly lower than the State average of 75.6 per cent and All-India average of 74 per cent. Male literacy at 69.2 per cent is significantly higher than female literacy rate at 45.3 per cent. Literacy rate in rural areas is 50.3 per cent and in urban areas is 70.2 per cent. It has a sex ratio of 978 females for every 1000 males. Bellary district has a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.617 and Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.606. Agriculture is the main occupation in the district, employing 66.5 per cent of the labour force. The remaining is in household industry at 2.8 per cent and other workers at 30.7 per cent. In industrial sector, it has 68 large and medium scale industrial units, employing 28,234 persons. It also has 953 Small Scale Industry units (SSIs), employing 5,090 persons. The service sector includes wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, banking and insurance, real estate, public administration and other services in the study area. The district economy is pre-dominantly primary sector based, with primary sector's share at 42.9 per cent followed by services at 39.6 per cent and secondary sector at 17.5 per cent of GDDP in Bellary district.

OBJECTIVES:

1.To know the demographic factors of construction workers in study area.

2.To analyse the working conditions and wages of the construction workers in the study area.

3.To study the problems of workers in construction industry.

4.To suggest suitable policy measures to improve the condition of construction workers.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was conducted in Bellary district. This study was primarily based on the information obtained from primary sources with the help of a pre tested schedule. A simple random sampling technique adopted to select the respondents from construction sites. The study covers 250 (150 male workers and 100 female workers) construction workers from 20 construction sites in Bellary city. The data analysed with the help of simple percentage, average, ratio, etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Location	Frequency	Percent
Native	176	70.40
Migrant	74	29.60
Total	250	100.00

Table -1: Location of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The above table reveals that native- migrant distributional pattern of respondents in the study. Out of the total 250 workers, 176 workers belonged to native place and 74 workers belonged to migrant. It is found that Maximum numbers of (70.40 per cent) workers are from native place; however lesser number of (29.60 per cent) workers is from migrants. There are many reasons for the migration of labour from rural area to urban area. They are low wages, lack of work, lack of opportunities and facilities etc.

Table -2: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	150	60.00
Female	100	40.00
Total	250	100.00

Source: Field Survey

The table 2 shows the distribution of respondents by sex in the study area. Total samples of 250 construction workers were selected for the study. Among them 150 and 100 workers are male and female respectively. More number of male workers is preferred as they do better in construction work than the female workers like plastering, plumbing, bricks mason etc.

Age group	Frequency		Total	Per cent
	Male	Female		
< 20	06	08	14	5.60
21 to 30	52	28	80	32.00
31 to40	71	42	113	45.20
41to50	13	20	33	13.20
51& above	08	02	10	4.00
Total	150	100	250	100.00

Table – 3: Distribution of Respondents According to Age Group

Source: Field Survey

The distribution of the respondents according to their age has been presented in Table 3. The data reveals that there are 14 respondents (5.60 per cent) below the age group of 20 years. Of which 06 respondents are male and 08 are female, whereas 80 (32.00 per cent) respondents are in the age group of 21 to 30 years, of which 52 respondents are male and 28 are female. Further, 113 (45.20per cent) respondents are in the age group of 31 to 40 years, 33(13.20 per cent) respondents are in the age group of 41 to 50 years followed by 10 respondents (4.00per cent) in the age group of 51 and above years. It can be observed from the Table 3 that most (45.20 per cent) of the respondents are in the age group of 31 to 40 years. There is less number of 10 respondents at the age group of 51 and above years only.

ReligionFrequencyPer centHindu19076.00Muslim5622.40

04

00

250

1.60

0.00

100.00

Table – 4: Religion of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Christian

Others

Total

Hinduism being the predominant religion in India, it is not surprising to note that majority (76.00 per cent) of the respondents are Hindus, Only a small percent i.e. 22.40 per cent of Islam and 1.60 percent of Christians are found as respondents in the study area. The details are provided in table 4.

Table – 5: Caste Background of the Respondents

Caste	Frequency	Per cent
SC	140	56.00
ST	40	16.00
OBC	50	20.00
GM	20	8.00
Total	250	100.00

Source: Field Survey

It has been observed from the table 5 that about 56.00 per cent i.e. 140 respondents belong to the scheduled caste followed by 20.00 per cent, 16.00 per cent of respondents belong to OBC and ST and

only 8.00 per cent of the respondents belong to the general merit.

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Marital Status	Frequency	Per cent	
Un - married	33	13.20	
Married	155	62.00	
Widow	38	15.20	
Separated	17	6.80	
Divorcee	7	2.80	
Total	250	100.00	

Table – 6: Marital Status of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Table 6 shows the distributional pattern of respondents according to their marital status. Data collected through field survey reveals that majority (62.20 per cent) of the respondents are married, 15.20 per cent are widowed, 6.80 per cent are separated, 2.80 per cent are divorced, and the remaining 13.20 per cent respondents are unmarried.

Number of Children	Frequency	Per cent
No children	47	18.80
1 to 2	119	47.60
3 to 5	70	28.00
6 and above	14	5.60
Total	250	100.00

Table – 7: Distribution of Respondents by Number of Children

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that majority (47.60 per cent) of the labours are having 1 to 2 children and only 5.60 per cent of labours have more number of children, i.e. 6 and above, whereas 28.00 per cent of labours are having 3 to 5 children and 18.80 per cent labours are not having any children.

Family Size	Frequency	Per cent
0 to 2	14	5.60
3 to 5	144	57.60
6 to 7	67	26.80
8 and above	25	10.00
Total	250	100.00

Table – 8 Size of the Family of the Respondent

Source: Field Survey

Table 8 presents the size of the family of 250 respondents; 144 respondents (57.60 per cent) are having small size families, i.e. 3 to 5 members, about 26.80 per cent of respondents are having medium size families, i.e. 6 to 7 members, and 10.00 per cent respondents are having big size families, i.e. 8 and above, whereas only 5.60 per cent of respondents are having very small family, with only 1 to 2 members in the family.

Table – 9: Nature of Family of the Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Type of Family		
Joint	90	36.00
Nuclear	160	64.00
Total	250	100.00

Source: Field Survey

It is evident from the Table 9 that a large number of workers i.e. 160 (64.00 per cent) are living in nuclear families, whereas 90 (36.00 per cent) workers living as Joint families. It shows that the nuclear families were existed more in the study region.

Education	Frequency		Total	Per cent
level	Male	Female		
Illiterate	70	66	136	54.40
Primary	60	26	86	34.40
High school	20	08	28	11.20
Total	150	100	250	100.00

Table 10: Level of Education of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The data obtained through field survey revealed that 136 (54.40 per cent) workers are illiterate. Of which 70 workers are male and 66 workers are female. Whereas 86 (34.40 per cent) workers have completed their primary education. Of these 60 workers are male and 26 workers are female. Further, only lesser number of 28 (20 male and 8 female) workers has studied up to high school education. Details

are provided in Table 10.

Status	Frequency	Per cent
Own house	90	36.00
Rented house	160	64.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 11: Housing Status of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The table 11 shows the housing status of respondents in the study area. Out of 250 respondents, 36.00 per cent of respondents have own houses and 64.00 per cent of respondents have rented houses. It is concluded that majority number of (64.00 per cent) workers are living rented houses especially in slum areas, their houses have only 1 or 2 rooms and there are no good sanitation and safe drinking water facilities as well.

Sources	Frequency	Per cent
Agriculture	36	14.40
Agriculture labour	30	12.00
Construction labour	160	64.00
Self-employment	12	4.80
Any other	12	4.80
Total	250	100.00

Table: 12 Income Sources of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Table 12 states the income sources of the respondents in the study area. Out of total respondents, 64.00 per cent of workers have their income source from construction labour, 14.40 per cent of workers are having from agriculture, 12.00 per cent of workers are getting from agriculture labour and 4.80 per cent workers are having their income source from self-employment and any other work. It is clear that maximum number of respondents have major income sources of the family are from construction labour. When the labourers do not get work in construction due to un-arrival of building materials or un-favourable climatic condition they practice agriculture labour or any other work.

Table 13: Land Cultivation Practice by the Respondents

Practice	Frequency	Per cent
Self-cultivation	30	42.86
Leased out	40	57.14
Total	70 (250)	100.00

Source: Field Survey

Above table discussed the land cultivation practices by the respondents. Among 250 respondents, only 70 workers have their own land. Of which 57.14 per cent workers have given their land to lease and 42.86 per cent of workers are cultivating land themselves.

Nature of employment	Male	Per cent	Female	Per cent
Permanent	00	0.00	00	0.00
Contract	44	29.33	14	14.00
Casual	106	70.67	86	86.00
Total	150	100.00	100	100.00

Table 14: Nature of Employment of the Workers

Source: Field Survey

The above table indicates the Nature of employment of the workers. Out of total respondents, 70.67 per cent and 29.33 per cent of male workers are casual labours and contract workers respectively. Whereas 86 per cent of female workers are casual basis and 14 per cent are contract workers. It clearly shows that casual employment is more compared to the contract employment. There is no permanent employment opportunity.

Table 15. Mode of work of the Respondents		
Mode of work	Frequency	Per cent
Full time	216	86.40
Part time	34	13.60
Total	250	100.00

Table 15: Mode of Work of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The table 15 shows the mode of work of the respondents. Majority (86.40 per cent) of the respondents works on full time basis and only 13.60 per cent of respondents work on part time basis. It is found that construction work lasts around 9 to 10 hours in a day. Sometimes the labourers go for part time work due to various reasons such as health related problems, pregnancy complications, delivered women etc.

Particulars	Male	Per cent	Female	Per cent
Brick masons	22	14.60	-	-
Stone masons	18	12.00	-	-
Carpenters, tiles installer and finishers	14	9.30	-	-
Cement masons, concrete finishers	34	22.60	-	-
Labourers, Head loaders	04	2.80	100	100.00
Plasters and stucco masons	34	22.60	-	-
Pipelays, plumbers	22	14.60	-	-
Dry wall installer, ceiling, tile installer and tapers	02	1.50	-	-
Total	150	100.00	100	100.00

Table 16: Nature of Work of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The distribution of the respondents according to their nature of work is provided in Table 16. Maximum number of respondents (male workers) is involving in different type of works like Plasters and stucco masons, Cement masons, concrete finishers, Pipe lays, plumbers, Brick masons and Stone masons. A negligible number of 04 (2.80 per cent) respondents are doing as head loaders and 02 (1.5 per cent) respondents have done as a dry wall installer. It can be observed from the table 16 that almost all women labourers are working as head loaders.

Duration	Frequency	Per cent
8-9	94	37.60
9-10	126	50.40
10 and above	30	12.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 17: Duration of the Work

Source: Field Survey

Table 17 presents working duration of the labourers. Out of the 250 respondents, 37.60 per cent, 50.40 per cent and 12 per cent of workers have committed to do work in a day 8-9 hours, 9-10 hours and 10 and above hours respectively. It may be seen that majority of the respondents work for the duration of 9-10 hours in a day.

Table 18: Mode of Payment of the Workers

Mode of payment	Frequency	Per cent
Daily	60	24.00
Weekly	190	76.00
Monthly	00	0.00
Total	250	100.00

Source: Field Survey

The above table 18 shows the mode of payment received by the labours in the study area. Out of total respondents, 76.00 per cent of the respondents have received wages once in a week and 24.00 per cent respondents have been paid their wages daily. Whereas none of the respondents have taken their wage in monthly mode. Majority of the workers have got their payment on weekly mode.

Table 19: Information about the work				
Intimation	Frequency	Per cent		
Relatives	108	43.20		
Friends	82	32.80		
Others	60	24.00		
Total	250	100.00		
Source: Field Survey				

Table 19: Information about the Work

The field survey has revealed that among 250 respondents, 43.20 per cent workers have known information about job/work from their relatives, 32.80 per cent of workers are aware of the information through their friends and only 24.00 per cent of workers have got it from others i.e. contractors or mediators. It is found that majority of workers are getting information about their job/work by relatives and friends. The details are provided in table 19.

Double burden	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	85	85.00
No	15	15.00
Total	100	100.00

Table 20: Double Burden of Work for Women Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The above table elaborated that 85.00 per cent of the respondents feel double burden of work like that and 15.00 per cent of respondents do not feel double burden of work. Because they have family members to share their work at home.

1	e 21: iviode of Transpo	rt Usea by the	e kesponder
	Nature of transport	Frequency	Per cent
	By walk	130	52.00
	By vehicle (bus, auto,	80	32.00
	bicycle, etc.)		
	By employer vehicle	40	16.00
	Total	250	100.00

Table 21: Mode of Transport Used by the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The table 21 indicates that mode of transport used by the respondents to go to work place in the study area. Total 250 respondents, of which 52.00 per cent of respondents are going to work by walk, 32 per cent of respondents are using vehicles, bus, auto, bicycle etc. and 16 per cent of respondents are reaching their workplace by employer vehicles. It is concluded that maximum number of respondents are going to work by walk.

	-			
Wage rate	Male	Per cent	Female	Per cent
Less than 200	0	0.00	100	100.00
201 -300	120	80.00	0	0.00
301 -400	30	20.00	0	0.00
Total	150	100.00	100	100.00

Table 22: Wage Rate of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Table 22 analyses the wage rate of the construction workers in the study area. Out of 250 workers, 80.00 per cent and 20.00 per cent of male workers have received wage between 201-300 and 301-400 rupees per day respectively. Whereas all the female workers have taken wage less than 200 rupees per day. It is concluded that generally female labourers have received low wage compared to male labourers because female workers do only head loading work but male workers do heavy work such as all construction works like brick masons, stone masons, plaster and plumbers etc.

Income	Frequency	Per cent
2000-3000	50	20.00
3001-4000	80	32.00
4001-5000	70	28.00
5001 -6000	40	16.00
6001 and above	10	04.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 23: Monthly Income of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

The above table 23 provides the monthly income of the respondents. Among 250 respondents, 20.00 per cent, 32.00 per cent, 28.00 per cent, 16.00 per cent and 4.00 percent of respondents have received monthly income ranges between Rs.2000-3000, 3001-4000, 4001-5000 and 6001 and above rupees respectively. It is found from the above table majority number of (32.00 per cent) respondents has received monthly income ranges between Rs.3001-4000 and less number of (4.00 per cent) respondents has taken monthly income around Rs.6001 and above rupees. Construction workers do not get work throughout the month, because of irregular supply of building materials, rainy season etc.

Expenditure	Frequency	Per cent
Less than 2000	64	25.60
2001-3000	88	35.20
3001-4000	70	28.00
4001-5000	18	7.20
5001 and above	10	4.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 24: Monthly Expenditure of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Above table discussed the monthly expenditure by the respondents in the study area. Out of total 250 respondents, 25.60 per cent, 35.20 per cent, 28.00 per cent, 7.20 per cent and 4.00 per cent of respondents have spent their monthly expenditure ranges between Less than Rs.2000,2001-3000,3001-4000,4001-5000 and 5001 and above respectively. It is elaborated that maximum number of (35.20 per cent) respondent's monthly expenditure ranges between Rs.2001-3000. Those who have small family (25.60 per cent) their monthly expenditure ranges around less than Rs.2000. The field survey revealed

that most of the respondents spend their income to meet their daily needs, for educational expenses of their children, medical expenditure, celebration of festivals and marriages etc.

Table 201 money carea by the nesponaents			
Saving	Frequency	Per cent	
Yes	170	68.00	
No	80	32.00	
Total	250	100.00	

Table 25: Money Saved by the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Table 25 indicates that 170 respondents (68.00 per cent) have been saving money while only 80 respondents (32.00 per cent) reported that they did not save any money. Further, according to the data, the amount which has been saved by the respondents is utilized by them for the essential needs, education of their children, marriages, festivals, cultural activities and medical expenditure etc.

Respondents, who are saving money, having their saving accounts in various Nationalized Banks; whereas some of them are also having their it in Co-operative Banks, Post Offices and Self Help Groups,.

Table 26: Suffering from Different Diseases by the Respondents

Disease	Frequency	Per cent
Back pain	70	39.32
Joint pain	70	39.32
Asthma	34	19.16
Other	04	02.20
Total	178	100.00

Source: Field Survey

Above table 26 indicates the respondents suffering from different diseases. Out of 250 respondents, 178 respondents have suffered from the diseases. Of which 39.32 per cent of workers face from back pain and joint pain, 19.16 per cent workers sustain asthma and 2.20 per cent of workers from other diseases like fever, headache etc. It is concluded that most of the workers suffer from back pain and joint pain because they do various heavy work.

Tuble 27.1 Injuries ruced by the Respondents			
Frequency	Per cent		
20	08.00		
30	12.00		
100	40.00		
70	28.00		
30	12.00		
250	100.00		
	Frequency 20 30 100 70 30		

Table 27: Injuries Faced by the Respondents

Source: Field Survey

Evident from the above table states the various types of injuries faced by the respondents in the study area. Construction labourers work almost in unsafe places. Workers do not feel safe about their

work in construction sites because their work is very hard and risky. During their work, they face a lot of injuries such as falls from scaffolding, cranes, roofs, ladders; suffer cuts, minor injury and burning etc. According to table 8 per cent of workers have sustained injuries from falls, 12 per cent of workers from suffer cuts and other problems, 40 per cent of workers from minor injury and 28 per cent workers from burning. Above table concludes that maximum number of workers have experienced minor injuries.

•		
Hospital	Frequency	Per cent
Government	60	24.00
Private	160	64.00
Other	30	12.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 28: Treatment Taken by the Respondents in Different Hospitals

Source: Field Survey

Table 28 presents the treatment taken by the respondents in various hospitals. Out of 250 respondents, 160 of them have undergone treatment in private hospitals, 60 respondents in government hospitals and only less number of 30 respondents in other health centers. The above table elaborated that maximum number of respondents preferred treatment in private hospitals, which is nearby their houses in the study area.

Member	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	50	20.00
No	200	80.00
Total	250	100.00

Table 29: Respondents' Membership in Associations

Source: Field Survey

The table 29 explained the respondents having membership in associations in the study area. Out of the total 250 respondents, maximum number of (80 per cent) workers does not have membership in any associations and only few number of (20 per cent) workers have membership in associations. The result finds that majority of workers is not having membership of any association due to their illiteracy and backwardness.

FINDINGS:

1.Total 250 workers, maximum numbers of (70.40 per cent) workers are from native place; however lesser number of (29.60 per cent) workers is from migrants. There are many reasons for the migration of labour from rural area to urban area. They are low wages, lack of work, lack of opportunities and facilities etc.

2.Maximum number of male workers is preferred as they do better in construction work than the female workers like plastering, plumbing, bricks mason etc.

3.It can be observed that most (45.20 per cent) of the respondents are in the age group of 31 to 40 years.

There is less number of 10 respondents at the age group of 51 and above years only.

4. It has been observed that about 56.00 per cent i.e. 140 respondents belong to the scheduled caste followed by 20.00 per cent, 16.00 per cent of respondents belong to OBC and ST and only 8.00 per cent of the respondents belong to the general merit.

5. It shows that the nuclear families were existed more in the study region.

6.Majority number of (64.00 per cent) workers is living rented houses especially in slum areas, their houses have only 1 or 2 rooms and there are no good sanitation and safe drinking water facilities as well.

7. Maximum number of (64.00 per cent) respondents has major income sources of the family are from construction labour.

8. Among 250 respondents, only 70 workers have their own land. Of which 57.14 per cent workers have given their land to lease and 42.86 per cent of workers are cultivating land themselves.

9.It clearly shows that casual employment is more compared to the contract employment. There is no permanent employment opportunity.

10. It is found that construction work lasts around 9 to 10 hours in a day. Sometimes the labourers go for part time work due to various reasons such as health related problems, pregnancy complications, delivered women etc.

11. Almost all women labourers are working as head loaders.

12. Majority of (50.40 per cent) the respondents work for the duration of 9-10 hours in a day.

13. Majority number of (76.00 per cent) workers has got their payment on weekly mode.

14.It is found that majority of workers are getting information about their job/work by relatives and friends.

15.Among 250 respondents, 85.00 per cent of the respondents feel double burden of work like that and 15.00 per cent of respondents do not feel double burden of work. Because they have family members to share their work at home.

16. Maximum number of respondents is going to work by walk.

17.Generally female labourers have received low wage compared to male labourers because female workers do only head loading work but male workers do heavy work such as all construction works like brick masons, stone masons, plaster and plumbers etc.

18. Majority number of (32.00 per cent) respondents has received monthly income ranges between Rs.3001-4000 and less number of (4.00 per cent) respondents has taken monthly income around Rs.6001 and above rupees.

19.Maximum number of (35.20 per cent) respondent's monthly expenditure ranges between Rs.2001-3000. Those who have small family (25.60 per cent) their monthly expenditure ranges around less than Rs.2000.

20.The field survey revealed that most of the respondents spend their income to meet their daily needs, for educational expenses of their children, medical expenditure, celebration of festivals and marriages etc.

21.Total 250 respondents, 170 respondents (68.00 per cent) have been saving money while only 80 respondents (32.00 per cent) reported that they did not save any money.

22.Respondents, who are saving money, having their saving accounts in various Nationalized Banks; whereas some of them are also having their it in Co-operative Banks, Post Offices and Self Help Groups,.

23. According to the data, the amount which has been saved by the respondents is utilized by them for the essential needs, education of their children, marriages, festivals, cultural activities and medical expenditure etc.

24. Most of the workers suffer from back pain and joint pain because they do various heavy works.

25. Maximum number of (40.00 per cent) workers has experienced minor injuries.

26.Majority of (64.00 per cent) respondents preferred treatment in private hospitals, which is nearby their houses in the study area.

27. The result finds that majority of (80.00 per cent) workers is not having membership of any association due to their illiteracy and backwardness.

SUGGESTIONS:

1.Government should implement the minimum wages act strictly to provide minimum wages to both male and female workers. The minimum wages should be revised from time to time with changing prices in the economy.

2.Workers, who are working in construction sector should be provided free medical facilities.

3.Social security measures are not properly implemented for informal workers, so government should revise and implement it.

4.Construction work causes unexpected risks to life or it may lead to permanent disability of workers. Hence, the minimum safety measures such as protective gloves, safety goggles, ear plugs, face masks, boots, work gloves and group insurance should be made compulsory while they are at work.

5.Operators and site workers need to be aware of what to do in case of electrical, mechanical and power failure etc.

6. Most of the construction workers do not have own houses that's why government should provide satisfactory, adequate housing facilities and separate colonies for the workers.

7. The financial institutions should come forward to help the construction workers.

8. Most of workers are casual labourers so government should take steps for the regularization of their services and should be paid subsistence's allowance during his unemployment position.

9.Government should provide separate school facility for workers children and also give financial assistance for higher education.

10.Women should be relieved of their double responsibilities. The male members have to share the household work; this will reduce the workload of the women workers in their household. Domestic appliances need to be provided to rural women workers to reduce burden of domestic work.

11.Construction labourers should organize themselves in informal organizations such as self help groups, contract gang labour etc., this may help them to improve adequate supply of labour and in turn ensure better wages to construction workers.

CONCLUSION:

The workers of informal sector in Bellary city are generally engaged in satisfying regular human wants and capital generating activities like construction. There is a dearth of literature on the status and working conditions of construction workers in Bellary city. Available evidence has shown that construction workers in Bellary city are un-organized, uncohensive, heterogeneous, socially and economically backward and for most part of the year remained unemployed. Large number of informal workers is employ in construction industries in Bellary city. The study focuses its attention on the profiles, working conditions and employment and the economic correlates of the status of the life of the construction workers in Bellary city. It attempts to explore the socio- economic conditions of construction workers in a broader perspective. The aims are to study this unexplored area and to offer a few suggestions for implementation of schemes for the betterment of this unwept, for unsung and unacknowledged sector of humankind. The country needs them and their services and it is time that the nation should take care of them in the name of humanity.

It can be inferred from the analysis that the construction activities will definitely increase and have to contribute much to the employment sector as millions are there wanting to move to better

housing. The economic status of construction workers also will continue to be more or less the same since they are unorganized, either illiterate or less literate and belong to socially downtrodden classes. A majority of them are migrants from agriculture sector expecting to have a better living in urban areas. Builders and flat promoters encroach into the construction activities, especially in urban areas. In addition to this, mechanization largely reduces the employment opportunities of the construction workers because of the labour saving technology of the corporate sector. Hence, labour laws should be adequately implemented to achieve the desired objectives of the government. Along with this, it is imperative on the part of the government to make group insurance system compulsory and to impart technical knowledge to the unskilled construction workers to improve their employability. The construction workers build houses for the economically better-off people and the living standards of these workers should be made at least economically sufficient.

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