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7. A Perception Study on the Problems of Migrant Construction Workers (A Case of Mumbai City)

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Abstract

Mumbai formerly known as Bombay is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the most populous city in India with an estimated city proper population of 12.4 million as of 2011. Greater Mumbai, an area of 603 square kilometers consisting of the Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban districts, extends from Colaba in the south, to Mulund and Dahisar in the north, and Mankhurd in the east. Its population as per the 2011 census was 12,442,373.The projected population of Mumbai by 2030 will be 28 million. This projection means that the city will become the fourth most populous city in the world. Mumbai is the financial, commercial and entertainment capital of India, generating 6.16% of India's GDP and accounting for 25% of industrial output, 70% of trade and 70% of capital transactions to Indian economy

Mumbai city is governed by Municipal Corporation which comes under Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The population density is estimated to be about 20,482 persons per square km. The living space is 4.5 square meters per person. Amidst this scenario more and more people are migrating to the city in search of jobs. The workers are mostly unskilled and from rural areas who do not have the capacity to live in good condition nor have job security.

This paper tries to analyze the present problems faced by migrant construction workers in Mumbai city. Construction sector plays a major role in the development of the economy.

The problems of construction workers are not discussed in any platform. The major problems are working for more number of hours, staying away from home, bad habits, and

absence of social security, misunderstanding, arguments, stress, sexual health etc. The working conditions and the facilities provided at the sites are far from satisfactory. Workers from different states like Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa, U.P, West Bengal etc. are traced in this study. Primary data has been carried out through questionnaires, tabulated, tested through various methods and analyzed graphically. From the study suggestive measures have been worked out to bring some reforms in this sector.

Keywords: Greater Mumbai, Migrants, Construction workers, Problems, Social security, Reforms.

1. Introduction

Mumbai is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the most populous city in India with an estimated city population of 12.4 million according to Census 2011. Greater Mumbai has an area of 603 square kilometers consisting of the Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban districts, which extends from Colaba in the south, to Mulund and Dahisar in the north, and Mankhurd in the east. The projected population of Mumbai by 2030 is expected to be 28 million. Modernization and industrialization in the city of Mumbai has paved a way for a huge demand for housing and other construction activities.

Construction sector falls under unorganized sector of an economy. Unorganized laborers refer to those workers who have not been able to organize themselves owing to certain constraints like uncertain nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, etc. Various studies found that most of the construction workers are illiterate and ignorant about market conditions and labor market. Skilled and unskilled construction workers work on low wages. This study attempts to examine the conditions of construction workers and problems faced by them in Mumbai city. Finally, it is clear that the objective of decent work for migrant workers will remain a major challenge for years to come.

Location of Study Area

Map of India

Map of Maharashtra

Map of Mumbai
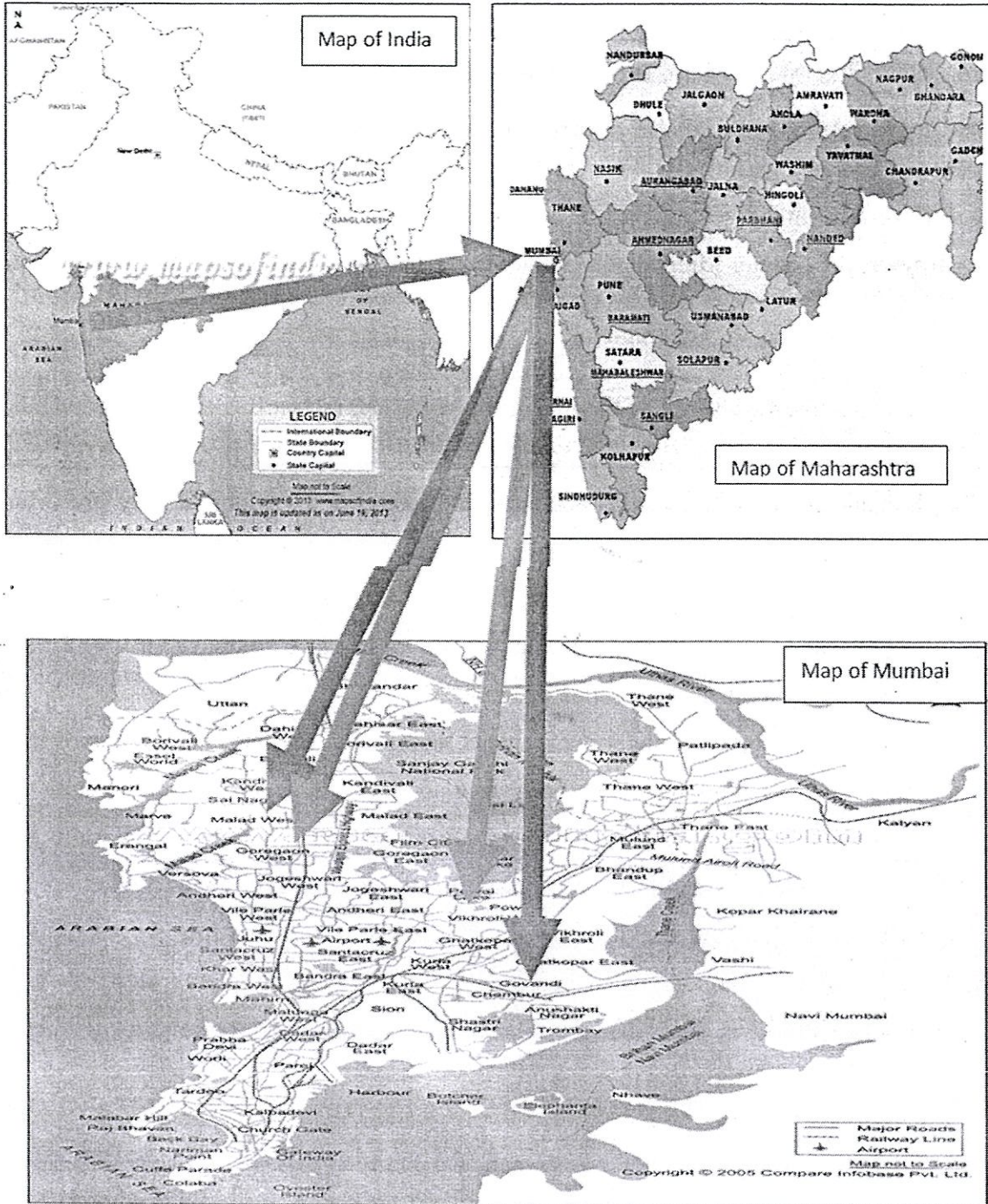
Worker migration is generally defined as a movement from one place /country to another place/country, for the purposes of employment and better living. The term "worker migrant" can be used restrictively to only cover the movement for the purpose of employment. Migrants look for any work as they live in poverty and insecurity. Migrant workers make significant impact on the world economy. They face many problems like mistreatment and discrimination. The

construction sector is an important sector of the economy and contributes significantly to GDP. According to the NSSO estimates, about 5.57 % of workers are engaged in building and other construction work in Mumbai. Construction laborers' situation in India is one of the major problems in India. Nowadays, construction sector plays a major role in which construction workers face so many problems in their day-to-day activities. The study was done among 50 construction workers in Mumbai city. Major problems of migrant construction workers are working for more number of hours, staying away from home, bad habits, absence of social security, misunderstanding, argument with partners, stress, skin problems, and physical and sexual health problems etc. This article has tried to analyze such problems endured by the workers in construction businesses.

2. Need of the Study

The study of migration is of great significance for the growth and reconstruction of rural areas in India. People movement has been a regular affair from rural areas to urban areas since the living condition is better in urban areas. In rural areas, they face many problems like poverty, high population pressure, lack of health care facilities, education, etc. In addition, people migrate due to wars, local conflicts and natural disasters such as cyclonic storms, flood, earthquake, tsunami, drought, etc. In this study the problems of migrant construction workers in Mumbai city has been analyzed.

3. Objectives of the Study

- ➢ To describe the socio-economic profile of migrant construction workers in Mumbai
- ➢ To find out problems of migrant construction workers in Mumbai.
- ➢ To bring about a correlation between various variables in the workers profile and their health as well as their wages.

4. Methodology

To undertake this study a sample of 50 migrant workers from Mumbai have been selected as respondents by applying simple random sampling technique. A structured questionnaire has been administered to the respondents and primary data have been collected. Statistical tools have been used using statistical software R and excel to analyze the primary data, namely simple percentage and Chi Square have been used to bring out the P- value to analyze the data collected. Secondary data for the study have been collected from various publications in journals, magazines, websites and books.

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5. Analysis and Interpretation of Personal Profile

Table 1 classifies the personal profile of the construction migrant workers in Mumbai. The classification is based on the respondent's Age. Sex, Education, Wages, Native Region, Experience and so on. From the table given below following are evident:-

Table 1: Personal Profile of Migrant Construction Workers

Particulars	Variables	No	%
Age	Below 20 years	0	0
	21 to 30 years	14	28
	31 to 40 years	22	44
	41 years and above	14	28
	Total	50	100
Sex	Male	42	84
	Female	8	16
	Total	50	100
Educational qualification	No formal education	13	26
	School level	35	70
	Graduate	2	4
	Total	50	100
Wages per week	Up to Rs.3000	29	58
	Rs. 3000 – Rs. 4000	1	2
	Rs. 4000 – Rs. 5000	3	6
	More than 5000	17	34
	Total	50	100
Staying with Family	Yes	22	44
	No	28	56
	Total	50	100
Native region	North	25	50
	South	6	12
	East	7	14
	West	12	24
	Total	50	100
Reason for joining this job	Own interest	11	22
	Family Pressure	33	66
	Any other reason	6	12
	Total	50	100
Type of Work	Iron worker	5	10
	Mason	17	34

	Labourer	28	56
	Total	50	100
Experience in the present job	Up to 5 year	7	14
	6-10 Years	14	28
	More than 10 Years	29	58
	Total	50	100
Contract\ Regular basis	Yes	41	82
	No	9	18
	Total	50	100
Working Hours	below 8	0	0
	8-10 hours	48	96
	More than 10 hours	2	4
	Total	50	100
Job satisfaction	Yes	48	96
	No	2	4
	Total	50	100
Health issue	Yes	22	44
	No	28	56
	Total	50	100

Table 1: Personal Profile of Migrant Construction Workers

❖ None of the respondent working in the construction sector is from the age group below 20 years. 28% are from the age group of 21-30 years. Maximum 5 of 44% falls in the age group of 31-40 years. Again another 28% are above41years and above. It shows that as the work is heavy and tiring Age group of 31-40 years is the ideal age for this sector.

Age of constuction workers

❖ In this survey it has been significant that male workers (84%) are more than female workers (16%)
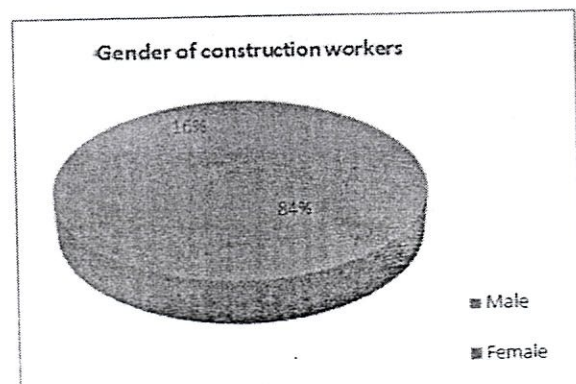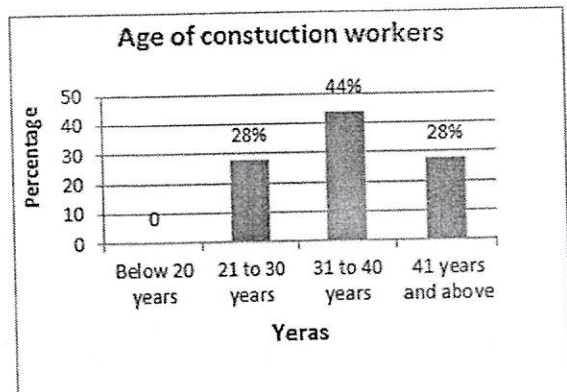
Gender of construction workers

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❖ Education is a big drawback for these migrant workers as 26% have no formal schooling, 70% has SSC degree but no job thereby they take up job in this sector. Only 4% respondents are graduates and have been given supervisors job and a better salary.

Educational Qualification of migrant constructional workers in mumbai
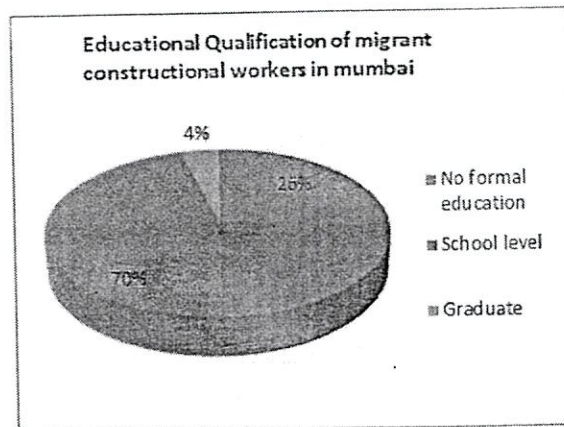
❖ Wages of migrant workers ranges from 3000/- to 5000/- and above per week. 58% of the respondents get a wage of 3000/- and less for their work as laborer. 2% and 6% of the respondent are paid between 3000/- to 5000/-. 34% workers receive more than 5000/- per week because of their skills like mason work, Iron work etc.

Migrant construction workers wages per week
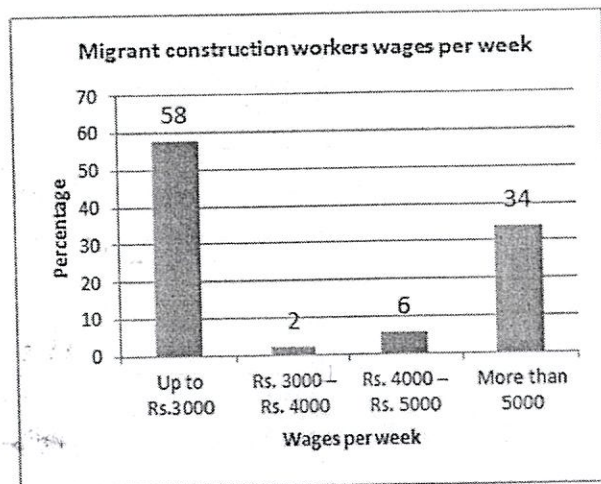
❖ 56% of the migrant workers do not live with their family while 44% lives with the family in the city.

Migrant construction worker taying with family
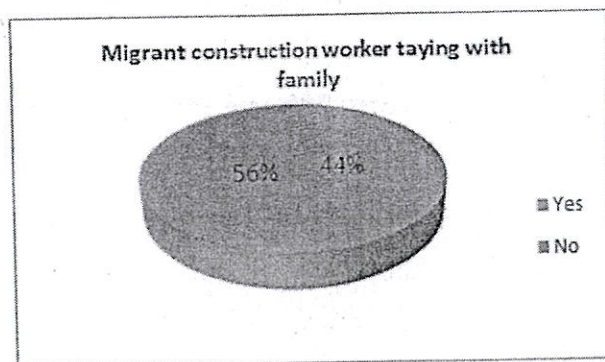
❖ When the respondents were asked the question that what was the reason for migrating from their native place? 66% respondents gave their answer as family pressure. 12% gave various other reasons like own interest, friends, etc.

Started as construction workers due to

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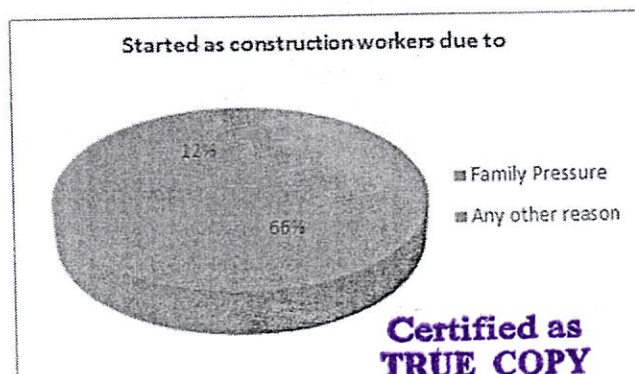
❖ 46% of the respondents have admitted that they are not in perfect health. Problems like blood pressure, blood sugar, headache, respiratory diseases, muscular pain, skin problems, hair loss etc. These problems are mostly observed in the age group of more than 40 years. 54% due young age do not face such problems regularly.

Health Issue after joining work

56%   44%   ▪ Yes   ▪ No
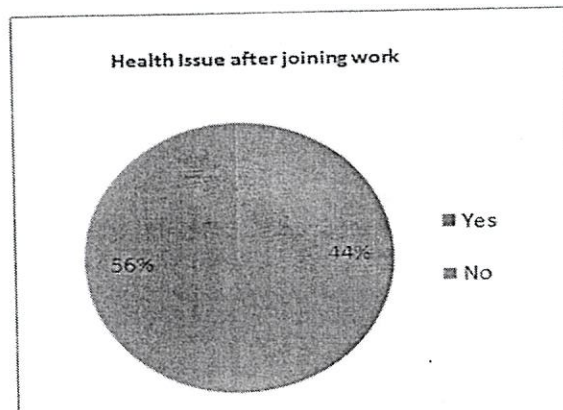
6. Chi-Square Test of Independence

The Chi-Square test of independence is used to determine if there is a significant relationship between two nominal (categorical) variables. The frequency of each category for one nominal variable is compared across the categories of the second nominal variable. The data can be displayed in a contingency table where each row represents a category for one variable and each column represents a category for the other variable. For example, say a researcher wants to examine the relationship between gender (male vs. female) and health problem (yes and no). The chi-square test of independence can be used to examine this relationship.

When to Use Chi-Square Test for Independence

The test procedure described here is appropriate when the following conditions are met:

1. The sampling method is simple random sampling.
2. The variables under study are each categorical.

Hypothesis

Null hypothesis: Assumes that there is no association between the two variables.

Alternative hypothesis: Assumes that there is an association between the two variables.

Test statistic:

The test statistic is a chi-square random variable (X^2) defined by the following equation.

_____

where $O_{r,c}$ is the observed frequency count at level r of Variable A and level c of Variable B, and $E_{r,c}$ is the expected frequency count at level r of Variable A and level c of Variable B.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing for the chi-square test of independence as it is for other tests like ANOVA, where a test statistic is computed and compared to a critical value. The critical

value for the chi-square statistic is determined by the level of significance (typically .05) and the degrees of freedom.

P-value

The P-value is the probability of observing a sample statistic as extreme as the test statistic.

Interpret Results

If the sample findings are unlikely, given the null hypothesis, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis. Typically, this involves comparing the P-value to the significance level, and rejecting the null hypothesis when the P-value is less than the significance level

7. Testing of Hypothesis of Variables in Relation to Health Issues

H_0: The "Health" of construction workers and "Age" of workers are not related to each other

H_1: The "health" of construction workers and "Age" of workers are related to each other

Table -2a

Age Health Issue	Below 20 years	21 – 30 years	31 - 40 years	Above 40 years	Chi square value	P-Value
Yes	0	03	07	13	17.559	0.0001539
No	0	11	15	1		

From the table (2a) we can observe that P-value =0.0001539, which is less than 0.05 (5% level of significance), the null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion

Since null hypothesis is rejected we can conclude that "Health" and "Age" of construction workers are dependent.

H_0: The "Health" of construction workers is not related to variable "Staying with Family"

H_1: The "Health" of construction workers is related to variable "Staying with family"

Table 2b

Staying with family Health Issue	Yes	No	Chi square value	P-Value
Yes	08	15	1.468	0.2529

No	14	13		

From the table (2b) it is seen that P-value = 0.2529 is greater than 0.05 (5% level of significance) then here the null hypothesis cannot be rejected.

Conclusion

Since we do not reject null hypothesis we can conclude that "Health" and variable like "Staying with Family" is not related.

H_0: The "Health" of construction workers is not related to variable "Working Hours"

H_1: The "Health" of construction workers is related to variable "Working Hours"

Table 2c

Working hours \ Health Issue	Below 8 hours	8 -10 hours	More than 10 hours	Chi square value	P-Value
Yes	0	23	0	1.7747	0.4898
No	0	25	2		

From the table (2c) it is seen that P-value = 0.4898 is greater than 0.05 (5% level of significance) then here the null hypothesis cannot be rejected.

Conclusion

Since we do not reject null hypothesis, we can conclude that "Health" and "working Hour" is independent variables.

8. Testing of Hypothesis of Variables in Relation to Wages Per Week

H_0: The "Wages per week" of construction workers is not dependent on "Type of work performed" by construction worker

H_1: The "Wages per week" of construction workers dependent on "Type of work performed" by construction worker

Table: 3a

Type of work perform \ Wages per week	Iron worker	Mason	Labourer	Chi square value	P-Value
Up to Rs.3000	4	2	22		
Rs. 3000 – Rs.4000	1	0	2	28.914	
Rs. 4000 – Rs.5000	0	1	2		

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More than 5000	0	13	3		

From the table (3a) it is seen that P-value = 0.009995 is less than 0.05 (5% level of significance) then the null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion

Since we reject null hypothesis we can conclude that "Wages per week" of construction worker and "Type of work performed" by construction worker is dependent variables.

H_0: The "Wages per week" of construction worker is not dependent on Type of work performed" by construction worker.

H_1: The "Wages per week "of construction worker is dependent on "Type of work performed" by construction worker.

Table: 3b

Work experience / Wages per week	Up to 5 year	6-10 Years	More than 10 Years	Chi square value	P-Value
Up to Rs.3000	5	8	15		
Rs. 3000 – Rs.4000	2	1	0	13.425	0.03676
Rs. 4000 – Rs.5000	0	2	1		
More than 5000	0	4	12		

From the table (3b) we can observe that P-value =0.0001539, which is less than 0.05 (5% level of significance), the null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion

Since we reject null hypothesis we can conclude that the "Wages per week" of construction workers are dependent on "Type of work performed" by construction worker.

H_0: The "job satisfaction" of construction worker is independent of "wages per week" of construction workers

H_1: The "job satisfaction" of construction worker is dependent on "wages per week" of construction workers

Table: 3c

Job satisfaction / Wages per week	Yes	No	Chi square value	P-Value
Up to Rs.3000	26	02		
Rs. 3000 – Rs.4000	3	0	1.6369	0.6511

Rs. 4000 – Rs.5000	3	0		
More than 5000	16	0		

From the above table it is seen that P-value =0.6511, which is greater than 0.05 (5% level of significance) then we do not reject null hypothesis.

Conclusion

Since we do not reject null hypothesis we can conclude that the job satisfaction of construction worker is independent of wages per week.

9. Suggestions and Conclusion

With the steady slump in the growth of the formal sector in India following the introduction of the structural adjustment programme, a large section of the growing labor force is being absorbed in the unorganized sector resulting in a progressive increase in employment in the informal sector. The Construction industry is most booming industries in the existing economy.

- ✓ It is suggested that working environment and the safety measures in the construction sites are to be improved.
- ✓ There is an acute shortage of construction workers and a lot of workers migrate for getting employment. Thereby advertisements should be improved based on rules and regulations of the government.
- ✓ The cost of the construction work has increased owing to shortage of manpower and increase in the wage structure. Only a few well-established construction companies adhered to the statutory compliance. Small builders totally fail to adhere to the statutory compliance.
- ✓ . The comparison between men and women in the level of quality of life among the women construction workers are less than men. Governments and private building contractors should take initiatives to improve the quality of life of the workers and also should focus on improving welfare measures of the construction workers.
- ✓ There is a lack of adequate information for the migrants making them aware of their health risks and rights in relation to health services. We suggest that the government of Maharashtra to r provide this information. Employers should provide orientation on possible health risks and appropriate training for preventive measures and all necessary access to health care services to all their workers. Headache, respiratory diseases, muscular diseases and injuries, skin problems are the most common problems experienced by them.

✓ From this study we can say that in a country where more than seventy percent of its population is engaged in unorganized sector of employment, the pathetic condition of the migrant construction workers is a great development challenge.

✓ Governments and private building contractors should take initiatives to improve the quality of life of the workers and also should focus on improving welfare measures of the construction workers.

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