CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Work of Mason
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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION AND
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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Construction activity is an integral part of a country’s infrastructure and industrial development; it includes hospitals, schools, townships, offices, houses, and other buildings, urban infrastructure (including water supply sewerage, drainage) highways, roads, ports, railways, airports, power system, irrigation and agriculture systems, telecommunications etc. The construction becomes the basic input for socio-economic development of country. Besides, the construction industry generates substantial employment and provides a growth impetus to other sectors through backward and forward linkages. Therefore, this vital activity is nurtured for the healthy growth of the economy. The Government of India has done massive investment in creating physical infrastructure during the 10th plan. Therefore, the construction industry would play a crucial role in this regard and it will gear itself to meet the challenges. In order to meet the intended investment targets in time, the current capacity of the domestic construction industry would need to strengthened.

The construction sector has major linkages with the building material industry since construction material account for sizeable share of the construction costs. These costs include cement, steel, bricks/tiles, sand, fixtures/fitting, paints, and chemicals, construction equipment petrol-products, timber, mineral products, aluminium, glass and plastics.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK

The construction sector is one of the largest employers in the country. In 1993-94 it employed 12 million workers, which increase to 17.62 million in 1999-2000. The sector also recorded the highest growth rate in generation of job in the last two decades, doubling its share in total employment. The main advantage of the construction sector is employment generation. This sector – (i) absorbs rural labour and unskilled worker (in addition to semi – skilled and some- skilled), (ii) provides opportunity for seasonal employment by supplementing workers income from farming; and (iii) Permits large – scale participation of women workers.
The construction workers are one of the most numerous and vulnerable segments of the unorganized sector in India. The building and other construction workers are characterized by their inherent risk to the life and limb of the workers. The work is also characterized by its casual nature, temporary relationship between employer and employee, uncertain working hours, lack of basic amenities and inadequacy of welfare facilities. Although the provisions of various labour laws such as Minimum Wages Act 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 etc., are applicable to the building and other construction workers, it needs a comprehensive Central Legislation for this category of workers.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Construction activity is one of the important activity of human need. The economics of this industry indicates that this industry is very useful to urban and rural skilled and unskilled unemployed persons. One can do the construction activity / work on minimum skill and at low investment of budget and can break the vicious circle of poverty. House construction industry has ample backward and forward linkages. The significance of the house construction activity can be stated with the help of following points –

1. It creates skilled and unskilled employment opportunities.

2. It is base of brick making, cement manufacturing and iron / steel industry.

3. Construction activity has number of backward linkages like employment and income generation, process in transportation, in brick making industry and in cement and iron industry, etc.

4. It also have number of forward linkages like employment and income generation process in paint industry, plaster of paris decorating industry and solar system industry, etc.

5. It employs local resources.

6. No training expenditures.

7. Increases the Demand for civil need.

Considering the above importance of the industry, it is essential to modify the ongoing traditional nature of the industry. Some technological
changes and economical measures will give different positive outlooks to the industry. Hence, it is the need of hour to study ‘Economic Conditions of House Construction Workers in Kolhapur City.’

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present investigation of “Economic conditions of house construction workers in Kolhapur city” is the first study of this kind in study area. It is very necessary to understand the nature of house construction activity and its socio economic impact on house construction workers, and to assess their problems.

It is estimated that recently 18.75 million workers were engaged in construction sector in India, and about 50,000 workers were engaged in Kolhapur city. The construction activities require simple technology, manual methods of preparing and providing mall / material, forming of bricks and binding steel etc. Construction activity are slack in rainy season i.e. July to September; otherwise this sector provides year-round employment to the construction workers.

So far, house construction workers organisation are not officially registered, hence they are unorganised in nature. Only engineers and architectures have their association. Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Society, Mumbai looks after this industry in general. House construction workers work with the simple tools like shoves, hand gloves, baskets, sponge, trowel, plumb line, water tube, scale, balancing tool, etc.

Construction workers contribute in building up the high class buildings and bungalows. Yet they do not receive much respect in the eyes of people.

The present research work “Economic conditions of house construction workers in Kolhapur city” will analyse the concerning problems of construction workers, and will put the focus on future prospects.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are as follows –

1. To know the working conditions of the House construction workers.

2. To understand the payment of wages pay to the workers.
3. To know the wage differentials on the basis gender.
4. To know the extent of implementation of various Acts applicable to related construction workers.
5. To study the working of social security scheme in construction sector.

1.6 TYPE OF CONSTRUCTIONS

Several type of construction activities were going on in the study area. Some of these are as follows –

1. Shopping Centres
2. Residential Apartments
3. Commercial Apartments / Blocks
4. Hotel Construction
5. Governments Administrative Buildings
6. Girls and Boys Hostels
7. Pools and Bridges
8. Road Side Show Pieces
9. Park and Garden Decorations
10. Temples
11. Houses etc.

1.7 HYPOTHESIS

House construction work has wide backward & forward linkages. The basic features of this activity are employment & income generation and there is dominance of private contractors & engineers, and poor working conditions of workers.

1.8 AREA OF THE STUDY

For present study the researcher has taken the house construction activity in the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation area.

1.9 PROCESS OF HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Any person who want to have dream of own house. He has to follow the following process of house construction.

1.9.1 SELECTION OF SITE

The foremost need of forming of an house is to select a site i.e. the specific place of plot. The area living standard of nearby people, distance
from Railway Station, S. T. Stand, road ways covered, school, health centre, garden and entertainment facilities are things which put powerful influence on selection site.

1.9.2 SELECTION OF PLOT

After determining the site potential house contractor has to fix his plot. Plot must be in Non-Agriculture Space (N. A.) in moderate size and clear title for purchase.

1.9.3 SALE-DEED

Another important stage is to purchase the selected plot. After paying the full market price one can do the papers of sale deed through proper channel. Paying the Government registration fees and stamp duties with the office of register, one can get the papers of sale-deed.

1.9.4 PREPARATION OF PLAN AND ESTIMATE

Potential house owner must have to prepare his dream house plan. As per his needs and budget, he determines the size and structure of his house.

Having the full discussion with the engineer he can finalise his plan of house and its estimate i.e. probable cost of construction.

1.9.5 PRIOR PERMISSION

Potential house owner must have to take the prior permission of house construction from Municipal or local authorities.

After submitting the sale deed papers, plan, layout and estimates one can apply for the permission. Considering the rules and regulations fulfilled by the applicant Municipal Corporation Authorities sanction the permission.

Now a days Corporation Authorities accepting C. D. (Compact Disk) with full of above requirements at the time of giving permission for construction.

1.10 MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM NUMBER OF WORKERS

House construction industry provides employment to skilled workers; skilled workers include mason, Centring Foreman, plumber, carpenter, tiles fitter / flooring foreman and fabricators. Whereas unskilled labours do the job of helpers and work under skilled workers.
The number of scope of helping hands is changed as per the need of skilled worker following chart will put the focus on requirements of unskilled labour per single skilled worker.

### Table 1.1
**Requirement of Unskilled Labours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of the Skilled Worker</th>
<th>Minimum Requirement of Helpers</th>
<th>Maximum Requirement of Helpers</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mason – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centring Foreman – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooring Mestry – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricator – One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Only Mason can employ female workers*

*Source: Fieldwork*

Above Table reveals that averagely one Masonry can employ 3 labour / helpers, one Centring Foreman can employ 3 unskilled persons, plumber can give work to 2 labourers, flooring foreman also can provide unskilled job for 3 workers whereas carpenter and fabricator averagely can provide job for 2 unskilled labourers etc.

### 1.11 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present work is based on primary & secondary data. The area of research work is confined to House Construction Business in Kolhapur city. Kolhapur city is selected for research because it is very fast developing, high take, I. T. Park moderate in city. Also it is operationally convenience from the stand point of time and cost factor.

### 1.11.1 PERMISSIONS TO HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation area has five permitting offices, including main sanction authority and four Divisional Offices. The permission granted by them during the last three years is mentioned in the following Table (Table 1.2).
### Table 1.2
**House Construction Permissions Granted from 2005 to 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Office</th>
<th>Year Wise Number of Permissions</th>
<th>Average of Three Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005-06 2006-07 Growth Rate (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Sanctioning authority K.M.C., Kolhapur</td>
<td>255 275 7.84 300 9.09</td>
<td>276.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandhi Maidan D. O.</td>
<td>215 235 9.30 240 2.12</td>
<td>230.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shivaji Market D. O.</td>
<td>205 217 5.85 230 5.99</td>
<td>216.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajarampuri D. O.</td>
<td>200 213 6.50 230 7.98</td>
<td>213.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarabai Putala Kawala Naka D. O</td>
<td>185 200 8.10 220 10.40</td>
<td>198.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1060 1140 8.48 1220 9.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>1140.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: House Construction Permission Dept. KMC, Kolhapur*

Above table reveals that in the year 2005-06 all offices are granted permission to 1060 construction whereas in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 they are granted 1140 and 1220 construction permission respectively. An average permissions during the three years i.e. 2005-08 granted by all offices are calculated as 1140 houses per year.

### 1.11.2 TOTAL POPULATION OF SKILLED WORKER

It is possible to calculate the total number / population of skilled workers. On the ground of housing permission given by the permitting authority, during the period of three years (i.e. 2005-08).
Table 1.3
Total Population of Skilled Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Skilled Workers</th>
<th>Year Wise Population</th>
<th>Average of Three Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>2006-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centring Foreman</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooring Foreman</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter/Fabricator</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13000</strong></td>
<td><strong>14900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:**
1. Personal Investigation
2. Architecture and Engineering Association, Kolhapur
3. Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Society

**Note:**
- Total skilled workers include native and migrated labour
- The number of migrated skilled labour are considerable. They are doing work like sand artist (Rajasthani), Flooring and Plumber (Karnataka), window maker – fabricator (Rajasthan and Karnataka) considering their high numbers research has given them equal importance in analysis.

1.11.3 SELECTION OF SKILLED WORKERS

The selection of sample skilled house construction workers is done on the ground of their total population. 1.5 per cent workers from total population and from each category of skilled workers were selected for the study. Following table (Table 1.4) will put focus on it.

Table 1.4
Selection of Skilled Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Skilled Worker</th>
<th>Average Total Population</th>
<th>Selected Number of Study</th>
<th>Percentage to Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>4533</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centring Foreman</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooring Foreman</td>
<td>2900</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter/Fabricator</td>
<td>2267</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15000</strong></td>
<td><strong>178</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Average total population means the average population of three years i.e. 2005-08 Include migrated and native workers
The above Table reveals that researcher has selected 178 skilled workers i.e. 1.5 per cent of their total population as a research sample. Migrated and native workers were selected as 50 per cent of each as a sample workers from among total of 178 skilled workers.

1.11.4 TOTAL POPULATION OF UNSKILLED WORKERS

To determine total number of unskilled worker is a very difficult task before researcher, because of the following reasons.

1. As there is lack of maintained written record
2. No body is interested in calculating them
3. No record with KMC
4. No record with Engineers and Architectures Association
5. No census with Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry

Hence, on the basis of discussion with the engineers, architectures and on the basis of personal interviews with masons, Centring Foreman, flooring foreman, carpenters and unskilled workers researcher has developed a formula of requirement of unskilled worker to single worker. For instance mason can employ 2 to 4 unskilled workers. Researcher get the mean of it and develop a formula as 1 Mason x 3 unskilled workers. The formula works out and the total number of unskilled workers came into picture. Following Table elicit the total population of unskilled workers.

Table 1.5
Estimated Total Population of Unskilled Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Skilled Worker</th>
<th>Year Wise Number of Unskilled Worker</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mason (1 x 3)</td>
<td>(4000 x 3) (4600 x 3) (5000 x 3)</td>
<td>13600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centring Foreman (1 x 3)</td>
<td>(3000 x 3) (3400 x 3) (4100 x 3)</td>
<td>10500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber (1 x 2)</td>
<td>(1500 x 2) (1700 x 2) (2200 x 2)</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooring Foreman (1 x 3)</td>
<td>(2500 x 3) (2900 x 3) (3300 x 3)</td>
<td>8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter/Fabricator (1 x 2)</td>
<td>(2000 x 2) (2300 x 2) (2500 x 2)</td>
<td>4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35500</strong> <strong>40700</strong> <strong>46600</strong></td>
<td><strong>40900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Table includes native and migrated labour*
1.11.5 SELECTION OF UNSKILLED WORKER SAMPLES

Unskilled worker samples were selected randomly. Number of sample worker households were selected for the study purpose. At the time of personal interviews with the workers, researcher has classify them in two categories viz. migrated and native workers. 75 native families and 75 migrated families were selected for giving equal weightage to both the category.

1.11.6 SELECTION OF FEMALE WORKER SAMPLES

Only mason employees the female unskilled workers. Women workers were doing the job of watering the construction, supplying bricks, mixing raw material and other miscellaneous works, as suggested by the mason.

More than 10,000 female workers were working in the study area. Some of them were migrated and some were native. An equal importance to both type of female workers had given.

The number of selected native and migrated female worker samples were 150. Among them 75 female families were native and 75 female families were migrated. They were interviewed as per the objectives of the study.

1.11.7 CLASSIFICATION OF LABOUR HOUSEHOLDS

The selected number of sample house construction worker families are 478.

The classification of labour household was made broadly into following groups viz. namely –

1. Skilled House Construction Workers (178)
   (a) Native (89)
   (b) Migrated (89)

2. Unskilled Male House Construction Workers (150)
   (a) Native (75)
   (b) Migrated (75)

3. Unskilled Female House Construction Workers (150)
   (a) Native (75)
   (b) Migrated (75)
1.12 SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

The present study is based on the primary as well as secondary data.

1.12.1 PRIMARY DATA

Primary data is collected from personal interviews of the skilled and unskilled construction workers on the site. In view of the objectives of the study the interview schedule was prepared. The researcher has also conducted a pilot survey.

Some minor changes were incorporated in the scheduled after completing the pilot survey. Due care was taken to cross checks in the schedules on the level of knowledge of respondents and to ensure the accuracy and reliability of data. All the schedules have been scrutinized so as to apprise the qualitative aspects of data.
1.12.2 SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data has collected from various Government reports, research reports, journals, libraries, internet and various institution. The researcher has approached following libraries and institutions for the present study such as –

1. Office of permitting authority K. M. C., Kolhapur
2. Construction Department of Zilha Parishad, Kolhapur
3. District Industrial Centre
4. Office of Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry, Mumbai
5. Engineering and Contractor Association, Kolhapur
6. Library of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad
7. Library of Goa University, Goa
9. District Statistical Office, Kolhapur
10. N. S. S. O. Office, Kolhapur
11. Bar. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

1.13 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Most of the theories, which are gender related, have been developed only in the twentieth century.

J. S. Mill (1869), however, has made some remarks of generalized nature when he argued for equality between sexes in giving employment. He made a case for the principle of perfect equality between men and women in making availability the employment opportunities and also mentioned that no occupation shall be considered as inadmissible for women. The so-called inability or lesser ability of women, in his opinion, was also a result of male domination and the intention of men to keep women in the sub-ordinate position even in the house. Marxist economists only criticized the capitalism for not allowing the women to participate in work outside the house.

Engels (1884) Maxi has stated that unless the socialism is brought into practice the liberation of women is not possible. Engles also stated later on “The emancipation of women may only be possible when women
take part in production on large scale and domestic work no longer claims anything but an insignificant amount of her time: In 1898, another economist Filman also emphasized upon the necessity of giving employment opportunities to women.

It is only in the twentieth century that theoretical discussion have been contributed by various economists in respect of female labour. There are mainly two types of theories. First, the theories regarding wage discrimination and the second, the theories concerning labour markets.

Choudhari and Choudhari (1984) has published a paper based on their research on the problem of home based piece rate women workers. It discusses the concepts and types of piece rate women worker and also examines their socio-economic problems. Some support schemes have been suggested.

Nirmala Banarjee (1985) has conducted a study of 400 women workers in Calcutta, which brought out low wages, poor working conditions and lack of institutional support for women workers in the unorganised sector.

Anita Dighe’s (1985) study shows that large percentage of women are concentrated in informal sector of urban economy in low-paid, low-skilled jobs. In home based production a large number of women workers are invisible since they work at home in informal manner.

Nandini Azad (1986) examined the patterns, types, nature and constraints or petty trading in respect of working women in the informal sector with the details of date pertaining to fourteen occupations of women workers in Madras city.

Everett and Mira Savara (1988) described five kinds of works that women workers perform in the informal sector from a study based on data of Mumbai city collected from Fisher Folk Co-operative, Varsova, Khanawalis Women’s Association, Bandra East, Bometric Servants Union, Dharavi and Subcontract Workers Social Work Agency, Ghatkopar. The study states that all the four occupations can be linked to ‘frame’ based work.

Ela Bhat (1989) for SEWA has conducted a study which presents insight into the working conditions and problems of self employed women and women in the informal sector.
National Commission on Self Employed women and women in the informal sector (1989) a report published by the Shram Shakti gives detail information regarding the working and living conditions of poor women, elaborated their problems and made certain recommendations.

Kaptan, S. S. (1989) has studied the income wages and working conditions of women workers in the unorganised sector of Amaravati city. It focuses on various aspects of women’s employment in small units in construction, oil, and Kumkum industry of Amaravati city.

Another study by Gupta Nirmal K. and Sudan F. K. (1990) consist of micro studies bringing out the position of women in Jammu and their potential for handling complicated task. The areas are covered women construction workers, women in industrial employees, female employment and fertility etc.

Second National Commission on labour (2002) was appointed by the Government of India on October 15, 1999 under the chairmanship of Ravidra Varma, former Minister of Labour, Government of India. The Commission submitted its recommendations in June, 2002. One of the main task interested the Commission was for two purposes an ‘umbrella legislation’ for workers in the unorganised sector to ensure at least a minimum protection and welfare to the workers in this sector.

K. V. Varghese (April, 1975) in his study on Housing Problems in India 1901-70 found that shelter is the basic need of millions of Indians. Housing industry employs semi skilled and unskilled workers which included mason, Centring Foreman, plumber, flooring foreman / the fitters, carpenters / fabricators and helpers of unskilled male and female workers. In his study lower caste Hindus outnumbered the intermediate castes while the higher castes did not take up this job. Illiteracy was common feature among them. Working conditions were far away from satisfaction with insanitary surroundings, dusty environment, excessive temperature in May and June and excessive cold in December and January lack of lightening and long working hours, cement infections are common.

Gulathi (1979) in her profile of a middle aged, untouchable woman worker mentions that there is a rigid compartmentalization of work on the basis of sex in this industry. Women are employed exclusively for supplying and casing head loads by mason while all skilled and semi-skilled work such as preparation of mall i.e. mixing of sand and cement as well as structuring of bricks etc. were done by men only. As a result
women’s wages for the work which was not physically less exhausting than that done by men, were only about half those earned by men.

Randesia and Yagnik (1983) in their article expressed concern over non-implementation of labour laws in construction workers. It was difficult to organised the construction workers they were scattered all over the countryside in the state. Secondly since most of these workers in this industry are migrant labour, they feel isolated in terms of language and other socio-cultural variables.

Krishna Ahooja – Patel’s book entitled, ‘Women and Sustainable Development : An International Dimensions’ was published in 1995 but this study was first published by Commonwealth secretariat (Vancouver, Canada) in 1992. The author has analysed how women – half of the humanity are affected by economic and environmental degradation of the planet. According to the author, as women constitute an overwhelming majority of the world’s poor, their advance has to be regarded as a cornerstone of sustainable development. The purpose of the author was to analysis the relationship of women to environment and development. The author has given a brief historical perspective of women advancement at International level. The book focuses on issues like women and globalisation, women and development, women and conservation of natural resources, women and equity etc. It gives a new perspectives to look at the problems of women caused by globalisation.

Institute for Sustainable Development, Lucknow, conducted a series of studies relating to women and economic development, women’s workforce participation and other issues and the report were published in seven volumes edited by Laxmi Devi (1998) : These studies are based on the secondary data available from various sources including census and have thrown up a number of critically important issues.

Jayanti Ghanekar’s (2001) paper concluded that the tribal under consideration though situated near the industrial belt of western Maharashtra, did not experience any change till 1980’s the economics of the village was characterized by subsistence agriculture a stagnant labour market with low wages and bonded labour system. The external stimulus provided to the economy through the activities of the labour organisation has started process of change in the rural tribal village economy. Therefore, that through the channel of organisation, the process of transformation has been started. However the major issue that emerges in this case is the sustenance and progress of the change in the absence of a strong agricultural sector. Assuming that the incomes gradually increase,
in the non-farm sector, there would be need for a strong food sector. The organisation can play an important role for the total transformation for the tribal region through the process of participatory development.

According to 10th five year plan (2002-2007) Vol. II; only four states have setup welfare boards under the Buildings and Construction Workers Welfare Act, 1996. These welfare boards are meant to implement schemes like immediate assistance to beneficiary in case of accident, pension at the age of 60 years, premiums for group insurance scheme for the beneficiary and medical expenses etc. In the absence of such administrative mechanism provided under the Act, resources could not be collected from construction contractors.

Implementation of the Act by the state governments will be pursued in the 10th plan. If necessary giving some incentive to state governments that implement the Act may be considered.


Silvia M. D. Mendonca Noronha (2005): In his thesis of ‘Migrant Construction Workers in Goa’, writes that, a significant proportion of the total migrant labour in Goa comprises construction workers from other states who came in large numbers following the construction boom in Goa in the eighties. Goa depends heavily on migrants workers for its construction activity. This paper seeks to examine the socio-economic characteristics of these workers. The causal factors (push and pull factors) leading to migration of these workers in Goa and the impact of the Goan economy.

K. Narindar Jetli (Ed., 2006) in the book, ‘India: Manpower, Employment Policy and Labour Welfare 1947 to 2007’ mentions that construction is one of the most labour intensive sector. Also, their exists large unmet demand for housing in both rural and urban areas. The National Building Organisation the urban housing shortage at 8.23 million units in 1991. Similarly in rural areas too there are such shortages. A boost to this sector is necessary to meet the housing demand, which constitute one of the basic necessities. In the process significant employment opportunities can be generated at different skill level, though largely for unskilled labour.
Darshan Sing (2007) in his study paper, ‘Working Conditions and Problems of Unorganised Sector : A Study of Construction Workers’ analysed that there are more than 20 million people engaged in various construction activities. They are born with indebtedness and poverty, their bodies are weak and they are overwhelmingly illiterate. They are not only discriminated but also exploited by the contractors / employers by taking benefit of their poor bargaining and socio-economic conditions. They are compelled to work on lower wages and unhygienic conditions without proper facilities of housing, washing, bathing, latrines, urinals and social security measures.

1.14 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study has the following limitations –

1. The study is limited to house construction workers in Kolhapur city. Hence, it will not be applicable to other areas.

2. The present study is restricted to the socio-economic conditions, pattern of employment, wages, income, expenditure, poverty and indebtedness of house construction workers.

3. At the time of research survey few of the sample respondents had inadequate information. Almost all the households do not maintain their accounts, it has lead to a marginal statistical errors. However, due care has been taken to keep the degree of error within limit.

1.15 DIFFICULTIES FACED BY RESEARCHER

At the time of date collection researcher has gone through the following difficulties,

1. The selected respondents (especially women) could not effectively contacted until the second visit.

2. It is very difficult to collect the secondary data as there is no sufficient information in written.

3. Necessary co-operation is not given by the table clerk in selected offices.
4. Regarding illiteracy and lack of awareness of respondents, they were hesitating to give frank information till they were aware about pure purpose of research.

5. The information of the costs and income from the business could not be easily and accurately obtained because of lack of proper record, illiteracy, lack of accounting and apathy due to poverty.

6. The collection of data from the workers took much time and physical and mental strain because of their reluctance in disclosing information.

7. Most of the respondents were skeptical of the use of such interviews.

1.16 CHAPTER SCHEME

Chapter I : Introduction and Research Methodology

It contains aspects like scope and significance of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, hypothesis, review of literature, research design, limitations and problems of researcher and chapter scheme of the study.

Chapter II : Profile of the Study Area

It deals with the profile of the study area. An attempt has been made to present historical, geographical, socio-cultural and economic features of Kolhapur city.

Chapter III : Nature and Problems of Construction Industry

This chapter related with nature and problems of construction industry, also related with backward and forward linkages of the construction industry and basics in the house construction.

Chapter IV : Socio-Economic Conditions of Sample Construction Workers

Chapter fourth denotes the socio-economic profile of sample house construction workers in the study area to know their status of living.
Chapter V : Employment and Income Pattern of Sample Construction Workers

This chapter deals with the employment and income pattern of house construction labour households. Details regarding with employment conditions and earning were reflected in the topic.

Chapter VI : Socio-Economic Characteristics of Women Workers in Construction

This chapter puts focus on socio-economic profile of sample women construction workers in the study area.


It deals with the labour legislation, social security and labour welfare of the construction workers in the study area.

Chapter VIII : Problems of Construction Workers

Chapter eighth deals with the general problems of house construction workers and puts focus on the problems of female workers.

Chapter IX : Findings and Recommendations

Chapter ninth deals with the major findings and suggestions on the basis of the present study.

REFERENCES


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