

Socio-Economic Study of Construction Sector Workers with Special Reference to Vapi Municipal Corporation

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Abstract: *This paper examines the socio-economic status of migrant construction workers, focusing on the challenges they face in urban areas like Vapi Nagarpalika. Based on primary data sources, the study highlights that these workers often lack permanent employment, fair wages, access to social security, housing, and healthcare. The study also reveals how their financial instability affects family life, child care, education, and health.*

Keywords: Migration, Workers, Construction, Vapi, Social Security

I. INTRODUCTION

Vapi Nagarpalika is a taluka of Valsad district. Vapi is very famous for industrial units all over the world. Vapi has the second-highest number of chemical factories in Asia. The presented research work is an attempt to know the socio-economic status of workers employed in the construction sector in Vapi Nagarpalika. Construction work is continuous work. The construction sector requires the most workers. In which both types of skilled and unskilled workers are required. Construction work means construction of buildings, construction of houses, construction of government housing, construction of flats etc. Workers are needed for all these types of work.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1. Desingkar, Priya and Aqtar, Saeeda (2009)** This study provides a detailed analysis of internal migration trends in India and their impact on human development. The authors show that a large segment of migrant workers is employed in the unorganized sector, including construction, agriculture and domestic work. Workers in these sectors are hired on a contractual or temporary basis. Wages are unequal, social protection is lacking, and working hours are excessive.
- 2. Srivastava, Ravi (2011)** This paper highlights the prevalence of internal migration in India, its socio-economic causes and policy shortcomings. The author argues that migrant workers do get employment, but they are mostly temporary or on contract and do not have any kind of legal protection. Workers working in urban areas, especially, do not get regular work, minimum wages and health facilities.
- 3. International Labour Organization (ILO) Report (2020)** This report reviews the situation of workers in the informal sector in many countries including India during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report shows that the livelihoods of contract and temporary workers were severely affected, as they did not have any fixed social security. A large number of migrant workers had to return to their hometowns during the lockdown, making it clear that their situation is extremely insecure and temporary.
- 4. Kundu, Amitabh (2007)** This study delves into the relationship between urbanization and migration. The author argues that migrant workers who come to cities are mostly poor and get temporary, low-paid, and dangerous jobs. Also, these workers do not have easy access to basic amenities such as housing, sanitation, and health care.
- 5. Bhagat, R. B. (2012)** This study compares migrant and non-migrant workers in urban India. The authors find that migrant workers have relatively low wages, temporary employment, and poor housing conditions. The situation of women workers is even more worrying. Wage inequality, work uncertainty, and lack of social services affect the quality of life of migrant workers.



III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the Methodology of research framework, containing objective, Research Design, Sample size, Analytical Tools etc.

3.1 Problem of Statement;

Researcher is examining general understanding about age, caste, marital status, educational status, housing types, occupation, ownership of house of respondents.

3.2 Objective of the Study:

To compare the living and working conditions of male and female migrant workers.

To identify the key challenges faced by these workers, such as lack of permanent employment, fair wages, housing, health facilities, and social security.

Major Labour Chowks of Vapi Municipality

1. Chanod Labour Chowk
2. Zhanda Chowk Labour Chowk
3. Vapi Gunjan Char Rasta Labour Chowk
4. Dungra Labour Chowk
5. Morai Phatak Labour Chowk

Research Design: Descriptive Research Design, Interview Method

Data Type: Primary Data

Sample Size: 50 respondents from five labour chowk of Vapi Nagarpalika

1. General Information

Table 1 Caste of the Respondents

SR No.	Caste	Number of Workers
1.	General	5(10%)
2.	O.B.C	15(30%)
3.	ST	25(50%)
4.	SC	3(6%)
5.	Minority	2(4%)
Total	-	50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

Based on information collected in the research work, it is known that out of a total of 50 workers, 5 were from the general category, 15 from the other backwards class, 25 from the scheduled tribe, 3 from the scheduled caste and 2 from the minority. It is clear from the table that the least number is of minority people while the largest number is of scheduled caste people whose total number is 25.

Table 1.2 Age of the respondents

SR No.	Age	Number of the respondents
1	Below 20	7(14%)
2	21 to 25	19(38%)
3	26 to 30	21(42%)
4	30 Above	3((6%)
Total	-	50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

The above table shows that 7 percent of workers are below the age of 20, while 38 percent of workers are 19 years old. Additionally, 42 percent of workers are 21 years old, and only 3 percent of workers are above the age of 30.



Table 1.3 Marital Status of the respondents

SR No.	Marital Status	Number of Respondents
1	Married	34(68%)
2	Unmarried	16(32%)
Total	-	50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

Based on information collected in the research survey, it is known that out of a total of 50 workers, 34(68%) are married and there are 16 (32%) unmarried workers.

2. Socio-Economic Information

2.1 State of the respondent

SR No.	States/UT	Number of Respondents
1.	Uttar Pradesh	12(24%)
2.	Bihar	18(36%)
3.	Jharkhand	10(20%)
4.	Rajasthan	06(12%)
5.	Gujarat	04(8%)
Total		50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

As shown in the above table, the maximum number of labourers is from Bihar state whose total number is 18, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 12, whereas there are 10 from Bihar, Jharkhand, 06 from Rajasthan and 4 from Gujarat.

Table 2.2 Ownership of House

SR No.	Type of House	Number of the Respondents
1.	Own House	0
2.	Rented House	41(82%)
3.	Construction Site Temporarily Shelter	9(18%)
Total	-	50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

Based on the information collected in the research survey, it is known that out of a total of 50 workers, 41(82%) live in rented houses. 9(18%) workers live at their workplace. No worker in this research owns their own house.

Table 2.3 Daily Income-related information

SR No.	Daily Income	Number of Workers
1.	100-400	0
2.	401- 800	50(100%)
3.	801-1200	0
Total	-	50 (100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

The above table tells about the daily income of the workers. The total number of workers earning between Rs 100 to 400 and Rs 801 to 1200 is zero, while the total number of people earning between Rs 401 to 800 is 50, which means 100 per cent of the workers earn between Rs 401 to 800 per day.

Table 2.4 Do You Get Your Wages in Your Bank Account or Cash?

SR. No.	Cash or Bank	Number of Workers
1	Cash	50(100%)
2	Bank Account	0
Total	-	50 (100%)

(Source: Field Survey)



It is evident from the table shown above that 100% of the workers get their income in cash. However, there is not a single worker who gets money into their bank account.

2.5 Bank Account Details

SR No.	Do You Have a Bank Account?	Number of Respondents
1	Yes	50(100%)
2	No	00
Total	-	50 (100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

The Table above shows that 50 workers have a Bank Account.

2.6 Types of Occupation

Sr No.	Occupation	Number of Respondents
1.	Mason	14 (28%)
2.	Labour	36(72%)
Total	-	50(100%)

From the table given above, it is clear that 36 workers can also be termed as semi-skilled workers whereas there are 14 workers who are mechanics and skilled workers.

2.8. Educational status of the respondents

SR No.	Qualification of the respondents	Number of the Respondents
1.	1 to 5	23(46%)
2.	6 to 10	19(38%)
3.	11 to 12	8(16%)
4	12 th above	0
Total	-	50(100%)

(Source: Field Survey)

IV. MAJOR FINDINGS

The majority of workers belong to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category, with a total of 25 respondents. It contrasts, the lowest representation is from the minority community, with only 2 individuals.

Most of the workers fall within the age group of 26 to 30 years. The least number of workers are above the age of 30.

About 68 percent of the workers are married, while 32 percent are unmarried.

The highest number of migrant constructional workers have migrated from Bihar, while the lowest number, only 4 workers, are from Gujarat.

100 percent of workers do not own a house and live in rented or temporary accommodations.

All the workers (100%) fall in the income range of 401-800 rupees per day.

100 percent of workers receive their wages in cash.

Most of the workers have studied up to class 1 to 5, while the least number of workers have studied up to class 11 to 12.

V. PROBLEMS OF WORKERS

Problems told by workers during the survey in their own words.

Wages are not paid on time, and some days we have to return home empty-handed.

They get the work done but do not pay.

We have to work in the sun or rain.

The worker is deprived of any government benefits.

Information about government schemes is not available.



Work is not available every day.
The loan is not available from the bank.
Children cannot be educated as there is no permanent work in one place.
We have to work despite having pain in the body.
The behavior of the contractor at the workplace is not good.
No safety equipment of any kind is available.
There is a difference in the salaries of men and women, they do not get the same salary.
Most of the time during the rainy season we have to remain unemployed.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

Workers should get the benefit of social security.
The government should make a separate arrangement for the education of children.
The benefits of government schemes should also reach these workers.
There should not be any difference in the salaries of men and women.
If any accident occurs at the workplace, then proper compensation should be given for it.

VII. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

In this study, information has been collected from 5 labour chowks of Vapi Nagar Palika. No information has been collected from other labour chowks. This is its limitation. Apart from this, this study is limited to Vapi Nagarpalika only.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The analysis of the socio-economic status of construction workers clearly shows that their lives are filled with hardships and insecurities. Even in a developing urban area like Vapi Nagarpalika, these workers face a lack of permanent employment, fair wages, social security, housing, and healthcare facilities. Most of them are unable to avail themselves of government scheme benefits due to their employment in the unorganized sector. The condition of women workers is particularly concerning, as their work is often undervalued and underpaid compared to that of their male counterparts. Additionally, the workers' constant busyness and financial instability adversely affect childcare, health, education, and overall family life. Based on this study, it is concluded that the government, contractors, and society must work together to make concrete efforts to improve the living standards of migrant construction workers. Effective implementation of welfare schemes, a transparent process for worker registration, and the expansion of social security coverage are essential to ensure that these workers can lead a life of dignity.

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