



Work Pattern and Quality of Life Among Construction Workers in Kuniamuthur Village in Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT: The Indian construction industry is a major part of the economy and conduit for a substantial part of its development investment and poised for growth on account of industrialization, urbanization, economic development and people's rising expectations for improved quality of living. Quality of life of the employees in the construction sector is an important factor towards the growth of the industry. The researcher had adopted descriptive research design for the study. In the Kuniamuthur village, the researcher had collected 100 samples from the construction sector by using purposive sampling method. Among the total respondents, nearly half of the respondents have a moderate level of quality of life in their work. Governments and private building contractors should take initiatives to improve the quality of life of the workers and also should focus on improving policies on welfare measures of the construction workers.

Keywords: Quality of life, Construction workers, Construction industry, Job security, Job satisfaction, Social issues and conflicts.



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1. Introduction

Today, India is the second fastest growing economy in the world. The Indian construction industry is an integral part of the economy and a substantial part of its development investment is poised for growth on account of industrialization, urbanization, economic development and people's rising expectations for improved quality of living. Investment in construction accounts for nearly 11 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). India is changing and modernizing quickly, urbanization is the most visible aspect. The whole construction industry is at its boom.

2. Quality of Life

The term quality of life (QOL) is used to evaluate the general well-being of individuals and societies. The term is used in a wide range of contexts, including the fields of international development, healthcare, and politics. Quality of life should not be confused with the concept of standard of living, which is based primarily on income. Instead, standard indicators of the quality of life include not only wealth and employment, but also the built environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging.

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World Health Organization (1970) defines quality of life as the condition of life resulting from the combination of effects of the complete range factors such as those determining health, happiness (including comfort in the physical environment and a satisfying occupation) education, social and intellectual attainment, freedom of action, justice and freedom of expression.

A Construction worker is a worker who directly involves himself in the physical construction of a building or assembling of any physical or organizational structure needed for the operation of an enterprise.

The Construction industry is one of the most booming industries in India. It is mainly based on urban areas. Urbanization is the most visible aspect of Indian culture. It also a high hazard industry and it includes a wide range of activities such as construction, alteration or repair.

The quality of life index was developed by Carol Estwing Ferrans and Marjorie powers in 1984 to measure the quality of life in terms of satisfaction with life. The quality of life index measures both satisfaction and importance regarding various aspects of life.

Melinda Mc Coy and Glen Filson(1996) in their study on "Working off the Farm: Impacts on Quality of life" collected data on 311 Western Ontario male and female farmers and revealed that although most indicated satisfaction with their lives, some differences are apparent women employed off the farm report more areas of lower satisfaction than their male counterparts and men and women working solely on the farm. Low levels of satisfaction with time issues, leisure and exercise were most evident for employed women. Men employed off the farm report the most effects from time issues, satisfaction with the farm business, income, and the environment. People working off the farm feel their farms are less successful and are more concerned with their environment whereas the farm family's activity enables many to hold on to cherished aspects of the farming lifestyle for a while, its burdens are perceived to fall heaviest on female farmers especially if they have young children.

The Construction industry is the second largest economic activity in India after agriculture and also one of the most booming industries in the whole world. It accounts for nearly 67 percent of the total investment. The construction industry is an important indicator of the development as it creates investment opportunities across various related sectors. The working conditions and work roles severely impact the lifestyle, health and growth potential of the construction workers. Quality of life of employees in the construction sector is an important factor for the betterment of the employees towards the growth of the industry. Here the researcher makes an attempt to study the influence of personal variables and quality of life among construction workers in Kuniyamuthur village in Coimbatore district.

3. Methodology

The general objective of the study was to understand the work pattern and quality of life of construction workers. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To study the personal profile of employees in the construction sector.
2. To study the level of quality of life of the construction workers.
3. To offer suggestions and social work intervention techniques to enhance the quality of life of the construction workers in Kuniyamuthur village in Coimbatore district.

The researcher has chosen descriptive research design for the study. In this research, the researcher must be able to define clearly, what he wants to measure and find adequate methods for measuring it. Thus, the researcher describes the socio-economic status of the respondents in the construction sector and measures the quality of life of the construction workers.

The universe of the study covers all the workers working in the construction sector in Kuniyamuthur village in Coimbatore district. In Coimbatore district, the Kuniyamuthur area was selected purposely. For the selection of the respondents, the researcher selected 100 samples from the construction sector by using purposive sampling method.

The researcher used a questionnaire to collect relevant information from the respondents. The questionnaire consists of questions pertaining to employee's personal profile and level of quality of life of employees in the construction sector. One standardized scale was also used to measure the quality of life of the construction workers. The questionnaire was prepared in English and later translated into Tamil, before it was given to the construction workers for data collection.

After the collection of data, the questionnaires were initially edited. The data obtained for the study were quantitative in nature. The analysis of data was done through the Statistical Package of Social Science by the researcher. The researcher was examined carefully for processing data. After screening the answer sheets, 100 questionnaires were available for final analysis. The statistical techniques like percentage analysis and quartile deviation were used for the purpose of analysis. The scores of the scale used in this study are grouped into low, medium and high.

4. Findings

- Nearly 38.4 percent of the respondents working in construction sector belong to the age group of 26 to 35 years. These prove that the current construction sector prefers mostly the youth groups.
- Majority of 64.3 percent of the respondents are male. It is inferred that male population is more in this sector.
- Majority 77.4 percent of the respondents believes in Hindu religion.
- A little more than half 64.2 percent of the respondents is married.
- Majority 68.4 percent of the respondents reside in urban areas.
- Most of the respondents were from nuclear families.
- More than one-fourth of the respondents are illiterates.
- Nearly half of the respondents belong to category of labour and also daily wages basis.
- Most of the respondents earned monthly Rs.5001 to 10000.

Table showing respondents based on their Level of quality of life

S.No.	Quality of Life Level	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	26	26
2	Moderate	46	46
3	High	28	28
Total		100	100

From the table, it is clear that among the total respondents, nearly half 46 percent of the respondents have moderate level of quality of life in their work, 28 percent of the respondents have high level of quality of life and 26 percent of the respondents have low level of quality of life which is more likely nearer to high level of quality of life.

5. Suggestions

- Ensure decent working conditions and proper contract systems and providing basic health care for construction labourers and also create awareness of construction labour rights.
- Adequate intervention from the government authorities ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the construction labourers.
- Organize public medical camps where construction sites are located and constant inspection from the government part is required to reduce the plight of the construction labourers.

6. Implication of Social work

Social case work is to be practiced by a variety of agencies and organizations in the community. In the construction industry, the construction workers face several problems and the practice of casework will certainly help the individuals to maintain a normal balanced life.

Group work helps the individuals in their relations to certain groups. In the construction industry, the researcher finds out the scope of group work is high. In the group work, the social workers engage the workers in different group activities such as art and craft, prenatal and postnatal care, sex information and discussion of problems causes of economic problems and other psychological problems.

Social workers must take more interest in study of the problems of the construction workers and its findings of the research must be seriously considered by the government

By the means of community welfare organization, the welfare of the construction workers could be

addressed and their problems could be resolved. Preferably more community centers must be set up for the construction workers and an opportunity to these workers must be provided to participate in it.

7. Conclusions

The Construction industry is most booming industries in the existing economy. Working environments 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 migrates for getting employment. The cost of the construction work has been 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. Women are more insecure in their work. The comparison between men and women 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.

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