



A Psycho-social Study Of Construction Labours In Satara.

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Abstract:

Construction of buildings, flats, houses are seen at every sight. Obviously, labours have become important part of our lives. The Dictionary meaning of labour is physical or mental exertion, work, toil (Webster's) bodily or mental work, exertion, toil tending to supply wants of the community (The Concise Oxford). These labours are of types 1. Organized labour; 2. Unorganized labour. Various attempts have been made to define the unorganized labour. Labour system is in existence in one or the other form in our society. In spite of the sincere efforts of governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the direction, no exhaustive definition in this regard is possible. The term "Unorganized Labour" which is foreign to any of the labour laws of the country also falls short of a legal definition. Yet, the term is widely used and talked about at various fora.

The term corresponds to "unprotected" labours who are employed in informal or unorganized sector. "Cheap labour" which is resorted to "Cheat" labour and is boasted upon to attract industries is the only factor responsible for the malady sector were due to their poor bargaining power, on account of wide disposal and lack of organization. As a result, they are subject to the high degree of exploitation, job, insecurity, irregular periods of work etc.

Unorganized labours are being victimized socially and economically as well by their powerful employers in various forms as result they also become psychologically weak

Construction labour who is in unorganized labour category is still unorganized, uncohesive, heterogeneous, socio-economically utterly backward, unskilled and for the most part of the year underemployed. A vast majority of them spend their lives shackled by socio-economic inequalities'.

Level of aspiration refers to the expectations or goal that one sets to achieve in future, keeping in view his past performance. Inspire of having the ability to achieve something, if aspirations for the same are lacking in the persons, he fails to achieve the desired level of performance. Success and failure in life determine level of aspiration behaviour. It is observed that the unorganized area is neglected part from the point of view psychological research. Hence, very rare studies have been found so far as construction labourers and their psychological make-up is concerned.

In the present study researchers are interested in knowing the socio-economic condition and the level of aspiration of labours.

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AIM OF STUDY :-

The study was designed to collect information regarding the demographic background of workers and psychological factors such as level of aspiration and the interactions with others. Thus, the main aim of the study is to examine some of the psychological aspects of the construction labour in Satara.

OBJECTIVES :-

There are two major objectives.

1. To find out the daily routine and family activities of the construction labours.
2. to measure the level of aspiration and extent of satisfactory interaction of the labour with others.

HYPOTHESIS :-

Following hypothesis were framed and tested in the study.

1. Level of aspiration of the workers is significantly high.
2. Apparently it is hypothesized that since their needs are limited they are satisfied with what they earn.

METHODOLOGY :-

SAMPLE :-

By using purposive sampling technique 30 construction labours were selected, of which 20 were males and 10 females. Their age range was 20 to 56 yrs. Though, the information about their caste and religion were sought, satisfactory answers could not be fetched. Most of the labours were living in kuccha house, of them 18 were married and 12 unmarried; 1/5th of the sample was illiterate, 16 were studied up to 7th standard and the remaining had completed their high school education.

TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION :-

1. A self construction interview schedule was used for collection of data. The schedule consisted of 41 questions. Most questions were closed end type or multiple choice type in nature. Only few were open ended questions.
2. A Level of Aspiration Scale by Ceasor and Pradipto Roy and modified by NCERT, was used for measuring level of aspiration.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION :-

Each worker was contacted either after the working hours in his / her hutment, and some were contacted during the recess period of the working hours. Before starting the interview the labours were told the purpose of the study and when it was observed that he / she is inclined to reply the questions, first the information about themselves and family members was asked. After asking the question when the respondents gave the response, it was noted simultaneously. Before concluding the interview, thanks were given to the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :-

At the outset it must be noted that the sample of study was small. When they were classified according to age large number of respondents were the age group of 20 to 30 years. Only one was found in 50's. The classification brought out significant differences for the simple reason that construction work is heavy type of work and hence mostly youngsters are seen in this profession. The nature of work being done by females is generally different from that of males. When the educational status was examined, it was observed that only 1/5th of them were illiterate and most of them had completed either middle or high school education.

It is important to note that very few entered this profession because of the tradition but significantly large number of them joined this profession because they had no alternatives. When the data were treated by Chi Square test, the X^2 value of 15.80 was found significant at 0.01 Level.

Despite disparity in education, the family income of most the workers was more or less similar. Even among these labourers it was observed that had great desire to educate their children. As a result when family education was considered an upward trend was seen. It appears that once the labours enter this



profession there remains no alternative, except to continue this work. This could be seen from the information related to duration of work. Significant differences were observed; X² value of 9.60 was found to be significant at 0.01 level.

Here, it must be noted that though the nature of work is similar, the wages earned by the labours are significantly different. It might be probably, because the labourers have to work under some contractors and there is no uniformity in the wages. Even when this disparity is observed most of the workers reported that wages earned by them are adequate. Above all most of the respondents reported that they can fulfil their necessities within the wages they are earning.

It is a common assumption that along with economic sufficiency level of aspiration goes on increasing. In the present study it was thought that since these labours are poor and poorly educated their level of aspiration might not be very high, but the scenario is just the opposite.

Approximately 90 percent of the respondents exhibited high level of aspiration and only 10 percent failed to show so. The difference is highly significant. The X² value of 16.13, for 1 df, is significant at 0.01 level. Infact these are healthy symptoms of the labour society.

Some of the sociological information needs descriptive attention. Most if them were having congenial relationships with their contractors and the workers were working in co-operation with each other. They had also reported that they take active part in social functions. According to present standard these workers could be labelled as poor as none could afford a power vehicle. Even though the nature of work is hazardous to health, most the workers were not aware of it.

CONCLUSIONS :-

1. Despite abysmal poverty the construction labours exhibited high level of aspiration.
2. Though the socio-economic condition is of lower level the construction workers had satisfactory interaction and make attempt to fulfil their needs within their earnings.

