Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Review Of Research Journal

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ISSN No: 2249-894X

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Welcome to Review Of Research

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

Spiru Haret University, Romania

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ISSN:-2249-894X

Available online at www.lbp.world

ORIGINAL ARTICLE





RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ASPECTS AMONG WOMEN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN GULBARGA CITY

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Abstract:

In India, the construction industry is the second largest and a fast growing sector. Transnational companies have been competing in the construction industry since the mid-1990s, engaging in both large public-sector infrastructure projects and private sector industrial projects. The religious aspects of the respondents also impact on the social life of the people. Hence, information on religious aspects of the respondents are collected and presented in the present section. The political conditions and aspects are also forms part of social life. Hence, the present section made an attempt to know about the political aspects of the respondents.

KEYWORDS:

Religion, Political, women construction and workers.

INTRODUCTION:

It is noted that many of the studies on the social, economic, political, religious and educational aspects of the working women in formal sector (Organized sector). But only a few studies were under taken to study these aspects of the women working in unorganized sector. Generally women working in unorganized sector are illiterates and under-educated, the wages they have been paid are discriminatory, to a major extent they are being exploited by their owners, their social status is also low, as they are from conventional and illiterate family. Work of few women workers in this sector is seasonal. The women working in unorganized sector are poor and have less economic power and status in the society. It is emphasized that the women working in the unorganized and informal sector are facing exploitation and sexual harassment from the owners or from male workers. The women working in unorganized sector will do work such as construction work, agricultural labourers, domestic and household servants, girls working in shops and commercial establishments, etc. The present section discussed the unorganized sector in general and women construction workers in particular.

The term 'informal sector' was introduced into development studies literature only quite recently (1971). Before that, till the late 1960s, there was an implicit belief in the 'trickle-down theory' whereby the so-called benefits of development, which were perceived to be cornered by a small section of the people, would gradually but surely reach sections that were toiling for it. The international crises of the late 1960s put an end to such hopes or theories that were being propounded (Gothoskar, 2003).

Title: "RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ASPECTS AMONG WOMEN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN GULBARGA CITY", Source: Review of Research [2249-894X] Dr. Ashwini yr:2014|vol:3|iss:12

OBJECTIVE

- To Know the Socio-economic Background of Women Construction workers.
- To study the Religious and Political Aspects among Women Construction workers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study began with the literature search. The researcher was referred Sociological Abstracts, leading regional, national and international journals and books published in the fields such as women studies, women professionals, working women, women employment, women in unorganized sector, women construction workers, etc.

SAMPLE

The researcher used Simple Random Sampling method for selecting the respondents working in these areas by making survey of available women construction workers randomly. The researcher interviewed about 150 women construction workers for collecting the information for the present study.

DATA COLLECTION

Primary Data and Secondary data, Method of collecting Primary Data The Survey Method is one of the most popular data collection methods in Social Sciences. The Interview Schedule will be composed using different scales like dichotomous, multiple choice, descriptive and rating. In addition to this, the researcher adopted personal observation technique to ascertain the information on the nature of the activities of the Self Help Groups, economic and social status of the illiterate women, etc. The primary data collected through the Interview Schedule is represented in the form of Tables. The tables are analyzed with the percentages, so as to make analytical study and also help for comparison of different kinds of the data. Further, on the basis of collected data certain generalizations were stated as findings and conclusion.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

The researcher interviewed total 150 women construction workers working in different construction areas such as Jayanagar, Pooja Colony, Annamma Nagar, Basaveshwar Nagar, Brahmapur, GDA Layout, Sangameshwar Colony, Venkateshwar Nagar, etc in Gulbarga city. Among the total 150 (100%) respondents covered under the present study, 28.67% are between the age group of 19 to 25 years, followed by 27.33% are between the age group of 41 to 55 years, about 25.33% of the respondents are between the age group of 26 to 40 years, about 10.67% of the respondents are of below 18 years and the remaining only 8.00% are of above 55 years of age. It is worth to emphasize that even though the Government is passing laws and policies to curb child labour, the present study revealed that about 10.67% of the women construction workers are minors. The educational background of the respondents revealed that 42.00% of the respondents are illiterates, followed by 20.67% completed lower primary education, 19.33% are completed higher primary education, about 14.67% are completed secondary education and the remaining 3.33% are studied education above secondary level. Very interestingly it is noted that even though educated about 20% of the respondents are engaged in unskilled work that is construction work.

RELIGION OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Religion plays an important role in assessing, social and religious aspects of the respondents. The religion of the respondents covered under the present study is presented in the following table:

Table No.1. Religion of the Respondents

Religion	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Hindu	72	48.00
Muslim	43	28.67
Christian	14	9.33
Buddhist/Jain	21	14.00
Others		
Total	150	100

The collected presented in the above table shows that $72 \ (48.00\%)$ of the respondents are from Hindu religion, followed by 43 (28.67%) are from Muslim religion, about 21 (14.00%) are from Buddhist and Jain religion and the remaining only $14 \ (9.33\%)$ are from Christian religion.

CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Caste plays an important role in determining the status in the society. Caste also indicates the occupation of the people. The caste of the respondents is shown as under:

Table No.2. Caste-wise distribution of the Respondents:

Caste/Class	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	41	27.33
Scheduled Tribe	16	10.67
Other Backward	59	39.33
Class		
Others	34	22.67
Total	150	100

The above table shows that of the total 150 (100%) of the respondents, 59 (39.33%) are from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), followed by 41 (27.33%) are from Scheduled Caste, about 34 (22.67%) are from other caste such as forward classes and the remaining only 16 (10.67%) are from Scheduled Tribe. Other back ward classes forms considerably major portion of the female construction workers.

VISIT TEMPLES, CHURCHES, BUDDHA VIHARS AND MOSQUES:

To know about the religious aspects of the women construction workers, it was asked to the respondents, that whether they visit the holy places like temples, churches, Buddha Vihars and mosques. The responses are shown in the following table:

Table No. 3. Visit Temples, Churches, Buddha Vihars and Mosques

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Yes	124	82.67
No	26	17.33
Total	150	100

It is revealed from the above table that 124 (82.67%) of the respondents visit temples, churches, Buddha Vihars and Mosques regularly, whereas the remaining 26 (17.33%) are not visiting the same.

FREQUENCY OF VISIT TO HOLY PLACES:

As the above reveals about 124 of the respondents visit the holy places. It was asked to them about the frequency of such visit and the collected information is tabulated as under.

Table No.4. Frequency of Visit to Holy Places

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Daily	14	11.29
Weekly	78	62.90
On Festival days	13	10.48
Occasionally	19	15.32
Total	124	100

It is noted from the above table that of the total 124 (100%) of the respondents visiting holy places regularly, 78 (62.90%) are visiting holy places weekly, followed by 19 (15.32%) are visiting holy places occasionally, about 14 (11.29%) are visiting holy places daily and the remaining only 13 (10.48%) are visiting holy places occasionally.

Outside work does not permit to participate in cultural, religious, social festivals and activities:

It was asked to the respondents whether the outside work does not permit to participate in cultural, religious and social festivals and activities. The collected information is presented in the following table. Table No. 5. Outside work does not permit to participate in cultural, religious,

Social festivals and activities

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Yes	57	45.97
No	67	54.03
Total	124	100

It is noted from the above table that 57 (45.97%) of the respondents have stated that outside work does not permit to participate in cultural, religious, social activities and festivals, whereas 67 (54.03%) of the respondents have not agreed to the same.

Political Aspects:

The political conditions and aspects are also forms part of social life. Hence, the present section made an attempt to know about the political aspects of the respondents.

Member of Political Parties:

To know about the political aspects of the women construction workers, it was asked to the respondents that whether they are members of any political party. The collected data is shown as under.

Table No.6. Member of Political Party

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	68	45.33
No	82	54.67
Total	150	100

It is observed from the above table that 68 (45.33%) of the respondents are members of political parties, whereas about 82 (54.67%) of the respondents are not members of any political parties. It is interesting to note that nearly half of the respondents are interested in the political area, as they are members of political parties.

Vote and Elect Political Representatives regularly:

Right to vote is fundamental right for every citizen of India. Participation in election of the political representatives by voting is essential for every citizen. Hence, it was asked to the respondents that whether they vote and elect their political representatives regularly and the collected information shown in the following table.

Table No.7. Vote and Elect Political Representatives regularly

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Yes	113	75.33
No	37	24.66
Total	150	100

The above table revealed that majority of the respondents, that is about 113 (75.33%) are voting and electing their political representatives in the elections, whereas only 37 (24.66%) of the respondents stated that they do not vote regularly. It is emphasized from the table that a few women construction workers do not vote regularly. There is need to vote in the election, thereby participate in the political process, as it is prime duty of every Indian citizen.

Member of any Unions:

To fight for justice, every worker must build up unions and also get the membership to the unions. In the present days, many of the workers formed their own unions to protect their interests. Hence, it was asked to the women construction workers, that whether they are members of any workers' unions. The collected information is shown in the following table.

Table No. 8. Member of Unions

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Yes		
No	150	100
Total	150	100

It is surprising to note that all the respondents stated that they are not members of any unions. The women construction workers are dispersed all over the city and beyond city limits. Further, they have no recognition, status and respect. Further, lesser numbers of them are aware about the reading and writing. As such, there is lack of awareness about their rights and privileges and also unity. In this way, they have no any kind of unions.

Government is formulating Policies to solve Problems:

It was asked to the respondents that whether they think the government is formulating policies and schemes to solve the problems of these workers. The collected information is tabulated as under.

Table No.9. Government is formulating Policies to solve Problems

Particulars	Number of	Percentage
	Respondents	
Yes	44	29.33
No	106	70.67
Total	150	100

The above table revealed that majority of the respondents that is 106 (70.67%) do not agree that government is not solving their problems, whereas remaining only 44 (29.33%) of the respondents agreed that the government is solving their problems by formulating policies and schemes.

CONCLUSION

Religion and Political Aspect are played major role on women construction working women life. In this unorganised sectors they trying to come main stream now they aware of political rights and we find they are still religious backwardness majority are Hindu's low class people are more like SC and ST's. in our study focus and highlight there religious and Political life.

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