



Examining the Demographic, Socio-cultural, and Economic Dimensions of In-migrant Construction Workers: A Case Study on Internal Migration Trends, Working Conditions, and Quality of Life

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Abstract: According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) of the United Nations, the global scenario for the number of international migrants increased to 281 million in 2020, meaning that 3.6% of the world's population lived outside their country of birth in that year. The objective of the study demographic condition of the internal migration population, working conditions of in migrant construction workers, in-migrant construction workers socio culture condition, psychological condition, the consequences and problems faced unorganized migrant construction workers. The research study adopted Descriptive Research design for the present study because the primary of the study is to attain information concerning the existing status of quality of life of migrant construction workers. The researcher moved to another location with the reference of previous contact, in the way, snowball sampling method was used to access the required number of population. It was noted that the majority of the construction workers were semi-skilled and were illiterate. Most of the respondents spoke Hindi as their major language, 38 percent of them spoke Oriya. The workers are said to be receiving monthly wages and the majority of them have a monthly income of up to Rs.10,000 on an average. It was identified that construction workers migrated from other states at 19 to 25 years. Temporary migrants migrating with their families are found to be higher. Among the migrant construction workers within the age group of 26 to 35 years migrate more than others. Sizeable size 94 percent of the respondents belong to the male category, most of the people working as a construction labourers are married. Among the in-migrant construction workers, migrants from Odisha are more in number, followed by people from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other states. The Hindu community is dominated in number compared to Muslim and Christian community.

Keywords: Migration, Unorganized Workers, Living Conditions

Introduction

The researcher, having gained some experience with migrant laborers in the construction sector in Trichirappalli, has observed the employment patterns of the migrant population in the construction industry. In recent years, the state labor department has advised the requirement of legal proof of identity. Additionally, the Tamil Nadu government's labor department has enlisted a private consultant to conduct a survey, revealing that almost half of the migrant population is employed. Over the years, the city has experienced rapid urbanization, marked by extensive development in various areas and increasing population density, with its boundaries expanding day by day. Since the local government streamlined infrastructure facilities and transportation through the construction of bridges, metro rail projects, and multistory buildings, there has been a high demand for construction labor. This demand has been met by the availability of migrant workers who, due to their inability to afford the high cost of living in the metropolitan city, often settle for subpar services.



Review of Literature:

Based on the recommendations from their research studies, Prakasam (2014) and Seepana (2014) opined that the living conditions of the working poor pose a significant challenge for migrant service workers in urban India. To guarantee that people have access to basic amenities like safe water, cooking fuel, and sanitation in order to promote human development (Human Development Report, 2011). Workers' living conditions are influenced by their income and the availability of different public goods. The focus of his research is on financial inclusion, basic amenities in the home, assets owned by the household, and high-quality housing. The necessities for a comfortable life, such as improved sanitation, electricity, and water. The primary focus of this research study is on 64% of respondents who live in homes equipped with every convenience. Of the respondents, 34% have a deficiency in one or more facilities. Only 6% of them had a place to live and no access to facilities.

The researcher argues that there is a significant risk of environmental health problems for construction workers and migrants. In this research study, 74.2 percent of participants were in the age group of 21-40 years, 17.9 percent were aged 41-60 years, and 7.9 percent were below 20 years. This indicates that the middle-aged group is highly responsible for migration due to job opportunities and the need to secure their families. Additionally, 60.4 percent of the participants were female, and 91.7 percent had primary school education. Moreover, 80 percent were married, and 21 percent had a history of pulmonary tuberculosis among family members, posing a significant health concern for migrants moving from one overcrowded place to another. The researcher emphasizes the importance of the current study, as 43 percent of participants reported symptoms such as skin issues, cough, sneezing, throat dryness, headache, and tension. These symptoms require urgent attention as they can contribute to the spread of tuberculosis. Furthermore, 21 percent of respondents had smoking habits, and 15 percent had alcohol habits, making them highly vulnerable to tuberculosis (Pipat Luksamijarulkul et al., 2017).

According to Kerry Preibisch et al. (2011), this research aims to identify major health issues associated with migrant populations, particularly focusing on limited medical care and available health services for migrant workers. Migrant workers form a diverse population, and the study highlights the social context of their health issues. Yingchun Peng et al. (2010) conducted a study on 2,545 migrant workers, revealing that 34 percent of respondents aged 15 to 65 worked an average of more than 12 to 13 hours per day. The majority of these workers, aged 20-39 years and predominantly male, face vulnerabilities due to their challenging work conditions. The study also indicates a low literacy rate among migrant workers, reflecting the poor economic situation they face. Manoj P.K. et al. (2015) argue that the housing conditions of domestic migrant laborers are highly crowded and unhygienic. The government should take initiatives to provide affordable group housing along with essential services like water, sanitation, toilets, and electricity. Comparisons between rural-to-urban migrants and permanent rural and city residents who are unorganized workers are crucial for understanding the health status and healthcare access of migrant workers.

Abdulbari Bener et al. (2017) focused on urban and semi-urban migrant workers, examining factors such as education, occupation, working hours, income, and accommodation type. Significant differences were found, particularly in terms of body mass index, and various health problems were identified as strong predictors. Mahfuzur Rahman et al. (2014) stress that migrant communities should not be treated as temporary visitors but as indispensable contributors to social and economic



development. They highlight the need for addressing health, safety, welfare, and other workplace-related issues for migrant workers.

Objective of the Study

To know the demographic condition of the internal migration population

To find out the working conditions of migrant construction workers

To know the socio-cultural and psychological condition of the respondents

To find the consequences and problems faced by unorganized migrant construction workers.

Material Methods

The research study adopted a Descriptive Research design for the present study because the primary aim of the study was to attain information concerning the existing status of the quality of life of in-migrant construction workers. For this purpose, the researcher has to investigate the living conditions in the place of destination, which are associated with socio-demographic characteristics and the pattern of migration. Furthermore, the study also describes the work policies, employment opportunities in construction sites, the conditions of work, the needs and demands of casual workers, and the adaptability of the migrant population in the construction industry based on observations and discussions with the in-migrant construction workers and their employers. The self-designed interview schedule was administered to gather primary sources of information from the respondents. Additionally, the data were analyzed and interpreted to describe the phenomena that exist in relation to variables in the situation.

Sampling Method

The researcher identifies the construction site where the large numbers of the migrant population engaged in employment activity are approached to gather information from the target population. After reaching saturation, the researcher moved to another location with the reference of previous contact, in the way, snowball sampling method was used to access the required number of population.

Tools of Data Collection

The researcher's schedule was prepared by the researcher himself to measure the current status of quality of life of in-migrant construction workers. The schedule consists of socio-demographic profile, pattern of migration. The study variables were formulated based on Habitation, work policies, socio-cultural factors, psychological well being, recreation, environment, life satisfaction.

Age wise Distribution age group 0-4 years

Fig 1

Fig 2

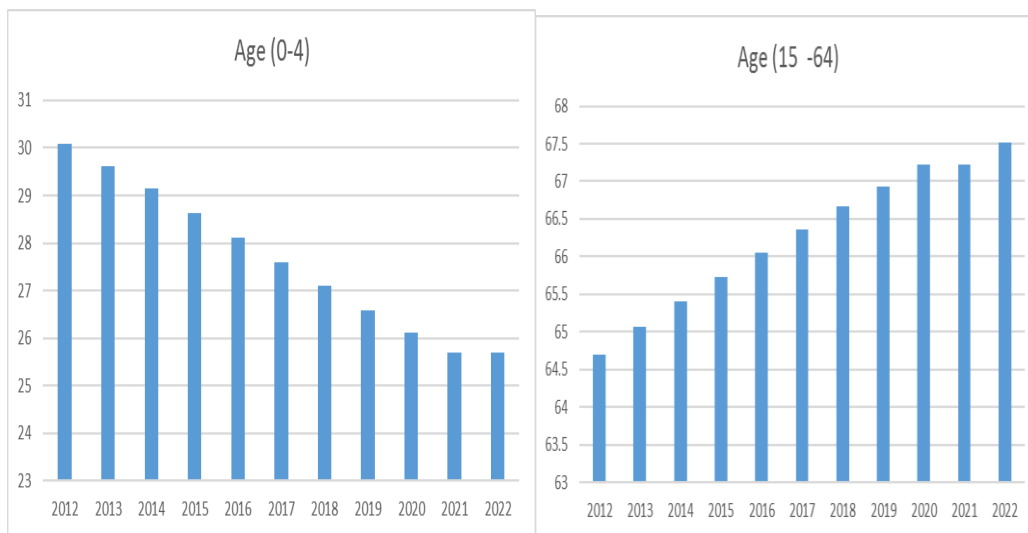


Fig 3

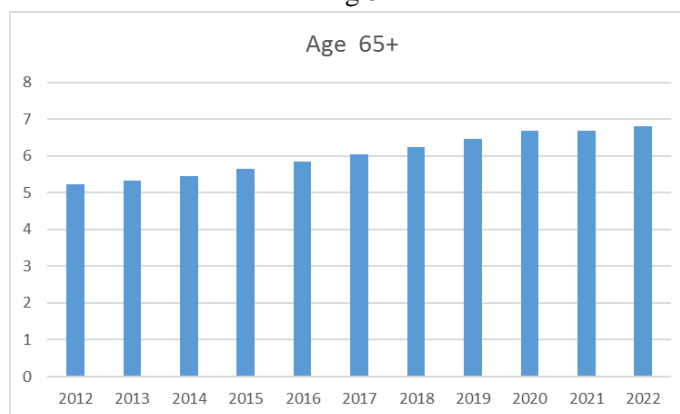
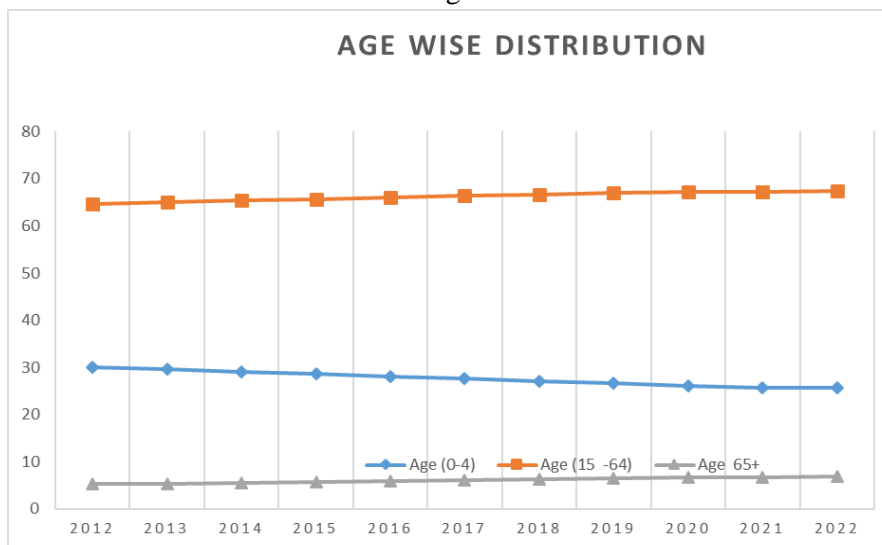


Fig 4



<https://www.statista.com/statistics/271315/age-distribution-in-india/>



The Figs shown earlier explicitly show how India's age distribution was distributed between 2012 and 2022. About 25.31 percent of Indians were between the ages of 0- 4 and 14, 67.8 percent were between the ages of 15-64, and 6.9 percent were over 65+ in 2022. The age group 0–4 was not included in this trend analysis; however, the age group 15–64 from 2012 to 2022 showed an annual trend of increase, indicating that the majority of the adolescent and active age group was most migrated. The age group of 65+ and above saw an increase in every trend. This trend shows an increase in informal worker migration each year. This research study focuses on developing tools to enhance policy and its implications.

Table-1: Reliability and Validity:

Description	Number of Items	Cronbach Alpha	Remark
Hapitation	8	0.859	Very Good
Work Policies	10	0.921	Excellent
Socio-Cultural Factors	5	0.726	Acceptable
Psychological Well being	5	0.803	Good
Recreation	5	0.894	Very Good
Environment	5	0.820	Good
Life Satisfaction	7	0.831	Good
Problems and Consequences	8	0.773	Acceptable
Overall Instrument	3	0.974	Excellent

Source: Primary Data

The reliability coefficients for each question and complete research instrument are presented in the table 5 Cronbach values above 0.7 are acceptable and denote very good reliability (Naunally, 1978).

Validity: The various dimensions of the study is subjected discussion with a number of experts and academicians and finally it was proved to have established the face validity.

Findings Suggestion and Conclusion

The expectation of decent life and better living can't be achieved without having enough purchasing power. This purchasing power is possible only through gainful employment. Where the opportunities of gainful employment, at least for minimum livelihood are not bough at the place of their origin, the workers migrated where employment opportunities are comparatively bright. Taking advantage of their struggle for likelihood. The intermediate, in various names, for their economic aging, usually on certain promises, send or bring the Livelihood Seekers' as workers to the regions or states migrate on their own without any intermediaries. However, migration of workers for employment to another state are almost always as a rule engaged through contractors. Inter-State migration of workers being the movement of human beings takes place for certain cherished objectives such as better employment, better working and living conditions and better livelihood. In this study, the researcher has extensively reviewed the studies related to Internal migrant workers based on which the objectives were formulated. The present study was carried out among the In-migrant workers employed in Construction Industry. The researcher individually approached the respondents in their respective



places during their leisure hours. They were also briefed about the purpose of the study. The collected questionnaire along with the personal data was subjected to appropriate statistical analysis.

Finding of the Research Study

The finding of the present study reveal the opinion of the respondent based on the recent scenario. It was noted that majority of the construction workers were semi-skilled and were illiterate. The most of the respondents spoke Hindi as their major language 38 percent of them spoke Oriya. Sally C. Moyce & Marc Schenker (2018). Occupational Health risks, environmental exposures, working conditions, Physical hazards, workplace demands, Lack of Safety Standards, workplace abuse, Trafficking and forced labourers, Language and cultural barriers, Access to Health Care, It can be difficult for the migrant to determine whether the recruiting agency is a legitimate organization.

(Sally Hargreaves et.al., 2019). This research study mainly focused occupational health outcomes among migrant workers in this research to find out the gaps to acknowledge of the author the migrant workers employed in manual labour occupations, with low wages and long working hours. The finding of the research study occupations and forced migrants to economic migrants, risk of work related ill health and injury. Migrant workers faced physical and psychiatric morbidity and workplace injuries. The research found the gaps to discussed on the psychiatric and physical and health issue. The research gaps was not address the issues on Depression, Stress and anxiety to concentrate on this research study. Kamil Filipek et.al. (2019). author perception and addressed for the issues socio economic cultural environments needs to evaluate in detail the living conditions of migrant workers. The living conditions may indicate strategies of compensation for the salaries migrant workers those who are unorganized labour. This shows that construction workers are migration from Northern parts of India. The workers are said to be receiving monthly wages and majority of them have a monthly income of up to Rs.10,000 on a average. It was identified that construction workers migrated from other state at an 19 to 25 years. Temporary migrants migrating with there family are found to be higher. Among the migrant construction workers within the age group of 26 to 35 years are migrate more than others. Sizeable size 94 percent of the respondents belongs to male category, most of the people working as a construction laborer are married. Among the in-migrant construction workers, migrants from Odisha are more in number followed by people from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other states. Hindu community is dominated in number compared to Muslim and Christian community.

(Saikia, Dilip 2008). Educational status of people migrates for construction work is considerably low, most of the population belongs to nuclear family. More than half 62 percent of workers are staying near to their working place, above the half 52. percent of the workers able to know or little bit about the local language. About the nature at work at place of origin, more than half of them 62 percent are coolie workers and remaining 62 percent of the respondents are semiskilled construction workers. Exactly 50 percent of the respondents are belong to Mazdoor category. 62 percent of the respondent migrate with their family members. Fifty-fifty percent of the respondents of the workers earn below Rs. 10,000 as monthly income. Less than half of the respondents were belong to backward class community.

Conclusion:

The migrant workers to comprise an extremely diverse group and, undoubtedly, specific categories of temporary workers will be at greater risk than others in terms of health . In this article, we have focused on the limited literature on migrant workers living conditions in lock-skill occupations. The



migrant workers need special health care support and adequate health assessment for difficulty in getting into this group. This research study mainly focused on the living condition of migrant workers and tracking, monitoring occupational communicable diseases and developing effective interventions. This study assesses the impact of sociodemographic factors on migrant workers' decisions to seek healthcare when they become ill. It also shows that the current health care system deters migrant workers from seeking appropriate, high-quality care. Migrant workers should have access to reasonably priced healthcare services through the vigorous implementation of pertinent public medical insurance and assistance program policies. Equity in migrant workers' access to health care services should be guaranteed, and practicable steps must be taken to lower the health risks connected with current hygiene practices. The migrant workers work hours long and there is insecurity, poor living conditions, right to sick pay for provision.

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