

## MANAGING THE PERSONAL LIFE AMONG UNORGANISED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES OF CORONA VIRUS DISEASE (COVID 19)

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### **Abstract**

The present study aims to identify the socio-demographic profile of the sample constructions workers; to explore the personal life of unorganised construction workers in uncertain times of corona virus; and to provide suitable suggestion to improve personal life as well as occupational life of unorganized construction workers in Pulipatti village, Melur taluk, Madurai district.

**Keywords:** personal life, unorganized construction workers, corona virus

### **I. Introduction**

“The construction industry is the second largest industry in India after agriculture. It accounts for about 11% of India as GDP. It makes significant contribution to the national economy and provides employment to large number of people. There are mainly three segments in the construction industry like real estate construction which includes residential and commercial construction; infrastructure building which includes roads, railways, power etc; and industrial construction that consists of oil and gas refineries, pipelines, textiles etc.” (Indian Construction Industry, n.d.)

Building laborer implies an individual who is utilized to do any skilled, semi-skilled or incompetent manual, supervisory, specialized or administrative work for contract or reward, regardless of whether the terms of employment be communicated or inferred, regarding any structure or other development work however does exclude any such individual who is utilized predominantly in an administrative or authoritative limit; or who, being utilized in a supervisory limit, draws compensation surpassing one thousand 600 rupees for every month, either by the idea of the obligations connected to the workplace or by reason of the forces vested in him, works for the most part of an administrative sort.

## II. Statement of the Problem

Construction sector is the second largest economic activity next to the agriculture. Melur is one of the growing cities in Madurai district; vast majorities of the manpower to Melur city are from Pulipatti village. Hence, the present study.

## III. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the socio-demographic profile of the sample constructions workers;
2. To explore the personal life of unorganised construction workers in uncertain times of corona virus; and
3. To provide suitable suggestion to improve their personal life.

## IV. Research Methodology

The research study has adopted descriptive method to identify unorganized construction workers personal life management style in Pulipatti village, Melur taluk, Madurai district. The structured interview schedule were used to collect primary data relating to sex, age and educational qualification and the personal life variables relating to have enough savings to overcome twenty one days lockdown, ways to manage twenty one days lockdown, feel safe from stay at home, feel own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities, availability of essential commodities, sources of updating latest information on corona virus, ways to stay in home for longer period, village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus and precautionary measures by employing simple random sampling technique. The present study employed tools like percentage, mean score, standard deviation, ranking and Pearson correlation test for primary data analysis.

## V. Analysis and Discussion

The analysis of unorganised construction workers in uncertain times of corona virus disease is presented in terms of socio-demographic variables such as sex, age and educational qualification of the sample respondents and the personal life dimensions such as have enough savings to overcome twenty one days lockdown, ways to manage twenty one days lockdown, feel safe from stay at home, feel own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities, availability of essential commodities, sources of updating latest information on corona virus, ways to stay in home for longer period, village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus and precautionary measures.

### Sex

The distribution of the respondents by their sex is presented in table 5.1. The study showed that majority of the respondents (60.2 per cent) were female category and remaining 39.8 per cent of the respondents were comes under male category among the studied respondents.

**Table 5.1**  
**Distribution of the respondents by their sex**

Sl. No.	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	37	39.8
2.	Female	56	60.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

### Age

Table 5.2 presents the distribution of the respondents by their age group. It reveals that 32.3 percent of the respondents age group was between 25 years to 35 years of age, 22.6 per cent of the respondent's age was between 35 years and 45 years, 20.4 per cent of the respondents age were between 45 years and 60 years, 19.3 per cent of the respondents age were between 18 years and 25 years of age and only 5.4 per cent of the respondents age were above 60 years of age. The mean value of age was 36.63 years and the standard deviation of age was 11.37 years.

**Table 5.2**  
**Distribution of the respondents by their age**

Sl. No.	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	18 – 25	18	19.3
2.	25 – 35	30	32.3
3.	35 – 45	21	22.6
4.	45 – 60	19	20.4
5.	60 & above	05	05.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mean Value</b>		<b>36.63</b>	
<b>Standard Deviation</b>		<b>11.37</b>	

*Source: Primary data*

### Educational qualification

The distribution of respondents by their educational qualification is presented in table 5.3. It showed that 31.2 per cent of the respondents had completed up to primary schooling, 23.7 per cent of the respondents had completed up to upper primary, 16.1 per cent of the respondents had completed up to secondary, 12.9 per cent of the respondents were illiterate, 8.7 per cent of the respondents had completed up to higher secondary, 6.4 per cent of the respondents had completed graduate and above and 1 per cent of the respondents had completed graduate diploma course among the sample respondents.

**Table 5.3**  
**Distribution of the respondents by their educational qualification**

Sl. No.	Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	12	12.9
2.	Up to primary	29	31.2
3.	Up to upper primary	22	23.7
4.	Up to secondary	15	16.1
5.	Up to higher secondary	08	08.7
6.	Up to diploma	01	01.0
7.	Up to graduate and above	06	06.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

#### **Have enough savings to overcome twenty one days lockdown**

Table 5.4 presents the distribution of respondents by their savings. It reveals that a vast majority of the respondents (92.5 per cent) were not having enough savings and only 7.5 per cent of the respondents were having enough money to overcome twenty one days lockdown amid corona virus.

**Table 5.4**  
**Distribution of the respondents by they have enough savings to overcome twenty one days lockdown**

Sl. No.	Have enough savings to overcome twenty one days lockdown	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	07	07.5
2.	No	86	92.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

#### **Ways to manage twenty one days lockdown**

Distribution of the respondents by ways to manage twenty one days lockdown is presented in table 5.5. The study shows that majority of the respondents (62.3 per cent) were managing with government free ration, followed by 11.9 per cent of the respondents was availed the loan from upper class neighbour, 9.7 per cent respondents availed loan from friends, 7.5 per cent of the respondents with own savings, 6.5 per cent of the respondents were got loan from banks and 2.1 per cent of the respondents availed loan from relatives to manage the twenty one days lockdown due to corona virus.

**Table 5.5****Distribution of the respondents by ways to manage twenty one days lockdown**

Sl. No.	Ways to manage twenty one days lockdown	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Own savings	07	07.5
2.	With government free ration	58	62.3
3.	Loan from banks	06	06.5
4.	Loan from relatives	02	02.1
5.	Loan from friends	09	09.7
6.	Loan from upper class neighbour	11	11.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Feel safe from stay at home**

Table 5.6 presents the distribution of respondents by their opinion on feel safe from stay at home. It shows that more than half of the respondents (51.6 per cent) strongly agreed, 19.4 per cent of the respondents agreed, 15 per cent of the respondents disagreed, 8.6 per cent of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and 5.4 per cent of the respondents strongly disagreed that feeling safe from stay at home.

**Table 5.6****Distribution of the respondents by their feeling safe from stay at home**

Sl. No.	Feel safe from stay at home	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly agree	48	51.6
2.	Agree	18	19.4
3.	Undecided	08	08.6
4.	Disagree	14	15.0
5.	Strongly disagree	05	05.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Feel own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities**

Distribution of the respondents by their opinion on own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities is presented in table 5.7. The study discloses that 34.4 per cent of the respondents strongly disagreed, 20.4 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed and disagreed respectively, 18.3 per cent of the respondents agreed and 6.5 per cent of the respondents either agreed or disagreed that own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities.

**Table 5.7****Distribution of the respondents by own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities**

Sl. No.	Feel own transportation is safe to buy essential commodities	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly agree	19	20.4
2.	Agree	17	18.3
3.	Undecided	06	06.5
4.	Disagree	19	20.4
5.	Strongly disagree	32	34.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Availability of essential commodities**

Table 5.8 presents the distribution of the respondents by their opinion on availability of essential commodities. The study shows that close to half of the respondents (46.2 per cent) were strongly agreed, 33.3 per cent of the respondents somewhat agreed, 10.8 per cent of the respondents somewhat disagreed, 7.5 per cent of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and 2.2 per cent of the respondents strongly disagreed on availability of essential commodities.

**Table 5.8****Distribution of the respondents by availability of essential commodities**

Sl. No.	Availability of essential commodities	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly agree	43	46.2
2.	Agree	31	33.3
3.	Undecided	07	7.5
4.	Disagree	10	10.8
5.	Strongly disagree	02	2.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Sources of updating latest information on corona virus**

Distribution of the respondents by updating latest information on corona virus is presented in table 5.9. The study reveals that close to half of the respondents (46.2 per cent) were through television, 17.2 per cent of the respondents were through mobile phone, 13.9 per cent of respondents were through neighbours, 7.5 per cent of the respondents were through radio, 6.5 per cent of respondents through government officials 2.2 per cent of the respondents was through relatives and 1.1 per cent of the respondents were through electronic newspaper updating the latest information on corona virus.

**Table 5.9****Distribution of the respondents by updating latest information on corona virus**

Sl. No.	Updating latest information on Covid 19	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Government officials	06	06.5
2.	Television	43	46.2
3.	Radio	07	07.5
4.	E-Newspaper	01	01.1
5.	Mobile phone	16	17.2
6.	Friends	05	05.4
7.	Relatives	02	02.2
8.	Neighbours	13	13.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Ways to stay in home for longer period**

Table 5.10 presents the distribution of respondents by their ways to stay in home for longer period. It shows that 41.9 per cent of the respondents watching television, 23.6 per cent of the respondents using social media, 15.1 per cent of the respondents were had mobile phone conversation with their friends, relative, etc, 10.8 per cent of the respondents playing game with their family members, 5.4 per cent of the respondents listening to radio and only 3.2 per cent of the respondents reading book among the sample respondents.

**Table 5.10****Distribution of the respondents by ways to stay in home for longer period**

Sl. No.	Ways to stay in home for longer period	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Watching television	39	41.9
2.	Reading book	03	03.2
3.	Listening radio	05	05.4
4.	Playing game	10	10.8
5.	Mobile phone conversation	14	15.1
6.	Social media	22	23.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

### Village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus

Distribution of the respondents by opinion on their village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus is presented in table 5.11. The study shows that majority of the respondents (56.9 per cent) strongly agreed, 30.1 per cent of the respondents somewhat agreed, 7.5 per cent of the respondents somewhat disagreed, 3.3 per cent of the respondents strongly disagreed and 2.2 per cent of the respondents either agreed or disagreed that their village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus.

**Table 5.11**

#### Distribution of the respondents by village overall administration is good to fight against the corona virus

Sl. No.	Village overall administration is good	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly agree	53	56.9
2.	Agree	28	30.1
3.	Undecided	02	02.2
4.	Disagree	07	07.5
5.	Strongly disagree	03	03.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data*

### Correlation between educational qualification and precautionary measures of construction workers

In order to analysis the relationship between educational qualification and precautionary measures of the unorganised construction workers, the Pearson correlation test was employed and the result is presented in table 5.12. The Pearson correlation between educational qualification and precautionary measures of the unorganised construction workers in study is about -0.940, which indicates that there is negative relationship between the variables and is significant at 1% level.

Hence, irrespective of the educational qualification, the respondents were well aware about the corona virus disease among the sample construction workers in the study area.

**Table 5.12**

#### Correlation between educational qualification and precautionary measures of the unorganised construction workers

Variable	Educational qualification	Precautionary measures
Educational qualification	1.000	-0.940**
Precautionary measures	-	1.000

*\*\* denotes significant at 1% level*



### Precautionary measures

The distribution of the respondents by their precautionary measures is presented in table 5.13. The study found that more than half of the respondents (55.9 per cent) took frequent hands wash, majority of the respondents (65.5 per cent) were took hygienic food to increase immune system and 54.8 per cent of the respondents was well aware about not to touch face without washing the hands, close to half of the respondents (47.3 per cent) were aware about the social distancing and following the same, majority of the respondents 66.6 per cent were self-isolate and majority of the respondents (59.1 per cent) were practice to cough in elbow. The calculated mean score was between 3.98 and 4.46 for the six precautionary measures. The calculated standard deviation value concentrated between 0.93 and 1.45 for the six precautionary measures that were considered in the present study. On the ranking given to the precautionary measures were given the 1st rank for staying in home and take hygienic food to increase immune was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Table 5.13**  
**Distribution of the respondents by their precautionary measures**

Sl. No.	Variables	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Rank
		No.	No.	No.	No.	No.			
1.	Use to wash hands often	52 (55.9)	19 (20.4)	02 (02.1)	08 (08.6)	12 (12.9)	03.98	01.45	VI
2.	Take hygienic food to increase immune	61 (65.5)	21 (22.5)	05 (05.3)	04 (04.4)	02 (02.1)	04.45	0.93	II
3.	Don't touch face	51 (54.8)	23 (24.7)	09 (09.6)	04 (04.3)	06 (06.4)	04.17	01.17	IV
4.	Keep social distancing	44 (47.3)	21 (22.5)	17 (18.2)	10 (10.7)	01 (01.0)	04.04	01.09	V
5.	Staying in home	62 (66.6)	20 (21.5)	06 (06.4)	02 (02.1)	03 (03.2)	04.46	0.95	I
6.	Cough into elbow	55 (59.1)	17 (18.2)	13 (13.4)	05 (05.3)	03 (03.2)	04.25	01.09	III

*Source:* Computed from the sample survey, *No.:* Number of respondents, *Note:* Figures in parenthesis represent the percentages, calculated.

## VI. Suggestion

1. None of the respondents were migrated workers so all the sample construction workers were make to aware to avail the government free ration to the state's 7.5 crore ration holders.
2. To get secured life, all the respondents were asked to register as manual worker in the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board.

## VII. Conclusion

The study concludes that majority of the respondents (60.2 per cent) were female category and 31.2 per cent of the respondents had completed up to primary schooling with a vast majority of the respondents (92.5 per cent) were not having enough savings and majority of the respondents (62.3 per cent) were managing with government free ration, close to half of the respondents (46.2 per cent) were through television only updating the latest information about the corona virus and irrespective of the educational qualification, the respondents were well aware about the corona virus disease among the sample construction workers in the study area.

## Reference

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