

# KAMGAR KI KAHANI

An Exploratory Study About The Lives Of Naka Workers

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# Overview

## Rationale

India is experiencing sizeable growth, but underneath the macroeconomic indicators, a complicated story emerges. It is estimated that, India will add approximately 12 million people annually to the 15-29 age group, thus, making it a country with the youngest and largest workforce in the world (“Skilling India”, 2017). The population underlying the country’s sizeable economic growth is increasingly of working age, and nearly one in four individuals are migrants. While India has been able to reduce poverty levels significantly in the past few years, it has the largest population of those living in multidimensional poverty, at a count

of 354 million (University of Oxford, 2018).

One such group that is particularly prone to deprivation are daily wage workers, commonly referred to as *Naka* workers. Thousands of men and women, throughout urban hubs in India, gather at *nakas* with the hope of securing employment. There have been several research studies about *Naka* workers in the past (Karthikeya Naraparaju, 2014; Behavioural Science Center, St. Xavier’s College, 2009; C S K Singh, 2002; Solanki & Zankharia, 2014; Ranjan, 2014). The purpose of this study was to understand these workers in greater depth, in order to identify interventions which can be designed to alleviate existing challenges.

## Methodology

This exploratory study was conducted across 12 sites in Mumbai and 30 sites in Pune. The sites were selected based on organizational awareness about *nakas*. Participants were selected based on the accidental-purposive sampling method (“Sampling Methods in Qualitative and Quantitative Research,” 2019). Keeping in mind the unorganized nature of *naka* sites and the mobility of workers, this sampling strategy allowed the team the flexibility required to access a larger part of the population.

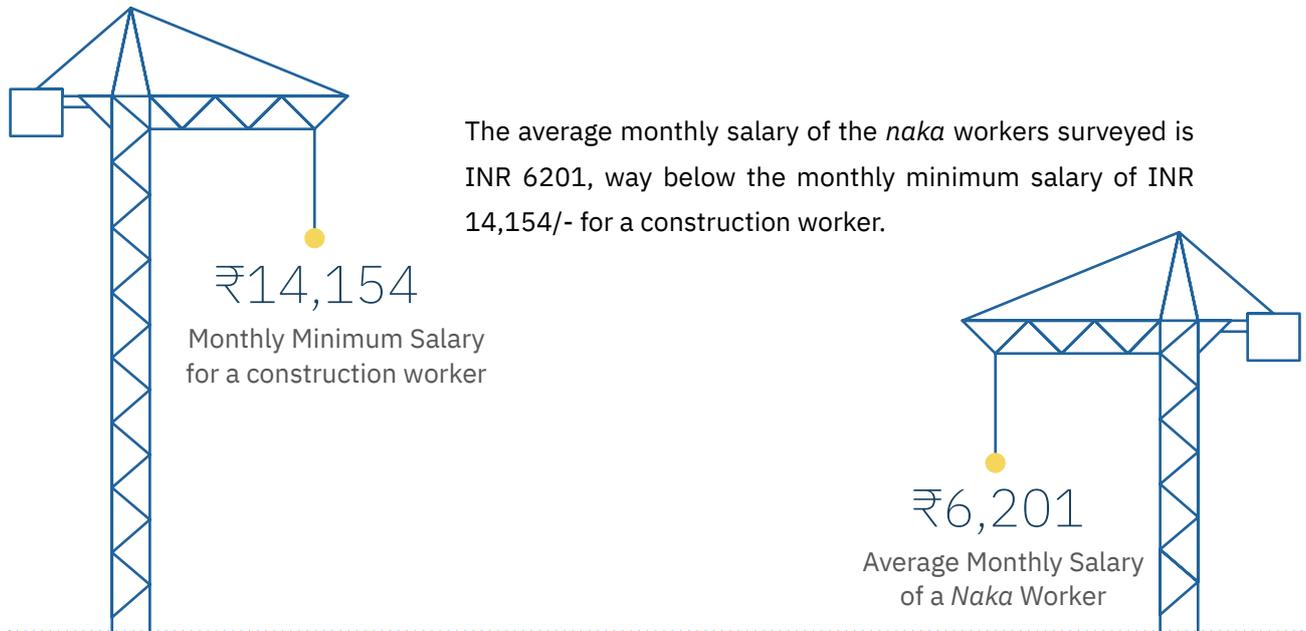
Data collectors interviewed individuals who, appeared in the early morning hours (0700-1000 hours) at the selected *naka* sites and identified themselves as ‘someone in search of employment’. Any worker who was willing to participate in the survey was included in the sample. The team surveyed 1,773 *Naka* workers across Mumbai

and Pune. 765 workers (78 women, 687 men) were surveyed in Mumbai, and 1008 workers (272 women, 736 men) participated from Pune. 10% of the participants from Mumbai and 27% of the participants from Pune were women. The data collection process was carried out by a cadre of volunteers recruited from organisations who partnered with Pratham for the purpose of this project. These volunteers were trained by the research team prior to commencing fieldwork. The training included sessions on sampling, survey tools, data collection, and data entry.

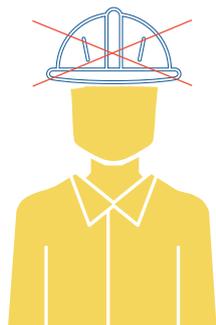
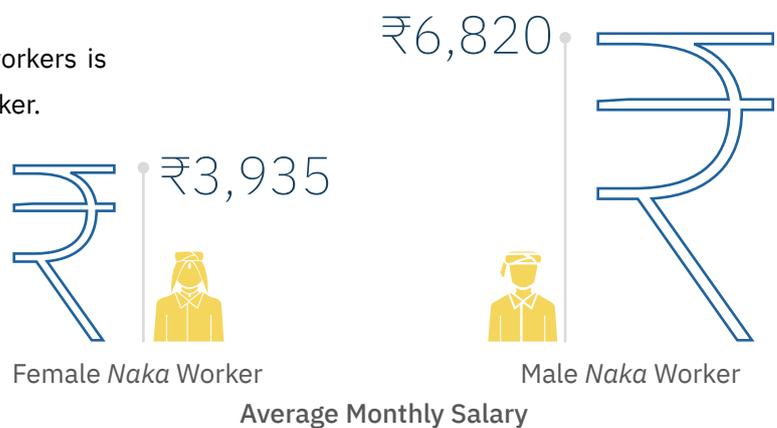
The study strives to pull multiple dimensions about *naka* workers including their working conditions, finances, education levels, migration status, housing and living conditions. The detailed analysis of the data has been mentioned in the upcoming essays, highlighting key observations and insights.

# Key Findings

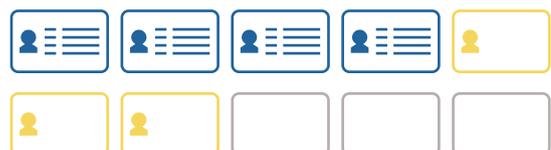
## EMPLOYMENT & INCOME



Average monthly salary of a male *naka* workers is 73% higher than that of a female *naka* worker.

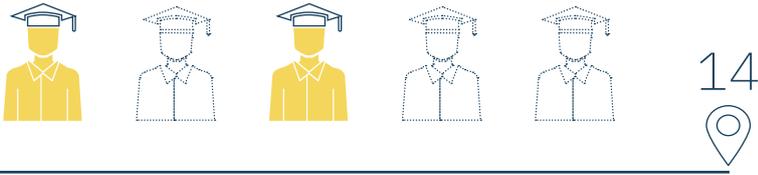


About 68% of workers had no access to safety equipment at their work site.

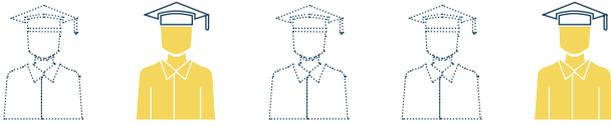


67% of workers were bank account holders, but only 45% of bank account holders used it for sending remittances.

# EDUCATION & FOUNDATION SKILLS



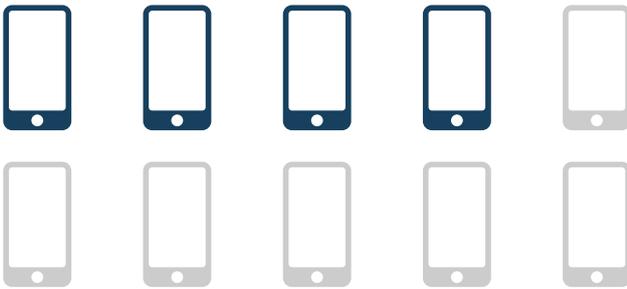
61% of the surveyed workers had dropped out of school before the age of 14.



Less than 19% of the workers fall into the “grade 8 pass” and “18-35 years” skilling eligibility criteria.

- Grade 8 Pass
- 18 - 35 Years

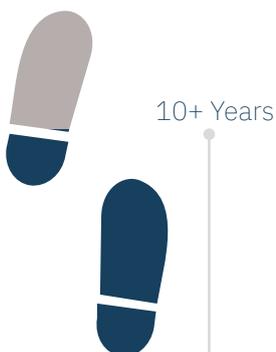
< 19%



42% of workers owned smartphones, and the proportion of those using smartphones increased as education qualifications grew.

# MIGRATION

82% of total workers surveyed were either intra-state or inter-state migrants.



66% of workers have been migrants for more than 10 years, moving seasonally across rural-urban locations

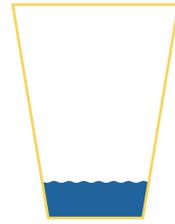


Over 45% of workers own land at their home towns.

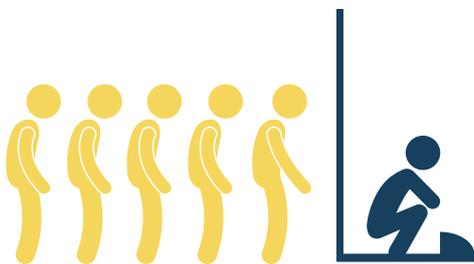
# HOUSING AND LIVING CONDITIONS



41% of workers' income was spent on housing rent however, as per Indian Labor Conference, 1957 the rent and housing allowance is 7.5 percent of the total minimum wage.



Only 17% of workers received water from a private source or from their home.



63% of the workers had no access to a private toilet at home.

