

The Political Economy of Instrumenting Informalization in Labor Exploitation and Labor Conditioning

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G. W. G. H. R Jayawickrama^{1(*)}, R. K. M Rajapaksha¹, S. Liyanage¹

¹*Department of Economics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*

(*) E.mail: hasinihas98@gmail.com

The construction industry can be identified as a specific production context that shaped its existence in the capitalist mode of production under various political economic realities, while crafting unique material forms to each existing economy. A significant amount of studies focused on the instrumentality of informalization under the capitalist mode of production in global economies and their contending nature of attaining a higher-dynamic level of productivity, the literature is vacant to the instrumentality of informalization in labour exploitation and labour conditioning for the process of profit maximization and industrial expansion in Sri Lanka. The primary objective of the research is to study the evidence of labour exploitation and labour conditioning which instrumented through informalization of labour for profit maximizing in the construction industry of Sri Lanka. The primary source of data is from 60 labourers employed in a large scale road development project and a housing project in Katugastota area. The research fundamentally uses and consists of qualitative and quantitative features and numerous secondary data sources. It has instrumented critical realism as its philosophical point of departure and structuralist approach as its methodological influx. The informalization is deep rooted and plays a significant role. It is revealed that the labourers that come under sub contract and man power labour with an economy that is agricultural in orientation are highly impacted by informalization. Informalization is used by the capitalist mode of production in the construction industry, as a strategy to ensure the survival of that mode of production.

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