

Role Of Inter State Migrant Workers in Socio-Economic Development Of Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

Migration is an integral part of human history. It is world -wide phenomenon that affects the origin and destination places of migrants. Migration has been understood as temporary or permanent shifting of places like, region, state and country in a particular period of time. Migrant workers faces number of socio-economic, cultural, political and demographic impacts on the their lives. There are many types of migration prevailing in India and elsewhere in the recent past, the inter-state migration has been most prevalent in the most of the Indian states. It is worthwhile to note here, theInter-state migration poses a variety of challenges to state, for instance the state and centre government unable to keep record of data on the movement of migrant labour from one state to another state(s) or government at central and state level facing difficulties to assess their socio-economic abilities. This paper will explore the reasons for such migration,identify the socio-economic status of inter-state migrant workers and trying to frame suitable policy to enhance the livelihood of the migrant workers.

INTRODUCTION

Generally the concept of migration is as old as our civilization. Movement and settlement of people from one place to other place have been the inherent features of human beings since the dawn of civilization and it has been taking place in a large scale in the post- modern society. Migration meant that change of their own residence to new place for seeking of employment. There are various types of migration in India. Nowadays especially during the lockdown period the problems of migrant workers has made an impact on not only in the life of migrant labours, but also it created more social, economic, legal and political issues among the various states. Particularly in the recent days inter-state migration has poses a challenge to state or nation to record or authenticate to the movement of migrants. There is difficulty in getting data on Inter-State migrant workers.

Migration was an old concept and it has been a social phenomenon in the human history.¹ Migration is understood as temporary or permanent shifting of place of labour from region to region, country to country in particular period. Increase of population, development of civilization, industrial development and Communication and Technology in Urban cities have widened the gap between rural and urban people. Further, due to lack of job opportunities, reduction of cultivable area in rural places, rural people move to urban places.

There are many types of migration prevailing among various states in India. The following are the major types of migration: Inter-district migration, Intra-district migration, Inter-state migration, Intra-state migration, internal migration and International migration. Migration assumes special importance in the development of any country. Migration is a concept very much related to a process of change occurring within the social system. Migration has also very relevant to the development of the nation. Peoples are facing various problems at the time of migration. In this context, inter-state migration assumes special importance in making impact on socio-economic status of migrant workers in various states of India. The present research paper, makes an attempt to study the “role of interstate migrant workers in socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu”.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To trace out the historical background of migration in India
- ❖ To study the causes for the movement of inter-state migrant workers in Tamil Nadu
- ❖ To analyze the socio-economic status of inter-state migrant workers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ To suggest the suitable policy measures for improving the livelihood of inter-state migrant workers.

METHODOLOGY

In the present paper adopts historical, descriptive and analytical methods to study on the *“Socio-Economical Status of Inter-State Migrant Workers in Tamil Nadu”*. Further, Interview method is also adopted in this study to elicit the opinion of the migrant workers, problems they faced after migrations and to assess their socio-economic status. The primary data was collected from 50 inter-state migrant workers who have been working in various sectors like industries, and companies, engaged in the micro enterprises of street vendors in Rasipuram Taluk of Namakkal District in Tamil Nadu.

SOURCES OF DATA

The primary data of the study was collected from 50 inter-state migrant workers who are working in various industries street vendors are in the Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu. Further, secondary data for the study was collected from books, journals, periodicals, web sources, news-papers etc. The collected data was analyzed with the help of SPSS (version 21) package.

Historical Development of Migration in India

Historically looking, migration is closely associated with evolution of culture, social organization, colonization of new areas and search for food, pilgrims, trade and invasion. In more recent times, migration plays an important role in the process of industrialization and urbanization. In pre-colonial times, the peoples were mainly moved to religious and trade purposes. India being one of the large developing countries of the world, a detailed study of the social and economic consequence of internal migration pertaining in a selected area covering a specified period of time has immediate relevance.² During the pre-British period, the rural migrants made a significant contribution to the plantation economy which largely determined India's position in the world commodity market. Due to the emergence of big cities and urban centres, the migratory flow of people from rural areas had appreciably increased in India during the British period.

The two areas of agriculture emerged namely Assam in North East and Travancore and Mysore in south India which were dependent on migrant labour. In an analysis of inter-state and inter-regional migration studies in India, it was estimated that during 1901-1951, 3 to 6 million people migrated from one state to another and 5 to 10 million people migrated from one region to another.³

Due to emergence of large towns and big cities in the British period, the distribution of population has undergone tremendous change. In the post-independence period, compared to contemporary developing countries of Asia and Africa the spatial mobility of population in India is low. The reorganization of states whose boundaries have been fixed primarily on linguistic consideration has further increased the mobility of people. The growth of tea and coffee plantation attracted migration on a massive scale in the last century. This process continued and gained further momentum in the present century also. After independence the process of industrial sector and the construction of big irrigation and power projects stimulated a vigorous process of migration. The expansion of communication and transportation is one of the factor for migratory movement in India.

The study of migration has been divided into two parts in India. The first part traces the history of migration in before independence in India and the second part studies migration after Independence. Before independence migration considered as immigration of foreigners, emigration of natives to other countries and internal migration. After independence India saw migration is largely inter-state, intra-state, inter-district and intra-district. It is a multidisciplinary subject and its studies are multidimensional in character to study the status of migrants.

ORIGIN OF MIGRATION IN INDIA

As per 2011 Census 45.58 crore Indians are identified as “migrants” they are moving one place to another place for various reasons. The previous Census (2001 census) had recorded at 31.45 crore migrants migrated 30% lower than the 2011. According to the Census Commissioner Registrar General of India, define migration as

“When a person is enumerated in Census at a different place than his/her place of birth, she/he is considered a ‘migrant’. First time in India migration data had been collected with the Census of 1872, but it was not very detailed data collected until the census 1961.⁴

The 2011 Census is a more detailed information’s are collected and migrants details was assumed. Marriage and job opportunities are the major factors for migration. Most of the movements takes place within own states. Out of the total number of peoples registered as “migrants” only 11.91% (5.43 crore) peoples had moved to one state from another state, at the same time nearly 39.57 crore peoples had moved around their origin states.⁵

The Economic Survey 2017 has revealed that an average of five to six million Indian peoples are migrated annually between 2001 to 2011, leading to an inter-state migrant population of “about 60 million” and an inter-district migrant population “as high as 80 million”.⁵ In general, Migrants mainly migrate from the densely populated and less urbanized states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala are major receiving states, where there are more industrialized and urbanized areas. As far as widely observed that most of the migrants are moving from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states to other states. As per the 2011 Census, 20.9 million peoples are moved outside the state from above said states.⁶

COVID-19 and Migration

During the COVID-19 periods, India faced crisis by the way of lakhs of migrant workers move to their origin places due to insecurity, lack of income and bleak livelihood needs at destination states. The lack of accurate details on inter-state migration and short term migration in India became apparent during the Covid-19 period. During Covid-19 migrant workers faced various social, economical and cultural issues to improve their day to day life.⁷

Types of Migration

In Migration there are two forms like out- migration or in-migration. Out migration is also called as emigration may either internal or international. Internal migration based on the birth place and the enumeration place. Migration may be in general classified into five types of migration.

- I) Intra-district migration means movement people move within the same district.
- II) Inter-district migration: movement of the people within the own State/ Union territory.
- III) Inter-state migration: It is the movement of people one state to another States or UTs in India,
- IV) Intra-State Migration is observed that the movement of the people within the state and its boundaries from their birth place or origin.
- V) International Migration: movement of the people from one nation to another nation/ beyond the boundaries of the state.

The most five categories factors which motivate people to move from their origin place to destination place. These are social and economic factors, demographic factors, socio-cultural factors, political factors and other factors. However, as far as inter-state migration is concerned majority of the migrant workers have been coming to Tamil Nadu for their employment opportunities for their livelihood.⁸

ORIGIN OF INTER- STATE MIGRATION IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu had a long history of migration both inter-state and international level. Inter- state Migration means to movement of people from Tamil Nadu to other states(Out-Migration) and Movement of the people as Migrant workers from other states to Tamil Nadu (In- migrants). Inter- state migration in Tamil Nadu identified to be an urban phenomenon, as a majority of the peoples move from other states to urban areas of various districts in Tamil Nadu. The studies of Veeraraghavan and the economic survey of Madras by Balakrishna and Sonachalam are concerned with Tamil Nadu and Madras city respectively.

In Tamil Nadu, some regions act as donari.e.,out-migrants and some other regions act as recipients i.e., in - migrants. The Indian Economy Survey, 2017 highlighted the fact that Tamil Nadu attracts large- scale Hindi speaking migrants from northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh .Even migrants from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are also coming as migrant labours to Tamil Nadu to receive employment opportunities.⁹

As per 2001 census is concerned Chennai and Tiruvallur districts constituting the majority of the migrant workers from other states of the country. However, as of now majority of migrants(in- migrants) settled in urban as well as rural areas in many districts of Tamil Nadu. In the present paper make an attention has been given to analyze the socio- economical status of Migrants workers in Tamil Nadu Especially, in Namakkal district in selected companies, spinning mills, industries and street vendors have been taken into consideration.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

As far as gender of inter-state migrant workers are concerned, most of the migrant workers who came from other states to Tamil Nadu are males. Only few females working as migrant workers(In-migrant)out of 50 respondents 46 (92%) of the respondents are males and 4 (8%) of the respondents are females. With regard to Age of the respondents, majority of the inter- state migrant workers are comes between the age of 18 to 30 and only 4 migrant workers are in the age category between 31 to 40. Out of 50 respondents 46 (92%) belongs to the age category of 18 to 30 and out of 50 respondents, 4 respondents are (8%) belongs to 31 to 40.

STATE WISE DETAILS OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	State Details	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	12
2	Karnataka	11	22
3	Bihar	14	28
4	Odisha	12	24
5	West Bangal	4	8
6	Uttar Pradesh	3	6
Total		50	100

Out of 50 respondents 6 (12%) are migrated from Andhra Pradesh, 11(22%) respondents belongs to Karnataka, 14 (28%) respondents have been migrated from Bihar, 12 (24%) respondents are migrated from Odisha, 4 (8%) of the respondents are migrated from West Bangal and 3 (6%) respondents migrated from Uttar Pradesh. Marriage is one of the reason for migration among the inter district, intra- district or inter - state and intra state migrants. However, with regard to inter- state migrant workers in Tamil Nadu is concerned most of the migrants workers are living in nuclear life and only few respondents are married and living along with their family. Out of 50 respondents 4 (8%) of the respondents are married and 46 (92%) are unmarried.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Educational status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	1-10 th	42	84
2	10-12 th	8	16
3	Degree	0	0
4	Degree and above	0	0
Total		50	100

Education is also one of the main reasons for migration, but in the case of inter-state migrant workers are concerned, it is observed that out of 50 sample respondents 42 are in the category of SSLC and 8 respondents have completed 10th and 12th.

REASON FOR MIGRATION

S. No.	Reason for migration	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Employment	50	100
2	Education	0	0
3	Marriage	0	0
4	Others	0	0
Total		50	100

As far as the primary data is concern all inter -state migrants are migrated for seeking employment opportunities and to fulfill their family needs. It was observed that most of the migrant workers migrated from other states to Tamil Nadu, exclusively for the attainment of job opportunities.

NATURE OF JOB

S. No.	Nature of job	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Industries	30	60
2	Hotels	10	20
3	Street vendors	5	10
4	Road Construction	5	10
Total		50	100

Out of 50 respondents 30 (60%) of the respondents are working in private industries, 10 (20%) of the respondents are working in hotels, 5 (10%) of the respondents are involved as street vendors and 5 (10%) of the respondents are involved in road construction work.

As far as Income is concerned out of 50 respondents 2 (%) respondents are getting monthly income 5,000 to 10,000, 38 (76%) respondents are getting monthly income between 10,001 to 15,000 and 8 (16%) respondents are getting monthly income between 15,001 to 20,000 rupees and 2 (4%) respondents are getting above 20,000. Salary has been fixed based on experience and performance of job and skills of the migrant workers. Out of 50 respondents 1(2%) migrant workers have been working for one year 3 (6%) of the respondents are having two years working experiences. 6 (12%) of the respondents are having experiences working for three years and 40 (80%) of the respondents are working for the above four years.

As far as the basic amenities of the migrant workers are concerned, almost majority of the migrants, especially those who working in the organized sectors are receiving basic amenities in the working place itself. Migrant workers felt that the basic amenities such as water, medical, transport and housing facilities are given by company itself with satisfactory level.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, though there are many types of migrations prevailing in the district, state, national and international level but this paper focuses only on inter-state migrant workers in Tamil Nadu. As far as inter-state migration is concerned after liberalization and privatization it has been increased heavily in the various states of India. It is observed from the primary data that most of the inter-state migrants moved from Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh to state of Tamil Nadu. With regard to the migrant workers, majority of the workers are male in the category of age group between 18-30. Almost, it is observed that though there are many reasons for migration like, social, economic, education, political, environment and marriage but from the primary data it is observed that all 50 (100%) are migrated from their own state to Tamil Nadu for want of job opportunities in various organized and unorganized sectors. Due to lack of employment opportunities, low literacy and low salary in the origin state migrants move from their origin state to Tamil Nadu to get job opportunities and more salary benefits. Significantly, these inter-state migrant workers are mostly satisfied with available basic amenities provided by company.

In recent days growth of industrial, technological advancement is the main aspects of the socio-economic progress of the state or country. Inter-state migrant workers are playing a vital role in the socio-economic improvement in every states of the country. It is observed that the impact of migration on the process of economic development of economically and socially advanced countries is high in the present era. Generally the movement of migrant workers from one place to another place has vital role in the economic development of both origin and destination places. In the 21st century due to urbanization, industrialization and creation of smart cities became causes of movement of inters-state migrant workers and it leads to socio-economic development of state as well as individual.

To sum up there is a need for the establishment of Center for Inter-State Migration like “India Center for Migration” established in the year 2008 by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) by the Indian Government to deal with international migration. If this kind of center be created in each state data on inter-state migrant people more exact data can be collected and could be properly monitored the status of migrants in every state. So that both Center and State Governments may frame a new policy for the improvement of inter-state migrant employees as well as workers. In order to improve the socio-economic status of inter-state migrant peoples a new policy measures to be executed for the welfare of the nation as a whole.

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