

A Study on Agriculture Labour Migration in Nagapattinam District

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ABSTRACT

The term migration to denote the movement of workers from the agricultural to nonagricultural-mainly industrial-sector. Thus migration implies a change in the occupation of workers. However, generally it is not possible to change occupation without changing the place of work and, geographical redistribution of population. The causes of migration are complex and varied. The royal commission on labour has summarized the causes of migration in the following words 'immigration has always risen mostly from the effort of finding and suitable livelihood in one's native place, and this is the major force which compels the Indian villagers to pursue industrial occupation. The first and foremost reason for migration of labour is the increasing pressure of population on land, on account of decline of cottage industries and handicrafts. Though many non-migrant households were in the group of migrant in the past, many of the migrant households may also become non-migrant in future. Some adverse implications of such migration process cannot be should out Overcrowding, problem of dwelling, unemployment, pollution, and creation of slums are some of the problems now facing India's cities. This situation demands a strategy for sustainable development in the rural as well as the urban areas. Some growth poles/service centers should be developed in rural areas to create employment opportunities for the region.

KEYWORDS: Migration, immigration, dwelling.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term migration to denote the movement of workers from the agricultural to nonagricultural-mainly industrial-sector. Thus migration implies a change in the occupation of workers. However, generally it is not possible to change occupation without changing the place of work and, geographical redistribution of population. Change in the place of work is mainly responsible for a large number of evils associated with migration of workers. It may also be pointed out here that in some cases a geographical redistribution of population without any occupational redistribution may take place or may be desirable.

The migrants belong to economically and socially the lowest section of villages. It is the class of landless agricultural labourers who are first and most affected by deterioration in the agricultural sector. Next in order is the class of share-croppers and small farmers who may come to towns in search of work because of a loss in share-cropping, failure of cultivation or to tide over some temporary difficulty. Farmers with medium-size holdings are not likely to move out of agriculture. Their earnings in agriculture may not be high and they may even be underemployed, yet what they

can earn in whole-time industrial occupations is generally less than their earnings in agriculture. An owner cultivator earns wages, profits and salary in agriculture while he can get only wages in the industrial sector (and that too of an unskilled worker). It should also be noted that to him agriculture is a way of life and it would require very strong incentive to persuade him to abandon it.

CAUSES FOR MIGRATION

The causes of migration are complex and varied. The royal commission on labour has summarized the causes of migration in the following words 'immigration has continuously arisen mostly from the effort of finding and suitable livelihood in one's native place, and this is the main force which induces the Indian villagers to pursue industrial occupation. There has always been a substantial class of landless labourers, earning a meager living in good season and apt to be reduced to penury in bad ones. The loss of land through indebtedness, the need or desire if a landlord to increase his own cultivation, quarrels, the death of title holder and other causes bring fresh recruit to this class. Among those who preserve tenancies, many variations can work to reduce a holding inadequate for those dependent on it. Arise in the number of members of the family, a rise in rent, the development of debt, all donated to force the farming employee to abandon his inherited work. It must not be supposed that the economic compression which drives the villager to the city is limited to those involved in agriculture.

INCREASING PRESSURE OF POPULATION ON LAND

The main purpose for migration of labour is the growing pressure of population on land, on account of deterioration of cottage industries and handicrafts. More people are depending on agriculture than land can support. This effects if un-economic holdings, scarcity joblessness, indebtedness in villages.

LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

A large class of landless agricultural labourers lives a precarious living even in good years and suffers hardships in the bad years. This class of labourers is in search of a job in urban areas. In order to earn livelihood, they migrate to urban centres.

JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM

The joint family system also enables migration as some members of the family may leave as other members of the family may take care of their children and wife. Fourthly, sometimes the agriculturists take occupation in the towns to avoid the village money-lenders, or to get enough for purchasing more cattle or land. Many village craftsmen, after the decline of village industries, have migrated to industrial areas in search of good work.

BETTER SOCIAL TREATMENT

Fifthly, unhappy lessons in the villages discover that they obtain far improved social treatment in industrial centres than in villages. They also escape from embarrassment. Some villagers migrate to industrial centres on account of family quarrels and concerns and hurries of village life, or to evade penalty and social prohibit due to some social or ethical offence, love affairs etc.

Prof. Francis Cherunilam has classified these factors into five broad groups as under:

- Economic features
- Demographic factors
- Socio-cultural and psychological features
- Political and institutional factors
- Miscellaneous factors

MIGRATION IN INDIA

In India migration is due to the operation of push factors. We have already discussed the circumstances which led to impoverishment of agriculture in India. During the last sixty years the proportion of workers dependent upon agriculture has remained more or less fixed, i.e., the agricultural work force is increasing at more or less the same rate at which total population is increasing. Per capita earnings in the agricultural sector have fallen and sub-division of holdings has reduced the opportunities for employment in the agricultural sector. Underemployment in agriculture is also growing. "Thus push factors in agricultural employment are permanent features of the employment market". On the other hand, the pull factors are weak. Growth of industry has been very slow and quite inadequate to absorb the surplus agricultural population. It is true that the proportion of urban population to the whole population has increased from 4 percent in 1901 to 18 percent in 1961. However, urbanization is not an outcome of industrialization and a large number of workers are engaged in an already overcrowded tertiary sector. As a result, the harmful effects of migration are visible in the industrial sector and urban areas.

Employees who come to towns regularly find that they are not required and they swell the number of unemployed and casual workers. They also create the problem of housing, health and sanitation. A room of 10*10 accommodates a huge family and occasionally two families; and often ten to fifteen persons sleep in one room. "The housing of the migrants combined the worst characteristics of both the rural and urban slums. Not only were the sites most in sanitary but the material used for erecting huts was also very filthy. Forsaken places like the slopes along the railway lines, banks of open drainage streams, waste lands adjoining the dirty localities in the towns, open spaces earmarked for dumping the town refuse, etc., which no one else would think of utilizing (and would not take any serious notice of the migrants using) were chosen by them." Health conditions are bad and infant mortality is high. In the towns workers acquire wasteful habits of expenditure, e.g. tea, smoking, going to the theatre and cinema, drinking and gambling, and they spend on them a disproportionately large amount of their income, which was found to be one-seventh of the monthly income. It was also found that nearly half of the respondents (51.06 percent) expressed inability to bring their family members to the city to live with them. In many cases this is a cause of their social disorganization and of personal demoralization. In some cases the migrants resort to crime which is partly due to economic distress and partly due to weakening of the sanctions and customs to which they were accustomed in the villages. In this present study, to analyze the agriculture labour migration in Nagapattinam district, Tamilnadu.

In this study mainly aims to cover the socio- economic details of the respondents, to study the reasons for migration and to find out the problems of the migrants. The present study has been partly based primary data. In order to collect the data for the study, sampling method was used. Keeping in mind the selected problem focus into 220 respondent were selected in the way of purposively random sampling method in Nagapattinam District. The study period is confined to 2015-16. The relevant statistical tools used like Mean, Correlation, Standard deviation, 't' test and ANOVA has been strengthen the analysis. It is assumed that there are various significant determinants of this study. Such as community, occupation, educational qualification, family size,

monthly income, monthly expenditure, savings and investment. Among these determinants the monthly income is the major determinants of the labour migration in the present study.

2. MAJOR FINDINGS

In the present study labour migration as conducted by sample respondents area to give some findings. Among the various findings are;

- The age group of the sample respondents of this study, the above 35 years are the maximum 67.3 percent, and the below 25 years old are the minimum 3.6 percent. It depends upon the sample respondents.
- Gender wise-classification of the present study, the Male respondents are maximum 92.7 percent and the Female respondents only 7.3 percent. Because the male mostly like to migrate compared to female, due to the various problems, convenient, family burden of these respondents.
- The marital status of the sample respondent in this study, the Married respondents are maximum 90.9 percent, and in the case of Divorce is minimum 1.8 percent. The married persons are mostly migrants because to seek employment opportunity and necessity to earn more.
- The community wise-classification of this study, the BC respondents is maximum 36.4 percent, and MBC respondents are minimum 30.9 percent. As the reasons for this, in the survey maximum conducted from the BC respondents.
- Educational qualification of the sample respondents of the present research, the role of Secondary education is the maximum 45.5 percent, and Undergraduates and Diploma and professional are minimum 5.5 percent. It depends upon the family support of the particular respondents.
- The number of household details of the sample study, the 4 to 8 member's families is maximum 76.4 percent and 9 to 12 member families are minimum 10.9 percent. As the reasons for this, the present study is maximum conducted from the 4 to 8 member's family.
- The type of family system of the present study, the nuclear families is maximum 72.7 percent, and joint families are minimum 27.3 percent for the sample study. Since, the most of the households are like to live in nuclear family system due to some inconvenient of joint family systems.
- The types of house details of this research work, the role of terraced houses are maximum 34.5 percent and tiled and thatched houses are minimum 32.7 percent. As the reasons that, the monthly income and family assets of the sample respondents.
- The ownership of house of the sample respondents in this research, the own houses are maximum 89.1 percent, and rental house are minimum 10.9 percent. It depends upon the wealth and family income of the sample respondents.
- The residence place of the migrants during the, after migration urban residence are maximum 98.2 percent, and rural residence are minimum 1.8 percent in the sample study, because, the employment opportunities very high in to urban areas compare to rural areas.
- The occupational wise-classification of the sample respondents in this study, during the before migration agriculture laborer are maximum 38.2 percent, and service sector worker are minimum 3.6 percent. At the time of after migration marketing field are maximum 21.8 percent and self-employment are minimum 9.1 percent. It depends upon the educational qualification and efficiency of the sample respondents.

- Nature of work details of the respondents of the present study, the monthly payment earners are maximum 70.9 percent and per day wage earners are minimum 7.3 percent. It depends upon nature of work of the sample respondents.
- The causes for migration of the respondents in this study, the low wages of the worker are maximum 61.8 percent, and social belief and security of job are minimum 1.8 percent. Since the low wages and attractive city to stimulate the movement of the samples.
- Distance from the place of origin of the sample respondents in this present study. All the 55 (100.0) respondents are migrate from above 200 km to seek better employment, rise in family income, rise in social status, etc.,
- The Years of migration wise-classification of the samples in this research, the 1 to 3 years of migration respondents are maximum 54.5 percent, and below 1 year respondents are minimum 5.5 percent. It depends upon the nature of particular job.
- The benefits of the migration of the selected respondents in this research, rise in family income are maximum 60 per cent and relief from joint family system is minimum 3.6 per cent. Since, the people move to seek better employment, rise in family income, relief from joint family, etc.
- The satisfactions of the present job of the sample respondents in this study, the maximum number of respondents are mentally satisfied 83.6 percent. It depends upon the nature of the work, real wage and money wage, working and environmental conditions and also their qualification.
- The types of migration wise classification of the respondents in this present study, the inter-district migration registered maximum 54.5 percent and inter-state migration registered minimum 21.8 percent. As the reason for this nature of the job, payment of wage system, availability of job, distance from our home, language, etc.
- The place of migration of the respondents in this study, the various districts the Chennai registered the maximum 16.4 percent. Among the various states, the Bangalore registered the first and among the countries most of the respondents working at Gulf-Countries. It depends upon, nature of work, salary, company accommodation and also the climatic condition.
- The working condition of the respondents within the industry or organization in this present study, the enough break time during work is maximum 30.9 percent, and regular day(s) off each week are minimum 1.8 percent. It is depends on the nature of work of the sample respondents.
- The problem at residential place of the selected respondents in this study, like More Inmates, Regional / Communal Problems, Loneliness/ Homesick, More Expensive, No Company Accommodations, No Water Facility, No Market Facility and No Health Service Centre. Mong this, most of the respondents are faced the regional/communal problem 54.5 percent. It may be caused by the misunderstanding, lack of cooperation and communal disparities among the migrants.
- The problems at working place of the sample respondent in this present study, such as, Heavy Work Load, Less Wage/ Salary, Job Insecurity, Job Insecurity, No Bonus, Disturbance by Co-workers, No Trade Union and No Travel Facility. In this above, the maximum number of workers are disturbance by co-workers are maximum 23.6 percent, the job insecurity is not a significant one because registered only 1.8 percent. As the reason for this the co-workers create so many problems on the basis of their services, salaries age and also the religion and communities.

3. SUGGESTIONS

The employment opportunities created to the rural mass, small and cottage industries are established by the government, to develop the infrastructural facilities, government implements the rural development programmes, labour-intensive technology has been use widely, control the population pressure on the land, dependency of agriculture has been reduced, Government provides the better educational system in rural areas, landlessness of agricultural labourers has been reduced and wages of the rural worker has been raised.

The governmental programmes for the control of labour migration such as, Small farmers Growth Agency/ Marginal Farmers and agricultural Labourers Projects, Hill Area Growth projects, Tribal Development programme, Drought prone Area Programme, Rural landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Whole Village Development Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Integration of Women in Rural Reconstruction Programme, Training Rural Youth for Self-employment, Food for Work programme and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, etc.

4. CONCLUSION

The current study, centered on the primary and secondary bases of data, indicates that the migrant respondents are socio- economically and educationally improved placed than others. It is found that the remittances educationally better placed than others. It is found that the remittances improve the income of out- migrate household and decrease the inequality in the overall income distribution. However, it is difficult to obtain information on the distribution of income, land holdings, educational status, and social status of the respondents.

This is due to the reason that the rural-urban migration is like a chain, many households which are poor at the time of migration, improve their economic status on account of remittances whereas the status of deteriorates due to partition of families or dissolution of households. Though many non-migrant households were in the group of migrant in the past, many of the migrant households may also become non-migrant in future. Some adverse implications of such migration process cannot be should out Overcrowding, problem of dwelling, unemployment, pollution, and creation of slums are some of the problems now facing India's cities. This situation demands a strategy for sustainable development in the rural as well as the urban areas. Some growth poles/service centers should be developed in rural areas to create employment opportunities for the region.

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