

Migration of agricultural labourers and its impact on the farming sector

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Abstract

Human beings keep on struggling for their food, shelter and other basic requirements since ages. They have a natural tendency of acquiring personal growth. Migration has been a general activity of human lives. Considers migration as a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence with no restriction the distance involved in the movement Lee broadly (1966). “It is not population that process on productivity power. It is productivity that process on population”. Karl marks and Engels. Since ancient times, human beings are migrating from one region to another region and from one place to another place for one or the other reason. During ancient days, the migration was influenced mainly by the geographical factors like atmosphere, soil fertility, natural vegetation etc. Internal conflicts, conflicts between religion and local wars. Casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another off earning their services on a temporary, usually, seasonal, basis. These migrations have intensified after industrial revolution. Rampant migration has resulted in making metropolitan cities. Most migrant labourers have no reemployment rights, are usually unorganized in unions and have little systematic access to job seeking. Middlemen, job brokers, labour contractors and crew leaders arise out of this fundamental disorganization of the labour market. The fact that the unorganized migrant workers is “HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW” makes the regulation of his working and living conditions difficult. The term migration refers to the people’s movement from their native place to a new place perhaps permanently, temporarily or seasonal migrants. The labour market for migrant workers in agricultural in notable disorderly, partly, because such workers employment relationship is temporary.

Thus, if region is taken as the basis, it may be international and internal migration. This paper enlightenes that unorganized agriculture labour facing problems socially, culturally and economically in Bangalore city.

Key words: *Agriculture, Labour migration, Labour market, Disorder*

Introduction

70% of our population lives in the rural areas and their main source of livelihood is agriculture. Labour is the single most important factor in determining national income. Poverty is the main obstacle for the development of any country, but it is a grave phenomenon where a section of society is unable to fulfill the basic necessities of life like food, clothes, house and education. In rural areas people do not get any employment, their main livelihood is mostly agriculture and in some cases seasonal employment in agriculture, that's why workers face a lot of problems. The landless poor who mostly belong to lower castes, indigenous communities and economically backward regions constitute the major portion of migrants. In the very large Tribal Regions of India, the intrusion of outsiders, settlements by the outsiders displacing the local tribal people and deforestation also played a major role in migration. The Indian daily "Hindustan Times" on 14th October 2007, revealed that according to a study by a Government Institute, 77% of the population i.e. nearly 840 million Indians live on less than Rs.20 a day. Indian agriculture became non-remunerative, taking the lives of 100,000 peasants during the period from 1996 to 2003, i.e. a suicide of an Indian peasant every 45 minutes. Hence, the rural people from the downtrodden and backward communities and backward regions such as Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh travel to far distances seeking employment at the lowest rungs in construction of roads, irrigation projects, commercial and residential complexes, in short, building the Shining India.

Types of migration

Migration is a both old and new human practice. There is no place or time, in which migration does not occur. However, the scale, type and implications of migration vary greatly between individuals and societies. Due to the vast size of the country and large differences in physical and human dispositions across the country, the migration trend in India shows some specific features. First, among the four types of migration direction-wise, i.e., rural-to-rural, rural-to-urban, urban-to-rural and urban-to urban migration, rural to- rural migration has been dominant. In 2001, rural to-rural to- rural migration (during the last decade, i.e., based on migrants with duration of residence of 0-9 years at the place of enumeration) has accounted for 54.7 percent of total migration within the country. Second, with respect to the distance of migration, intra-state migration is predominant accounting for 82.1 percent of migration duration of 0-9 years). More than half the migration took place within the district and the incidence of

migration decreases as the distance becomes longer. Third, among intra-state migrants, 60.5 percent moved from rural to rural places (duration 0- 9 years) followed by 17.6 percent of rural-to-urban migration while in the case of inter-state migrants, the largest portion (37.9 percent) migrated from rural to urban destinations. In inter-state migration, the incidence of rural-to-rural and urban-to-urban movements is almost at the same level, i.e., 26.6 percent and 26.7 percent respectively. Fourth, migration streams in India have been dominated by females. Women constituted 66.5 percent of total migration flows (duration 0-9 years). Women outnumbered men in intra-district as well as intra-state migration flows, accounting for 73.9 percent and 70.3 percent respectively. With respect to inter-state migration and migration from other countries, the share of male migrants surpassed that of female, contributing 50.6 percent and 75.3 percent of total migration. Thus, the longer the distance of migration is, the higher the share of male migration becomes. Of the total female migration, more than 60 percent moved within the district. Therefore, short distance migration is the dominant form for women. In the case of male migrants, while migration within the district is also predominant (43 percent), the share of longer distance migration is larger than that among female migrants. Fifth, it is noted that if we take a look at the rural-to-urban migration during the last 10 years, the number of males and females was almost equal in total rural-to-urban flows. While women outnumber men in intra-state rural-urban flows, the number of males was significantly greater.

Seasonal migration

Seasonal and circular (also known as cyclical, oscillatory) migration has long been part of the livelihood portfolio of poor people across India. Seasonal migration of labour for employment has become one of the most durable components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas. Migration is not just by the very poor during times of crisis for survival and coping but has increasingly become an accumulative option for the poor and non-poor alike. It is now recognized that migration is a part of the normal livelihood strategy of the poor and does not occur only during times of emergency or distress. Migration reduces poverty. Nevertheless, the dominant perception of migration among policymakers, academics and officials in India continues to be that migration is only for survival and that migrants remain poor. The image of the migrant continues to be that of a powerless, impoverished and emaciated person who is trapped in poverty. On average 25% of the households had at least one member migrating. Out-migration is greater in the poorly developed agricultural areas, and particularly high amongst the landless farmers. It is concluded that non-migrants had more knowledge and

adoption about different agricultural practices and also production and productivity of different crops was higher as compared to migrants. Only a few farmers were growing second crop after rice, therefore a major group of small and marginal farmers were free during rabi and summer and did not have work so they migrated elsewhere for jobs and this seasonal migration is the main cause for the lack of agricultural labourers. Basically, Chhattisgarh is an agrarian state. Most of the farmers earn their livelihood from agriculture. With less mechanization agriculture is totally based on manpower. That is why agricultural activities and production are affected due to migration. So there is a need to check this migration and improve their livelihood system and which can be possible through study thoroughly and steady thinking over the reasons responsible for the same. Seasonal migrants working in the construction sector may work freelance or under a contractor. If they work freelance, then the men earn roughly Rs 80/day and women earn Rs 60. Although the wages are reasonable, work is not available every day and the average three is working days a week. Women may also work as domestic maids in nearby houses. They spend roughly half of the income at the destination and earn roughly Rs 4,000/year through such work. In cases where the contractor travels to the village to round up labourers and take them to jobs in the city, he usually has to bear the travelling expenses (one way not return) and the cost of food. He may give an advance to the labourers to send remittances to their family. He later cuts all of these expenses from their wages. Working under a labour contractor gives migrants more days of work but the contractors take a 15% cut of the wages as their commission.

Casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another off earning their services on a temporary, usually, seasonal, basis. In India migrant labour is usually employed in a manual repetitive easily learned and dement for migrant labour in agriculture stems from the seasonal nature of its worker requirements. Migrant labour has usually been recruited for urban rather than agricultural enrollment and involves longer periods of residence. Migrant labour in various forms is found in South Africa, the middle East, Western Europe the United States and India. The supply of migrant labour on the other hand is influenced by unfavorable economic and social conditions existing in the homes has of such labourers.

The labour market for migrant workers in agriculture is notable disorderly, partly, because such workers employment relationship is temporary. Most migrant labours have no reemployment rights, are usually not organized in unions and have little systematic access to job seeking middlemen, job brokers labour contractors, and crew leaders arising out of this fundamental

disorganization of this labour market. Labour contractor in addition to bringing the workers together, transporting them, supervising them and dispensing their pay also search the employers and negotiate wages and working conditions.

The wages working conditions and the standard of life of migrant workers tend to be labour than thus of other groups of workers. Migrants often must work long labour is widespread among migrant labours and even in the united states those children who do not work often do not go to school because in most localities the schools are open only to local residents migrant labours, housing often amount to little more than a roof over one's head. Literacy levels, school cohesion and rates of political participation are exceptionally low among migrant workers. The local population is eager to see them come and is even more eager to see them go. Migrant workers also have difficulty gaining access to local health and social service. often deprived their right do not enjoy easy recourse it the count and are abused by exploitative employers.

The fact that the migrant workers is “Here today and gone tomorrow” make the regulation of his working and living conditions difficult. Union and government-established labour standards. Available to regular industrial and agricultural workers general do not exist for migrant labour. Government authorities on all levels generally acknowledge the existence of serious social problem associated with migrant labour, yet claim that improvements have been achieved in the levels of mug rant the major effect has been to force employment to provide more housing and sanitary and to regularize the activities of the labour contractor' s.

Migration due to problems in agriculture

Agriculture has been the base of Indian economy. Agricultural labourers constitute the vital input in the agriculture production. Human resources are very important. Agricultural labourers are migrating to different parts of the country for earning their livelihood and in this way, there is an equilibrium between labour demand and supply. India's top agriculture scientist and one of the architects of India's Green Revolution, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has warned that the country could face a food crisis if agricultural productivity is not increased and farming is neglected. The future belongs to grains to grains not guns says Dr. Swaminathan. India has about 45 percent of its total area under cultivation. one of the highest in the world . In China, the net cropped area is only 10% while the world average is 10.7%. Unfortunately, India's per hectare yield compares quite poorly with many countries of the world. Taking the case of rice, it is estimated that India's average yield today is 2.9 tons per hectare. By

comparison, China's average rice yield, at 6.3 tons per hectare, is more than double that of India. Increasing productivity and total food grain production is one of the biggest challenges before our planners today. The productivity of grains can be increased by giving attention to seed, soil health, pest management, lifesaving irrigation and post-harvest technology. The first Green Revolution was a spectacular success in India and became a role model for many developing nations to improve agricultural production and technology in the dry land cultivation. There is now urgency for a Second Green Revolution in the country. Agriculture is the main source of the population of India. The agriculture on which the bulk of the rural population in our country has to depend for the main source of livelihood is itself largely dependent on the precipitation and distribution of rainfall; failure of rain and consequent failure of agriculture greatly reduce the purchasing power of this large segment of population, recurrence of such situation is called as drought. In India, droughts occur once in every five years in some parts of India viz., West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Coastal parts of Andhra Pradesh, some parts of Maharashtra state, like Marathwada, east and west parts of Maharashtra, inferior of north Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and other parts of India. At present, cultivators, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, landless labourers etc. have to face the problems of natural calamities in India. Drought is not caused by niggardliness of nature, but failure of the system properly planning and use of land and water resources. Water resources of India are colossal but they are seasonal, regionally distributed and very compressed also. Planning is reduced to combat recurrent droughts and raving floods. However, the problem of chronic under employment in rural areas is thus essentially due to the event of a failure of seasons and lack of resources.

Causes of migration - push and pull factors in migration

Migration is caused by negative factors [push factors] in the place of origin as well as positive factors [pull factors] in that place of destination. An analysis of the determinants of migration would therefore, be incomplete. If it was to factors at the place of origin or at place of destination migration as it is often restated visa and work permit requirements. Quotas political considerations who moved to other states in India. In the case negative factor at destinations. It is in constructive to note that rural and urban was net in migration with the 1950s. which determined the migration trend thereafter of cause the opening up of the region particularly the area of the crushable princely states of Travancore and cochin to the res of India since independence must have a facilitating factor.

Demographic factors

Emigration and out migration from Bangalore were in the first instance a response to the increasing population pressure in the city. The number of persons who migrated to Bangalore. Having been larger than the number of persons who migrated to Bangalore during 1951-61 Bangalore increased at an accelerated migration trend from rural and urban as the growing demographic pressures, out migration and emigration was partial response to this rising pressures, caused by the increasing gap between birth and death rates. which reached its minimum in the mid 1960s were decades during which migration within the city from more density populated to less density population areas was also taking place on a large scale.

Analysis at family level - It is normal for larger families. They have a larger number of migrants. The number of emigrants per families increases sharply as family size increases but only up to a limit. In fact, the ratio remains constant from a family size for members on wards.

Migration and age composition -Age composition is a determinant and at the same time a consequence of migration. Migration propensities are much higher in young working ages than in the younger or older ages. Therefore migration rate is likely to be higher in areas where the proportion of adults in the younger working age group is high.

Economic factors - The basic motivation for migration from rural or urban is economic people move out of the cities in search of employment, Higher incomes and greater economic security improve their and their families immediate and long term standard of living. On this presumption, we should expect a larger migration rate from economically backward areas.

Education - Education is major migration facilitating factors from areas where the number of younger educated persons is in excess supply. They tend to move areas where there is a demand for their service. Traditionally, out migration from the cities followed this pattern. Propensities to migrate were higher among educated persons. However, this was not the case with the gulf region where the greatest demand until recently has been for construction workers.

Objective of the study

- i. To study the socio-demographic profile of agricultural migrants

- ii. To study the casus of migrant agricultural migrants
- iii. To know the socio economic conditions of agricultural migrants
- iv. To know the opinion on migration and working conditions in Bangalore City.

Methodology of the study

In Hyderabad and Karnataka areas, agriculture labourers they are unemployed because of lack of rain, low wages. So migration is the only solution for the agriculture labourers. Our research study mainly focuses on agricultural labour migrants. This study is conducted among migrant construction workers at Bangalore slums. Fifty migrants were interviewed using structured questionnaire, and snowball technique and primary data with the help of observation methods and discussed with the migrants and also secondary data which are collected from other sources.

Finding of the study

The researcher found evidence that shows that 46% of the respondents fall in to the age group of 21 to 30 years.

The researcher found that the majority (61%) of respondents are male.

Half of (50%) the respondents are coming from north Karnataka area.

The researcher found that majority (64%) of respondents of migrants is doing 8 hours per day.

The regarding property owned in the native majority (62%) of respondents have the agricultural land.

The researcher found that 46% of respondents are temporary migrants.

The majority of respondents (62%) migrate to Bangalore because of drought and low wages.

The researcher found that more respondents did not adopted family planning methods.

Majority of the respondents were involved in construction activities.

Majority of the respondents' reason for migration attraction of city and Regarding choose of Bangalore for migration. Majority (54%) of the respondents migrated to Bangalore in search of more work.

Majority of the migrants have housing problems in Bangalore

Conclusion

Migration in India is mostly influenced by Social Structures and patterns of development. The development policies by all the governments since Independence have accelerated the process of migration. Uneven development is the main cause of migration. Added to it, are the disparities, inter-regional and amongst different socio-economic classes. There are two important reasons for rural labour migration: (1) migration for survival and (2) migration for subsistence. The first indicates the severe social and economic hardships faced by rural labourers, a situation where migration becomes necessary to stay alive. These communities are generally landless, illiterate and drawn largely from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other depressed castes. The second reason for migration is also rooted in subsistence and arises because of the need to supplement income in order to fill the gaps of seasonal employment. Such communities often migrate for shorter periods and do not ordinarily travel very far from their homes. Migration is an expensive and risky process and this occurs mainly due to a combination of migrants being unaware of their rights; poor education and skills; a negative policy environment that aims to keep rural people in rural areas and actively discourages migration; monopolistic behavior among employers, contractors and labour market intermediaries whereby they play the labour market to their own advantage and discrimination based on caste and gender. The most serious problem encountered by migrants is a lack of access to basic services such as the public food distribution system which provides subsidized food; health and education. Children who accompany their parents for several months at a time are often not sent to school in the destination either because the schools there cannot accept them or because there is a language problem. Not having enough money to pay for school fees may also be a problem. This perpetuates the inter-generational transmission of poverty: uneducated parents who have to depend on laboring-cannot offer their children a better future. Given the enormous magnitude of migration, such deprivation faced by migrants seriously compromises the prospects of such regions and populations meeting the millennium development goals.

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