A Study on Migrant Unorganised Workers in Tirunelveli District

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Abstract

Migration is shift from a place of residence to another place for some length of time or permanently including different types of voluntary movements. It has great impact on economic, social, cultural and psychological life of people, both at place of emigration as well as of migration. Hence, the present study makes an attempt in unravelling the issues of socio-economic conditions of the migrant unorganised workers and its impact on their livelihoods. The present study has covered Tirunelveli District. The data relates to the month of September 2015. The primary data was collected with the help of specially prepared interview schedule. Totally 90 respondents were selected using simple random sampling method. This is purely a descriptive study. For analyzing the data statistical tools such as percentages, averages, Chi-square tests, Garret ranking method and probability analysis technique were used. The study shows that out of 90, 67 respondents are migrating due to non-availability of work in their villages. Only 3 percent of respondents are migrating due to supplement their family income. 7 and 16 per cent of the respondents are migrating due to livelihood and to provide good life for their children respectively. The Chi-square analysis reveals that the factors are Age and Education are significant at 1% level. Motivation about migration and decision of migration are significant at 5% level of significance. The remaining factors are not significant at 5% level. It is found from the study that the inadequate availability of local employment was ranked first followed by low wage rate. Inadequate income to meet the household needs was ranked third and long hours of work ranked fourth. Lack of bargaining power was ranked fifth. The Government of Tamilnadu should also maintain a demographic balance by regulating the inflow of migrants. Unless the government provides the basic necessities of life to the rural areas and provide the productive youth in the rural areas with employment opportunities people will continuously drift in to the urban centres from the rural areas in search for better life and employment.

Key words: Internal Migration; Psychological Life; Livelihoods; Employment; Demographic Balance.

Introduction

Human beings are restless and mobile creature. Human beings have been migrated from one place to other place; in time and space its advent the planet's known history is full of eventful migration (Kenkel, 1997). It not only provides opportunities for employment but also improves the socio-economic condition of migrant households (Arif, 2005). Migration is shift from a place of residence to another place for some length of time or permanently including different types of voluntary movements. It has great impact on economic, social, cultural and psychological life of people, both at place of emigration as well as of migration (Kaur, 2003). Diversification of economy and increased land productivity in certain areas, rapid improvement in transport and communication means, improvement in education, increase in population pressure and zeal for improving living added momentum to the mobility of population in India (Roy, 2011).

As sufficient local labour was not available, farmers of the state had to depend on the migratory labour for

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various agricultural operations, especially during peak seasons (Sidhu *et al.,* 1997). The social factors like network of the co-villagers and caste fellows started attracting the migration. Some other factors that compelled them to move to Punjab were incidence of floods, droughts, non-availability of jobs, poverty and indebtedness at their native place (Gupta, 1991; Gupta and Bhakoo, 1980). Raghunath Reddy (1996) states that the new economic policy affects the poor adversely and thereby register a rise in poverty and unemployment among rural labourers. J.K. Singh (1996) states that the labourers are exploited more in organized sector of the nation. Increase in the process of development has also increased the exploitation of labour. U. Tataji (1986) takes up the issue of the absorption of the migrant labour force in the formal and informal sectors of the urban economy and the pattern of work organization. According to United Nations (2003), internal migration is almost four times as large as international migration. Hence, the present study makes an attempt in unravelling the issues of socio-economic conditions of the migrant unorganised workers and its impact on their livelihoods.

Objectives of the Study

This study is based on the following objectives:

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of the sample unorganised migrants in the study area;

2. To find out the various reasons for migration among unorganised workers in the study area;

3. To examine the sources of information about job opportunities;

4. To measure the effect by migration;

5. To understand the problems of employment.

Methodology

The present study has covered Tirunelveli District. The primary data was collected with the help of specially prepared interview schedule. Totally 90 respondents were selected using simple random sampling method. This is purely a descriptive study. The data relates to the month of September 2015. A separate interview schedule was designed, pilot tested and used for data collection. For analyzing the data statistical tools such as percentages, averages, Chi-square tests, Garret ranking method and probability analysis technique were used.

Table 1: Sex wise respondents

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	67	74.4
Female	23	25.6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

It is observed from the above table that, out of the 90 respondents, 74.4% are males and 25.6% are females.

Table 2: Age wise classification of the respondents

Age	No, of respondents	Percentage
18-30 years	22	24
31-45 years	53	59
46-60years	15	17
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

From the table, it is revealed that the percentage of middle age respondents is more i.e., 59%. As per the survey middle age groups involvements is higher than that of old and young aged groups in the study area.

Table 3: Marital status of the migrants

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Unmarried	22	24
Married	58	65
Widow	6	7
Separated	4	4
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The table reveals that out of 90 migrants, about 65% were married, 7% were widow 4% was separated and 24% were unmarried. Thus, 65% were the married unorganised migrants.

Table 4: Community wise classification

Community	No. of Respondents	Percentage
SC	10	11
MBC	13	14
BC	67	75
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The table reveals that the majority of the respondents belong to Backward Caste and their percentage is 75.

Table 5: Educational qualification of the respondents

Qualification	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	4	4
Primary	59	66
High School	12	13
Higher	5	6
Degree	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The table gives a picture on the educational background of the samples. The majority of the respondents i.e., 66 percentage completed the primary education. The illiterates were 4%.

Table 6: The number of respondents and their family size

Size of family	No. of respondents	Percentage
1-3 members	49	54
4-6 members	36	40
More than 6 members	5	6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

It is revealed that majority of the respondents i.e., 54 percentage of families are having small size ranging from 1-3 members.

Table 7: Nature of job of daily migrant wage labourers

Nature of Job	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Domestic worker	13	14.44
White Wash	18	20.0
Wage Labour	31	34.44
Construction worker	7	7.78
Contractor	21	23.33
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that out of 90 (100.0%) there are 13 (14.44%) respondents doing domestic work, 18 (20.0%) respondents doing white wash work, 7 (7.78%) respondents doing construction work, 21 (23.33%) respondents are doing the contractor work and 31 (34.44%) respondents are doing the wage labour work.

Table 8: Causes of migration

Causes of Migration	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Non-availability of work	67	74
To supplement the family income	3	3
For livelihood	6	7
To give good life to children	14	16
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that out of 90, 67 respondents are migrating due to non-availability of work in their villages. Only 3 percent of respondents are migrating due to supplement their family income. 7 and 16 per cent of the respondents are migrating due to livelihood and to provide good life for their children respectively.

Table 9: Working days (in a month) of daily migrant wage labourers

Working Days (in a month)	No, of respondents	Percentage
6-10 days	40	44
10-15 days	13	14
15-20 days	5	6
20-25 days	24	27
25 and above days	8	9
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that out of 90 (100%), there are 40 (44%) respondents belong to the working day group of 6-10 days, 13 (14%) respondents belong to the working day group of 10-15 days, 5 (6%) respondents belong to the working day group of 15-20 days, 24 (27%) respondents belong to the working day group 20-25 days, and 8 (9%) respondents belong to the working day group 25 and above days.

Table 10: Daily income of daily migrant wage labourers

Daily Income (Rupees)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
100-150	18	20
150-200	48	53
200-250	19	21
250 and above	5	6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that out of 90 (100%) there are 18 (20%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 100-150 rupees, 48 (53%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 150-200 rupees, 19 (21%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 200-250 rupees and only 5 (6%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 250 and above rupees.

Table 11: Decision of migration

Decision of migration	No, of respondents	Percentage
Head of the family	77	85.56
Yourself	3	3.33
Your husband	10	11.11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

Table illustrates that 85.56 percent of the respondent's decision of migration by their head of the family, 3.33 percent of the respondent's decision of migration by themselves, 11.11 percent of the respondent's decision of migration by their husbands. Data shows that majority of the respondents 85.56 percent decision of migration by the head of the family.

Table 12: Sources of information

Sources of information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Friends	12	13
Peer group	31	34
Relatives	47	53
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

Table describes that 13 percent of the respondents got information about job opportunities from their friends, 34 percent of the respondents got information by their peer group, 53 percent of the respondents got information by their relatives. Data shows that majority of the respondents 53 percent got information by their relatives.

Table 13: Motivation about migration

Motivation about migration	No, of respondents	Percentage
Family	6	6.67
Friends	23	25.56
Relatives	61	67.78
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

Table describes that 6.67 percent of the respondents were motivated by their family, 25.56 percent of the respondents were motivated by their friends and 67.78 percent were by their relatives. Data shows that about 6.67 percent of the respondents were motivated by their family.

Table 14: Effect by migration

Effect by migration	No, of respondents	Percentage
Good	71	78.89
Bad	6	6.67
Normal	13	14.44
Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data

Table describes that 78.89 percent of the respondents got good effect by migration, 6.67 percent of the respondents got bad effect by migration, 14.44 percent of the respondents got normal effect by migration.

Table 15: The Summary of opinion of the migrants

Factors	Chi-Square Value	Result
Age	19.21	Significant**
Educational Qualification	16.94	Significant**
Income	3.46	Not Significant
Motivation about migration	8.13	Significant*
Sources of information	5.27	Not Significant
Decision of migration	13.09	Significant*

Source: Compiled from Primary Data as

The opinion of the respondents and socio-economic characters relationship is applied for chi-square test. The selected variables only applied in this model. The table reveals that the summary of the respondents. The chi-square analysis reveals that the factors are Age and Education are significant at 1% level. Motivation about migration and Decision of migration are significant at 5% level of significance. The remaining factors are not significant at 5% level.

Table 16: Problems of employment

Problems	Mean Score	Rank
Inadequate availability of local employment	54.63	I
Low wage rate	46.15	II
Inadequate income to meet the household needs	41.61	III
Long hours of work	34.15	IV
Lack of bargaining power	28.62	V

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

It is found from Table that the inadequate availability of local employment was ranked first followed by low wage rate. Inadequate income to meet the household needs was ranked third and long hours of work ranked fourth. Lack of bargaining power was ranked fifth.

Conclusion

Thus, in an overall scenario, migration of labour has been found beneficial in Tamilnadu, with the exception of increase in crime rate, drug menace and cultural invasion. There is a need of government intervention to get the antecedents of unorganised migrant labour verified from their respective native states before employment by the Tamilnadu. The Government of Tamilnadu should also maintain a demographic balance by regulating the inflow of unorganised migrants. Unless the government provides the basic necessities of life to the rural areas and provide the productive youth in the rural areas with employment opportunities people will continuously drift in to the urban centres from the rural areas in search for better life and employment.

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