

Socio-Economical Status of Inter-State Migrant Workers in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Migration is an integral part of human history. It is world -wide phenomenon that affects the place of origin and destination of migrants. Migration has been understood as temporary or permanent shifting of place of labour from one region to another region, from one country to another country in a particular period of time. Migration has a number of socio-economic, cultural, political and demographic impacts on the lives of the migrant workers. 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, the Inter-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 another 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, economical, legal and political issues among the various states. Particularly in the recent past inter-state migration has poses a challenge to state or

nation to record or authenticate the movement of migrant labour from one place to another place. There is difficulty in getting data on Inter-State migrant workers.

Migration has been a continuous social phenomenon since the dawn of human history. Migration has been understood as temporary or permanent shifting of place of labour from one region to another region, from one country to another country in particular period. Growth of population, development of civilization, emergence of towns and cities, industrial growth and development of communication have widened the gap between rural and urban people. Moreover, lack of job opportunities, reduction of cultivable area, lack of development of the agricultural sector, lack of transport and education facilities, either due to push or pull factors, rural people move to urban areas.

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. The study of migration assumes special importance in any country in the process of development. Migration is a concept very much related to a process of change occurring within the social system. Migration has also very close to the development of the nation. Migration has a number of socio-economic, cultural, political and demographic impacts in both origin and destination places. These factors depend on the type of migration permanent, temporary, seasonal and the characteristics of the regions concerned. In this context, inter-state migration assumes special importance in making impact on socio-economical status of migrant workers in various states of India. In the present research paper, an attempt has been made to study on the “socio-economical status of Inter-State migrant workers in Tamil Nadu”.

Objectives Of The Study

- To unearth the reasons for the eruption of inter-state migrations in India as well as in Tamil Nadu.
- To analyze the socio-economical status of inter -state migrant workers in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the district of Namakkal.
- To suggest the suitable measures for improving the livelihood of 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 for the study 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. Further, secondary data for the study was collected from books, journals, periodicals, web sources, news- papers etc. The collected data was analysed 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 played an important role in the process of industrialization and urbanization. In pre-colonial times, the reasons of circulation of human population were mainly for 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. 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.

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 transport network further facilitated the migratory movement in India.

The study of migration in India may be dealt with in two parts. The first part is migration in pre-partition India and the second is post-Independence migration. Pre-partition migration in India consisted of immigration of foreigners, emigration of natives to other countries and internal migration. Post-independence migration is largely inter-state, Intra- state, inter-district and intra- district. Migration is a multidisciplinary subject and its studies are multidimensional in character.

Origin Of Migration In India

Over 45.58 crore Indians were found to be “migrants” for various reasons during the enumeration exercises of Census 2011. The previous Census (2001) had recorded the number of migrants at 31.45 crore — more than 30% lower than the 2011. Registrar General & Census Commissioner, 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’.” Migration data began to be collected with the Census of 1872, but was not very detailed until 1961. Changes introduced in 1961 continued until 2001; in the Census of 2011, a more detailed format for collecting information on migrants was adopted. Marriage and employment are the major reasons for migration. The bulk of the migration takes place within individual states. Out of the total number of persons registered as “migrants” in the 2011 Census, only 11.91% (5.43 crore) had moved to one state from another, while nearly 39.57 crore had moved within their states.

The 2011 Census enumerated 450 million internal migrants based on place of last residence, or 37 percent of the total population. The Economic Survey (2017) estimated that an average of 5–6 million Indians migrated annually between 2001 and 2011, leading to an inter-state migrant population of “about 60 million” and an inter-district migrant population “as high as 80 million” (Government of India 2017). Migrants main places of origin have traditionally been the densely populated and less urbanized states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, with major receiving states being the more industrialized and urbanized states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. As widely believed, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are responsible for the most migrants. According to the 2011 Census, 20.9 million people migrated outside the state from the two states.

COVID-19 and Migration

During the COVID -19 periods, India saw lakhs of migrant workers walking back to their hometowns due to insecurity, lack of safety nets and bleak livelihood opportunities in destination states. The lack of accurate data on inter-state migration and short term migration in India became evident during the Covid-19. During Covid-

19 migrant workers faced various social, economical and cultural issues to improve their day to day life.

Types of Migration

Migration may take in the form of out- migration or in-migration. Out migration is also known as emigration may either internal or international. Internal migration based on the place of birth and the place of enumeration. Migration may be in general classified into five types of migration.

- I) Intra-district migration: movement of people outside the place of enumeration but within the same district.
- II) Inter-district migration: movement of the people outside the district enumeration but within the same State/ Union territory.
- III) Inter -state migration: movement of the people to the States/ Union territories in India, but beyond that of enumeration.
- IV) Intra- State Migration: 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 important factors which motivate people to move can be classified into five categories. They are economic factors, demographic factors, socio-cultural factors, political factors and miscellaneous 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.

Origin Of Inter- State Migration In Tamil Nadu

Inter –State Migration refers to the movement of people from one state to another state. In the context of Tamil Nadu, Inter- state Migration refers 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 seems to be an urban phenomenon, as a majority of the population migrating 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.

As far as 2001 census is concerned Chennai and Tiruvallur Districts constitute the majority of the migrant workers from other states. 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 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.

In Tamil Nadu, some regions act as donar i.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.

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 migrant workers, 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.

Conclusions

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.

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 Government of India 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 monitoring inter-state migrant workers. In order to, improve the socio-economic status of inter-state migrant workers, a pragmatic solution to be adopted for the welfare of migrant workers. To conclude, it is need of the hour to find a new approach to tackle the problems raised among the migrant workers for their livelihood.

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