

A STUDY ON THE MIGRANT WORKERS IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT

Dr. B. MOHAMED RAFEEQ
Assistant Professor of Economics
PG.Research Dept of Economics
Jamal Mohamed College (Au)
Pudukkottai – 20.

Mrs. C. CHITRADEVI
Ph.D Research Scholar
PG.Research Dept of Economics
Jamal Mohamed College (Au)
Pudukkottai – 20.

INTRODUCTION

Human migration plays an important role in social, economic and political studies for few reasons. First as one of the basic components of population growth and redistribution, it occupies a central place in any demographic analysis. Second it has a direct effect on the economy of both the receiving and the sending areas in conjunction with the natural fluctuation in the population density of those areas. The economic effects may be large or small depending upon relative size of the migrant and the non-migrant populations, and the extent of development already taking place in the area. Moreover, apart from economic growth it also affects the social welfare, the socio-cultural and political environment of a country or region, or of a territory.

The reason could be that it is not well documented and therefore dearth of data. Further, the existing body of theories and the growing empirical research relating to migration have not made an insightful impact neither on the policy makers nor effected any alteration on the policy formulation of the state to bring a profound impact on the socio-economic conditions of the migrants or on their host or source communities. The present study attempts to investigate and bring some insights on the in-migration to Pudukkottai District.

Motivation for the study: The study of migration is of great importance not only for demographers but also interest to economists, sociologists, human geographers, political scientists, legal experts, policy makers and planners, public administrators, social pathologists and social psychologists. Migration is an essential and inevitable component of the economic and social life of every State, and the orderly and properly managed migration can be beneficial for both individuals and societies.

Economists are interested in the study of migration as it is related to the economic issues such as business cycles, supply of skilled and unskilled workers, growth of industries and a change in the

occupational and employment status of the migrants. Planners and policy makers are concerned with migration as it is associated with the socio-economic development of a country. In India and in many other developing countries the rapid urbanization and increase in the internal migratory movements especially the increasing rural-urban migration and the problems arising out of it had attracted the interest of economists, planners and policy makers to find meaningful lasting answers .

Million of the people specially the poor and the marginalized all over the world constantly on the move out of their native place or the normal place of residence in order to eke out their life sustenance and to find their future. In-migration in urban centers is a vehicle of economic and social development. It is a safety valve for shifting the population pressure from areas of high fertility and low opportunity areas to high opportunity areas. Hence, the distribution of a country's population at any given time may be seen as favouring the distribution of economic opportunities.

Background for the study: In countries like India, permanent shifts of population and workforce had co-existed with the circulatory movement of the populations between the backward and the developed regions and between the rural and the urban areas, mostly being absorbed in the unorganized sector of the economy. Earlier days the migration was normally through contract for a specified period of time in return for the payment of their passage and a contract wage. The development of the modern industry in India has brought a steep rise in the internal demand for labour. The urban pockets which are industrially developed had attracted rural labourers mainly from labour surplus states. This pattern of migration especially the flow of labourers is a persistent problem in India in modern days.

In 2011 census provisional population data, the population of India had exceeded 1.2 billion. Out of this population, 69 per cent lived in the rural areas and 31 per cent in the towns and cities. It is estimated out of the increased decennial total population, the rural population increased by 90.4 million while urban population by 91 million. This trend shows a faster urban growth in India. In a country of India's size, the existence of significant rural and urban regional disparities is not a matter of surprise. The scale and the growth of these disparities, however, are matter of concern as it leads to rural-urban migration. The growing trend in urban population and the poverty level shows that the poor households participate extensively in migration activities. Some of the recent labour studies also reconfirmed that migration in several regions of India is growing as it is a significant livelihood strategy for the poor households.

Statement of the problem: The phenomenon of migration is as old as the human race itself and it is inseparable from growth and development of human life, because human beings are constantly searching for better economic and social opportunities. Though it is a universal and perennial strategy of the distressed and desperate people for their survival in developing countries, it still looks new and different from that of the past in its causes, consequences, and volume.

There is no country exempted from the flow of population either internationally or internally. Migration once viewed as an individual's decision or concern is no more the prerogative of that individual but of the society. It is the most complex of population variables which has a profound influence on many economic variables. Its intricate relationship with development is both contested and highly unreliable.

Research gap found: The massive population movements of modern times have wider social, economic, political, demographical and ecological implications. It has been a subject matter of many disciplines and many scholars have analyzed it from different perspective. Many have studied the cause and consequences of migration using secondary data and some using primary data. Migration attracts the interest of many because of its impact on socio-economic, cultural conditions and the ethical values of human beings; and its relevance to the developmental planning. Because of its impact on the demography of a country and consequential impact on the economic variables it is considered a very significant phenomenon. This suggests how crucial a study on migration is. But, there is no systematic study on the migrants into Pudukkottai using primary data. A small scale attempt is made in this study to throw some light on the internal migration with respect to Pudukkottai Municipality. The present study bridges this research gap by making an attempt to understand the dynamics of migration by collecting information from the migrants.

Research questions raised

The gap in research poses the following research questions with regard to the in-migration to Pudukkottai district:

- What are the socio-economic conditions of the migrants?
- Why do they migrate?
- What is the nature and pattern of migration?
- Is there any relationship between skill formation and rural-urban migration?
- Does the spread of urban informal sector play any significant role in intensifying rural-urban migration?
- What effect it has on the households of the migrants?
- What impact it has on their economic conditions?
- What are the constraints faced by the Migrants Workers?

Objectives of the study

The study will focus on the following objectives and try to find the relevant information pertaining to them:

- To examine the characteristics for migration in the Pudukkottai District
- To suggest measures to the constraints of the migrants in the study area

Methods and Materials

Sources of data: The study uses both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected from the migrants and the secondary data collected from the Municipal website and the official and non-official records, reports, research surveys, periodical, magazines, Department of Statistics, journal articles and electronic sources.

Interview Procedure: Individual migration histories were collected through informal interviews mostly from the migrant and sometimes from a household. Whenever it was necessary even second visit was made to collect the data.

Sample Selection Procedure: A sample of 50 migrants was selected. A stratified multistage sampling was adapted to ensure equal distribution of the sample. Thus we selected total 500 migrants and they were listed. Then from this list the required sample 50 was selected randomly and the schedule was canvassed.

Analysis and Discussion

Personal characteristics of the migrants: Migration is characterized by enormous economic and social diversity spanning socio-economic variables such as caste, age, sex, education, family size and composition, activity, consumption levels and more.

Age: The present study has taken effort to find the age of the migrants as it determines the decision making capacity of them and the working physical ability. In a view of this the respondents were selected and grouped from minimum of 18 years of age to maximum of 60 years.

Table No: 1

Age wise classification of the Respondents

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
20 and below	5	10
20 - 40	23	46
40 - 60	18	36
Above 60	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Computed from primary data

It can be inferred from Table No: 1 that the sample migrants were more or less normally distributed. It is to be mentioned that the most of the selected migrants were in the age group (below 40 years) during the study period. Various migration studies find that the size of young dominate the migrants. This is based

on the supposition that the young can effortlessly migrate because of less immediate responsibilities. Moreover, they can make the best investment of their time and energy in urban areas where opportunities were greater.

Sex: It is found in the existing migration literature that generally the proportion of males in any migration is much higher than that of women. In many parts of Asia migration patterns tend to be particularly sex-selective, with men dominating the migratory flow.

Table No: 2

Gender wise classification of the Respondents

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	32	64
Female	18	36
Total	50	100

Source: Computed from primary data

It is clear from Table No: 2 that the percentage of male migrants is higher (64 %). The overall percentage of female migrants is 36 per cent. The finding of this study is to some extent confirm with the existing migration literature that the male were the dominant migrants.

Marital status: Generally, marriage is interpreted as a critical stage in an individual's life cycle and in many societies marriage implies movement away from the parent's place of residence, particularly for the females.

Table No: 3

Marital status of the Respondents

Marital Status	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Unmarried	27	54.00
Married	23	46.00
Total	50	100.00

Source: Computed from primary data

An attempt was made to find out the marital status of the selected migrants. The present study displays the marital status of the sample in Table No: 3. Of the total sample migrants, the married constituted around 54 per cent, the unmarried 46 per cent and divorced 6 per cent.

Education: Educational level of individuals is an important parameter influencing migration. Persons with higher levels of education tend to migrate more frequently to the far off places as compared to the less educated individuals.

Table No: 4

Educational Qualifications of the Respondents

Qualification	No. of Respondent	Percentage
No formal Education	3	6
Primary	19	38
Secondary	5	10
HSC	5	10
Diploma	7	14
Professional	2	4
Degree	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Computed from primary data

The Table No: 44 indicate that the higher proportions of migrants were educated up to primary level (38 %) that is out of the 50 sample respondents. The respondents with Degree level education (18%) form the next largest segment of migrants from the sample. Nearly 13 per cent each the respondents have got High School, Higher Secondary School and Diploma level education. The professional level educated were 5 per cent and Illiterates are 7 per cent of the respondents. Availability of quality education is one of the vital indicators of better standard of living. This generally decides the status of living of the peoples after migrations. The poor educational background shows that the respondents may not have better bargaining in the job market.

Family type: Family considerations play an important role in migration. The major objective of migration in most cases is to maximize the benefits of the entire family, rather than of purely individual benefits. At the point of destination it is advantages to have a smaller family, because it does not stress the migrant economically.

Table No: 5**Family type wise classification of the Respondents**

Family Type	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Nuclear	33	66.00
Joint	17	34.00
Total	50	100.00
Source: Computed from primary data		

Therefore, an analysis was made to study the type of family of the selected migrants and the result is depicted. It is clear that a majority of migrants are found belonging to nuclear family system. This is so because many like to avoid the problem of managing large family. Only 34 per cent of the sample has joint families. The family structure is likely to facilitate migration in to urban areas.

Migration details: Here the researcher is attempting to provide details on migration status the nature of migration that is whether the migration is permanent or temporary; origin of migration detailing the nature and administrative origin of the migrant and the process of migration are explained.

Nature of migration: There are different kinds of migration like permanent migration, student migration, marriage migration, skilled migration and temporary migration. Permanent migration and temporary migration have emerged as the predominant types of population movements in the world. In this type of migration the receiving region has to actively pursue programs to meet socio-economic demands of the migrant population and the already existing local population. Moreover, different migrations have different impacts on the process of development in the sending and receiving regions. Therefore, the nature of migration is investigated in the present study.

Table No: 6**The distribution of migrant on the basis of nature of migration**

Nature of Migration	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Permanent	43	86
Temporary	07	14
Total	50	100.00

Source: Computed from Field Survey data

The table no. 6 shows the details about the nature of migration with regard to the sample respondents. It shows majority of the respondents were permanent migrants who intent to stay permanently in the Pudukkottai. The permanent nature of migration has two different effects, one is positive and the other is negative, depending upon the skill level of the migrants. A skilled migrant is an asset to the destination but a loss to the origin. In the same way an unskilled migrant, to certain extent, is a liability to the destination and relief to the origin. Out of the 50 respondents only 7 respondents that is 14 per cent of the sample were temporary migrants.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The following findings are find out the researcher in the study area

- More rural-urban migrants and they were from other districts of Tamil Nadu.
- 46 per cent of the Migrants under the age group of 20-40.
- In the study area 64 per cent are male migrants.
- total sample migrants, the married constituted around 54 per cent, the unmarried 46 per cent and divorced 6 per cent.
- 38 per cent the respondents are hold primary education in the study area.
- total respondents, a considerably larger proportion of migrants belonged to Backward Class (44 %).
- 66 per cent the respondents are living in nuclear family.
- 86 per cent the respondents are permanent migration in the study area.
- 69 per cent lied on migrants' earning and no other source of income.
- 89 percent had to wait for employment and the rest got job on arrival.

SUGGESTIONS:

The migration of workers cannot be stopped, so the sufficient awareness must be provided about the schemes of the government that benefits the women such as nation maternity benefits and social security schemes.

- Rural industrialization like improving cottage, small-scale or agro-based industries would facilitate absorption of unemployed and under-employed rural workers.
- A strong viable agricultural co-operative should be established to cultivate small pieces of land for a better result. Loans need to be provided to the farmers at minimum rate of interest.
- The strategies suggested below would be of some help in reducing in-migration to the urban areas.

- Improve the agricultural marketing by fixing reasonable prices for the agricultural commodities, arranging storage and transport facilities through government departments for the convenience of the farmers and marketing.

CONCLUSION:

As this study had been carried out based on primary data, the study has got its own specific Limitations. The definition used for migration does not include migrants, who stayed for less than six months. Only the sample migrants are studied, hence the results may fall short of the actual characteristics of the universe. The data may not be exact as the respondents may be biased, may not know the exact value or poor memory. The findings of the study are limited to time and space and cannot be applied universally. However in spite of these limitations a sincere effort has been made to make the study as accurate and meaningful as possible. The study reveals that the migrant workers must be empowered and above all they must be seen as unique personalities to treat them with respect and to uphold their dignity.

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