



Impact of migration on development of socio-economic conditions -A study among migrant workers in Coastal Karnataka

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Abstract

Socio economic conditions are very crucial in migration. The present study aimed at assessing migrant workers on how migration brought an impact on their socio-economic conditions. It is a cross-sectional study and self structured questionnaire, interview and focus group discussions (FGD) were used to study participants. Sample size was estimated with population proportion. 384 (192 from each district) participants were selected from the coastal Karnataka mainly Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts. Among the selected participants 307 (80%) were males and 77 (20%) were females. Around 49% had no income and 35.2% of them had income of bellow Rs 25,000/- before they migrate from their native place (before 5 years). At present their annual income increased drastically where 42.4% of them were earning income of more than Rs. 2,00,000/- per year since 5years. Merely 43.8% of them felt that migration has been a source of income to improve their socio-economic conditions. Paired Samples test shows that there was a highly significant difference at, $p=0.000<0.01^{**}$ between present income and impact of migration. The overall study shows that migration brought changes in social structure of people who migrated from other parts of Karnataka state and India. The social change and economic gains strengthens the social network which provides wider opportunities for people who look for better job prospects. But migration should be processed in a systematic administrated structure and generated income should be sustainable for their future prospects.

Key Words: **Migration, Socio-economic, migrant workers, development, Income and Impact.**

INTRODUCTION

Migration brings a profound impact on the lives of the migrant households. Migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways (Azam and Gubert 2006). While migration has economic, social, and cultural implications for the sending and host societies, remittances the migrants send home are perhaps the most tangible and least controversial link between migration and development (Ratha 2007).

A country like India, more than one billion people, India constitutes a giant “internal market” for labour. In the last 15 years, globalisation has resulted in both the expansion and contraction of different regional labour markets, with new jobs appearing in some areas through manufacturing, mechanised commercial farming, high wages and urbanisation. But in many rural areas, failing agriculture, factory closures and environmental degradation have led to unemployment and driven many people to look for work in cities. The result, particularly in the last decade, has been an immense increase in internal migration of unorganised, unskilled and semi-skilled labour throughout the country. In Karnataka, for example, the northern regions, which are underdeveloped and suffer from land degradation and frequent drought, are a key source of migrant labour for towns such as Udupi and Mangalore. The difference in wages between the two regions is huge 20 rupees a day in Northern Karnataka and about 130 rupees a day in the coastal town of Udupi and Mangalore Districts. As long as severe regional economic imbalances exist, thousands of workers including many children will continue to leave the North in search of employment in the South and West of the State. The reasons for migration are uneven rainfall, fragmented land holdings, heavy downpour in coastal areas compared to interior areas, and the occurrence of seasonal rivers which are some of the drawbacks of these districts. Poor wages of agricultural laborers, frequent droughts leading to crop failure and consequently to unemployment, have compelled them to migrate to places outside their native soil, in search of better prospects (The Times of India, 2016). This evidence shows that with literacy and mechanization pushing migrant labor force in coastal Karnataka to economic prosperity as well as migration has been a source for uplifting the socio-economic conditions.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- The present study aimed at assessing migrant workers on how migration brought an impact on their socio-economic conditions
- To find out the association between previous income and the present income earned by the participants
- To study the impact of migration and determine its relation towards current earned income

METHODS AND TOOLS

A cross-sectional study was conducted with qualitative and quantitative method. The sample size was estimated with population proportion 1000 population in each districts (mainly DK and Udipi) as per previous studies and other related documents. So as to 192 participants were selected from each districts with total 384

Self structured questionnaire was used to assess participants by visiting construction work site, visit their living areas, work place etc. Interviews and focused group discussions were also conducted to get the precise and accurate information. Researcher also had dialogue with labor officers, Labour welfare association, NGO members, local leaders, school teachers, journalist, social workers and employers. During data collection confidentiality was assured as well as written consent was taken from concerned officials and participants of the study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze frequency, percentage, association and relationship between variables and their interpretation with help SPSS (version-21)

RESULTS

Table No.1.1., Demographic background of the participants

Age	18-28	82	21.3
	29-38	137	35.6
	39-48	97	25.2
	49-58	48	12.5
	59-68	20	5.2
Gender	Male	307	80
	Female	77	20
Marital Status	Married	216	56.2
	Not Married	160	41.7
	Widow	6	1.6
	Divorce	2	0.5
Religion	Hindu	354	92
	Muslim	17	4.4
	Christian	6	1.5
Education	Illiterate	116	30.2
	Primary	66	17.2
	Secondary	76	19.8
	S.S.L.C	90	23.4
	PUC/degree	26	6.8
	Others	10	2.6

The above table explicates on democratic profile of the participants. Out of 384 selected respondent's majority of the were young and adults between the age of 18-28 years (21.3%), 29-38 years (35.6%) and between the age of 39 to 48 years (25.2%). Among them 80% were males and 20% were females. Majority of the participants 92% were Hindus by religion. 56.2% of them married, 41.7% were not married, 1.6% widows and 0.5% divorced. Among the participants 30.2% were illiterates, 17.2% and 19.8% were able to complete primary and secondary schooling. 23.4% were completed S.S.L.C, 6.8% PUC/Degree and others 2.6% were able to complete skill based education.

Table No.1.2., Association between current income and earlier income

Current Income	Earlier income of the family			Total	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	0	bellow 10000	10000-25000						
Bellow 10000	56	9	6	71 (18.5%)	2.19792	1.12526	38.276	383	.000** (HS)
10000 to 25000	50	16	6	72 (18.8%)					
50000	30	41	7	78 (20.3%)					
Above 100000 - 200000	52	69	42	163(42.4%)					
Total	188 (49%)	135 (35.2%)	61 (15.9%)	384 (100%)					

Table no 1.2., portrays the association between with current income and earlier income (before migration). The income generated by the participants at present were bellow 25,000 (18.5%), above 25000 (18.8%), 50,000 (20.3%) and above 100000 to 2,00,000 (42.5%). The other hand the income acquired by them before coming to migrated place were 0 income (49%), bellow 10000 (35.2%) and above 10000 to 25000 (15.9%)

The result of the study as per chi-square test shows that mean score was higher than the std. deviation (2.1± 1.1). It means that there was a highly significant difference between variable at (t=38.276) p=0.000(**). The current income generated by migrant workers was higher than income that was earned before coming to the migrant place. So as to say that generating income is one of the criteria for migrating to other place

Table No.1.3., Association between current income and impact of migration

Impact		Bellow 10,000	10000 to 25000	50000	above 100000 - 200000	Total	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
HS		6	5	6	20	37	9.6
S		23	25	42	78	168	43.8
Moderate		14	16	11	31	72	18.8
PS		21	33	18	17	89	23.2
VPS		7	9	1	1	18	4.7
Total	F	71	88	78	47	384 (100)	
	P	18.5	22.9	20.3	38.2		

The study assessed on the level of association between the impact of migration due to current income generated by migrant workers. Levels of impact portrayed in above table as Highly Satisfaction (HS), Satisfaction (S), Moderate (M), Poor satisfaction (PS) and Very Poor Satisfaction (VPS) for impact of migration.

The table portrays that an impact of migration among majority of participants where those who earn income above 100000 -200000 (38.2%) had satisfaction (43.8%) and high satisfaction (9.6%) with their migration to coastal Karnataka and for those income was 50000 and below (42, 9.8%) were dissatisfied (PS-23.2% and VPS 4.7%) with the migration to coastal Karnataka and others 72, 18.8% were felt that impact was moderate level. With regard to overall association shows that those who felt more income had more satisfaction and those who had less income felt poor satisfaction and further majority of the migrant workers were satisfied with migration due to income they generated.

Table no 1.4., **Correlation between current income and impact of migration**

Correlation		Current Income	Overall Impact
Current Income	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	-.191**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	384	384
Overall Impact	Correlation Coefficient	-.191**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	384	384

** . Correlation is highly significant at the $p=0.000<0.01$ level (2-tailed).

Karl Pearson correlation coefficient was performed to ascertain impact of migration due to current income generated by migrant workers. Correlation coefficient were equivalent to -0.191 , $p=0.000<0.01$ shows that there exists a significant negative correlation between impact of migration where the mixture of distribution of the data with regard to satisfaction. Even those who were able to generate less income were also satisfied with their migration to coastal Karnataka. Therefore it can be concluded that migrating to coastal Karnataka was satisfactory to most among the migrant workers.

DISCUSSION

Basically migrant are coming from poor economic background and due to lack of unemployment, illiteracy, different forms of exploitations, drawbacks in implementing affiliating government policies, reforms and lack of resources to live basic quality of life. This is the basic understanding about migration and migrant workers. The present study aimed to investigate how migration helped to uplift the socio-economic conditions among migrant workers in Coastal Karnataka. There are different studies also provide evidence to prove that migrant workers move from their native place to migrated place. A study conducted in Punjab, India found that 34% of the migrant workers were able earn more than 50 thousand (Baljinder et. al, 2015)). A study done in Kerala that poor economic conditions in the native place, high wage rate and better employment opportunities and other overlapping factors have been identified as main reason for migration (Saika Dilip, 2015). Another study in Kerala analyses the socio-economic impact of migrant workers where it predicted that there was positive and negative impact of migrant

laborers (Manu Mahan, 2020). A study conducted in Bangalore assessed that there has been flow of migrant workers coming from different parts of the country who seek fetch higher income and better working conditions (T Rajendra Prasad & B Shamala, 2019). A study aimed to analyze socio-economic conditions of migrant laborers in Ghana shows that education, secondary occupation, nature of contact, expectation and earning before migration social capital, asset ownership, and social amenities are key determinants of migrant's satisfactions (Bismarl Amfo, 2019).

But there was slight variation in the opinions identified through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interviews with social workers, labor welfare officers, school teachers, labor association members, NGO partners, media personnel and employers. As per their views, migrants are the most important resources for the development of cities of South Canara Districts. Whatever the structural development of buildings, construction work; roads were built with the help of migrant workers. Economic development takes place only when migrant workers are given proper safety and protection but in other ways they are most vulnerable population and exploited due to many reasons expressed by man of the migrant workers while having interaction with them. During the interview with Labor Welfare Officer, he said that a majority of the migrant workers have not been able to register under inter-state workmen (regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service), this provision helps them to access to government facilities. As per school teacher's opinion that many of the children of migrant workers are not regular to the school, often they find either drop out or leave in between. The reasons are child marriage followed among north Karnataka migrant workers. Girls of young age are sexually abused and they are forced to stay at home either to take care of their siblings or do house hold work and some of the parents take their children to their work place or forced them child labor. A journalist from Udupi district shared his experience in working with migrants especially during pandemic, lock down. He said, it was very surprising and shocking that more than 3000 people were at a time moved to their native place in single train. They had to travel for week to reach their native place. They were forced to leave districts without any proper planning. This is one of the evidence that flow of migrant workers coming down to south Canara districts doubled due to seeking economic stability. An interview with Social Worker's and NGO partners who provided an understanding about why migrant workers come down to southern states. They expressed that a majority of these migrant workers were coming from Jharkand, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, Bengal, Andra Pradesh and North Karnataka and especially people from state like Jharkand, Bihar called as Adivasis, due to land mafia and political pressure were sent out from those places. They were not even able to earn income and the income they used to earn was not able to fulfill their basic needs. Some of them were able to get only Rs 25 to 50 per day and most them were youth but after coming down to South Canara they are able to earn Rs 300, 500, 700 and even 1000 per day. Similarly study shows that 38% of them were able earn more than 1,00,00 to 2,00,000 per anum as well as 48% of them were satisfied. So overall the study illustrates that there is a mixture of opinion about migrant workers living conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The study portrayed in the evidence that there is an economic stability and growth among the life of migrant workers in South Canara Districts. Even though majority of the people are able to earn income to raise their economic condition but they fail to live up to their quality life some of them are living in poor hygienic conditions and the best example is impact of lockdown due to COVID 19 pandemic. Poor wages, erratic employment, hazardous work conditions and lack of essential services define the experience of migrant workers. The overall study shows that migration brought changes in social structure of people who migrated from other parts of Karnataka state and India. The social change and economic gains strengthens the social network which provides wider opportunities for who look for better job prospects. But it is essential that migration should be processed in a systematic administrated structure and the income generated should be sustainable for their future prospects. Awareness and interactive dialogue through government officials, associations and social workers which could be an effective source of information for migrants workers who can access to government scheme, employment skill training. Particularly initiated and integrated programmes required to promote education, skill development training for younger generation (youth and children) and women. Further assessment required through empirical research studies to provide data how acquired socio-economic stability can be sustainable and provide better opportunities for younger generation in term education, health and employment.

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