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Economic and social study of migration of Adivasis in Nandurbar district

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Abstract

The number of Adivasis migrating from Nandurbar district (M.S.) to other places are approximately one Lakh. The number is increasing every year. Adivasis face a lot of economical and social problems at work place. Adivasis have to work very hard at work place. They live a very hard life. They face a lot of economical and social problems like exploitation, addiction, Aids, Sickle Cell, Malaria, malnutrition, child deaths, educational problems of their children, girls and women are kidnapped and molested etc.

Keywords: Migration, koyta, daily wages, addiction, jaglya

Introduction

The Nandurbar district was included in Dhule district before 18 years. Nandurbar district was formed on 1 July 1998. The district has not developed as expected even after 18 years of its coming into existence. In the district 70.30% of the population is Adivasi and approximately 90% of them live below the poverty line. The district ranks 35st that is the last, in the state according to the Human Development Index. Crores of Rupees have been spent till 2015-16 on the development of the district and also the Adivasis. Still there is no development of Adivasis. Most of the Adivasi families from Nandurbar district are migrating to Gujarat state to earn their livelihood.

Nandurbar district and migration of Adivasis has almost become like an equation and the Adivasis continue to suffer from geographical conditions, farming conditions, corruption, exploitation, bankruptsy, lack of work, failure of the 'Rojgar Hami Yojana', an indifferent Government and thus Adivasis have no choice rather than migrate for livelihood. The number of Adivasis migrating from Nandurbar district is approximately one Lakh. This number is increasing every year. Adivasis face a lot of economical and social problems. Adivasis have to work very hard at work place. They live a very hard life. They face a lot of economical and social problems like exploitation, addition, Aids, sickle cell Malaria, malnutrition, child deaths, educational problems of their children, girls and women are kidnapped and molested etc. The researcher has chosen this subject for research to study these problems and suggests solutions for the same.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the reasons of migration of Adivasi families
2. To study the reasons of migration of Adivasis
3. To study the lifestyle, work-conditions and income conditions of the migrated Adivasis
4. To study the effect on the life of migrated Adivasis
5. To identify the problems and suggest solutions for the same

Assumptions

1. Most of the Adivasi families only have to migrate to other states in large number.
2. Adivasis migrate because there is no guarantee of daily wages in the state and in other states there is assurance of daily wages with good earning potential.
3. Women also have to migrate along with men to other states.
4. Adivasis migrate in other States has become a routine thing. This migration continues from one generation to another.

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Method of study

For the following study the researcher has collected samples and used the survey method. The researcher has surveyed 300 migrated families from 6 Taluka places like Nandurbar – 50, Shahada – 50, Navapur – 50, Taloda 50, Akkalkuva 50 and Dhadgaon (Akrani) 50 from the district. This research study is based on primary information and also secondary information.

The secondary information includes various websites, ‘Hakara’, ‘Adivasi Sanshodhan Patrika’, ‘Government and Semi-Government’ reports. Newspapers like the daily ‘Sakal’, ‘Lokmat’, ‘Deshdoot’, ‘Nanddarshan’ etc. I am and always will be grateful to research authors, various Institutions, Editors and Interviewees.

The economics of the migration of Adivasis

The Adivasis go the districts like Navsari, Bardoli, Vyara, Valsad, Marol, Chalthan, Madhi and Ganadevi and other areas of sugarcane factories to cut sugarcane. They get payment depending on the (koyta).

What is a ‘Koyta’? A ‘Koyta’ is used to cut sugarcane, so the number of laborers is defined as per the ‘Koyta’. One ‘Koyta’ means two laborers. One Koyta includes one labor man and one labor woman; this means that for one Koyta there are two laborers.

Many agents or supervisors are active in collecting the laborers from the district and taking them to Gujarat. The agents and supervisors have direct contact with the Managing Committees of Sugarcane factories in Gujarat. The management of sugarcane factories pays the Adivasis an amount of 5 to 6 thousand rupees in advance through the supervisors to avoid the situation labor scarcity, so there it is binding for laborers and the agents and supervisors also get their commission. This commission is subtracted from the laborer’s payment.

Do the Adivasi laborers really benefit from migration? What is the advantage of the daily wages in migrated places as compared to the local daily wages? This is a topic of separate research. The effort and energy consumed to cut sugarcane and the money earned against that is not at all matching. But there is no guarantee of daily wages in the district, compared to this situation Gujarat at least guarantees assured work.

There is no guarantee of earning livelihood in this district. The Adivasis also think about the amount they can have in hand for the rainy season. What does this achieve? The Adivasi migrant laborer thinks about the current situation and today, he does not worry about the future.

The migration of Adivasis in the district

Migration means a tendency of leaving your home town or place. This means a place or situation where he is not comfortable anymore and does not want to continue living there, in this situation he leaves the place and migrates somewhere else for better prospects.

There are many reasons behind migration such as lack of means of earning, poverty and the sluggish Government. The Adivasis migrate to other states temporarily or permanently with their families.

Adivasi families from all six taluka places (like Akkalkuva, Akrani, Shahada, Taloda, Navapur and Nandurbar) of Nandurbar district are seen to be migrating a lot. The Adivasi families start preparing for migration from the month of October. They migrate to Gujarat during the period of October to May for work.

Many families from the district migrate temporarily. Many of these families work as labor for sugar cane cutting, brick making, construction, farms or as jaglya etc. After the work is over they have to search work at other construction sites. So they have to even go without food many days. In the following you will find an analysis of the information gathered at the workplace of the migrant Adivasis.

The average number of migrated Adivasi laborers per family

In the table number 1 the average number of Adivasi labours according to their tribe migrated from Nandurbar district to Gujarat State has been given.

Table 1: Average number of migrated Adivasi laborers per family

Sr. No.	Tribe	Number of families (n= 300)	Number of laborers	Average number per family
1	Bhilla	95	505	5.3
2	Pavara	86	394	3.4
3	Dhanaka	45	104	2.3
4	Gavit	36	76	2.1
5	Mavachi	27	75	2.7
6	Kokani	19	24	2.1
	Total	300	1078	3.6

Source: Direct Interview

It is evident from the table that the average number of migrated Adivasis from various tribes is 3.6. The tribe that migrates most is the Bhilla tribe and their average is 5.3.

The tribes that migrate least are Kokana and Dhanaka. The average number of these laborers is 2.1. This explains that the Bhilla tribe migrates has to migrate for work with family than the other tribes.

They are living in poverty. The Pavara tribe ranks number two in poverty. Dhanaka, Gavit and Bhavachi are the sub-tribes of the main Bhilla tribe, but they consider themselves as separate tribes. 32 Tribes exist in Nandurbar district. However only the main tribes that migrate have been considered for this study.

Classification of the Adivasis according to season

Table number 2 describes the classification of Adivasi families migrating from the district according to season and duration.

Table 2: Proportion of migrated Adivasi families and family members as per season

Sr. No.	Season	Period of migration						Total	
		2 months		3 months		4 months		Families	Members
		Families	Members	Families	Members	Families	Members		
1	Rainy season	15	54	12	43	--	--	27	97
2	Winter	32	45	72	72	11	179	63	226
3	Summer	147	529	158	158	19	68	210	755
	Total	194	628	76	273	30	177	300	1078

Source: Direct Interview

Table no. 2 describes the proportion of migrated Adivasi laborer families and family members in 2, 3 and 4 months. The number of families and family members migrating in the rainy season for 2-3 months is 27 and number of members is 97. The maximum number of migration is in the winter and summer season. 63 families and 226 family

members migrate in winter season, 210 families and 755 family members migrate in summer season.

Earnings of migrated Adivasi laborers at work:

The average earning per family of Adivasis migrated from Nandurbar district and also the average per laborer earning has been given in table number 3.

Table 3: The earning of migrated Adivasi laborers (In Rupees)

Sr. No	Tribe	Number of families	Number of laborers	Total earning	Total earning of per family	Total earning of per labour
1	Bhilla	95	505	83,09,700(61.32)	87,470.52	16,609.69
2	Pavara	86	294	34,13,250(25.18)	39,688.15	11,609.69
3	Dhanaka	45	104	7,06,650(5.21)	15,703.33	6,794.71
4	Gavit	36	76	4,04,700(2.98)	12,241.66	5,325.00
5	Mavachi	27	75	4,25,250(3.13)	15,750.00	5,670.00
6	Kokani	11	24	2,91,000(2.14)	26,454.54	12,125.00
	Total	300	1078	1,35,50,550(100)	45,168.50	12,1750.00

Source: Direct Interview

This can throw a light on the lifestyle, daily wages and earnings of migrated Adivasi labours families. It is clear from the table number 3 that out of the migrated 300 families, 1078 laborers have earned 1 Crore 35 Lakh 550 thousand Rupees. So the average earning per family of all the 300 families is 45 thousand 168 Rupees 50 Paise. So per laborer earning is 12 thousand 750 rupees.

The Bhilla tribe has earned the maximum income that is 83 Lakh 09 Thousand 700 Rupees. In the total earning of all the six tribes that migrate, the earning of Bhilla tribe amounts to 61.32%. Kokani tribe has earned the minimum income of 2 Lakh 91 Thousand and their share is 2.1%, because the Kokani tribe and their family members have a less rate of migration. Per family maximum average earning is of Bhilla tribe and the minimum earning is of Gavit tribe. per labour average earning of Bhilla tribe is maximum and the earning of Gavit tribe is minimum.

The expenditure of migrated Adivasi labour

The average expenditure of every Adivasi family is 45,225 Rupees 56 Paise. The average expenditure per laborer is 12, 586 Rupees and 96 Paise.

The average expenditure of the Bhilla tribe is the most and the minimum expenditure is that of the Kokani tribe. In all tribes the expenditure on addiction, loan repayment, festivals, alcohol, cigarette etc. is more than food. Out of the total earning 50% expenditure is on cigarette, tobacco, gutkha, country liquor, etc. 30 5 of the earning is spent on festivals and loan repayment. The remaining 20% of the expenditure is spent on food, clothing and travel. After all the expenditure if there is any money left it is used or if nothing is used they will borrow money from the supervisor or take a loan and this amount is then used once they return home in the rainy season. The rate of interest is 10 percent to 100 percent.

The features of the migration of Adivasi laborers:

The following features could be observed during the study of Adivasi laborers in the Nandurbar district.

1. Out of the immigrants from the district 70% are Adivasis
2. The percentage of people migrating in other states is 75%
3. 11% migrate to cities.
4. 14% migrate within districts.

5. The percentage of migrating men and women between 15 to 24 years is 75%.
6. The economic reason behind the migration is that the laborers get 150 to 175 Rupees extra if the Adivasis seek work outside the district.

The reasons of migration of Adivasi laborers:

1. The most important reason behind migration is the poverty of the Adivasis
2. Not having or having very less farm/land.
3. No income source.
4. Not getting enough wages to sustain livelihood.
5. Getting fewer wage in local market but getting more wages and assurance of work in migrated places.
6. Migration is a must because of loan taken from supervisor.

Problems of migrated Adivasi labour

1. Economic reasons

The migrated laborers are exploited at the work place. They are not paid the full amount that they deserve. They are given the agreed amount and grains after 15 days. There is no account of daily wages or earnings. Most of the Adivasis are illiterate and not knowledgeable, so they do not understand if they are given less than the agreed amount.

In some of the families the debt is increasing and the rate of interest can vary from 10 to 100%. The laborer cannot change work and go from one owner to another. In some places the Adivasis are treated like bonded.

2. Social problems

The laborers have to also carry their children with them while migrating. Thus the children are deprived of education. Not only education but also social problems like health, addiction and crime develop. The nature of work at the place of migration is cutting sugarcane, cutting wood, picking up sand etc. The work on construction sites, brick making and other work is very tedious and requires lot of energy.

In order to distress men and women alike take help of alcohol. This alcohol is country liquor or hand-made liquor. This makes the already addicted people more addicted, and their health deteriorates, as they eat less and drink more. They do not leave to take rest. The percentage of AIDS is increasing because of interaction within the community, as

all migrants are staying together. These migrants thus face serious illnesses like Sickle Cell anemia, galgand, malnutrition etc.

They do not get pure drinking water. They do not even get water for daily bathing. They have to take shelter in slums. Some do not even get to live in a slum so they have to sleep in open place without any shelter. Wives and girls of laborers are taken away and sometimes they on their won run away with other men and commit suicide. There are also same cases of accidents.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were derived from the research made about Nandurbar district to study the migrated Adivasi laborers.

1. The percentage of Adivasi families migrating from the district is 70%.
2. Out of the 940 places in the district there migration is seen from 53% of the places.
3. 44% of the families have to compulsorily migrate with their family members.
4. Women also have to migrate along with men. The percentage of women migrants is 38%.
5. Each laborer on an average gets daily wages work for 83 days.
6. The percentage of literacy among migrated Adivasi laborers in men is 6% and in women it is as low as 2%.
7. It has been seen that out of the migrated 300 families 36 families own 2 to 3 Acres of land, 11 families own couple of bullocks, 21 families own cows, 2 families own buffalos and 13 families own goats and hens.
8. The laborers do not get enough work locally in the Government's 'Rojgar Hami Yojana' meaning 'work for all'. JCB machines are being routinely used for this work nowadays.
9. Machines are being preferred for farming work. So the demand for laborers in the district has reduced.
10. Those who migrate to cities have to stay in 'Bhilati'. They do not get any of Government concessions.

Measures that can be taken to stop migration:

1. Start industry in the district and grow it.
2. Provide additional facilities and do farming.
3. Implement the fruit farming program of BAIF Institute.
4. Set up factories to produce herbal liquor from Mahu fruits.
5. Promote travel and tourism in the district.
6. Effectively implement the Government's 'Rojgar Hami Yojana' (work for all).
7. Pay a rainy season allowance to stop migration.
8. The migrants should form an association.
9. The migrants should be given the benefits of Gujarat State.
10. Form 'Bachat Gat' (Saving groups).

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