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Causes and consequences of internal migration: A study of migrants in Jammu City

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Abstract

Migration is a universal phenomenon and the present study focuses on the migrant workers from various states to Jammu City. The study will aim at studying the socio-economic conditions of migrants in order to highlight their living standards which in turn can prove to be useful in policy making and administration. Therefore the given study will provide a holistic view of the problems and prospects of migrants.

Keywords: Migration, migrants, socio-economic

Introduction

Migration is a dynamic process where people move from one place to another, permanent or temporarily. There are numerous reasons for the movement of people but poverty remains to be one of the most common reasons for internal migration. Economist J.K Galbraith describes migration as the oldest action against poverty. Migrants, an umbrella term, not defined under International law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an International border, temporarily or permanent, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers, persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined such as smuggled migrants, as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as International students. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines "labor, casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another offering their services temporarily or permanent, usually seasonal basis.

Internal migration is an important and pervasive feature of the Indian economy and society. The 2011 Census enumerated 450 million internal migrants based on place of last residence, or 37% 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. Migrants main place of origin have traditionally been the densely populated and less urbanized states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Aims and Objectives of the study

1. To identify factors causing internal migration.
2. To get an insight into the various socio-economic indicators.
3. To study the push and pull factors for their migration.
4. To ascertain the sectors, the migrants are engaged in.
5. To analyze the impact of the work taken over by the migrants over the local workers.

Area of the study

The Union Territory of India is divided into two regions, Jammu and Kashmir. The sample size will be selected from Roopnagar, Jammu city. The locality of roopnagar has a population of 12367 of which male and female populations are 6595 and 5772 respectively. The size of the area is about 2.68 sq Km. The area selected is a fast developing one as a lot of construction work is going on because of which a large number of migrants especially

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from UP and Bihar are residing here. These migrant workers along with their families have either occupied the land adjacent to the nallahs or in the vacant plots. The males are mostly working as laborers whereas the women are working as domestic help.

Sample size

A total of 30 respondents were selected on the basis of purposive sampling as the selection of units is deliberate and based on prior judgment.

Research Methodology

The research will also be conducted on the basis of functional approach in an attempt to understand the social phenomenon and its contribution in maintaining the balance and stability of the social structure. These labor migrants provide almost all the services that are required in the day to day life of the common man such as labor, domestic help, vegetable vendors, tailors, plant nurseries, gardening, laundry, brick kilns, small scale industries etc.

Observations of the Study

Table 1: Native State

| Reponses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 11 | 36.66 % |
| Bihar | 10 | 33.33 % |
| Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 20 % |
| Others | 3 | 10 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

The given table indicates the maximum no of migrants i.e (11 out of 30) are from Uttar Pradesh in accordance with the national data of internal migration which is followed by Bihar i.e (10 out of 30). Others include the States of Rajasthan and also West Bengal.

Table 2: Number of years of stay in Jammu

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 0-5 yrs | 3 | 10 % |
| 5-10 yrs | 12 | 40 % |
| 10-15 yrs | 12 | 40 % |
| 15 yrs and above | 3 | 10 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

As indicated by the given table, a large number of respondents are living in the Jammu city from past many years which shows that they find the area very conducive for living. Many of the respondents shared that they have even spent their childhood here and are now married and are parents themselves. They are also now accustomed to the local rituals and their way of living has also undergone a tremendous change.

Even the enduing influence of the locals can be seen in the dress patterns and also on the food habits that they are having. They are also well versed with the local language and can speak it fluently which not only flares up their demand in the local market but also make the locals feel more relative and confident about them.

Table 3: Push factors

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Better wages | 18 | 60 % |
| Caste issues | 4 | 13.33 % |
| Less family interference | 6 | 20 % |
| Better facilities | 02 | 6.66 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

When asked about the reasons behind their migration from their native places to Jammu, a significant number of respondents i.e (18 out of 30), mentioned better wage to be of the prime reason for their migration. Not only the wages are better but the employment opportunities are also numerous in Jammu. Another factor that caught the attention was that most of the families that have migrated

are nuclear wherein the elders are still residing in their native communities. The reason being they are not ready to be uprooted in their old age and also in some cases they have agricultural land which they take care and manage on their own. A good number of the respondents also shared that they have their own permanent pucca houses and the elders also act as caretakers of their property back home. In addition to this a lot of unnecessary intervention from the big families irked these families forcing them to leave their places.

In some areas where the majority of population i.e dominant caste was not as the respondent's regular trivial tension was faced, giving to which (4 out of 30) respondents migrated. Another major pull factor was the environment, less population and other facilities like education, health etc also attracted the youth from these areas to move out.

Table 4: Comparative earning status

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Less | 0 | 0 |
| More | 30 | 100% |
| Total | 30 | 100% |

All the respondents who were questioned revealed that they are earning more after migrating. Though in their villages they had their own houses but here also the rent that they are paying is minimal.

Table 5: Living areas Jammu

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| Slums | 8 | 26.66 % |
| Vacant plots | 18 | 60 % |
| Under construction houses/vacant houses | 4 | 13.33 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

The advantage of residing in the areas in and around upper Roopnagar is that the colonies here are not fully constructed because of which a conspicuous number of plots are lying vacant and the owners in order to have security and the maintenance of their plots have given it to the migrants in a very cost friendly monthly rents. Because of this, they not only have safe and secure place of living but also for subsistence they have enough water and land to grow

vegetables on their own. In addition, they are also getting privacy. Therefore most of the respondent's i.e (18 out of 30) prefer plots. Also, there is a nallah that has a considerable number of slums where (8 out of 30) are residing giving the convenience and option to the locals for unskilled work.(4 out of 30) are living in the under construction houses where they work in the daytime and provide security at night. The people who have moved out have also kept these migrants as caretakers in their houses.

Table 6: Nature of work

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Daily wagers | 11 | 36.66 % |
| Gardeners | 8 | 26.66 % |
| Vegetable vendors | 6 | 20 % |
| In boutiques, tent houses etc | 5 | 16.66 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

Most of the respondent's i.e (11 out of 30) is working as daily wagers, preferably nearby because of the reason that many of the houses are under construction. Another preferred work is of gardening as 26.66% are working as gardeners who at their houses also have much required space for the equipments, seedlings and saplings. Almost all of the vegetable vendors nearby this particular location are non locals. Only a trace number of vendors are locals. It is also pertinent to mention here that 80% of the boutiques in the given area have hired non locals for stitching and other related works.

Besides, the number of respondents enquired, some of the women were also interviewed the majority of whom are working as domestic help if not taking care of the children. They too have lots of opportunity to earn on their own and contribute to the family income.

Table 7: Wages/month

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 5000-10,000 | 5 | 16.66 % |
| 10,000- 15000 | 17 | 56.66 % |
| 15,000-20,000 | 7 | 23.33 % |
| 20,000 and above | 1 | 3.33 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

The main reason for moving to Jammu was wages and 56.66% i.e (17 out of 30) are earning between 10,000 to 15000 corresponding to the meeting up of their basic needs. Also because many of the families are living from many years altogether, in case of emergencies the locals also provide them monetary and other helps. They also look up to the locals for borrowing the money. A strong bond of trust has build up.

Table 8: Whether they want to go back or not

| Responses | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Yes | 8 | 26.66 % |
| No | 22 | 73.33 % |
| Total | 30 | 100 % |

When enquired about their future plans, 73.33% (22 out of 30) out rightly refused to go back their villages as they have adjusted here and also have many kins residing at nearby locations. But they do visit their villages at least once a year mostly to attend family gatherings. And they prefer marrying their children in their villages only. Only 8 out of

30 respondents wished to move back as they have their extended families, land and livestock at their native areas. Another significant observation was made that these migrants have a huge impact on the local unskilled labor. A meager number of local are seen as vendors, labor, gardeners etc as the market is overtaken by the migrants. Now a comparatively cheap alternative is present in the form of these migrants which is also a matter of concern for the local population. A series of other emerging consequences of internal migration can also be seen like crime, development of slums etc. these areas are also a matter of further investigation in the topic.

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