

PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT LABOURERS IN PERUMBAVOOR

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ABSTRACT

Background

Labour mobility is a key feature of the development process in India. Because much of it is poorly measured and undocumented, it remains largely invisible in the strategising of policies. Migration is a vital component of poor people's struggle for survival. It entails both costs and benefits for migrants and their families.

Materials and Methods

The study aims to analyse the problems of migrant labourers in Perumbavoor. The respondents of the study consist of migrant labourers from different states of India who came to work in Perumbavoor at present. The data were suitably classified and analyzed based on the objective of the study. For analysis, statistical tools like percentages, chi-square test and correlation coefficient were used.

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Results

Most of the Respondents faced housing problems, difficulties with their salaries and serious financial problems. Some of them faced serious family problems and difficulties in finding jobs. The main institutional help obtained by respondents was from the Government and bank. Most of the respondents were getting medical help at emergencies.

Conclusion

Most of the Respondents faced housing problems, difficulties with their salaries and serious financial problems. A few faced serious family problems and difficulties in finding jobs.

Key words: Emigration, Immigration, Rural-urban migration, Return migration, Step migration, Chain migration.

Manuscript

Introduction

Labour mobility is a key feature of the development process in India. Because much of it is poorly measured and undocumented, it remains largely invisible in the strategising of policies. Internal flows are highly heterogeneous and hence their impacts on the poor need to be carefully disaggregated. Migration is a vital component of poor people's struggle for survival. It entails both costs and benefits for migrants and their families.

As per the 2001 Census, 307.2 million persons or about 30% of 1028.6 million population in India were migrants, of which 42.1 million were inter-state migrants. In India, most of the less developed states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, and the Northeastern states etc. have experienced significant net out migration. Among others, while Kerala is well known for its out migration to the Gulf countries, states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa along the western coast and Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh in the northwest, along with West Bengal and Jharkhand in the east are the net receiver of migrants. There can be inter-state migrants or long distance migration¹.

Review of Literature

Kerala is witnessing large inflow of migrant labor from different parts of country in recent years. Higher wages for unskilled labors in the state, large opportunity for employment and shortage of local labor, paradoxically despite the higher unemployment rate in the state, led to the massive inflow of migrant labour to state (Surabhi & Najith Kumar, (2007)². The individual migrant workers may have satisfied with earning a higher wage than can be earned from home, their willingness to underline local wages will influence the long-term position of workers in Kerala. These workers are sacrificing their long-term interest in return for short term individual gain (Jonathon Moses & Hudyarajan (2012)³. The economic conditions of the migrant workers in Kerala has been done by analyzing their saving, income and consumption pattern and nature of work before and after migration (Dilip Saikia (2008)⁴.

Significance of the study

Structural transformation of rural and urban economy happens as migration of workers results in changes in the distribution of jobs, income and economic resources in both the sending and receiving regions. The positive impact of migration are remittances for smooth income flows and investment in assets and human capital. Migration has different dimensions in terms of duration, nature of origin, destination and characteristics of migrants, viz. internal and external migration, emigration, immigration, seasonal migration, rural-urban migration, return migration, step migration, chain migration etc. (World Migration Report, 2008)⁵.

Economic impact on migrants and their families include increase in the standard of living through growth in income, savings and investment level, change in the pattern of savings and expenditure etc. Migrant workers influence all markets which increase the economic activities of the dwellers in the migrated areas and lower labour cost. The present study has been undertaken to investigate into the problems of migrant people living at Perumbavoor town where most of the migrant people live. The review of earlier literature reveals that not many studies have been conducted so far in this area. The present study would help to give valuable suggestion for the enhancement of the standard of living of the migrant labourers of Kerala. In this context, the present study titled “Problems of Migrant labourers in Perumbavoor” assumes greater importance.

Scope of study

The present study has been undertaken to analyse the problems of migrant labourers in Perumbavoor. The geographical scope of the study extends to the areas of Perumbavoor locality. All the migrant labourers hanging around Perumbavoor form the part of the universe.

Objectives of study

The study aims to analyse the problems of the migrant labourers in Perumbavoor.

Hypotheses of the study

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between daily wages of the respondents and the monthly rent paid by them.

Research methodology**Selection of Sample**

The respondents of the study consist of migrant labourers from different states of India who came to work in Perumbavoor at present. A sample of 50 migrant people has been selected for study. Convenience sampling method has been adopted for selecting the sample.

Collection of Data

The data required for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected from the respondents based on the structured questionnaire. Secondary data were collected from reports, newspapers and websites.

Tools of Analysis

The data were suitably classified and analyzed based on the objective of the study. For analysis, statistical tools like percentages, chi-square test and correlation coefficient were used.

Period of Study

The survey was conducted during the period December -January 2016.

Problems of Migrant Labourers in Perumbavoor- Analysis

Most the respondents were males who were below the age of 30 years and were Muslims. 56% of the Respondents faced housing problems (Table 1). Most of the respondents faced difficulties with their salaries (Table 2) and faced serious financial problems. (Table 3). 48% of the respondents faced serious family problems (Table 4). 42% of the respondents faced difficulties in finding jobs (Table 5). However, chi-square test results show a significant difference in the opinion of the respondents about the various problems faced by the respondents since p values are less than 0.05. The main institutional help obtained by respondents was from the Government and bank (Table 6). 68% of the Respondents were getting medical help at emergencies (Table 7). 'Film' was the main holiday entertainment for 40 per cent of the respondents. For 24% of the respondents, the main entertainment was shopping. Another 24% of the respondents took rest in room and 12% of them had others source of entertainments, viz. Outing with friends (Table 8). The correlation co-efficient between daily wages and rent paid per month is 0.199 which means 19.9%. There is positive correlation between wages and amount sent o home by the respondents. When daily wages increase by 100%, the amount remitted by the respondents increases by 19.9%. The correlation is significant at 5% level (Table 9). Therefore, **the null hypothesis H_{01} stating that there is no significant relationship between daily wages of the respondents and the monthly rent paid by them is rejected.**

CONCLUSION

Migration causes changes in the distribution of jobs, income and economic resources in both the sending and receiving regions, and thus, structural transformation of rural and urban economy. Neither the social and cultural impacts of migration can be under looked. The conclusion is that the major problems of the respondents were housing and financial problems. The respondents obtained help from the Government and bank. The Respondents were getting medical help at emergencies. Film and shopping were the main holiday entertainment for the respondents.

References

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Table 1 Housing Problems of the Respondents

Housing problem	Frequency	Per cent
Very high	11	22.0
High	17	34.0
Neutral	13	26.0
Low	8	16.0
Very low	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

$\chi^2=14.400$ with 4 degrees of freedom significant at 5% level.

Table 2 Difficulties with Salaries of the Respondents

Responses	Frequency	Per cent
Very high	6	12.0
High	20	40.0
Neutral	14	28.0
Low	8	16.0
Very low	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: primary data.

$\chi^2=20.000$ with 4 degrees of freedom significant at 5% level.

Table 3 Financial Problems of the Respondents

Responses	Frequency	Per cent
Very high	13	26.0
High	13	26.0
Neutral	15	30.0
Low	7	14.0
Very low	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: primary data.

$\chi^2 = 11.600$ with 4 degrees of freedom significant at 5% level.

Table 4 Family Problems of the Respondents

Family problem	Frequency	Per cent
Very high	4	8.0
High	20	40.0
Neutral	16	32.0
Low	8	16.0
Very low	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

$\chi^2 = 24.000$ with 4 degrees of freedom significant at 5% level.

Table 5 Difficulties Faced in Finding Jobs by the Respondents

Responses	Frequency	Per cent
Very high	7	14.0
High	14	28.0
Neutral	16	32.0
Low	11	22.0
Very low	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: primary data.

$\chi^2 = 12.600$ with 4 degrees of freedom significant at 5% level.

Table 6 Institutional help obtained by the respondents

Institutions	Frequency	Per cent
Government	22	44.0
Bank	18	36.0
Private Agencies	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 7 Medical Help at Emergencies to the Respondents

Medical help	frequency	Per cent
Yes	34	68.0
No	16	32.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 8 Entertainment on Holidays by the Respondents

Entertainment	Frequency	Per cent
Shopping	12	24.0
Film	20	40.0
Rest in room	12	24.0
Others	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 9 Pearson Correlation between Daily Wages and Rent Paid per Month

Variables	Correlation co-efficient	P value
Daily Wages Rent Paid per Month	.199	.170

Source: Primary data.