

MIGRANT LABOURERS IN PERUMBAVOOR

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Background

Migration is seasonal or periodic movement of people from one place in the world to another for taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary- national geography.

Materials and Methods

The study aims to analyse the characteristics of migrant labourers in Perumbavoor, Kerala. 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 and correlation coefficient were used.

Results

Most the respondents were males below the age of 30 years. The respondents dwelled in rooms and in houses. Most the respondents used common toilet than individual toilets. The number of inmates of the respondents in a room was 5 to 10. Most of the respondents got information about employment opportunities from their friends. The workers got employment for a period of 6 days in a week. Construction, trade and manufacturing were the main sectors of working by the respondents. More than half of the respondents were unskilled workers.

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Conclusion

Most the respondents were males below the age of 30 years. The respondents dwelled in rooms and in houses. The workers got employment for a period of 6 days in a week. Construction, trade and manufacturing were the main sectors of working by the respondents. More than half of the respondents were unskilled workers.

Key words: Migration, Urbanization, industrialization, informalisation.

Manuscript

Introduction

The term migration generally refers to movement of group of people across a political boundary-national geography. The main reasons for migration are urbanization, industrialization, better employment opportunities and living conditions, attractive remuneration etc. Migration has caused a negative impact on the bargaining power of local labour. When the migrant workers enter the local labour market and are willing to work at a lower wage, and/or under less regulated conditions, there is less scope for the local workforce to demand for wage revision/ better working conditions etc.

Review of Literature

The urbanization is one of the key 'pull' factor of migration, contrary to conventional wisdom on urbanization and migration, high rate of migration into urbanized area have continues despite rising level of (formal) unemployment and persistent urban poverty. While persistent poverty may not be true of Kerala, urbanization and informalisation has been taking place rapidly (Surabhi&AjithKumar (2013)¹. The fact of increase in migrant worker population in Kerala is feared to rewrite its demography which will have serious ramifications on its social and political fronts in near future. Yet they are indispensable for manpower starved state (Jayaprakash(2013)²

Significance of the study

Keralahas become a heaven for migrants from other Indian states. Kerala, a state with 100% literacy couldnot offergood job opportunities to its people. So, for decades,Keralite work outside,

mostly in Gulf. Until a decade ago, the only migrant workers were those from Tamil Nadu, but now, unskilled and semi-skilled workers are from other states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and the North-east are filling the key vacuum in the state's work force³. The present study has been undertaken to investigate into the characteristics 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 "Characteristics of Migrant labourers in Perumbavoor" assumes greater importance.

Scope of study

The present study has been undertaken to analyse the characteristics of migrant labourers in Perumbavoor, Ernakulam district, Kerala. 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 characteristics of migrant labourers in Perumbavoor.

Hypotheses of the study

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the daily wages of the respondents and their remittance to home.

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 and correlation coefficient were used.

Period of Study

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

Characteristics of Migrant Labourers in Perumbavoor- Analysis

Most the respondents were males who were below the age of 30 years. 58% of the Respondents were Muslims and 42% were Hindus. It was found that 10% of the respondents were working for a period of less than one year and 36% respondents were working for a period of 1 to 2 years (Table 1). 58% of the respondents dwelled in room and 42% in house (Table 2). 10% of the respondents were working for a period of less than one year and 36% respondents were working for a period of 1 to 2 years (Table 3). 70% of the respondents used common toilet and 30% of them used individual toilet (Table 4). In the case of majority of the respondents, the number of inmates in a room was 5 to 10. For another 36% of them, it was 10 to 15 and again, for 4% of the respondents, the number of inmates in a room was 15 to 20 (Table 5). 68% of the respondents were using common cooking arrangements and 32% of them were using individual cooking arrangements (Table 6).

Most the Respondents were using gas. Only 6% of the respondents were using other fuel for cooking (Table 7). 54% respondents were paying Rs. 200 to 400 as monthly rent (Table 8). 66% were not residing at their work place. However, 34% were residing at their work place. (Table 9). Most of the respondents got information about employment opportunities from their friends. 32% of them got information from relatives and 24% of them got information from the contractor (Table 10). Most of the respondents raised funds from Parents and relatives to reach Kerala (Table 11). For 70% of the respondents, the number of members in the family was 5 to 10.

20 % of them had 10 to 15 members in their family (Table 12).62% of the respondents were working under the contractors whereas, 38% of them worked under a casual employer (Table 13). 48% of the workers got employment for a period of 6 days in a week(Table 14).28% of the respondents were employed in the construction sector, 24% of them were engaged in trade, 20% of them were in manufacturing, 12% of them were engaged in agriculture and 14% of them were engaged in hotel and restaurant activities (Table 15). 58% respondents were unskilled workers and 42% of them were skilled workers (Table 16). It was found that only 10% of the respondents were getting above Rs.800 as daily wages(Table17).The frequency of sending moneyto home by 38% of the respondents wasonce in two months.The correlation co-efficient between daily wages and remittance to home is 0.246 which means 24.6%. There is a positive correlation between wages and amount sent to home by the respondents. When daily wages increase by 100%, the amount remitted by the respondents increases by 24.6%. The correlation is significant at 5% level (Table 18).Therefore, **the null hypothesis H_{01} stating that there is no significant relationship between the daily wages of the respondents and their monthly remittance to home is rejected.**No single respondent remitted more than Rs. 50,000 at a time. Most of them (68%) remitted less than Rs. 20,000 at a time(Table 19).36% of the respondents sent money through their own account and 28% of them sent money through others' bank account, 20% sent money through post office and only 4% of the respondents were depending on contractors for sending money(Table 20).

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; most the respondents were males below the age of 30 years. The respondents dwelled in rooms and in houses. Most the respondents used common toilet than individual toilets. Most of the respondents got information about employment opportunities from their friends. Most of the respondents raised funds from parents and relatives to reach Kerala. Construction, trade and manufacturing are the main sectors of working by the respondents. More than half of the respondents were unskilled workers.

References

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Table 1 Period of Working in Kerala by the Respondents

Period	Frequency	Per cent
Less Than 1 Year	5	10.0
1-2 Years	18	36.0
2-3 Years	16	32.0
3-4 Years	6	12.0
4-5 Years	3	6.0
5 And Above	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 2 Nature of Dwelling of the Respondent

Dwelling	Frequency	Per cent
Room	29	58.0
House	21	42.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 3 Toilet Facilities of the Respondents

Toilet	Frequency	Per cent
Common	35	70.0
Individual	15	30.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 4 No of Inmates in the Residence of the Respondents

Inmates	Frequency	Per cent
Less than 5	3	6.0
5-10	27	54.0
10-15	18	36.0
15-20	2	4.0
20 above	Nil	0.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 5 Cooking Arrangement of the Respondents

Cooking arrangements	Frequency	Per cent
Common	34	68.0
Individual	16	32.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data

Table 6 Fuel Used for Cooking by the Respondents

Fuel used	Frequency	Per cent
Kerosene	16	32.0
Gas	31	62.0
Others	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data

Table 7 Rent Paid per Month by the Respondents

Rent paid(Rs)	frequency	Per cent
Below 200	14	28.0
200-400	25	54.0
400-600	8	26.0
600-800	3	6.0
800&above	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 8 Respondents having Residence at Working Place

Residence at work place	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	17	34.0
No	33	66.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 9 Source of Information About Employment in Perumbavoor

Source of Information	Frequency	Per cent
Relative	16	32.0
Friend	22	44.0
Contractor	12	24.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 10 Number of Family Members of the Respondents

No of family members	Frequency	Per cent
Below 5	5	10.0
5-10	35	70.0
10-15	10	20.0
15 above	Nil	0.0
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table11 Source of Money to Reach Kerala by the Respondents

Source of money	Frequency	Per cent
Parent	18	36.0
Relative	15	30.0
Friend	14	28.0
Others	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 3.12 Working Position of the Respondents

Working position	Frequency	Per cent
Under a contractor	31	62.0
Under a casual employer	19	38.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 13 Days of Employment in a Week of the Respondents

Days of employment	Frequency	Per cent
5	16	32.0
6	24	48.0
7	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 14 Present Sector of Employment of the Respondents

Sectors	Frequency	Per cent
Construction	14	28.0
Trade	12	24.0
Manufacturing	10	20.0
Agriculture	6	12.0
Hotel and Restaurant	7	14.0
Mixed	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 15 Present Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Per cent
Unskilled	29	58.0
Skilled	21	42.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 16 Daily Wages of the Respondents

Daily wages(Rs.)	Frequency	Per cent
Below 200	2	4.0
200-400	9	18.0
400-600	22	44.0
600-800	12	24.0
800 above	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 17 Frequency of Sending Money by the Respondents

Period	Frequency	Per cent
Every month	17	34.0
Once in two months	19	38.0
Occasionally	14	28.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.

Table 18 Pearson Correlations Between Daily Wages and Remittance to home

Variables	Correlation Co-efficient	P value
Daily Wages Remittance to home	0.246	0.89

Source : Primary data.

Table 19 Present Remittance by the Respondents

Amount(Rs.)	Frequency	Per cent
Below 10000	20	40.0
10000-20000	14	28.0
20000-30000	9	18.0
30000-40000	5	10.0
40000-50000	2	4
50000 above	Nil	0.0
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 20 Method of Sending Money by the Respondents

Method	Frequency	Per cent
Own bank account	18	36.0
Others bank account	14	28.0
Post office	10	20.0

Other known persons	6	12.0
Contractor	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary data.