



Socio – Economic and Working Conditions of Inter- State Migrant Labours in Nilgiris District

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Abstract: The Nilgiris is one of the most economically prosperous districts in Tamilnadu. Many migrants flow in to Nilgiris from various parts of India to seek employment. Because of the development of tourism and tea plantations in Nilgiris. The present study analysis the socio-economic status and working conditions of inter-state migrants engaged in the informal sector. This study comprises four taluks viz., Coonoor, Udhamandalam, Kotagiri and Gudalur. The study is based on primary data which is collected by the interview method through proper questionnaire. After the field survey, data analysis was followed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like descriptive statistics, Percentage analysis, was used to fit earning function.

Keywords: Inter-State Migrants, socio-economic, working condition.

INTRODUCTION

Migrant labor, casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another offering their services on a temporary, usually seasonal, basis. Migration for work is an inescapable reality in India. Millions of people are to migrate from rural to urban labor markets, industries, farms in search of employment. Uneven development is the main reason of migration along with poverty, landholding, lack of employment opportunities, large family-size and natural calamities. The leading source state of migration in India includes Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and the destination places are mainly Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra. According to survey by Tamil Nadu's labor department 2015, about 10 lakh inter-state workers migrant are there in Tamil Nadu. India, a collaboration of 28 states and 8 union territories is known for its great unity in diversity. Each state in India has a uniqueness of its own whether it is in culture, geographic pattern, community settlements, economic or natural resources. There is indeed a wide disparity in development which makes rich richer and poor becomes poorer. As such, people living in rural part (poor regions) of India often transit between places either for a social or an economic cause. Migration between states is an outcome of social, economic and cultural diversity in India. Evidence indicates that as many as 140 million of India's rural poor migrate seasonally to cities, industries, and farms in search of work. They are the part of India's unorganized, informal workforce estimated that remains excluded from services, and rights as workers and citizens, in their rural homes and in their places of work in urban industrial and rural areas. Movement of workers happens from impoverished rural regions to the more affluent urban and industrial pockets.

Labor migration is observed in the district of Nilgiris. These migratory people move to Nilgiris to work in plantation which is a part of agriculture and helps to retain the economy of India. These migratory people face serious issues like language which becomes a barrier, acclimatization due to change of location. This displacement of place for the laborer is merely for the purpose of their survival. There is a large amount of people migrating to Nilgiris from other district within Tamilnadu as the large tea estates attract laborer as it provides better working condition and assured income. Human migration is not about the prosperity of the rich but how the poor and socially disadvantage is flaring in society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Subash C. Bajaj (2004) has analyzed the effectiveness of legislation in tackling the problems of an inter-state migrant labor. He also refers to various central labor laws applicable to inter – state migrant workers and has come to the conclusion that inter-state migrants’ law has largely remained on paper.

Naresh Kumar and A. A. Sidhu (2005) in their study identify the push and pull factors which influence workers inter – state migration on the basis of perceptions of workers. Their study found that economic factors have emerged more important as compared to non- economic factors in the process of migration.

Kainth (2010) “Migration from the country side to the cities bears a close functional relation to the process of industrialization, technological advancement and other cultural changes which characterize the evolution of modern society in almost all parts of the world.

Dr. Manoj P K, Vidya Viswanath (2015) studies the living conditions of migrant labors in Kerala. The pattern and nature of the housing of the migrant workers and demanded by them, and their integration with local communities differ from place to place and profession to profession. The nature of housing of the migrant workers is largely determined by the sector of employment and level of wages and skill.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The followings are the main objectives of the study.

1. To study the socio-economic condition of the Inter-State Migrant labors in Nilgiris District.
2. To simulate push and pull factors of Migrant workers.

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The study describes the Socio, Economic, Demographic Profile and Working Conditions. Hence, the present study is both descriptive and analytical in nature. The methodology adopted for the study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected from 104 migrants. Respondents are selected from six taluks of Nilgiris district in hotel establishment and tea plantation sector, through an appropriate questionnaire to collect information regarding their socio-economic status of inter-state migrant labours. Data is also collected from secondary sources such as District labour office. The present study is used graphical analysis by Microsoft excel and statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

In spite of a detail analysis the current study encountered limitations. The following are the important limitations:

- i. The geographical area of this study is confined only to Coonoor Taluk.
- ii. The study covered the migrant labours from tea plantations and the hotel establishment.
- iii. The major issue while collecting data was the language barrier, so it was difficult to communicate.

Socio-economic status of inter-state migrants engaged in the informal sector

Table .1

S. No	Variable	Category	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Sector	Tea Plantation	45	43.3%
		Hotel	59	56.7%
2.	Gender	Male	83	79.8%
		Female	21	20.2%
3.	Age	18-25	37	35.6%
		26-33	34	32.7%
		34-41	14	13.5%
		42-50	12	11.5%
		50 & above	7	6.7%
4.	Marital. Status	Married	66	63.5%
		Unmarried	38	36.5%
5.	Education	Literate	40	38.5%
		Illiterate	64	61.5 88 %
6.	Income (Per Month)	5000-8000	19	18.3%
		8000-10000	16	15.4%
		10000-15000	57	54.8%
		Above 15000	12	11.5%
7.	Hours of Work Per Day	6-8 Hours	17	16.3%
		8-12 Hours	87	83.7%

Source: Primary data

From the above data it is clear that among the 104 respondents, 59 migrant workers are working in hotel and 56 per cent are getting payment on monthly basis. 45 migrant worker works in tea plantation will be paid on weekly basis. As per the data majority of the respondents are male who belong to the age group of 18-25 years and 63.5% are married. From the sample respondents 38.5% are illiterate, and 61.5% are literate. 16.3 % migrants worker 6- 8 hours but 87% migrants works 8 – 12 hours per day.

Correlations			
		Awareness About Govt Schemes	Education
Awareness about Govt. Schemes	Pearson Correlation	1	.318**
	Sig. (2-Tailed)		.001
	N	104	104
Education	Pearson Correlation	.318**	1
	Sig. (2-Tailed)	.001	
	N	104	104

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a positive correlation between education and awareness of government schemes among respondents, as indicated by the Pearson correlation of 0.318. The Significant (2-Tailed) values of 0.001 indicate that there is statistically significant correlation between your two variables.

Figure 1.1

Origin Place of Migrants

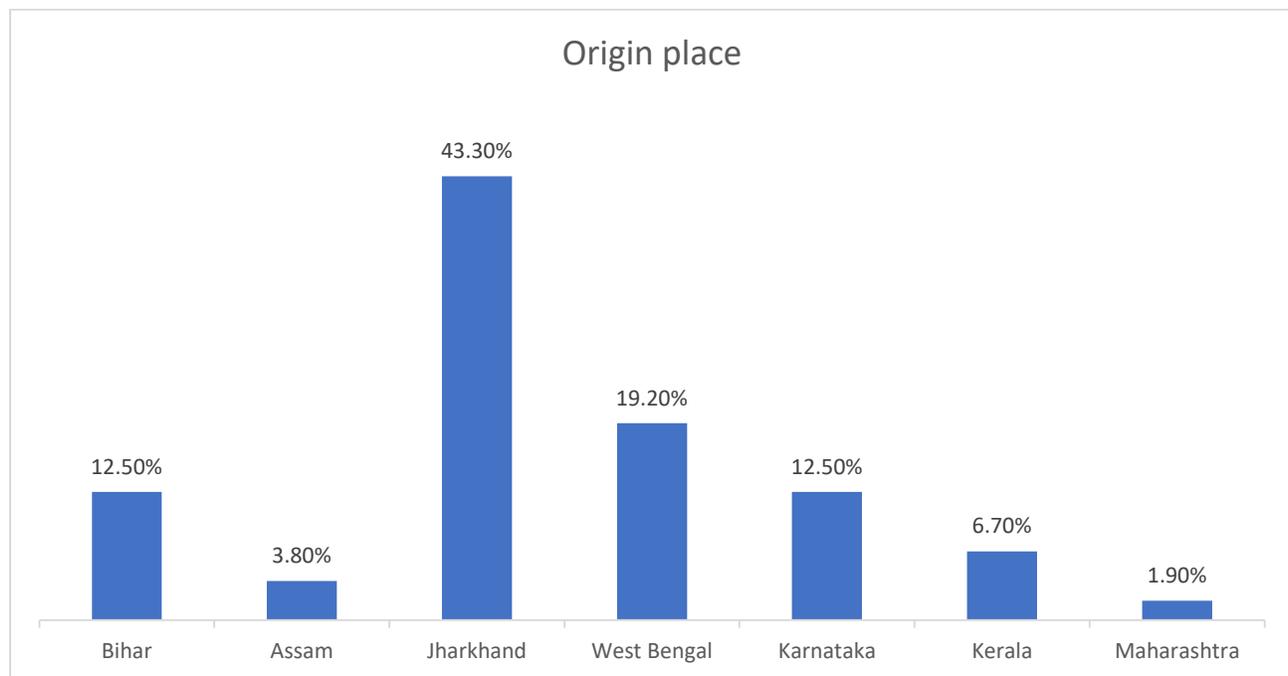
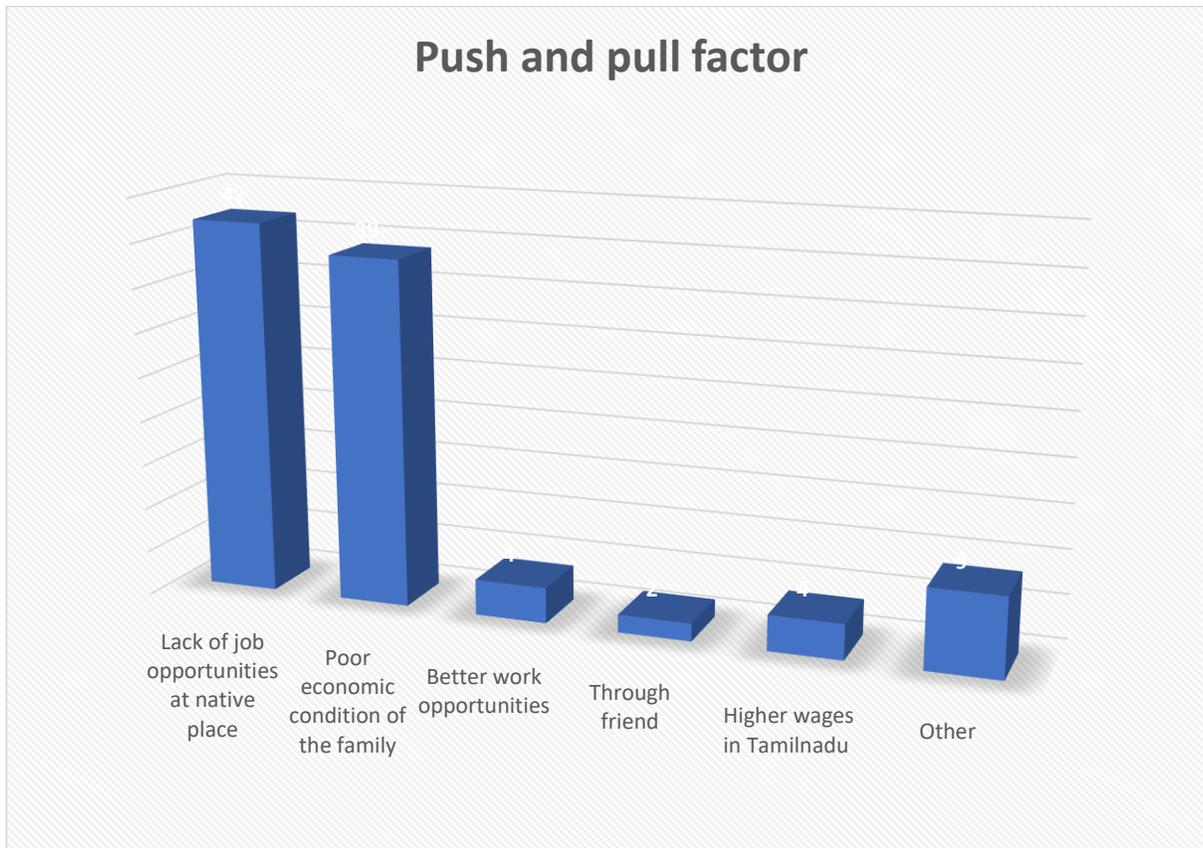


Figure 1.1 shows the Origin place of migrants. Majority of the respondent migrated from Jharkhand (43.3%), West Bengal (19.2%), Karnataka and Bihar (12.5%), Kerala (6.7%) and only 1.9% migrated from Maharashtra.

Figure 1.2



The push and pull factors are not only observed in the case of rural to urban migration but also in the case of urban to urban and international migration. The majority of respondents (42%) had to leave their native place due to less job opportunities and poverty. Their only option is to migrate for a better life. Around 39% of them migrate due to “poor economic condition of the family” in their native place. 4% of respondents migrate to a better study area. About 2% migrate to Nilgiris as their friends suggest of better education and high wages as compared to other states. 9.0% respondent doesn’t mention the factor for their migration. Hence, it is proved that from the above analysis that the majority of them migrated to Nilgiris District because of the lack of job opportunities in their native place.

Conclusion:

This study was conducted on inter-state migrant workers; those who were engaged in Tea plantation and hotel establishment for their livelihood. A large number of people migrate from one state to another state in India and they are considered as a floating population. The major share of migrant workers are youngsters belonging to the age group of 18 to 26 years. The major reasons behind the migration of these labors is the low wage rate and lack of sufficient employment opportunities in their native place, but at the same time high wage rate, availability of abundant job opportunity and better living conditions are their attractions in the Nilgiris District and majority of the workers are coming from Jharkhand for their livelihood. Since lack of education, the socio economic status of these workers are still remains same.

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