

Extent and Pattern of Migration among Informal Workers in Tirupur District

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Abstract

Migration is the mobility of people seeking for better development, both socially and economically. Labor migration is a form of labor mobility towards districts or states or outside where industry and employment are expanding. The present study reveals the extent and pattern of migration among informal workers. The data has been collected through personal interaction with labors working in informal sector of Tirupur district with sample size of 100. The main objective of the research is to know the demographic background of the respondents and the reasons for migration among the respondents. Most of the respondents are male, most of them belong to SC/ST community, their religious background show that majority are from Hindu religion and the major reason for migration is no sufficient work at their hometown.

Keywords: Economic Condition, Informal Sector, Labour and Migration

1. Introduction

Migration is a common concept and is the third component of population diversity, after fertility and mortality rate. Migration implies mobility of human beings with a motive to improve standard of living. Labor migration refers to movement for the main purpose of employment. The migrants often work in the informal sector. Such labors do not have legal protection and unawareness about their rights leads them to become a victim for exploitation. The workers are forced to migrate from their native place, because of lack of development, inadequate agricultural land, caste discrimination, unemployment situation, low wages, mounting debts and poor economic conditions of their family. There are many factors that motivate migrants at all times. The most important factor which motivated people to migrate is economy. The people migrate and continue to migrate either to have better living or to have a living for themselves and other

families. In this backdrop, the present study reveals the extent and pattern of migration among informal workers in Tirupur District.

2. Review of Literature

Agenor¹ made a survey on the size of informal sector in the developing countries. The study indicated that informal labor force accounted for more than 90% of total labor force. It was concluded that there is a possibility for raise in informal wage. Meiyar² analyzed on migrant workers vs. urban local workers and the study concluded that migrant workers had been excluded from the urban economic and social livelihood. Manju³ found that most of the women workers in unorganized sectors worked for poor wages due to lack of skills, illiteracy, ignorance and surplus labor thereby facing high level of exploitation.

3. Objectives

- To study the demographic background of the respondents.
- To examine the reasons for migration among the respondents.

4. Methodology

The study is based on primary data collected with predesigned interview schedule by applying purposive sampling technique. Generally, migration studies are either origin or destination based. The present study is destination based as it is considered relevant to ascertain information from those who have taken decision to migrate. The data needed for the study has been gathered through administering interview schedule and also through personal and oral discussion and observation. A total of 100 migrants are selected with Simple Random Sampling technique from Tirupur district alone. The study

has been carried out from November 2019 to January 2020. In order to analyze the collected data, various statistical tools namely Simple percentage analysis and Factor analysis are used with the help of IBM version 20.

5. Hypothesis

H_0 : Demographic characteristics and causes for migration do not have an impact on migration of unorganized workers.

6. Analysis and Discussion

The findings of the study are:

6.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The respondents are classified based on their demographic characteristics and are analyzed by using Simple Percentage Analysis. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents based on demographic characteristics

Socio-Economic Status	Characteristics	Frequency
Gender	Male	65
	Female	35
Total		100
Age	<30 years	27
	30 - 45 years	48
	>45 years	25
Total		100
Marital Status	Married	28
	Unmarried	72
Total		100
Type of Family	Nuclear	63
	Joint	37
Total		100
Community	OBC	18
	MBC	35
	SC/ST	47

Table 1 Continued

Total		100
Religion	Hindu	52
	Muslim	11
	Christian	23
	Others	14
Total		100
Education	Illiterate	30
	Primary	44
	Secondary	11
	H. Secondary	15
Total		100
Native Place	Rural	63
	Urban	18
	Semi-urban	19
Total		100
Income	Upto 5000	31
	5000-10000	37
	10000-15000	19
	Above 15000	13
Total		100
Expenditure	Food	46
	Clothing	27
	Housing	17
	Medical/others	10
Total		100
Savings	Yes	16
	No	84
Total		100
Debt	Yes	86
	No	14
Total		100

Source: Primary data

Table 1 evinces that male population is dominantly working in unorganized sector with 65%, majority of 48% of migrant workers belong to the age group of 30-45 years, migration is high among unmarried respondents (72%), a high proportion of 63% of them are from nuclear family system, migration is high among SC/ST community (47%), majority of them are Hindus (52%), have primary education (44%), from rural area (63%), earn a monthly income between Rs.5000 and Rs.10000 (37%), spend their income for food (46%), have no savings (84%) and face the problem of debt (84%).

6.2 Reasons for Migration

The study has classified the reasons for migration into push factors and pulls factors of migration.

6.2.1 Pull Factors

The Pull factors attract the migrants to an area where there is growth of industry, commerce and business. An attempt is made to identify the significant pull factors of migration. Various statements are listed relating to pull factors of migration and the respondents rated the statement on a five point Likert scale, with maximum point of five given to the most favorable statement and a minimum of one given to the least favorable statement. Factor analysis is employed to identify the underlying dimensions among the pull factors of migration. Reliability test is done by using Cronbach's alpha test and it is estimated to be 0.879, which is more than 0.7 indicating the reliability of the constructs. KMO and Bartlett's test measures are

computed to know the appropriateness and the results are given below in Table 2.

It is seen from Table 2 that KMO statistics for all the respondents is 0.878, denoting high value than acceptable adequacy of sampling. The Bartlett's test of sphericity is also noticed to be significant at 1% level indicating the presence of relationship between the variables to employ factor analysis.

Table 3 gives the factor loadings for 7 determinants identified. The Eigen values greater than one alone is considered for inclusion in the analysis.

It is revealed from Table 3 that 1st factor has significant loadings for three determinant 'Healthy working conditions', 'Chances for saving', 'Better living conditions', explaining nearly 53.662% of the variance. The 2nd factor has significant loading for three determinants, 'Enhanced income', 'Urban life' and 'Chances for advance payment'. It explains 12.489% of the variance. The 3rd factor 3 has significant loading for one determinant, 'Availability of better job' with 9.389% of the variance.

6.2.2 Push Factors

The Push factors necessitate a person to migrate. An attempt is made to identify the significant push factors of migration for the respondents. Various determinants are listed relating to push factors of migration and the respondents rated the statements on a five point Likert scale, with maximum point of five given for the most favorable statement and a minimum of one given to the least favorable statement. The reliability of factor

Table 2. KMO and Bartlett's Test Measures

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.878
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	451.338
	df	46
	Sig.	.000

Source: Computed

Table 3. Pull Factors

S. No.	Pull Factors	Components		
		1	2	3
1	Availability of better job			.949
2	Enhanced income		.889	
3	Healthy working conditions	.790		
4	Urban life		.812	
5	Chances for saving	.863		
6	Chances for advance payment		.759	
7	Better living conditions	.712		
Eigen values		5.895	1.375	1.056
Percentage of variance		53.662	12.489	9.389
Cumulative percentage		53.662	66.096	75.489

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization

Rotation converged in 5 iterations

Source: Computed

Table 4. KMO and Bartlett's test measures

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		.869
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	594.344
	Df	36
	Sig.	.000

analysis is identified with Cronbach's alpha test and the value is estimated to be 0.848, which is greater than 0.7 indicating the reliability of the constructs. To determine the appropriateness of applying factor analysis, the KMO

and Bartlett's test measures are computed and the results are presented below in Table 4.

The KMO statistics for all the respondents is 0.869, indicating higher than acceptable adequacy of sampling.

Table 5. Push factors

S. No.	Push Factors	Components		
		1	2	3
1	No sufficient work in the villages		.826	
2	Expectation of higher wages	.889		
3	Group affinity	.956		
4	Poverty	.903		
5	Indebtedness			.969
6	Interest in urban exposure		.878	
Eigen values		5.686	1.357	1.052
Percentage of variance		56.825	13.509	10.518
Cumulative percentage		56.825	70.325	80.839

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization

Rotation converged in 4 iterations

Source: Primary data

The Bartlett's test of sphericity is also found to be significant at 1% level establishing relationship between the variables to apply factor analysis.

The Table 5 enlists the Eigen values, their relative explanatory powers and the factor loadings for 6 components identified. The Eigen values greater than one alone is considered for inclusion in the analysis.

The 1st factor has significant loadings on three variables namely 'Expectation of higher wages', 'Group affinity' and 'Poverty'. These factors explain about 56.825% of variance. The 2nd factor has significant loadings on two variables namely 'No sufficient work in the villages' and 'Interest in urban exposure' which explain about 13.509% of variance. The 3rd factor has significant loadings on one dimension namely 'Indebtedness' with about 10.518% of variance.

7. Suggestions

The following are the suggestions offered based on the findings of the study.

The workers in the unorganized sector must be made aware about the support provided by various institutions in order to safeguard their rights.

The effective regulation of industries in unorganized sector has to provide job security, healthy working ambience, minimum wages, incentives and other benefits.

The migrant workers have to be motivated and trained to improve their skills by conducting various skill development programs.

8. Conclusion

Migration constitutes the very foundation of the process of urbanization and is recognized as the chief mechanism by which people move from a permanent place of residence to another more or less permanent place. This movement of population is explained by both push and pulls factors due to varied rural based development programs. The migrant workers usually find jobs in informal sector in varied activities. The quality of employment in an economy is judged by indicators such as wages received

by the workers, share of workers engaged in organized and unorganized sector, productivity of workers based on their levels of skills and educational attainments. In the present study, the factors that contribute to the movement of workers are analyzed. It is found that the security of employment and income get enhanced due to migration at the places of destination. On the social infrastructure front, health services in the rural areas need considerable expansion to cover these migrating workers which has to be emphasized. In order to strengthen the informal sector, provision of infrastructure is also essential which can simultaneously accelerate the process of development. Thus, the improvement in the amenities provided to workers in the unorganized sector will lead to their overall development thereby contributing to the upliftment of the economy.

9. References

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