

LIVING CONDITIONS OF NORTH KARNATAKA MIGRANT WORKERS – AN IMPACT STUDY OF BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT

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Abstract

The research study mainly aims to achieve the important objective of the study by understanding the living conditions of North Karnataka migrant workers living in Bangalore Rural District. In addition to this objective the research study also attempts to analyze the type of work of the migrant workers at hometown as well as migratory place and how it impacts as a change for migrant workers, to identify the factors influencing the migration and also to analyze the wages earned by the migrant workers. A descriptive research method was followed to obtain primary data from the field, a total of 500 respondents were interviewed in the study area of Bangalore Rural District. Primary data was collected through schedules by way of interviewing the respondents from the 4 different taluks in Bangalore Rural District.

The major results obtained from the field was found that the majority of migrant workers living in Bangalore Rural District have migrated for better livelihood due to push factors at hometown, they work mainly in the construction sector with majority earning on daily basis, the migrant workers from North Karnataka are becoming the main source of labour for the construction industry in Bangalore Rural District

Keywords: North Karnataka, Migrants, Living conditions, Labour, Bangalore Rural.

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Introduction

The term migration is normally comprehended to cover all situations where the choice to mover was taken openly by the individual for reasons of "individual accommodation"and with out the mediation of an outside convincing element. In this manner people, and relatives, moving to another nation or district to improve their material or living conditions and to improve the possibilities of job opportunities for them selves or their family. In modern times migration has become a universal phenomenon. It has become part of the worldwide cycle of urbanization and industrialization due to the growth of transport and communication. For several causes, migration is a form of movement from one place to another. Labor migration rarely involves exclusively migrants. The decision to relocate is often taken within the family, taking into consideration wider family and/or social contexts, a large proportion of migrants are men, and many migrants take their families along with them to the migratory location.

A Universal definition for "Migration" is challenging, because of the multifaceted nature of the different components impacting the migration like the spatial element of separation of migration among local and destination (short separations/long separation), the time term of stay at the new location – the time measurement the migrant can move for brief length specifically season (occasional), itinerant (semi-perpetual, looking for employments) or potentially changeless, long span remain, the issues relating the geographic borders (between state, intra- state, between nation and between mainland). More difficulties are confronted when the definition needs to incorporate the smallest social unit of"family".

Unemployment is curbed and job opportunities are improved for people. Migration aid sin enhancing people's quality of life. This helps improve people's social life as they learn about new cultures, traditions and languages that help improve people's

brotherhood. Migration of skilled workers leads to greater regional economic prosperity. Kids are getting better chances of higher education. The density of the population is decreased and the rate of birth increases.

But they are also Negative Impacts. A person's absence from rural areas impacts on the output level and rural development. Worker's migration into developed rural areas raises competition for jobs, dwellings, school facilities etc. This puts too much pressure on natural resources, infrastructure and facilities to have a large population. Survival in urban areas is impossible for a villager, because there is no natural environment and pure air in urban areas. They have to pay for everything and for everyone. Migration changes a place's demographics, and thus the population distribution in India is unequal. Many migrants are totally illiterate and poorly educated, they are not only unfit for most jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills. Poverty leaves them unable to live a healthy and productive life. Children who grow up in poverty do not have access to proper nutrition, education or healthcare. Migration increased slum areas in cities which raised many issues such as unhygienic conditions, crime, pollution etc. Migrants are some times abused.

Review of Literature

Theoretical Framework of Migration A sufficient number of studies have been done on the theoretical aspects of migration: Ravenstien (1885) migration occurs from the low opportunity areas to the high opportunity areas. He emphasised on the fact that the choice of destination is controlled by the distance and most of the people has a tendency to migrate to the nearby areas of origin. He also added that it was the rural residents who migrated largely than the urban residents. Stouffer (1940) laid emphasis on the role played by the intervening opportunities in the migration process. He points out that a number of persons migrating to a particular destination are directly promotional to the

number of opportunities in that area and vice versa. Lewis (1957), introducing the idea of dual economic theory, opines that in rural areas the employment opportunities are comparatively much lower than the urban areas, and thus migration brings an equilibrium in the economy by the movement of workers from the labour surplus rural areas to the labour deficit urban areas which are needed by workers. Lewis also introduced the concept of subsistence wage, which is the absolute minimum reward to sustain the productivity of a worker. It is the minimum wage requirement to provide basic needs of the worker which specifies economic goods to sustain health and nourish a person.

Prasad-Aleyamma (2017) in her article tries to understand the wages as an indicator of cultural and spatial relations. By examining the wages of migrant workers and the wages of the local unionised labour in Ernakulam in Kerala, South India, she demonstrates that 'wages' symbolize local practices and processes. She conducted a study on the construction workers, for understanding social and economic living conditions in Kerala, which she beautifully draws the picture of wage differences towards migrants and the local people, who are engaged in equal work. The article talks about the labour practices in port building sites and in spot labour markets for construction work.

Kumar and Sidhu (2017) made an attempt to identify the push and pull factors which influence workers inter-state migration in Punjab, from the perception of workers. A sample was drawn from 25 brick-kilns, located in the three districts of Punjab. The study found that push factors are the better job opportunities and comparatively higher wages attracts migrants towards Punjab and lack of development, inadequate agricultural land and poor economic conditions forced the migrant workers to migrate

from their native states. The authors also suggested that concrete developmental plans and effective implementation measures in the rural areas will minimise the flow of migration towards urban areas.

Statement of the problem

The living conditions of North Karnataka migrant workers are very harsh because of poor living conditions and low wages. Most of these workers struggle to feed their families and themselves because their work is physically demanding. Migrant workers often work for long hours with very little leisure time and this can lead to serious health issues and especially mental health issues. They depend on their employers for temporary housing and when they run out of their savings they have to leave their homes. Sometimes the only living area provided for them are open space which is un fit and dangerous for living and when they fall sick or injured, they have a very limited access to healthcare facilities. Migrant workers often migrate in search of better livelihood and migrate permanently for good salary, good work condition and permanent work but they are often discriminated and harassed by local residents and this makes it harder for them to find better living conditions. There search study tries to find out the living conditions of the North Karnataka migrant workers, factors influencing migration, salary received by the migrant workers and the work they do for a living and the impact it has on their lives in Bangalore Rural District.

Research Methodology

Tools for the data collection:

Data collection instruments under this area of study include structured questionnaire, personal interview, and information from the internet, articles, journals prepared by the research scholars.

Sample size/Frame:

The sample size in the study has been limited to 500 respondents within the Bangalore rural district i.e., 125 samples each from 4 different areas.

Areas selected for the Study:

The research study defines the purpose and objectives of the research study, and also defines migrant worker as an individual who did not reside in his or her village for work or looking for work and will undoubtedly come back to the typical spot of habitation after a specific period.

There were totally 4 Bangalore rural places which were selected for the purpose of conducting this study:

- a. Nelamangala – Bangalore Rural
- b. Doddaballapur – Bangalore Rural
- c. Devanahalli – Bangalore Rural
- d. Hoskote – Bangalore Rural

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To classify the type of work of the migrant workers
- ❖ To assess the salary paid among the migrant workers
- ❖ To analyze factors influencing the migration
- ❖ To understand the living conditions of migrant workers in Bangalore Rural District

Results and Discussion

Table 1
Occupation of migrant workers at migrated place

OCCUPATION AT MIGRATED PLACE	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Assistant mason	62	12.33%
Carpenter's Aid	28	5.67%
Carrying fire wood	23	4.67%
Carrying soil	50	10.00%
Carrying water	28	5.67%
Centering work	47	9.33%
Making clay	43	8.67%
Mason	117	23.33%
Moulding bricks	28	5.67%
Painting work	45	9.00%
Wiring and plumbing work	28	5.67%
Grand Total	500	100%

Source: Primary data

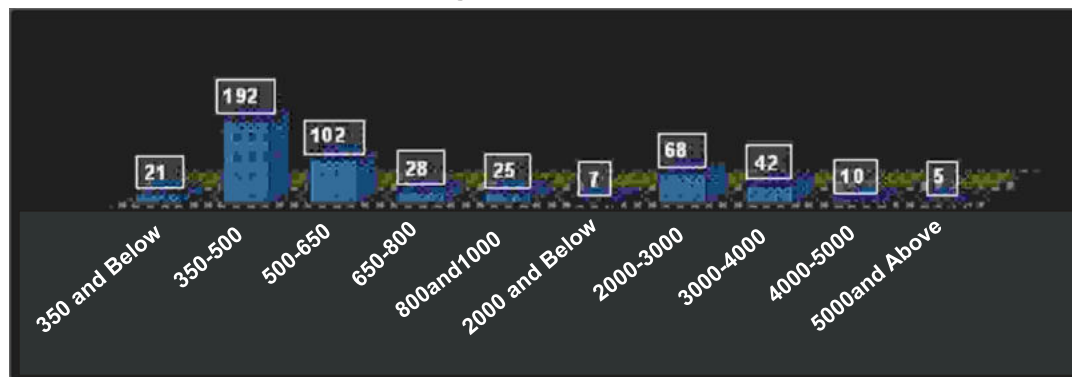
The above table can be interpreted that among the 500 respondents surveyed during the research, totally 62 migrant workers work as assistant mason consisting of 12percent followed by the occupation at migrated place-carpenter' said, carrying firewood, carryings oil, carrying water, centering work, making clay, mason, moulding bricks, painting work, wiring and plumbing work is consisting of 6 percent, 5percent 10 per cent, 6percent, 9percent, 8percent, 23percent, 6percent, 9percent, 6percent respectively. It is also understood that majority of the migrant workers work as mason consisting of 117 respondents of 23%, it is because most of them are male and mason is the most preferred job by the migrant workers in the beginning to learn the basics of construction works.

Table 5.2
Wages paid to the migrant workers.

Wages (Rs.)	Total	Per cent
Daily		
350 and Below	21	4.33%
350-500	192	38.33%
500-650	102	20.33%
650-800	28	5.67%
800 and 1000	25	5.00%
Weekly		
2000 and Below	7	1.33%
2000-3000	68	13.67%
3000-4000	42	8.33%
4000-5000	10	2.00%
5000 and Above	5	1.00%
Grand Total	500	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure Number 5.2



Source: Primary data surveyed, (2019-2020)

The above table and bar graph can be interpreted that among the 500 respondents surveyed during the research, totally 21 respondents get paid daily between (350 and below) consisting of 4%, followed by 192, 102, 28, and 25 respondents are paid daily between (350-500),(500-650), (650-800), and (800-10000), consisting of 38 per cent,

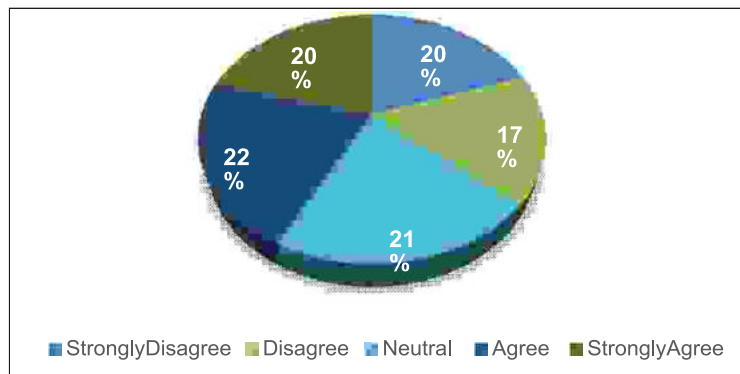
20 percent, 5 percent and 6percent respectively. Totally 7respondents get paid weekly between(2000 and below) consisting of 1.33 percent followed by 68, 42,10, and 5respondents are paid weekly between (2000-3000), (3000-4000),(4000-5000),and (5000 and above), consisting of 14percent, 8percent, 2percent and 1percent respectively. It is also understood that majority of the migrant workers get paid between (350-500) daily consisting of 38 per cent and the least of the migrant workers get paid between (5000 and above) weekly consisting of 1per cent.

Table 3
Pull factor - better job opportunity at migrated place

Better Job Opportunity	Total	Percent
Strongly Disagree	98	19.60%
Disagree	84	16.80%
Neutral	106	21.20%
Agree	109	21.80%
Strongly Agree	103	20.60%
Grand Total	500	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure Number 5.



Source: Primary data surveyed, (2019-2020)

The above table and pie chart can be interpreted that among the 500 respondents surveyed during the research, totally 98 respondents strongly disagree about the better job opportunity consisting of 20 per cent followed by other scales—disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree is, 84, 106, 109, and 103 respondents respectively, consisting of 17 per cent, 21 per cent, 22 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. It is also understood that most of the migrant workers agree that there is better job opportunity at migrated place. And the least of the migrant workers disagree that there are no better job opportunities at the migrated place.

Suggestions:

Although the MGNREGA scheme was launched by the government of India to the rural people for a better employment opportunity, the results of this study are not substantial. This means that people who are benefiting from these scheme are very few. The government of India must take necessary steps to promote and create awareness (through newspapers, television, etc.) of these scheme to make sure that the scheme launched are utilized effectively by poor people in rural villages all over the country.

A part from the government as responsible citizens of India, we the people should also st and create awareness concerning the concept of better livelihood and various schemes launched by the government of India to uplift the poor migrant workers from time to time.

Conclusion

It is seen now that people even migrate from underdeveloped rural areas to developed rural areas for a better livelihood, but through the survey conducted it has been observed that the livelihood is not always better at the migratory place as they live in poor living conditions and are exploited by various people based on social and economic discriminations.

Throughout their stay at the migratory place they are forced to live in very polluted atmosphere and poor housing conditions. But there is also another side to the fact that during their stay at the destination the majority are co-operative with co-workers and but also lack identification. All migrants are very much entitled to utilize all the fundamental and human rights available in the constitution of India. The Government of India has implemented various laws, schemes and programs for the migrant workers, but these measures seldom or never touch migrant workers, mostly because of the draw back in communication and bureaucracy that have been set up by the Government. The migrant workers from North Karnataka are becoming the main source of labor for the construction industry in the Bangalore rural district and because of good wages, better employment opportunities the construction work has brought in these migrant workers. Migrant workers come in large numbers from north Karnataka to the Bangalore rural for work to meet their social and financial needs. The majority of migrant workers already have their own land and property at their respective hometowns, but they find it very difficult to live in the agricultural sector because of the unfavorable climate changes and poor living conditions, so they relocate. Since most of these migrant workers have a poor background and low socio-economic status, migration has not only helped them boost their financial status economic, social class. Migrant workers felt that the migration enabled them to involved in the process of growth.

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