



Migraion of Women Labour: An Empirical Study in Mahaboob Nagar District of Talangana State

Dr. N. Venkat Ram

Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Internal migration is an important factor, which affects the economic development of developing countries like India. In India, although literature on internal migration in general is abundant, little attention was given in the sociological research to the causes and nature of female migration in India and the impact of migration on women (Mazumdar, 1990; Singhal, 1995). Research works on female migrants in other countries have made it clear that there is special need for field research and new methods of investigation. Much of what we know today of female migration in India is derived from census statistics. Census based studies traditionally view women migrating as wives and daughters of the breadwinners. This presents a biased picture of female migration in India as being dominated by low status of women moving to the major metropolises /towns where they become one of the primary examples of the social and economic marginality section of society. Even within towns/metropolises, the reference framework has many times been a segment of the city population usually slum dwellers.

Mobility a term widely used in migration studies includes all kinds of territorial movements both temporary and permanent. However, the term migration is used more restrictively referring to a relatively permanent change of residence. Operationally studies on migration are usually based on temporal, locational, and directional Ontario. When one talk about direction, distinction has to be made between in-migration and out migration which again refer to internal migration because external migration or migration to other countries or into the country is emigration and immigration?

In the post Independent India, women who have been entering salaried remunerative occupations and professions are increasing substantially. Women are working in almost all type of jobs such as technical, professional, non-professional and non-technical in both private and public sectors, residing in rural and urban areas with or without their kith and kin. So, the traditional role of housewife has gradually changed into working women and house wife (Reddy, 1986; Anand, 2003). Women constitute an integral part of the socio-economic life and they actively participate in socio-economic development of the nation. Sometimes, the need for supplementing the family income has been considered as the chief motivating factor encouraging women for aspiring jobs (Mittal, 1994).

CONCEPTUALIZING MIGRATION

A voluminous literature is available explaining migration that mirrors the discipline and ideological underpinnings of the research. Although sociologist like Lee (1966) conceptualized migration as the play of negative and positive forces that respectively pushes a migrant from the place of origin to migrate and pulls him to the place of destination, neoclassical constructs dominated the explanations. Locating migration decisions at the household level and arguing that such decisions are based on opportunities and constraints that the household face, the neoclassical theorists propagated human capital theory (Sjaastad:1962; Todaro: 1969, 1980). This construct argued that inclination to migrate is determined by difference in income between source and destination of migration, and may result in equating expected income. Given their skills, decisions about where to live are based on where individuals can optimize the present value of their discounted stream of expected future earning.

WOMEN AT WORK PLACE

The migrant women's occupational status is low compared to natives.

Also, urban life brings with it a variety of unfavorable conditions such as problems of housing, urban congestion, and the high cost of living (Clause, 2002). In most of the cases the girls occupy the middle or lower middle ranks of the office hierarchy, where the pressure to prove their worth is constantly present causing a great deal of tension and mental fatigue (Chauhan, 1986). Despite the poorly paid jobs, they may be able to work more hours and earn more money per hour than before migration. Their income levels may not be as high as had been expected; many of these women can improve their level of living. (Findley and Williams, 1991). Migrant women have very little protection against eve teasing and for this reason many of them are forced to live a life of seclusion in their new places of residence. Some times working women have to face exploitation including sexual exploitation from their boss or other colleagues in the office/working places. If she permits them to exploit, it generally creates tensions and conflicts within her self in the form of guilt complex, and apart from this, her home life and interaction with colleagues get affected who look down upon her. If on the other hand if she resists, and if the person happens to be boss, she might loose job or her promotional avenues are liable to become dim and working life painful (Reddy, 1986). The process of preserving image, avoiding exploitation and at the same time keeping the channels of upward mobility open are found very tedious and nerve-racking by most of the girls (Chauhan, 1986).

METHODOLOGY

The present study is a modest attempt to study the different aspects of migrant women and to find out the impact of migration on them in terms of working conditions. Wages and earnings, their living conditions and problems at work place. A sample of hundred women labour households pursuing different types of occupation were selected for survey in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the socio-economic – background of the women migrants
2. To identify the socio-economic factors responsible for migration
3. To examine the changes in employment, wages and other living conditions of the women after migration.
4. To make recommendations on the bases of field study findings.

The movement of populations from rural to urban areas depends on the extent of the demand for labour in the urban areas which intern is determined by so many factors like the levels of industrializations in urban areas, the development of other sectors like services, trade and commerce, the level of wages in the above sectors and the increase of disguised unemployment of the economy.

RESULTS AND DISCURSION

The age composition of the sample respondents as shown in the Table-I reveals that a majority of the respondent belong to the younger age group of 15 to 30 years i.e. 66 out of the 100 accounting for 66 percent. Further 15 out 100 belong to the age group of 30 to 40 years. The number of very young and very old respondents is relatively small.

Table – 2 presents the date relating to the lost residence of the sample respondents. Out of 100 sample women migrant 50 i.e. 50 percent are from the rural areas of the Nalgonda district, other women migrant came from the kammam district and 30 percent migrant from Karimnagar district itself.

Table - 1		
Age Composition of Sample Respondents		
Range	No.of Samples	%
Below 15 Years	09	09
15 to 30 Years	66	66
30 to 40 Years	15	15
Above 45 Years	10	10
Total	100	100

Table - 2		
Last Residence of Sample Respondents		
Range	No.of Samples	%
Mahaboobnagar	30	30
Nalgonda	50	50
Khammam	20	20
Total	100	100

The literacy composition of the sample respondents as shown in the Table – 3 reveals that 80 out of 100 sample migrants are illiterates i.e. 80 percent Nearly 70 percent of them i.e. 70 out 100 are married as indicated in Table – 4.

Table - 3		
Educational Composition of Sample Respondents		
Range	No.of Samples	%
Literate	20	20
Illiterate	80	80
Total	100	100

Table - 4		
Marital Status of Sample Respondents		
Range	No.of Samples	%
Married	70	70
Unmarried	30	30
Total	100	100

Majority of these migrants primary occupation is agricultural labour at the place of origin and they are primary engaged in non-agricultural labour work, especially in construction activities at the place of destination.

Information regarding the present occupation pursued by the women sample respondents is given in Table – 5. Majority of the sample respondents have taken to house construction work i.e. almost 75 percent of the sample respondents. Next comes the servant in the houses as one of the important occupation of the respondents.

Table - 5		
Present Occupation Composition of Sample Respondents		
Occupation	No.of Samples	%
House Construction Work	75	75

Servent in the house	25	25
Total	100	100

Table - 6		
Family Type of Sample Respondents		
Type	No.of Samples	%
Nucleus	32	32
Joint	68	68
Total	100	100

Table - 7		
Reasons for Permanent Migration Sample Respondents		
Reasons	No.of Samples	%
Economics	05	05
Big size of family	30	30
Continuous drought	50	50
Employment	12	12
Social	03	03
Total	100	100

Table - 8		
Changes in Quality of Life of Sample Respondents After Migration		
Reasons	No.of Samples	%
Yes	95	95
No	5	5
Total	100	100

Table – 6 we have presented the family size of the respondents. Nearly 68 per cent of the migrants come from joint families and 32 per cent come from nucleus families. The respondents were asked to explain the reasons for their permanent migration. The responses are tabulated and presented in Table – 7. Nearly 50 per cent of the respondents told that it is continuous drought which induced them to migrate. Their higher family size, employment and other economic factor were also mentioned as other important reasons for their migration by another 50 per cent of the respondents. The women labour migrants who were selected for the sample study were asked a question as to whether there is a qualitative change in their general living conditions for which nearly 95 per cent of them respondent positively and only the remaining 5 percent said “on change” in their general living conditions.

Table - 9		
Awareness about Family of Sample Respondents After Migration		
Responses	No.of Samples	%
Yes	65	65
No	35	35
Total	100	100

Table – 9 present date relating to the awareness of the respondents about family planning. 65 percent of the respondents were aware of the family planning. Nearly 90 percent of the women migrants are facing the problem of physical exploitation at work place and remain-

ing 10 percent said that no.

Physical Explantation at Work Place		
Responses	No.of Samples	%
Yes	90	90
No	10	10
Total	100	100

Further, caste composition of the migrants indicates that out of the total migrants, 60 percent belong to Backward Caste and 25 percent scheduled caste. The percentage of scheduled tribe migrants is 15 percent.

Debt Details of Sample Respondents		
Responses	No.of Samples	%
Yes	70	70
No	30	30
Total	100	100

MIGRATION IMPACT AT RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

Migrants are facing different problems at their native place and at place of residing. They are withdrawing child from school, started doing degrading jobs, old family members sent out, increased land mortgage, reduction in food consumption, depletion in mulch animals, increased debt, increased intensity of migration, unpaid hospital bills, fodder availability reduced and short term land transitions. Increase of slums, increase of health problems due to leaving in slums, increase of pollution, how-wages, increase of crimes and suicides, reduce in nutritional food consumption, and increase of trafficking and accidents and in secured life.

The summarized results of the empirical study conducted in Mahaboobnagar District.

1. The socio-economic background of the sample respondents shows that a majority of the migrants belong to younger groups and illiterates.
2. Out of the 100 sample migrants 50 percent are from the rural areas of the Nalgonda district. Other women migrants came from the Mahaboobnagar district. Itself.
3. More than 98 percent of migrants migrated to the Mahaboobnagar permanently.
4. Nearly 70 percent are married
5. Majority of the sample women respondents have taken to house constructions, followed by servant in the houses as one of the important occupation.
6. Continuous drought is identified as one of the important reasons for migrations.
7. Bigger family size, employment and other economic factors were able to mentioned as other important reasons for their migration
8. Nearly 95 percent of sample migrants respondents positively and only the remaining 5 percent said 'no change' in their general living conditions.
9. It is also observed that there is slight improvement in their economic status at their native place.
10. Nearly 65 percent of the respondents were aware of the family

planning and only about 30 percent of them underwent family planning operation.

11. The survey reveals that nearly 70 percent of the sample migrants are still having debts. Majority respondents are carrying debts in the range of Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000. These debts are on account of agricultural inputs investment and marriage of their daughters
12. Majority women migrants are facing the problem of physical exploitation / harassments at work place.

SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the above findings the following suggestions are offered to address the problems of female labour migration.

Firstly, as its is revealed by the empirical study, the inability of the rural agriculture sector to absorb the rural labour especially women labour, they are migrating to the nearly urban centers where they get employment causing population pressure in cities / town and resulting in frictions between migrants and natives. It is hence imperative that appropriate policy measures are to be undertaken to augment the agricultural sector and provide alternative non-agricultural employment opportunities in the rural sectors.

Secondly, basic amenities like food, shelter, health and education facilities are to be provided on adequate scale both in rural and urban areas.

Thirdly, since lack of development of the non-household manufacturing sector in the rural areas is an important contributing factor in rural-urban women migration, development of industrialization process in rural areas is a necessity. Also lack of irrigation facilities acts as a significant push factor for rural out-migration. To abate the unbalanced flow of rural population to urban areas, high priority must be given to development of irrigation facilities in rural areas.

Finally, the economic coercion and exploitation of the women labour must be arrested with appropriate agrarian reform policies to prevent excessive rural-urban migration. The present study revealed that about one forth of the migrant women from rural areas of the same district is not satisfied unemployment in the society they have to migrate to other places/towns for searching jobs/work. Therefore, appropriate policies for education as well as employment should be implemented by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to reduce the unemployment problem among rural unemployed.

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