



DALITS AND MIGRATION

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KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Migration is a complex and multifaceted issue that affects millions of people worldwide. For Dalits, India's largest marginalized community, migration is often a survival strategy, driven by poverty, lack of access to education and employment, and social exclusion. This article explores the relationship between Dalits and migration, examining the push and pull factors that drive Dalit migration, and the challenges and opportunities that Dalit migrants face in their destinations.

Why Dalits Migrate

Dalits Migrate For A Variety Of Reasons, Including:

- 1. Poverty and Economic Exclusion:** Dalits are disproportionately represented among India's poor and marginalized. Many Dalits migrate in search of better economic opportunities, driven by poverty and lack of access to education and employment.
- 2. Social Exclusion and Caste-Based Discrimination:** Dalits face significant social exclusion and caste-based discrimination in their home communities, which can drive them to migrate in search of more inclusive and equitable environments.
- 3. Lack of Access to Education and Healthcare:** Dalits often face significant barriers to accessing education and healthcare in their home communities, which can drive them to migrate in search of better services and opportunities.

Pull Factors: Where Dalits Migrate

Dalits Migrate To A Variety Of Destinations, Including:

- 1. Urban Centers:** Many Dalits migrate to urban centers in search of better economic opportunities, education, and healthcare.
- 2. Other States:** Dalits also migrate to other states in search of better economic opportunities, education, and healthcare.
- 3. Abroad:** Some Dalits migrate abroad, often to countries in the Middle East, Europe, and North America, in search of better economic opportunities and a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Challenges Faced by Dalit Migrants

Dalit migrants face a variety of challenges, including:

- 1. Exploitation and Abuse:** Dalit migrants are often exploited and abused by employers, landlords, and other powerful individuals.
- 2. Social Exclusion and Caste-Based Discrimination:** Dalit migrants often face social exclusion and caste-based discrimination in their destinations, which can limit their access to education, employment, and healthcare.
- 3. Lack of Access to Services and Opportunities:** Dalit migrants often face significant barriers to accessing services and opportunities, including education, employment, and healthcare.

Opportunities For Dalit Migrants

Despite the challenges they face, Dalit migrants also have

opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their families. These opportunities include:

- 1. Better Economic Opportunities:** Dalit migrants often have access to better economic opportunities in their destinations, including higher-paying jobs and greater access to education and training.
- 2. More Inclusive and Equitable Environments:** Dalit migrants often find more inclusive and equitable environments in their destinations, which can provide them with greater freedom and opportunities.
- 3. Access to Services and Opportunities:** Dalit migrants often have greater access to services and opportunities in their destinations, including education, employment, and healthcare.

CONCLUSION

Dalits and migration are closely intertwined, with many Dalits migrating in search of better economic opportunities, education, and healthcare. While Dalit migrants face significant challenges, including exploitation, social exclusion, and lack of access to services and opportunities, they also have opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their families. As India continues to urbanize and globalize, it is essential to prioritize the needs and rights of Dalit migrants, and to work towards creating more inclusive and equitable environments for all.

REFERENCES

- 1. Historical Context:**
"The caste system, deeply entrenched in Indian society, has historically marginalized Dalits, limiting their access to land, education, and social mobility" (Ambedkar, B. R., *Annihilation of Caste*, 1936).
- 2. Economic Pressures:**
"Landlessness and lack of access to sustainable livelihoods have been major factors driving Dalit migration to urban areas in search of work" (Thorat, S., & Newman, K., *Blocked by Caste: Economic Discrimination in Modern India*, 2010).
- 3. Urban Marginalization:**
"Dalit migrants often find themselves in low-paying, insecure jobs in urban centers, perpetuating cycles of economic vulnerability" (Jodhka, S. S., *Caste in Contemporary India*, 2015).
- 4. Social Stigma:**
"Even in urban settings, Dalit migrants face caste-based discrimination in housing, employment, and social interactions" (Human Rights Watch, India: *Broken People - Caste Violence Against India's Untouchables*, 1999).
- 5. Global Migration Trends:**
"Dalit migration is not confined to internal movements; many Dalits migrate internationally, particularly to the Gulf countries, where they often take up labor-intensive roles" (Rao, Anupama, *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India*, 2009).
- 6. Impact of Policy Interventions:**
"Government policies, such as reservations in education and employment, have influenced migration patterns by creating opportunities for Dalits in urban and metropolitan areas" (Deshpande, A., *The Grammar of Caste: Economic Discrimination in Contemporary India*, 2011).
- 7. Rural to Urban Transition:**
"The rural Dalit exodus to cities reflects a broader structural transformation in India's economy, with implications for social equity and urban planning" (Chakravarti, Uma, *Gendering Caste: Through a Feminist Lens*, 2003).
- 8. Remittances and Social Change:**
"Remittances from Dalit migrants have led to significant changes in rural Dalit households, including investments in education and housing" (De Haan, Arjan, *Migration and Development: A Theoretical Perspective*, 1999).