



## A STUDY OF SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKERS IN CHENNAI CITY

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Human migration is a universal phenomenon. Migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihood is a key feature of human history. While some regions and sectors fall behind in their capacity to support populations, other move ahead and people migrate to access these emerging opportunities. Industrialization widens the gap between rural and urban areas, including a shift of the workforce towards industrializing areas. There is extensive debate on the factors that causes populations to shift from those that emphasize individual rationality and household behavior to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development. Migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. A number of economic, social, cultural and political factors play an important role in the decision to move. The effects of these factors vary over time and place. Against this background, an attempt has been made in this paper to study any change in the economic condition of the migrant labourers before and after migration.

The paper is divided into three sections. The review of earlier works, objectives, data and methodology of the study is given in Section I. Trends and pattern of migrant labourers in India are discussed in Section II. Section III analyses the socio economic status of respondents in Chennai city. The last section offers a concluding observation along with some suggestions.

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### Section I Literature Review

Studies on migration have been very few in India. Historically speaking migration has never been considered an important demographic issue due to the small volume of internal migration relative to the total size of population. (Bose, 1983)

V.Prakash(2012) analyzed the personal, demographic and socio-economic background of sample migrant workers and it is revealed that whenever a new system is developed in a particular area, that arises a demand for specific workers. This will be mainly the demand for unskilled workers. The primary data collected in this study through a field survey among the migrant workers in Alappuzha district in Kerala revealed that there are higher wage differences between skilled and unskilled migrant workers. The brick construction activity receives substantial remittance from middle- east and other countries. Migrant living condition suggests that most of them live in dwelling with thatched roof and mud floor. The study concluded that the migrants are motivated by the urge to better living condition.

S.Sundari(2011) explores the changing trends and pattern of female migration in Tamilnadu. This study examined the causes of female migration and also identifies the pushing and pulling factors. The primary data collected through the field survey among the migrants based on the place of birth (BP) and migrants on place of last residence (PLR). This study revealed that the female in-migrants in developed district receive more whereas female out-migration in backward district experiences a high rate. It concluded that urban migrations of women are viewed not only as livelihood strategy, but also as a mean to raise their standard of living and empowerment.

D.P.Singh (2005) made an attempt to provide information on migration in India using the raw data made available from four rounds of NSS between 1983 and 1999 – 2000. The migration differences are clearly observed between males and females in rural and urban areas. The movement of males is dominant in rural to urban areas, while female movement is mostly from rural to rural areas. This paper concluded that migration leads to betterment in terms of economic activity in the country.

Shruthi Mehra and Grain Singh (2014) focuses on the industrial migrant labourers with the discrimination and exploitation that they face in Ludhiana city. They revealed that migrants are exploited during the routine and over-time work, payment of wages and benefits etc. The study concludes that migrants apart from being an important resources base are individuals whom deserve to be respected and given equal chance to create their place in a competitive place of destination. The problem of migrant labourers needs to be solved with cooperation and co-ordination between the labour union and other social and government organisation.

Aravind Kumar Pandey(2015) made an attempt to explore the socio-economic and demographic selectivity of rural-urban male migration in India with help of National Sample Survey data from 38th round(1983) to 64th round (2007-08). This paper observed that the male migration rate for urban area has increased especially after economic reforms adopted by the government of India in 1991 with the underlying principle of liberalisation and privatisation. This study shows that rural-urban migration in India still selective in terms of age, social groups, educational status, marital status and MPCE etc., and also shows that migration for employment is the most important reason for rural-urban migration.

### Statement of the Problem

There are various factors responsible for migration. Broadly it can be economic factors, social factors and psychological factors. Migrant labourers on their destination various problems such as occupational, health exploitation, insecurity etc..

### Objectives

#### The objectives of the study are:

1. To discuss the trends and patterns of migration in India
2. To analyse the various reasons for migration.
3. To study the occupational pattern of the respondents.
4. To understand the socio and economic conditions of the respondents. ; and
5. To suggest ways to improve the economic status of inter-state migrants.

### Methodology and Survey Design

The data required for the present study have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The multi-stage random sampling method is adopted for the present study. The sampling procedures resulted in the selection of 270 respondents in Chennai city. The study was conducted in April 2017.

### Section II

#### MIGRATION TRENDS AND PATTERN IN INDIA:

Migration is an important feature of human civilization. It reflects human endeavor to survive in the most testing conditions both natural and man-made. Migration in India is in existence historically. Conversely, the post reform period confirms an increase in internal population movement. The latest NSS figure (2007/08) shows internal

migration in India has increased to 29 percent from 25 percent in 1993. Interaction of various factors in the course of development can not only accentuate the pace of mobility but would lead to emergence of new migration patterns. There can be contrasting reasons for this current increase in the migration rate. On the one hand increasing unemployment, poverty, population pressure, and environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources etc. limits the livelihood options and may force people to migrate. But at the same time urbanization, better employment and educational opportunities, improvement in educational level, changing occupational pattern, development of transport and communication are the new impetus facilitating spatial mobility. Yet there are only limited studies that have focus on the changing pattern of migration especially after the reform period. Hence, it calls for a further critical investigation in to the trends and patterns of migration in recent years in India.

**Migration rate from different NSS Round**

Although overall migration trend is increasing, a significant discrepancy in migration pattern is noticed across gender. There occurs a continuous increase in female migration since 1993 where as a decline in male migration trend in 2007-08 in rural area is noticed. From table 1 it is seen that male migration is declining in rural area from 69 in 1999-2000 to 54 in 2007-08, But in urban area the migration rate increasing from 239 in 1993 to 259 in 2007-08. Among female there is ultimate increase both in rural and urban area. While comparing male with female migration rate female is having sustainable increase both in rural and in urban areas.

Hence, there is a need for further investigation as to why the male migration rate remains stagnant while female migration rate has substantially shut up over the period. It has been also noticed that compared to urban, male migration is quite low in rural area where as there is no such significant discrepancy noticed among females. The vast difference in the trend of male migration between rural and urban areas has led to several conflicting arguments. One possibility for decline in male migration could be due to employment generated through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in village level itself reduce rural to rural flow which in turn influence overall rural male migration. (sandya rani mahapatro,2011).

**Table 1. Depicts the migration rate (per 1000) all over India.**

Round year	Categories of Person			
	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2007-2008(64th round)	54	477	259	456
1999-2000(55th round)	69	426	257	418
1993(43rd round)	65	401	239	382

Source: NSSO 2007-08

**MIGRATION STREAM IN INDIA:**

Migration stream in India is portrayed in Table 2.

**Table:2: Migrants by place of last Residence indicating Migration Stream (during 0-9 years) India 2001 ( In percentage)**

Migration stream	Person	Male	Female
<b>Intra-State Migrants:</b>			
Rural-rural	60.5	41.6	68.6
Rural-urban	17.6	27.1	13.6
Urban-rural	6.5	8.6	5.6
Urban-urban	12.3	18.3	9.7
Unclassified	3.1	4.4	2.6
<b>Inter-state migrant:</b>			
Rural-rural	26.6	20.7	32.7
Rural-urban	37.9	44.7	30.9
Urban-rural	6.3	6.1	6.4
Urban-urban	26.7	25.9	27.5
Unclassified	2.6	2.6	2.5
<b>International Migration:</b>			
To Rural Areas	53	48.8	57.6
To Urban Areas	47	51.1	42.4

Source: Census of India, 2001

It is revealed that the place of last residence of migrants from rural-

rural area s female migrant was 27 percent higher than, the male migrants, in rural-urban area male have highest significance about 27.1 percent and female was 13.6 percent thus 14 percent higher than female migrant, and other two streams for urban-urban and urban to rural were continuously increase in male percentage.

It is also understood that inter-state migration same as intra-state migration rural-rural stream denoted female migrants was 12 percent higher than the male migrants, rural-urban shows that male is increases with 14 percent than female, and urban-rural migration there is not much difference among the male and female but in urban- urban migration females are constantly increases with 2 percent. Among international migration to rural area female is higher than male, on contrast to urban area male is higher than female.

**Section – III**

The age-wise distribution of the sample respondents is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Frequency Distribution of the Age of the Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 25	104	38.5
26-30	94	34.8
31-35	33	12.2
36-40	18	6.7
Above40	21	7.8
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is observed that the younger respondents of less than 30 years of age comprise 38.3 per cent. It is found that 34.8 percent of the respondents belong to the age group of 26-30 years; 12.2 per cent of the respondents are in the age group of 31-35 years. The respondents aged 40 years and above form only 7.8 per cent.

**Educational Standard of the Respondents**

Educational standard of the respondents plays a vital role to improve their social and economic status. The respondents fall under different educational standards. The frequency distribution of the educational standard of the respondents is furnished in Table 4.

**Table 4. Frequency Distribution of the Educational Standard of the Respondents**

Educational Standard	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	50	18.5
Primary	68	25.2
Middle school	74	27.4
High school	6	2.2
Higher secondary	46	17
Graduate	23	8.5
Others	3	1.1
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is observed that 13.3 per cent of respondents have received only primary education. More than one-third of the respondents (36.7 per cent) are graduates; 28.3 per cent of the respondents have attained education up to higher secondary school level. There are 13.3 per cent respondents who have attained education up post graduate level.

**REASONS FOR MIGRATION:**

**Table 5. Economic Reasons Responsible for Migration**

Economic reason	Frequency	Percent
Employment	101	37.4
Business	13	4.8
Education	6	2.2
Family moved	27	10
Moved after birth	2	0.7
Natural calamities	23	8.5
Low pay at natives	62	23
Shortage of opportunities at native	36	13.3
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is understood that out of the total respondents, the majority of the respondents (37.4 per cent) cited employment is the reason for migration; 23 per cent opined low pay at native place was the reason for migration. Shortage of employment opportunities at the native places the reason for migration was stated by 13.3 per cent; one-tenth of respondents opined movement of family as the reason. Respondents who opined natural calamities as the reason account for 8.5 per cent. The other reasons cited by the respondents are business and movement after birth.

**Table 6.Social Reasons Responsible for Migration**

Social reason	Frequency	Percent
Less civic amenities	66	24.4
Poverty	156	57.8
Unpleasant social relations	47	17.4
Political intimidation	1	0.4
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is revealed that out of the total respondents, more than half of the respondents (57.8 per cent) expressed that poverty is the reason for migration; less civic amenities at native place is the reason for migration account for 24.4 per cent. The other social reasons stated by the respondents are unpleasant social relation and political intimidation.

**Table 7.Physiological Reasons Responsible for Migration**

Physiological	Frequency	Percent
High aspiration	66	24.4
Poor life	126	46.7
Demonstration effect	78	28.9
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is observed that of the psychological reason responsible for migration, poor life accounts for 46.7 per cent followed by demonstration effect and high aspiration form 28.9 per cent and 24.4 per cent respectively.

**Occupational Pattern**

To understand the economic conditions, occupational pattern of the respondents before and after migration is analysed. Occupational pattern of the respondents before migration is depicted in Table 8.

**Table 8: Occupational Pattern before Migration**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	63	23.3
Regular/salaried	30	11.1
Casual labour	112	41.5
Shop	15	5.6
Small scale business	22	8.1
Others	28	10.4
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is observed that out of the total respondents 23.3 per cent were unemployed and more than two-fifth (41.2) of them were casual labourers. It is also noticed that 11.1 per cent of the were salaried class. Respondents who were doing small scale job account for 8.1 per cent running shop constitute 5.6 per cent.

Occupational pattern of the respondents after migration is shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Occupational Pattern after Migration**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Regular/salaried	129	47.8
Casual	135	50
Shop	6	2.2
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is revealed that half of the respondents are casual labourers after

migrating to Chennai city; 47.8 of the respondents are regular/ salaried class. Respondents who are running shop form 2.2 per cent. It is clear that all the interstate respondents are employed after migration.

**Monthly Income before Migration**

Monthly income of the respondents before migrating to Chennai city is displayed in Table 10.

**Table 10.:Monthly Income before Migration**

Income	Frequency	Percent
Below 3000	91	33.7
3001-5000	93	34.4
5001-7000	42	15.6
7001-9000	19	7
Above 9001	25	9.3
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is revealed that out of the total respondents, monthly income of a little more than one-third of respondents before migration was less than Rs.3000; Monthly income of 34.4 per cent respondents was between Rs.3001 and Rs.5000. Respondents who were earning between Rs.5001 and Rs.7000 form 15.6 per cent and only 9.3 per cent of the respondents were earning more than Rs.3001.

Monthly income of the respondents after migrating to Chennai city is displayed in Table 11.

**Table 11.Monthly Income after Migration**

Income	Frequency	Percent
Below 8000	43	15.9
8001-10000	110	40.7
10001-12000	22	8.1
12001-14000	22	8.1
14001-16000	48	17.8
Above 16001	25	9.3
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey

It is observed that out of the total respondents, monthly income of a little more than one-fourth of respondents after migration is between Rs.8000 and Rs.10000 and about 18 per cent respondents earn between Rs.14000 and Rs.16000; 8.1 per cent of respondents each earn between Rs.10001 and Rs.12000 and between Rs.12001 and Rs.14000 respectively.. Respondents who earn more than Rs.16001 account for 9.3 per cent. It clearly indicates that economic condition of the respondents has improved after migrating to Chennai city.

**Conclusion:**

From the analysis of socio economic condition of the inter-state respondents, it is concluded that respondents are migrating to Chennai city because of various reasons such as economic, social and physiological reasons. This paper also exhibits that occupational pattern of the migrants has changed and all the respondents are employed and there is a drastic improvement in the economic conditions of the migrants.

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