



DOMESTIC MIGRATION STRESS OF INTERSTATE MIGRANT WORKERS WORKING IN COIMBATORE

Dr. Sakthivel

Associate Professor, Department of Management Studies, Govt. College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore

Muthuvelappan P

Doctoral Scholar, Research & Development, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

ABSTRACT Migration has become a common phenomenon among the people after the process of globalization. There is also an uneven development on interstate migration as people started to move from place to place in search of many reasons majorly for better standard of life. Migration is the movement of people towards more developed areas to grab more new opportunities. The adaptability and adjustability of a migrant to new place leads the individual to face more stressful situations in their place of stay and at workplace (Berry, et.al. 2006). Based on the analysis done in several studies about the stressors after migration, the stress among the people after migration from different parts of the country to Coimbatore was analyzed in this study by adopting Descriptive research design. Purposive sampling was used to collect the data from 80 migrant workers working in shops and establishments in Coimbatore. The study was conducted with an idea to analyze the domestic migration stress among the interstate migrant workers working in Coimbatore.

KEYWORDS : Interstate migrant workmen, Establishment, Migration Stress

Introduction

Migration of people has its origin from the early period during King's era and even before that time. People tend to change from one place to another from agriculture towards search of non-agriculture jobs started exploitation by the agents and other people involved as middle man in offering jobs to migrants (Anil Jaggi, 2003). The migration may be of either for seasonal, skilled or of forced type through friends, relatives, neighbors, agencies and or through mass media (Meenakshisundaram & Panchanatham, 2013). The increasing rate of migration worldwide especially after globalization leads to reduction in absorbing labour force even in service sectors (Mehta, 1996) but there are also huge openings exclusive for migrant workers as the wage demand is very less when compared with the native worker.

People moving to a new place will face difficulties and are challenged with stressful situations in their daily lives after migration. Stress is a natural way of life and people respond to stress in different ways at different situations. This affects the physical and psychological well-being of any individual by disturbing the balance of mind (Lazarus RS & Cohen JB., 1977). The factors that stress any migrant individual include the environment, the culture of particular society, their language and food habits across any culture. Migrants are the group of people who face many stressors in many parts of the migration experience. The loss of social support will lead to face stresses of adaptation, stigma and discrimination, economic imbalances and lack of close relationship to people of the place where they get migrated (Bhugra, D, 2004). Several studies states that people those who are working in new culture experience any form of stressful symptoms like frustration and hopelessness (Bhattachaya G, 2008). Irfaya et. al., 2008 in their study stated that nearly 90 % of Arab women those who are migrated are psychologically stressful. The studies among the migrant workers in Thailand highlight the difficulties of living and working of migrant people. In this study the domestic migration stress among the interstate migrant workers those who are working in departmental stores, beauty parlors, duty paid shops coming under shops and establishments in Coimbatore are analyzed.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the socio demographic profile of the interstate migrant workers
- To analyze the level of domestic stress among interstate migrant workers and
- To assess the relationship between the sub-constructs of domestic migration stress.

Methodology: The study was conducted among 80 interstate migrant workmen working in shops and establishments in Coimbatore who have come from various backgrounds in different parts of the country. The study employed purposive sampling method to collect the migrant population. Descriptive research design was adopted in this study to

find out the domestic migration stress among the migrant workers.

A structured interview schedule was prepared for data collection and was administered to the respondents and primary data were collected. Participants are asked to provide information about the socio demographic profile about their age, sex, education, languages known, native place and marital status. Next part of the schedule consists of domestic migration stress questionnaire.

Domestic migration stress Questionnaire (DMSQ) was developed by Xinguang Chen, Bin Yu, Jie Gong, et.al. in 2015. The scale was framed with 16 items to be measured in Likert scale ranging from never to always scoring from 1 to 5 to measure the frequency of experiencing the event. The scale was framed with four sub constructs such as separation from origin, rejection in the destination, lack of self-confidence and maladaptation with a reliability value of 0.93 (Cronbach alpha).

Statistical tools namely simple percentage analysis, Karl Pearson correlation analysis and ANOVA were used to analyze the primary data. Secondary data for the study have been collected from various publications in journals, magazines, websites and books.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 shows the classification of the respondents based on socio demographic profiles of interstate migrant workers including their age, sex, education, monthly income and marital status.

Table 1
Personal Profile of the Respondents

S.No	Demographic Variable	Frequency	Percentage	
1	Age	Below 20 years	11	13.8
		20 – 30 years	32	40.0
		More than 30 years	37	46.2
TOTAL			80	100
2	Sex	Male	54	67.5
		Female	26	32.5
TOTAL			80	100
3	Educational Qualification	Illiterate	34	42.5
		Middle School	20	25.0
		High School	18	22.5
		College	8	10.0
TOTAL			80	100
4	Monthly income	Up to Rs.5000	24	30.0
		Rs.5001 – Rs.10000	38	47.5

		Rs.10001 – Rs.15000	12	15.0
		More than 15000	6	7.5
TOTAL			80	100
5	Marital Status	Married	58	72.5
		Unmarried	22	27.5
TOTAL			80	100

From the above Table 1 it is clear that

- 46.2 per cent of the migrant workers are found to be more than 30 years of age, 40 per cent of them are in the age group of 20 to 30 years, and the remaining age group of 13.8 per cent of the respondents is below 20 years of age.
- 67.5 per cent of the respondents are male and 32.5 per cent of the respondents are female.
- 42.5 per cent of the respondents are illiterates, 25 per cent of the migrant workers completed their middle school followed by 22.5 per cent of the respondents has their high school level of education and the remaining 10 per cent of the respondents had their graduation.
- Monthly salary earned by 47.5 per cent of the migrant workers ranges between Rs.5001 – Rs.1000, 30 per cent of the respondents monthly income is up to Rs.5000, 15 per cent of the respondents earn between Rs.10001 to 15000 per month and 7.5 per cent of the respondents earn more than Rs. 15000 per month.

Table 2 shows the classification of the respondents based on their level of domestic migration stress.

Table 2 Level of Domestic Migration Stress

S.No	Domestic Migration Stress	Low		Moderate		High	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1	<i>Separation from the place of origin</i>	21	26.3	40	50	19	23.7
2	<i>Rejection in the destination</i>	20	25	37	46.3	23	28.7
3	<i>Lack of self-confidence</i>	25	31.3	35	43.7	20	25
4	<i>Maladaptation</i>	31	38.7	29	36.3	20	25
5	<i>Overall Migration Stress</i>	20	25	39	48.8	21	26.3

The above Table 2 explains the level of domestic migration stress among the respondents. The level of stress was identified for overall stress and its sub constructs. Among the four sub-constructs Separation from the place of origin accounts moderately for 50 per cent stating that the level of separation moderately affects the migrant workers in becoming stressful. All the constructs scores high percent with respect to the moderate level.

Next to separation rejection in destination is the factor that constitute 46.3 per cent of stress among the interstate migrant workers, followed by the lack of self-confidence with 43.7 per cent and the last factor that contributes for developing stress among the migrant workers is maladaptation with 36.3 per cent in moderate level.

The bivariate correlations for the manifest indicator variables are shown in Table 3. Most of the correlation coefficients are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level.

Table 3 Relationship between sub-constructs of Domestic Migration Stress

	<i>Separation from the place of origin</i>	<i>Rejection in the destination</i>	<i>Lack of self-confidence</i>	<i>Maladaptation</i>
<i>Separation from the place of origin</i>	1	S.664**	.036	-.074
<i>Rejection in the destination</i>		1	S.402**	.043
<i>Lack of self-confidence</i>			1	S.309**
<i>Maladaptation</i>				1

**0.01 level of Significance

Separation from the place of origin, Rejection in the destination, Lack

of self-confidence and Maladaptation of interstate migrant workers are related to each other by using Karl Pearson's Correlation analysis. The obtained Pearson Correlation value helps to know about the strength and direction of the relationship that exist between the variables. The dependent variables that have positive, negative and significant relationship with each other were explained in table 3.

Separation from the place of origin was found to have a significant relationship with the Rejection in the destination of respondents ($r = .664$, $p < 0.05$). Also the constructs have a strong positive relationship with each other. Similarly, Rejection in the destination had a strong positive and significant relationship with Lack of self-confidence ($r = .402$, $p < 0.05$) of the interstate migrant workers and Lack of self-confidence have a positive and significant relationship with Maladaptation ($r = .309$, $p < 0.05$) of the interstate migrant workers.

The findings states that the migrant workers working in the duty paid shops, departmental stores, beauty parlors are found to be moderately stressful because of the rejections in the place of their work and stay after separation from their origin. Hence they should be engaged in stress bursting activities and recreational aspects by the employer or they have to be provided with necessary counseling so as to improve their coping skills and mental ability towards stressful situations after migration.

Conclusion

The interstate migrant workers are exposed to difficult situations at the place of migration which has its impact on the well-being of the individual. The results of this study states that the migrant workers are facing moderate level of stress in their place of stay and at work. The necessary measures have to be taken to face and manage the stressful event and situations expected to be faced by the migrant worker due to migration. Laws should be enforced to have a better conducive environment for the migrant people to live a peaceful and pleasant working conditions and living place.

REFERENCES

1. Anil Jaggi. 2003 "Information and Communication Technology and Poverty Reduction in Rural India, 27th-28th November, Bangkok, Thailand.
2. Berry JW. 2006. Stress perspectives on acculturation. The Cambridge handbook of acculturation psychology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 43 - 57.
3. Bhattachaya G. 2008. Acculturating Indian immigrant men in New York City: applying the social capital construct to understand their experiences and health. J Immigr Minor Health, 10(2), 91–101.
4. Bhugra, D. 2004. Migration and mental health. Acta Psychiatr Scand, 109(4), 243 - 258.
5. Irfayya M, Maxwell A, Kramer A. 2008. Assessing psychological stress among Arab migrant women in the city of Cologne, Germany using the community oriented primary care (COPC) approach. J Immigr Minor Health, 10(4), 337 - 344
6. Jones, F., & Kinman G. 2005. Lay representations of workplace stress: what do people really mean when they say they are stressed? Work Stress, 19(2), 101 - 120.
7. Lazarus RS, Cohen JB. 1977. Environmental stress. In: Altman I, Wohlwill JF, editors. Human behavior and environment. Vol 2. New York: Plenum, 89–125.
8. Mehta, G.S. 1996. Employment structure and earnings of migrant workers in urban economy. Manpower Journal. 31 (4): 29-41.
9. Meenakshisundaram, K. S., & Panchanatham, N. (2013). A Study on Migration Behaviour of Rural Urban Migrated Agricultural Labourers in Kanchipuram District, 3(7), 154 - 165.
10. Uma Rani & Shylendra. 2001. "Seasonal Migration and Rural-Urban Interface in Semi-Arid Tropics of Gujarat: Study of a Tribal Village," Journal of Rural Development, 20 (2), 187 - 217.