



## CASE STUDY ON LOCAL MIGRANTS' LABOUR ECONOMY

(With Special Reference to Tiruchirappalli City)

### KEYWORDS

Migrant labour, skill, income status.

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### ABSTRACT

*One of the most issues in labour market is immigration of labour. We can find more number of migrant groups at labour market to improve their economic status. Migrant labours are placed with high income and benefit in where there is a high economic status of the Nation or Country. In other side people are engaged with low income and struggled for minimum benefits or daily wage. It may depend how labourers are skilled in the area of work, but low skilled labourers also need to run their family. In some of the case there is insufficient pay attention of state government to take care of migrant labour from village or urban areas. This wage differential may influence the economic status of the states and hence the country. This case study discussed about those migrant labourers earning low income and how it is supporting for their livelihood.*

### INTRODUCTION

The migrant labourers includes both workers who have obtained a legal right to work, as well as people who have entered and are working without legal authorization. According to the Migrant labour Act 1976, the labours should have equal or better wage for the similar nature of the job of the local works. When it's a Government sector, workers are protected and provided with all facilities as per the law, but in most of the situation, especially in the private sector or those who do self-employment, are neither protected under the law nor provided with facilities. Migrant workers encompass a diverse group of individual, different in their skill, education background, languages, the purpose of migration etc. when we try to examine these unorganized migrant sectors economic condition at local level, it would certainly not similar to the migrants or immigrants who come under the organized sector. These unorganized groups of migrants face various problems like poor economic status, low income range, language barrier, no coordination etc., though there are studies on migrant labourers concerning international and internal migrants but the local internal migrants problems are not clearly dealt with. This study is an attempt to understand the local unorganized sector migrant labourers' problems with special reference to Tiruchirappalli. In this survey, case study method is followed to have a detail picture of the internal immigrants of Tiruchirappalli district.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Much of the early theorisation about migrants and migration, originating participating in the international economics literature, presented migration as a decision made by individuals to move to places with better employment opportunities and earnings typically in urban centers. (CF. Harris and Todaro. 1970; Bhagwati and Srinivisan, 1974; Field, 1975)

On the other hand, the historical structural approach perceived the consequences of migration for development as generally negative. This was due to the increased dependency of periphery regions on the core regions due to migration from latter to former and in the process draining the periphery regions of their economic surplus and skilled people. This was believed to increase disparities between the two regions. Proponents of this approach believed that migration was an inevitable part of transition towards the development of capitalism, hence inter-

national migration and remittances was conceptualised in terms of advantages of global capital accruing to richer nations (Nikolanikos, 1975, Wood, 1981; de Haan 2006).

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS (OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY):

- To analyse the local immigrants' economic status
- To examine the possibilities of improving their economic status and livelihood.

### METHODOLOGY

This study provides a detailed case history of some of the local immigrants of Tiruchirappalli city. Case study method is followed in describing their problems. It is a reliable and factual method of analyzing the issues of local migrants.

### SAMPLE SIZE

In this survey research, case histories of THREE immigrants from other neighbouring States have been taken for analysis. Each case study focuses different work climate of the unorganized sector. Tiruchirappalli city has been selected for this study based on the convenience of the researcher.

### AREA OF STUDY

This case study has been done in Tiruchirappalli city, for the city consists of various sectors of people immigrated for employment opportunity. In labour market various issues such as, job security, economy development, poverty alleviation and improves lifestyle are challengeable issues. This migration it not just about an individual life, but behind every migrant is a family, who depend this person for everything. For many of the immigrants the new life in the new environment has become better than before; here are the migrants from three different States and face the challenges for their livelihood.

As a tool for collecting data the researcher followed face to face interview method.

### Case Study: 1.

Name : Baahun (Original name has been changed)  
Gender : Male  
Age : 36  
Qualification : 8th  
Marital status : Married

Job : Gurkha.

This case study is about a migrant from Nepal who is a Gurkha (night watchman). Gurkha, as night patrol used to protect and guard every street. The reason behind his migration is the poor economic condition, which is not sufficient to at least meet the basic needs of the family. Therefore he forced to migrate where there is place for a better survival. He came here in the year 2002 and works and live till now. His father also was worked as Gurkha, and after his old age the respondent took his place as Gurkha by dropping out his higher secondary schooling. He is married, having two children, studying 4th, 5th standards respectively. He is staying as joint family in a rented house; they called themselves as Gurkha but they have support from local police station and some local politicians. He has responsibility of reporting local police station about the critical analysis of a particular area. He earned his living by wandering particular streets in the middle of the night. For his voluntary service he collects money from the households of the respective streets he watches. Apart from this financial source as Gurkha he did not have any other financial support.

The beginning of the month for the first two weeks he collected a sum of Rs.5 or 10 from each house. The area of his patrol consists of more than 650 houses. So it will come around Rs.3250. It may differ every month. This is his monthly wage to run the family. He has to pay his rent, school fees, and has to look into his basic needs. His problem is, during nights he goes round the streets but when he is going for collection, people refuse to give money. Only a few give money in time, but many ask him to come later. He could manage for the first two weeks with a needful fund flow, but the last two weeks he would be in trouble. He manages to speak the local language and working all nights is a difficult task but he does this for his survival. He is not sure about his next day life. As he does not know any other work and people of that area recognized his father and hence him as Gurkha he had to continue with the same work. Amidst all difficulty he feels that the present life is better than the past after his immigration, but everyday he fights the battle of his life.

#### Case Study: 2.

Name : Hari Ram (Original name has been changed)  
Gender : Male  
Age : 31yrs  
Qualification : 11th STD  
Marital status : Married  
Job : Carpet and Bed Sheet Street Vendors.

India is a big country with many states and different culture and policies. Labours move from one country to another, searching better life. He is a migrant labour from Bihar, came 4 years back to Tiruchirappalli. He came here because his relative was here selling the same product as Bed sheets and Carpets. Some of his relatives are there in Bangalore selling the same. His family is living there in Bihar. He is survived with his aged mother and father with his wife and 2 children. One child is studying 4th STD. The second one is 2 years old. He is the bread winner in his family. His father was a coolie and due to his old age and poor health condition he could not go for any work so Hari Ram only is sending the money for the basic needs. He says that daily he has to carry more than 15 Kgs of bed sheets but only a few could at-least see the products and even then hesitate to buy the same and even if they make up their mind to buy will reduce the same to half the prize we say. So it is very difficult to convince the customers for buying the product. Another major difficulty they face is they could sell the blankets and carpets only during winter season, therefore they could sell the same only in those periods and in the off season he visits his family for a week and come back to sell cotton chudidar items. With lot of difficulties

he managed to stay in a small rented house. He has no recreation time. The language is also a great problem. He manages to speak very little Tamil and so could not continue to argue with the customers in Tamil for a long time. Living amidst the Tamil people for a whole day is very difficult for him. With great difficulty and with unsure job security he is surviving alone. He feels very lonely and no moral support and nobody is to take care of him when he is sick. It is his battle.

#### Case Study: 3

Name : Lakshmi (Original name has been changed)  
Gender : Female  
Age : 54yrs  
Qualification : Uneducated  
Marital status : widow  
Job : Women Entrepreneur

Not only government job attracts migrants from one state to another but also, the status of life pushes one to quit his native place and attracted to another. Lakshmi is an entrepreneur with 54 years old lady. She is uneducated. She is from Andra and has three children. Has two girls in marriage age but still not yet, because of bad condition of life. She has one boy, 13 years old. His husband is no longer. She lost him in a fire accident. They failed to educate their children due to poor financial support.

Lakshmi is a women entrepreneur, selling Chillies. She was married to a Tamilian from Trichy and stayed in Andra for long, recently, for life conditions, she moved from his husband native place to Trichy. Now she is 8 years experiencing in selling Chillies. She also is getting support from her children. When she was there in Andra, she got sufficient money as an income only for three days which they use for eating. Other days in the week, she and her children could only drink water. Moreover she faced gender bias, in securing capital to start business. The worst part in her life is, she is also ignored by the members of her own parents' family. After her migration to trichy, she felt a better life, than past. The status of income is adequate to supply food for family. As an entrepreneur it's not easy to run the business with all-time success. She is believing on her skill towards sales, and bargaining. But still she needs to stand on her own to fit with the better living like other people in Trichy. She expects a support from the Government and to get overcome the gender difference from the officials to make a bright future.

#### STUDY ANALYSIS

From these three case studies, we could found the common factor as poor economic status, language barrier, poor accommodation and no moral support and no time for recreation. The economic condition of the person can only bring a big impact to improve the standard of life. As many studies proved that migrant labourer could alleviate poverty and migration especially international migration increases the family income and hence the national economy but it is heartening to note these unorganized migrants' economic status would never get improved. It is important to know the difference between the effects of immigration on the daily wages and skilled workers' economic status.

#### SUGGESTION

- The state government can pay proper attention on local migrants also especially the unorganized sector.
- It is the responsibility of State Government to make an awareness about available facilities and perfect recognition of migrant labour
- If the migrant people are given proper training to improve their skill on their required area of interest they can have a better live in our place.

**CONCLUSION**

Migration from the long history is the tendency of human being to move from place to place. In the history of mankind diaspora of human being is very common and it will not be concluded even they reached a destination. It's like thirsty of reaching better life. Once we get satisfied, again we will feel thirsty. Even people are ready to show their willingness to adjust and face challenges to get better livelihood. And the respected governments also if take necessary step to motivate them and give a structure which ensures a better livelihood. It is not only the international or internal migrants alone but also local migrants of unorganized sector to be taken care of for a better future.

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