

Migration Among Kuruba Community



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

Migration is one of the important social problems in every community and in group especially in India. Due to climatically condition large number of the people migrates to one place to another place. Today World experience human mobility, since the down of human history the movement of population all over the globe has filled to society. The pattern of migration differs significantly from one community to another community and from one area to another area in which they live.

"Kuruba" community is the 4th largest community in Karnataka where people are best suited for a migration and also called as Sanchari Kurubaru as their main occupation was sheep rearing where they use to go in search of grass/fodder for their cattle so migration was common for this community people even though in this modern technical world migration is taking place in this community not because of fodder but for other reasons as Researcher mentioned in this article. It is said that 60 percent of the Kuruba community people are migrating from rural to urban area in search of job as sheep rearing is not profitable and they cannot afford to lead their life with their returns and 20 percent of Kuruba community people migrate due to push factors like to repay the loans, Neighbor disturbance, and loss in agriculture and 10 percent of people migrate for their own development like increase the standard of living to earn more money and only 10 percent of people come for their educational purpose.

Introduction

Ever since the origin of human race, migration has been one of the inevitable activities of man. The primitive man used to migrate from one place to another in search of food for their existence. It is quite evident in human history that man moves from one place to another where he is afforded with sufficient livelihood. Hence, it is demographic/geographic phenomenon.

The primitive men used to wandering from one place to another in search of forest products to feed themselves and for water to quench their thirst. As days passed on people developed a tendency to have a relationship with animals and domesticated them. Later on awareness regarding nature and environment improved them to utilize the natural resources that are available to them, which helped in harvesting crops, where natural water resources were available and to get adapted to civilized life. As a result, mobility of mankind increased considerably and man started to establish settlements, at the place where he would be afforded comfortable life. Even then, the mobility of mankind had not curbed. As the population increased man needed more and more fertile land and so man started to move from region to cultivation. Thus, the nature and scope of mobility had changed. Hence, it could be said that people moved from early civilized area to other parts of the world primarily for agricultural purposes, because trade and investigation. Due to the industrial revolution, industries were established in the developing countries the need for work force/man power had increased and when facilities for movement got developed, the rulers (governing functionaries) of the some of the developed countries started establishing colonies in various parts of the world. It was followed by the process of rural-urban migration and it caused the growth of urbanization. As a result explosion of population to urban areas had grown uncontrolled and the green pastures in the rural areas were left barren. This caused people fall into pangs of precarious poverty and people led miserable life.

Political independence made the people pay attention towards their fundamental rights and started thinking rationally to pave way for their own betterment. Consequently they started to move to other places to seek better employment and improve their living standards as well as social standards besides eking out enough of livelihood. This process is evidently significant in the developing countries, where migration plays a prominent role in revolutionizing (changing) the socio-economic and cultural environment of the people dwelling in rural areas. Hence study about the migration is a key factor for researcher

Meaning of migration:

Lexicographers generally refer to term 'migration' as a change of residence from one place to another.

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, to migrate means to "move from one place to another (to live there)". According to the Webster's New World Dictionary, it means to "move from one place to another, especially to another country" or "to move from place to harvest seasonal crops".

Definitions:

Everett Lee (1966) defines migration broadly, "as a permanent or semi permanent change of residence". No restriction is placed upon the distance of the move or upon the voluntary and involuntary nature of the act, and distinction is made between external and internal migration".

According to Weinberg (1935), "human migration is the changing of the place of abode permanently or, when temporarily, for an appreciable duration as e.g., in the case of seasonal workers. It is used symbolically in the transition from one surrounding to another in the course of human life".

Eisentdt (1953) defines migration "as the physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another. This transition usually involves abandoning one social setting and entering another and different one".

Caplow (1954) states that "migration is, strictly speaking, a change of residence and need not necessarily involve any change of occupation, but it is closely associated with occupational shifts of one kind of another".

Objectives:

- To study the migration scenario in India in general and Kuruba community in particular
- To examine the determinants, causes and consequences of migration.
- To analyse the causes and determinants for the migration of people in Kuruba Community.

Importance and the problem of the study:

The spontaneous overflow of population movement's from place to place in recent times has wider social, economic, political, demographical and ecological implications. From the point of view

of a nation, migration may have adverse as well as favorable effects national interest, it is obligatory to regulate migration and take needful measures to prevent drift of population. In Indian scenario, in the recent times, there has an adverse impact been found at places of origin of the migrants and at the places of destination, more severely on the lives of migrants?

Methodology:

The present research is based on explanatory study aimed primarily at gaining an insight into the nature and consequential impact of migration. It attempts to bring into light the volume, composition, causes, consequences and their impact on Kuruba community

Review of Literature:

According to **Uma Rani and H.S. Shyendra (2004)** seasonal migration is a direct consequence of structural changes, which have taken place both in the origin and in the destination areas of migration. Seasonal migration has resulted in improving the land-man ration temporarily in the village and as such they find that the migration is largely a result of both push and pull factors in rural and urban areas as observed in their study.

K.C. Zachariah, E.T. Methew and S. Irudaya Rajan(2003) analyzed measurement of the magnitudes and dimensions of migration from and return migration to Kerala, the characteristics of the migrants and non migrants and also analysed the impact of migration on demographic transition (on fertility, family planning, infant mortality, child mortality etc). Status of women, children, and elderly persons in the utilization patterns of remittances as well as their socio-economic impact on households and the community, and impact of migration on labour market conditions. They tested 13,948 sample (household and individuals) for the study. They concluded that emigration will continue to increase for some more years, but return emigration would increase for some rate, resulting in a period of net negative international migration. There will be another turn around in the migration trend. The number of return emigrants would become larger than the number of emigrants and net emigration would turn negative.

Sushanta K. Banerjee, V.Jayachandran, T.K. Roy (2002) found that the export of manpower from Kerala became an important component of state revenue and the livelihood of millions. They explained the socio-economic consequences of emigration and how it is likely to affect the long-term demographic behavior of the native household through improvement in their standards of living. They concluded, the living condition of migrant households has changed substantially through the inflow of foreign remittances. The migrant households have achieved better economic standards, its manifestation in the process of family formation is not readily recognized, and religion and education of mother plays a crucial role to motivate the actual fertility. Their indications suggest the migration might lead to further decline in the level of fertility.

D.C. Sah and Amite Shah's (2000), study on seasonal migration in the tribal belt is regarded as an essential coping mechanism especially in response to a stock, including crop failure, son's marriage, serous sickness.

Amit Kundu (2000) examined that rural-labourers will be ready to take the risk of migration to the urban area if the distance between the rural and the urban area is less. Again if the distance is large enough then it is seen that it will be benefited to the rural labourers not to migrate. He also found that permanent labourers will exist in such a rural area which is far away from the urban area.

S.P Singh and R.K. Aggarwall (1998) examined the major push and pull factors behind the migration based on the data collected from 1991 census of 25 districts of North-Western Uttar

Pradesh migration as well as characteristics of hills and plains, and identified female cultivators of hills have a higher percentage of migration from rural to urban area. They have observed that return migration is very low in the area. In fact people who migrate from rural area in search of better job do not return even after their retirement because in the rural area they do not get the same facilities as that of in urban areas. So there is increase in the migration rate of people from urban to rural areas.

Rekha R (1998) explained that migration of labour contributes to economic and social development by enabling labour to overcome the "Tyranny of space". She found out some positive and negative effects from migration, the positive effects of migration that are notable ones are increase in production and productivity of labour, reduction in unemployment, improvement in the quality of life, reduction in poverty and promotion of national integration. The negative aspects are growth of slums with bad and unhygienic living conditions and a number social crimes including prostitution murder etc. Secondly, migration affects women badly, domestic servants, etc.

Types of migration among Kuruba Community:

On the basis of the reasons for migration, migration in kuruba community may be classified as voluntary, sequential and forced migration if the migrant has the opportunity to exercise his own discretion in deciding whether to migrate or not or in the matter of selecting the place of migration, it is regarded as voluntary migration. From the study one can find that Kuruba community people constitute 70 percent of voluntary migration , Sequential migration, 20 percent sequential, on the other hand is the migration due to some element of customary obligation and suggestion of compelling circumstances (for example, migration following marriage, migration of children associated with the migration of the guardian etc.) forced migration is the migration caused by compulsion or coercion like separation, political or religious persecution, eviction, etc.

Table 1

| Sl. No | Reason | Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Job | 55 | 55% |
| 2 | Marriage | 25 | 25% |
| 3 | Education | 10 | 10% |
| 4 | Political | 08 | 8% |
| 5 | Miscellaneous | 02 | 2% |
| Total | | 100 | 100 |

Table1 describe that in Kuruba community 55 percent people migrate mainly because in search of Job. This is because of poverty, loss in agriculture , and due to the pressure by money lenders, and in marriage constitute 25 percent and for education only 10 percent of people migrate as kuruba community people are illiterate and ignorant, political field only 5 percent of people migrate and 2 percent are for their miscellaneous reasons.

Characteristics of Migration and Migrants:

- 1) In Kuruba community 60 percent Migration occurs in search employment or better employment to attain better living conditions. In this regard, it the proportion of migration in the labour force is higher than the proportion of migrants to the total population of the area. A large percentage of rural to urban ward migration is poor, landless and unskilled. For them labour opportunities in rural areas are scanty and in some areas non-existent. Hence, it is a frequently observed phenomenon, that majority of labour force move to cities in the absence of agricultural operations.
- 2) In kuruba community major part of female migration occurs on account of marriage at the young adult age. In the recent times, it is evidently observed that the proportion of young women has got increased as their educational and employment opportunities have increased remarkably.

- 3) Education is one of the significant characteristics among Kuruba community which has deep harmony in the mobility of people towards urban areas. There is a clear association between the level of educational standard provided in rural areas and the propensity to migrate to cities.
- 4) In Kuruba community several migration currents reflect propinquity, socio-historical, cultural, and linguistic ties. People usually move to places where there is similarity of languages, culture and traditions with their own. In many cases it is observed that most of the migrants from an area tend to have same destination as well as the same occupation. For instance, construction workers migrate to some other regions or states to perform the same occupation.
- 5) The main push factor compelling the labour (worker) to alter his occupation from agriculture is the lower level of income, than from others sectors of economy. Thus, there are several factors which tend to push people out of the rural areas. These push factors are not confined to the rural-urban stream. They are also in rural-rural shift of population. These push factors are also motivate international migration streams. However, it is to be noted that in many cases migration is a combined effect of push and pull factor
- 6) Pull factors are those factors that instinctively encourage people, impressively attracting them towards employment and towards other economic opportunities by providing better facilities, amenities, etc, as well as paving ways and means for better employment, affording with attractive wages and providing modern facilities and amenities for a comfortable life etc. Moreover, grandeur glamour of celestial city life sensuously lures the migrants with luxurious and fanciful facilities.

Reasons/Causes for Migration:

Reasons or causes for migration were elicited by Indian Census 1981, for the first time in the history of India. Discussed regarding causes and consequences of migration the following reasons/causes and consequences may be considered as below.

- The most undesirable reason for migration is poor economic conditions and the consequent poverty, which is the predominant cause of rural-urban migration among Kuruba community
- Push factors such as pressure on land, break-up of joint family, debts etc and the 'pull' factors, such as lure of educational facilities and higher social status at urban centers are also important causes for migration.
- Seeking employment, better employment for better life standards, better prospective opportunities in progressive business and industries are also the causes exercised by 'pull' factors for mobilization of population.
- One of the reasons for migration, which is predominant in female migration to both urban areas and rural areas, is marriage and there sometimes occurs mobility of families.
- Wider expansion of transportation and effective communication system play a pivotal part to influence shift to population. Consequent increase of literacy levels blended with socio-cultural development, encourage migration effectively
- Awful economic conditions, afflicting political conditions, crude cultural conditions are potent and predominant causes for migration in Kuruba community.

Consequences of Migration in kuruba community:

Migration or movements of population may result in both positive consequences and negative consequences. In this regard, the observation of Spengler and Myers is to be noted. They have observed that "the migration consists of a variety of movements that can be described in the aggregate as an evolutionary and development fostering process operating in time and space to correct rural-urban, inter-urban and inter-regional imbalances. It also may spread information, when migrations are more

skilled than those living in the regions of destination and it may break the cake of custom enveloping migrants and make the latter a dynamic force". According to the UN publication "Planning of Metropolitan Areas and New Towns" points out that the explosion of urban population, consequently resulting in calamitous poverty, severely poses a strenuous problem for social development. Unlettered unskilled and socially panicked rural migrants fill the mushrooming squatters, finding little work or sometimes no work, a void subsistence and vain opportunities for self improvement.

- The traditional caste barriers of occupational mobility are breaking away in the urban environment. In an urban environment where there is a wider scope to adopt various jobs people of various castes and communities adapt their traditional occupation shedding their caste inhibitions and whims. Take out livelihood, being their prime purpose; they are compelled to accept the job available.
- Positive consequence of migration. remittances such as, the transfer of money by migrants from the place of destination to their families residing in the places of origin of the savings they bring home from the places of destination leads to raise the standard of living of family among the Kuruba community people Migration brings about significant social changes in the emigrating as well as immigrating ends. Urbanization represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. Being a product of basic economy, urbanization affects every aspect of existence. The rural to urbanward shift of the population implicit both economic and social alterations since, they are like two sides of the same coin.
- The social structure and character of the city influence migrant, who causes the breaking down of the traditional enclave character of cities and the consequent result is ruralisation of cities and towns, evidently observed in the enlarging urban mushrooming squatters
- This drain of surplus man-power increases the average productivity as well as per capita consumption, since the total number of bellies to be fed by the afforded and result in creating problem in cities

Findings

- The mobility of population towards urban ward is characterized by a higher proportion of people in the working age group in Kurubas
- Forced mobility is more among Kuruba community as the people depend up on agriculture which is less profitable sector
- Majority of kuruba community people belongs to unskilled sectors as they are illiterate and ignorant
- Majority of migration among women in this community is occurred due to marriage rather than other reasons like search of job, business etc
- Lack of awareness this community people hesitate to migrate to other place

Conclusion

Migration is important aspect of man's life and has a power to change the life of people, and can give a new dimension to one's life and it is just like a double edge sword which has a double character, it has positive and negative impact in every person

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