



MIGRATION TO KERALA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Labour is one of the most important factor input in any sector of India. And migration is the natural outcome of inequality of distribution resources. Migration and development go hand in hand. Migration results in both positive and negative impact. Internal migration in India is 309 million (census of India 2001) and the reason for this internal migration is largely due to in search of better employment opportunities. Kerala is the only state in India which was well discussed under the term 'migration'. The type, process, pattern and streams of migration in Kerala are different from that of other states and it has its own uniqueness. It is the phenomena called Urbanization which resulted in the flow of migrants towards Kerala. The implication of the migration process is far as compared to any other socio economic changes. This paper intent to enlighten some issues and challenges arising out of the inflow of interstate migrants to Kerala..

KEYWORDS

interstate migration, economic effect

INTRODUCTION

India is the country with vast human resources. And due to the unbalanced distribution of these resources the country faces an unbalanced supply of labour. In order to overcome this situation when the people finds difficult to attain minimum job opportunities, in search of employment they starts to move and if the volume of this movement is more we call the process as Migration. Considering the implications of migration it has some economic effects on both birth place and destination. Migration from a labour surplus region or area where disguised unemployment is wide spread generally helps in increasing the average productivity of labour in that region. As far as migration draws up on the surplus labour and the disguised unemployment it would help the emigrating region. It would enable the remaining population of the region to improve their living conditions

What we find in Kerala is that due to the educational impact in Kerala the human resources from Kerala both skilled , semi skilled migrates to different countries and the state found lack of semi skilled and unskilled workers. The educated youth are also not willing to do menial jobs in their native state..He existence of high wage rate in Kerala compared to origin states also resulted in the inflow of migrant workers to Kerala in large quantity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dilip Saika (2008) in his study economic conditions of the in migrants workers in Kerala. A case study in the Thiruvananthapuram districts analyses the economic conditions of the inmigrants workers in Kerala. this has been done by analyzing their saving ,income, and consumption pattern and nature of work before and after migration. Through primary survey they surveyed 166 in migrants workers in Thiruvananthapuram district. They found that saving and investment habit among the migrants in found to be very poor, whatever money remains after consumption.

Santhosh Mehrota (2008) Indiana need a comprehensive social insurance system of old age pension, death/disability insurances, health insurances and maternity benefits for workers in the unorganized sector. This paper argues that in the first phase, This system should be confined to those below poverty line which will keep fiscal costs down. Keeping fiscal costs down initially would be politically astute, as it could help in limiting the opposition to such social insurance on fiscal grounds.

A study on the Social inclusion of internal migrants in India (2012) aims to provide an overview of existing innovative practices that increase the inclusion of internal migrants in society and act as a living document that would inspire and assist professionals and governments officials in their attempts to facilitate the social inclusion of migrants. The study demonstrates that fact that in

India , internal migration accounts for a large population of 309 million as per Census of India 2001 and by more recent estimates ,326 million(NSSO 2007-2008) ,nearly 30% of the total population . Internal migrants, of which ,of which 70.7 percent are women ,excluded from the economic ,cultural ,social and political life of society and are often treated as second class citizens. The constraints faced by migrants are many- lack of formal residency rights ; lack of identity proof; lack of political representation ; inadequate housing ,low paid, insecure hazardous work, extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sex exploitation ,exclusion from state provided service such as health and education and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender. In the absence of proofs of identity and residence, internal migrants are unable to claim social protection entitlement and remain excluded from government sponsored schemes and programmes.

METHODOLOGY

The study relied upon secondary sources such as journals, news papers , case studies and it is a review based descriptive study.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPLICATION OF MIGRATION TO KERALA

Kerala's density of population is 860 per square kilometer.. We know that Kerala also faces the problem of aging and it also lacks unskilled and semiskilled workers. The migrant workers in farms, construction sites, big and small manufacturing units across the state is a major demographic asset filling a critical gap in the states labour market and at the same time the density of population increases.

The gulf migration and the educational level resulted in the lack of workers to do menial jobs. The work force is low in Kerala. Thus interstate migration is filling this gap of demand and supply of unskilled and semi skilled workers

Kerala economy being shifting towards a service sector oriented economy welcomes migrants workers to the sector with different employment opportunities. In the past the workers were mostly found in the construction sector but now almost every restaurants, workshops, and petrol pumps in the state has atleast one migrant worker.

The standard of living of migrant workers was benefitted out of their work and toil in the state. Thus it is clear that the wages that they receive in Kerala is higher than what they receive in their place of origin

TRANSFORMATION OF KERALA'S FACE

Implication of the interstate migration is also seen while travelling across the state. We can see migrant workers in every nook and corner of the state. Earlier it was to attract the foreigners and

tourists the name boards of buses, places etc written in other languages than Malayalam. But from now retailer traders, hotels, buses display their price lists, menu cards destination boards etc in Hindi.

The migrants are making a revolutionary change in the employment opportunities of service sector of Kerala. The Keralites prefer north Indian food. The food items such as paanipuri, channa chat, are available in the state. The migrant workers also find livelihood by selling their food items along their road sides. Migrant workers are slowly replacing Kerala cooks in hotels.

Beauty parlours also employs migrants male and female workers and their dedication to works are commendable.

Migrants also find places in Kerala through movies. The movie *Masala Republic* directed by Akku Akbar is exclusively is based on the story of migrant workers. The lead in *Masala Republic* is played by a migrant and the supporting actors include dozen from same community. Many of the migrant workers are addicted to pan masala. The film portrays how the community reacts to ban on the pan masala and emergence of trade union to fight their causes are highlighted in the story. Sumangal, a migrant worker from Assam employee in Kochi is the main actor in the film.

The film *Acha Dhin* starred by Mammooty is a story of a migrant worker. Apart from this Amar akbar Anthony, *Vadakkan Selfie*, *Kanal*, *Ohm Shanthi Osana* also finds the presence of migrant workers.

VULNERABILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS

There are evidences that the migrant community is unfortunately very vulnerable to exploitation because of their plight lack of awareness and their willingness to compromise for comparatively better life. There are reports that the migrants have a frugal living in Kerala. Perumbavoor one of the largest migrant settlement in Kerala here the migrant works 12-14 hrs. They cook, eat, and sleep in open spaces. Lack of awareness of labour rules and regulations among migrant workers results in exploitation of the workers by the middle men and the contractors.

There are also cases of low paid, long hours of work and substandard accommodation. The exploitative employers and sub contractors illegal wage deductions also makes the life of migrants tough in the state. Migrant labourers are usually employs in the 3D jobs- dangerous, dirty and degrading and there are diseases and injuries that come out of out by doing such jobs

ISSUES RELATED TO MIGRATION

Apart from the benefits out of the migration to the state as well as to the migrant workers it also poses some threats to the state. The increasing numbers of crimes is a big concern for the resident population and the administrators apart from there is a spurt in crimes committed by the migrant workers. In a weak time six murders in three different incidents were reported. An elderly couple and their son who employed a worker from Uttar Pradesh in their laundry business were brutally murdered allegedly by the worker. The three stabbed, electrocuted and doused with acid before the suspect fled to his native village. A migrant worker murdered is co worker and dumped the body and raped in a gunny bag by the way side. In yet another case of murder of young mother and her child were found slaughtered in paddy field (THE HINDU, 2015). A report by the intelligence wing of the police says that the influx of illegal Bangladeshi in migrants in to Kerala especially considering the threat of cross boarder terrorism and the spread of fake Indian currency. According to the District Crime Records Bureau around 323 cases related to migrant labourers including murder, murder attempts and theft were registered in the Ernakulam rural over the five year period. A total of 96 murders took place in the rural limit during the period from 2011-2015.

Apart from these murder case there are cases of theft, burglary,

drug peddling, drug abuse, kidnaps, fights and sexual crimes involving migrant workers have been reported. Sexual offences are reported recently. The local girls elopes with the migrant workers are also seen.

HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO MIGRATION

When analyzing the issues related to health, the migrants who are come up to Kerala will may also affected with the epidemiological diseases of the concerned origin state of. But there has been resurgence of malaria in the state due to a growing influx of migrant workers from various malaria endemic parts of the country. And the migrants who are migrating with their families will not get adequate medical services of the state due to lack of documents. So they have to approach private hospitals which will be unbearable to the migrant workers. If the migrants accompany any pregnant women or babies will not avail the services provided by the Government of Kerala. The women population in the employment sector also were subjected to physical, verbal and sexual abuses.

CONCLUSION

Each and every features above shows the various dimensions of inter state migration to Kerala. the concept is highly sensitive and the scope of the migration process is wide. It is necessary to understand deeply on the interstate migration has it can be even called as a revolutionary change in the labour market of Kerala.

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