



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

An Analysis on Problems Encountered by the Migrant Women Workers in Coimbatore City

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ABSTRACT

The present study analyzes the socio-economic conditions and various problems faced by the migrant women workers after migration in Coimbatore city. The study is based on primary data collected from 100 women migrants with predesigned interview schedule by applying purposive sampling technique. The study found that drinking water was inadequate and they were required to fetch it from distant places. The workers who migrate to the cities for job stay in deplorable conditions, with inadequate medical facilities, very low income and no job security. To communicate with other person in the destination place the local language was the main problem for the migrated working women. The selected women migrant works suffer from increasing job insecurity, unemployment and underemployment.

Introduction:

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination. It is generally believed that the globalization processes all over the world has accelerated the migration trend, in search of survival, fulfillment and a better life for themselves and their families (Jamshed et.al, 2012). Rural-urban migration has a positive impact on urban growth and social development, which makes generation of employment opportunities and provision of educational facilities and transportation infra-structure for the migrants (Ijere 1994). The model developed by Harris and Todaro (1976) explains rural-urban migration as a response to the expected rather than current income differential between rural and urban areas.

Since women are ready to work for any wage, and perceived as passive and docile, they are in great demand, contributing to feminization of labour and feminization of labour migration (Binoy, 1987). No doubt these labour market changes have had their impact on rural-urban migration as well, female economic migration being more pronounced in the recent ten to fifteen years. Changes in the rural economy also have contributed to this increased female migration. About half of the migrants in the world today are women, as has been the case for several decades (Zlotnick 2003). They includes both international migrants, who move to other countries, as well as internal migrants, who relocate in other parts of their own countries. While many women accompany or join family members, increasing numbers of female migrants migrate on their own.

They are the principal wage earners for themselves and their families. Most women move voluntarily, but a significant number are forced migrants who have fled conflict, persecution, environmental degradation, natural disasters and other situations that affect their habitat and livelihood. Migrant problem in India is one of the major problems in India. Nowadays, Migrant workers play a major role in informal sectors meanwhile the workers face so many problems in their day-to-day activities. With this background the study aims to explore the various problems faced by the migrant women workers in Coimbatore city.

Objectives of the study:

- To know the socio-economic background of migrant women workers
- To identify the various problems faced by the migrant women workers after migration

Review of Literature:

Saran et.al (1990) found that the women were exploited, low paid, worked for long hours. In the study migrant works for 14-16 hours and local workers work for 8-10hours. These women workers

were common in mass illiteracy, belonged to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes and indebtedness. The women workers reported rebuking, cheating, threatening, beating and sexual abuses were a common problem in unorganized sector.

Kamble (2012) stated that migrated labours have been facing a number of severe problems like nature and extend of employment, physical or intellectual work, rates of wages, levels of income, provision of basic necessities of life, number of working hours, disposal of income, social security service, social service like education, health and medical, social status, political power and many more. Abraham et.al (2014) stated that the migrant women workers face several problems as low wages, health hazards, sexual exploitation and denial of their fundamental rights. They have no voice for claiming any rights for help. Their economic, political and religious marginalization characterizes the plight of women migrant workers. The poverty and haplessness makes them to leave their place of origin and land to work in extremely exploitative conditions, hence it is inevitable to make an analysis of statues of women migrant workers.

Methodology:

The study was conducted in Coimbatore city of Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore is a city with a very large and growing population of migrant workers from many parts of the states. The respondent to the study was selected from several areas of Coimbatore city where migrant women workers are found. The study is based on primary data collected with predesigned interview schedule by applying purposive sampling technique. Generally migration studies are either origin or destination based. The present study is destination based as it is considered relevant to ascertain information from those who have taken decision to migrants. The study was conducted among women workers who migrated from different places on temporary basis for work in informal sector. A total of 100 women migrants were selected who were engaged in informal sector through pilot survey by administering interview schedule. Our sample consisted only of migrant workers who remitted money to their native place. After cross checking the six data were counterfeit finally our data of the sample was confined to 94.

Findings of the study:

The socio-economic factors play a significant role in determining the status of an individual in the society and also have a direct bearing on the activities pursued by the individual. Socio-economic factors like religion, educational qualification and occupation of the household head have positive direct effects on migration (Rokib et.al, 2009). Table 1 depicts the details of the socio-economic profile of the migrant women workers.

Table - 1: Socio- Economic Profile of the Migrant Women Workers

Socio-Economic Profile		
Age (in years)	Below 30	18(19.1)
	30-45	44(46.8)
	Above 45	32(34.1)
Marital Status	Unmarried	12(12.8)
	Married	53(56.4)
	Widowed	29(30.8)
Education	Illiterate	21(22.3)
	Primary	57(60.6)
	Secondary	16(17.0)
Occupation	Unskilled workers	51(54.3)
	Self employed/Vendors	43(35.7)
Family type	Nuclear family	33(35.1)
	Joint family	61(64.9)
Household size(in numbers)	Below 4	33(35.1)
	5-6	41(43.6)
	Above 6	20(21.3)
Monthly Income (in Rs)	Below 5000	13(13.8)
	5000-10000	72(76.6)
	Above 10000	9(9.6)
Total	94(100.0)	

Source: Field survey, 2016

In the study, the major proportion of the migrant women workers was in the age group of 30-45 years. Majority of the migrant women workers (56 percent) were married. Among the selected sample (61 percent) had primary education, may be this is the reason which pushed these women into unorganized work; 22 percent of them were illiterates and 17 percent were completed secondary level education. Most of the women workers (54 percent) were unskilled workers and 36 percent were engaged as self employed or vendors at the destination place. About 65 percent of the respondents belonged to joint family while the remaining belonged to nuclear family. In these days when joint family system is disappearing from the society it is interesting to note that women still live in joint family. This helps the women to leave their children's with the elders, so that they can freely go for work. With regard to the size of the family 44 percent of the women workers had 5 or more members and 35 percent had less than 4 members in their family. Nearly 77 percent of the migrant women earn income between 5000-10000 while 14 percent earn an income of less than 5000 and only 10 percent had more than Rs 10000.

Problems Faced By the Migrant Women Workers after Migration:

Migration is considered as a driver of growth and an important route out of poverty with significant positive impact on people's livelihoods and wellbeing (Anh,2003). The mobility of women affects the roles of both female and male migrants, families left behind in the migration process, and source and destination communities and countries of migrants. The problems encountered by migrated workers in the destination place and to help them to adapt efficiently to unfamiliar working conditions in a new socio-cultural and religious environment. They have to face a number of problems in the cities when they get migrated. The initial problems faced immediately after migration were gradually settled down. The present study made an attempt to identify the various problems faced by the selected migrated working women who formed the sample. The migrated working women were asked questions, relating to various problems faced by the selected migrated working women on a five point scale ranging from -2 (strongly disagree) to +2 (strongly agree).

Factor analysis was used to examine the structure of the relationship among the variables representing the various problems faced by the selected migrated working women. Cronbach's alpha test for reliability was conducted for all constructs to determine the internal consistency across items. The Cronbach's alpha values is .863 exceeding the minimum alpha of 0.7 (Nunnally, 1978). This indicates good reliability for all items. To determine the appropriateness of applying factor analysis, the

KMO and Bartlett's test measure were computed and the results are presented in table 2. KMO statistics is 0.750 which is signifying higher than acceptable adequacy of sampling. The Bartlett's test of Sphericity was also found to be significant at one percent level providing evidence of the presence of relationship between variables to apply factor analysis.

Table -2: KMO and Bartlett's Test Measures

KMO and Bartlett's Test	
Kaiser-Mayer -Olkin measures of sampling adequacy	.750
Bartlett's test of sphericity Approx. Chi-square	1283.558
Degrees of freedom	210
Significance level	.000

Source: Estimation based on field survey, 2016

The communalities for each variable were assessed to determine the amount of variance accounted by the variable to be included in the factor rotations. All the variables had value greater than 0.50 signifying substantial portions of the variance accounted by the factors. Table 2.1 enlists the Eigen values, their relative explanatory powers and factor loadings for 21 linear components identified within the data set.

Table- 2.1: Rotated Component Matrix

Problems	Components					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Insufficient residential accommodation			.763			
Drinking water facility not available	.665					
Electricity not available						.620
No latrines in home, public latrines insufficient	.877					
Irregular nature of employment					.860	
Very low income				.850		
Discrimination and oppressions at the work place						
Inflexible working hours	.775					
Untimely payment of wages			.870			
No proper school facilities in the locality						
Medical facilities not available		.707				
Local civic authorities do not provide any civic facilities		.774				
Local Language		.838				
Lack of social Contacts		.638				
No job security		.720				
Difficulty in adjustment with changed environment	.863					
Inadequate facilities at work						
Problem of fatigue and health hazard				.847		
Lack of identity papers	.627					
Food insecurity and malnutrition	.670					
Insecure or hazardous work			.837			

Eigen value	5.725	3.160	2.588	1.710	1.455	1.254
Percentage of variance	27.264	15.047	12.325	8.142	6.928	5.972
Cumulative percentage	27.264	42.311	54.636	62.778	69.706	75.678

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Source: Estimation based on Field Survey, 2016
 Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis
 Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization, rotation converged in 21 iterations

Factor 1 has significant loadings for six dimensions namely drinking water facility not available, no latrines in home and public latrines insufficient, inflexible working hours, difficulty in adjustment with changed environment, lack of identity papers and food insecurity and malnutrition. These dimensions explained nearly 27 percent of the variance. Factor 2 has significant loadings for five dimensions namely medical facilities not available, local civic authorities do not provide any civic facilities, local language, lack of social contacts and no job security which explain nearly 15 percent of the variance. Factor 3 has significant loadings on three dimensions namely insufficient residential accommodation, untimely payment of wages and insecure or hazardous work which explains 12 percent of the variance. Factor 4 has significant loadings on two dimensions namely problem of fatigue and health hazard and very low income which explains 8 percent of the variance. Factor 5 has significant loadings on one dimension namely irregular nature of employment which explains 7 percent of the variance. Factor 6 has significant loadings on one dimensions namely electricity not available which explains 6 percent of the variance. The study found that drinking water was inadequate and they were required to fetch it from distant places. The workers who migrate to the cities for job stay in deplorable conditions, with inadequate medical facilities, very low income and no job security. To communicate with other person in the destination place the local language was the main problem for the migrated working women. Hence these are the various problems faced by the selected migrated working women who are engaged in informal sector after migration. Similarly studies of Singh(1998), Kamble (2012) and Srinivasan et.al (2013) stated that migrated labours have been facing a number of severe problems like nature and extend of employment, physical or intellectual work, rates of wages, levels of income, provision of basic necessities of life, number of working hours, disposal of income, social security service, social service like education, health and medical, social status, political power and many more.

Conclusion:

The study found that drinking water was inadequate and they were required to fetch it from distant places. The workers who migrate to the cities for job stay in deplorable conditions, with inadequate medical facilities, very low income and no job security. To communicate with other person in the destination place the local language was the main problem for the migrated working women. The selected women migrant works suffer from increasing job insecurity, unemployment and underemployment. Meanwhile in the study drinking water was inadequate and they were required to fetch it from distant places. The workers who migrate to the cities for job stay in deplorable conditions, with inadequate medical facilities, very low income and no job security.

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