

A study on understanding of young migrants in Tirupur with special reference to Don Bosco migrant desk

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Abstract: Tiruppur, a city in Tamil Nadu, India, is famed for its knitted clothing and is frequently referred to as the "banian city" of Tamil Nadu. Since the middle of the 1980s, the city has quickly become India's top exporter of apparel, accounting for almost 80% of the country's recent exports of cotton knitwear (Tiruppur Exporter's Association 2012). Due to the labor-intensive nature of the textile business, Tiruppur drew a lot of laborers as it grew. Workers who commuted to the city from within a radius of 10–20 km of Tiruppur were initially employed by the industry. A considerable number of people started to move, mostly from areas of south Tamil Nadu like Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Ramnad, Sivagangai, Viruthunagar, Tirunelveli, Trichy, and Thoothukudi, though some came from other areas as well. In order to show that labor involvement is not just a mechanical by-product of a lifetime of exposure to an industrial and contemporary lifestyle, four case studies of migrants are explored and analysed. Instead, migrant workers' obligations must be implicit in light of their perspectives and innovations, which for the majority of migrants are molded by socioeconomic and spatial flexibility knowledge. The nature of business services and lifestyles, living condition of youth are discussed in this article, along with a range of expectations and successes that encompass current experiences for individuals involved.

Key Words: Migrants, Youth, Employment, textiles.

1. INTRODUCTION :

In general, migration is the process by which individuals move from one location to another. A person specifically relocates from their hometown or place of origin to another location for employment and educational reasons. There are still other types of forced migration, such as those resulting from ecclesiastical strife, natural disasters, political unrest, or societal upheaval. All of these have as their central objective improving their standard of living. Unskilled and semi-skilled individuals who have trouble finding employment in their hometowns choose migration as a way of life. Once they have moved, they decide to settle in one or more informal sector jobs, either as wage workers or independent contractors. These migrants, whether from another state or from different districts within the same state, are accommodated in large part by the garment and textile sectors. The goal of this study is to better understand the living conditions of young migrants working in the textile industry, with a focus on the Don Bosco Migrants Desk in Tiruppur district.

2. REVIEW IF LITERATURES :

The number of migrants in India was 450 million as per the most recent 2011 census. This is an increase of 45% over the 309 million recorded in 2001 census which constitute about 30% of the total population of the country. Literatures on migration brings out the reasons underlying the issues of migration in terms of the interstate, intrastate and international level which produces positive as well as negative impacts on the economy. Few studies are as follows:

An analysis of problems faced by the migrants in India – A step to the solution by Ansari. P.A states the report presented by UNESCO in the year 2013 under the topic Social Inclusion of Internal migrants India states that the population on internal migrants in India has increased from 309 million in 2001 to 400 million in 2011. Further, it has stated that migrants today face more crucial problems regarding their identity, child education, health issues, harassment of female migrants and other disputes over their livelihood. It also suggested that some serious measures should be taken by the government and civil society organisations. The study concludes by stating that there is a need to understand the

skill of migrant workers and increase the level of confidence through capacity building programs. He is of strong opinion that increase in their level of confidence will directly reflect in boosting our GDP increase in their standard of living. He concludes that strong national strategy would ensure sustainable and equitable pathway to the development of the nation and progress of our people.

Post Covid-19 study held by Shailendrakumar and Sanghamitra Choudhry on Migrant workers and human rights: A critical study on India's COVID-19 lockdown policy quoted Migration is a reason for helping billions in getting rid of poverty, improving health, education, income and conflict and the decline in migration leads to a less-flexible economy as said by Castle in 1986. After having analysed many studies and conditions they said that

- The Government of India was ill-prepared to withstand any widespread epidemic or catastrophe situation.
- Indian Government and world bodies including WHO completely failed to properly and timely assess the severity of the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- There exist serious flaws in the pandemic policy of the government of India and there is an urgent need to address those flaws and introduce a new pandemic policy that is more humane, adaptive and inclusive in nature.

They concluded, the strategy, which increases the inclusion of all components of the internal migrant community in society, especially children and women should be more humane.

A study on Migration of workers in India by Heena Upadhyaya, Faculty, Department of business Economics, M.S.University of Baroda, India indicates that Migration has diverse impacts on growth and development of a country in terms of social, political and economic perspectives. The study concludes the major reason of this growth of rural to urban migration is a number of people do not find sufficient economic opportunities in rural areas and therefore they are compelled to move to urban areas with wider scope for economic opportunities. And most of the internal migrants are women due to marriage reasons and the percentage is more for rural females. On the other hand, men migrate mostly for employment related reasons and most of the labour migrants are employed particularly in subsectors like construction sectors, textile industry, agriculture and transportation.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :

On whatever grounds the migration takes place the core focus is to have betterment of living conditions. But in contrary, in the destination place they undergo lots of sufferings because of lack of knowledge in local languages, cultural differences at a large. Often the migrants are not treated wisely by the local people and they become the victims of abuse and discrimination. There is a gap of knowledge in understanding their actual living and working condition, the challenges they face as migrants and the prospects they enjoy through this due phenomenon of migration.

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

The scope of the study could be better understood if we see certain basic statistics pertaining to Migrants. A survey held by Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR), Loyola College, Chennai and Indian Social Institute (IST), Bangalore in the year 2016 by Francis Jeyapathy, Sebastian Crossian, P.O.Martin and Bernard D'Samy states that for the past few decades' interstate migrants are witnessed more in Tamil Nadu. 20% of migrant workers in Tamil Nadu live in Kanchipuram District. Most of them work in manufacturing units which includes Ford, Hyundai, BMW and Nissan in the top three districts of Tamil Nadu viz Kancheepuram, Chennai and Tiruvallur. The real estate projects and more recently metro rail projects have attracted them the most. The second maximum number of jobs is offered by the textile and allied industries which employ 1.5 lakh workers, evidently Tiruppur has 9% of the total migrant population. Hence it becomes necessary for a social worker to have in-depth understanding regarding their profile, living and working condition to plan and execute welfare measures to face their challenges in a more constructive manner.

5. OBJECTIVES :

- ✓ To understand the working condition of the young migrants in the destination area
- ✓ To look at the push and pull factors along with gaining knowledge on the migration status.
- ✓ To study the demographic profile of the young migrants.

6. METHODOLOGY :

The study is conducted among 50 young migrant workers employed in textile industries who enrolled themselves in the Don Bosco Migrant Desk of Tiruppur district. Purposive sampling method was adopted and Structured Interview Schedule was administered to collect primary data from the respondents. The interview schedule consisted of questions covering their Socio-demographic characteristics, opinion regarding migration, working condition such as basic facilities like canteen, toilet, leisure time, discrimination and abuse. The analysis of data was done by applying SPSS through which percentage analysis, Chi-Square test, T-Test and One way ANOVA. Inter correlation matrix of data was brought out.

7. LIMITATIONS :

As the study is limited to those migrants enrolled themselves in Don Bosco Migrant desk and limited numbers of 50 respondents are selected and hence the findings of the present study cannot be generalized. Further the study has not laid significance in knowing all the aspects in detail as it aims at general understanding of the young migrants for future research.

8. RESULTS AND FINDINGS :

Socio-Demographic Profile: 74% of the respondents are male. More than half (64%) of the respondents are unmarried and nearly half hail from middle class family and the remaining 52% are from poor family 34% of the respondents have completed their primary level of education and 36% among the total respondents earn only around 10,000 to 15,000 per month.

Migration Status: 76% of the respondents are interstate migrants. Vast majority (92%) choose their destination point as Tirupur and that remains their first choice of migration and 96% decided to migrate only for economic reasons. More than half (66%) of the respondents do not migrate along with the migrant against 74% of the migrant's friends have accompanied them during migration and it can be conceived as one of the pull factors. Only 36% of the migrants have highly satisfactory relationship with their family members after migration. Half of the respondents go to their native places only once in a year.

36% of the respondents have taken debts to migrate and 64 % do not take any debts at the time of migration whereas the percentage of migrants those who don't have debts after migration has reduced to 58% which indicates they have taken debts after their migration owing to their low level of income. But with this entire economic crisis vast majorities have reported that their economic condition has improved and 36% perceive migration as both threat and an opportunity. Nearly half (44%) are not happy with the migration but in contrary vast majority (84%) do not regret their migration and majority (76%) encourage others to migrate, this helps us to understand how people are pushed to bear sufferings for basic decent livelihood. Nearly half of the respondents have an idea of changing their current work.

More than half stated that they have no canteen facilities in their working place and 40% stated about inadequate first aid measures, resting place and time. 36% are of the opinion that they didn't have gender friendly working environment and proper toilet facilities. More than half (66%) are not aware of their rights as a migrant worker, (68%) are not aware of the government welfare schemes pertaining to a migrant and experience discrimination in working place.

Status of Migrants during Covid-19: Vast majority had the fear of getting infected with corona (72%), fear of unemployment (84%) and fear of no income during the time COVID (80%). More than half (68%) received support from the NGOs and 36% reported to receive support from the government and remaining from the individual philanthropists and neighbours.

Major Findings Related to Statistical Tests

There is a significant association between the respondents' level of education and their opinion regarding migration. Similarly, there is a significant association between those migrants' economic status and their opinion regarding migration. There is a significant association between those migrants' family accompanied them while migrating and their opinion regarding migration.

There is a significant association between those migrants' family accompanied them while migrating and their opinion regarding migration. Between the migrants who migrated with the consent of their family members and their opinion regarding migration there is a significant association. There is also a significant association between the respondents' status of debts and their opinion regarding migration. Between the respondent's perception regarding the migration phenomenon and their opinion regarding migration there is a significant association.

There is significant difference between the migrants' educational statuses with regard to the satisfaction regarding overall facilities. Between the migrant's educational status with regards to the opinion regarding to overall challenges there is a difference and there is significant difference between the migrants' educational status with regard to the opinion regarding migration.

9. SUGGESTIONS :

- ✓ Periodical studies should be conducted among the migrants to understand them in a better way and formulate policies in favour of them.
- ✓ Maximum days of work should be guaranteed from the government side which may restrict distress migration from the rural areas of the country.
- ✓ Government should ensure the individuals education to the higher level.

10. CONCLUSION :

According to the current study, young migrants relocate more frequently than older migrants, and the majority of them do so before getting married. Education, occupation, and economic position are important indices of human growth and have a substantial impact on the phenomena of migration. These indicators continue to be important push and pull variables in the migration process because it is obvious that they are interconnected and related to one another. Both government and non-government sectors must make sincere efforts and pay close attention to these indicators in order to prevent migration when it is essential and, at the same time, to reinforce and promote migration as a beneficial process advancing human development as a whole.

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