



A Historical Study On Labour Migration Of Western Odisha: With Special Reference To Bargarh District (1993-2017)

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Abstract

Migration has taken a pivotal place in the present development discourse. Many economists view it as an integral part of demographic transformation having greater potential for poverty reduction and economic growth. It has different dimensions and these dimensions could be analysed in terms of “WHO” migrates and “WHY”. Migration can be defined as the movement of a group of people from one place to other. It has a watertight link with the avenues of income available at the destination. It can be permanent or semi-permanent. Sometimes migration is voluntary, but many times people are forced to migrate because they do not have any other choices. Labour migration is a part of semi-permanent migration also called seasonal migration. As per the government rural People from the 11 districts- Balangir, Bargarh, Subarnapur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Khurdha have been migrating to other places in search work despite the plans of panchayatiraj department that the state government has been implementing various scheme for them out district state level. The state government has set upon district levels maintaining committee in these districts under the leadership of collector to check the migration .The state government needs to maintain the tribal migration in the state in order to implement some welfare schemes to stop their migration to their other places.

Introduction

Labour Migration is the process of shifting a labour force from one physical location to another. In short, Migration refers to a movement of human beings from one's native race, to other with an intention to get a better scope of living along with other amenities of life. The distress migrants comprise of the particular group people who are landless, labours, seasonally unemployed labours, agriculture labourers, poor farmers and the people belong to socially backward classes like SC (Scheduled Caste) and ST (Schedule Tribe). It has a great impact on economic, social, cultural and psychological life of people, both at place of emigration as well as of migration. Migration is widely perceived as both introduced by the extent of vulnerability in a social group and resulting in increased vulnerability at the point of destination. According to census in India, a person would be considered a migration place of last residence, if s/he had last resided at a place other than her/his place of enumeration. Rural migration takes place under two comparing circumstances which can be termed as growth pull (demand pull) or crowding out (supply push) effects. Under the "growth pull" effect, the decimation promise higher level of growth due to increased public/private investment, infuse of new technology, structural changes in the production sector or any other growth influencing factors. Sanitary 2015 international labour organisation (I.L.O) specialised agency of the U.N.O dedicated to improving the labour condition and living standards throughout the world, established in 1919 by the treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations.

The I.L.O became the first affiliated specialist agency of the U.N.O in 1946. In recognition ion of the activities the I.L.O was awarded as Nobel Prize for peace in 1969. The functions of the I.L.O includes the development and promotion of standards for national legislation to protect and improve working condition and standards of living. The I.L.O also provides technical assistance in salary policy and administration and in work force training, fosters co-operatives organisations and rural industries, compiles labour statistics and conducts resources on the social problems of the international competition. Unemployment and under employment, labour and industrials relations and technological change (including automation) helps to protect the rights of international migrants and organises labour. In the first decade, the I.L.O was primarily concerned with legislative and research efforts, with defining and promoting proper minimum standards of labour legislation for adoptions by members of the state with arranging for collaboration among workers, employers, Government, delegates and I.L.O professional staff.

DEFINITION

International Labour Migration is defined as the movement of people of employment. Today estimated 105 million persons are working in a country other than their country of birth. Labour mobility has become a key feature of globalization and the global economy with migrant worker earning \$440 billion in 2011 and the World Bank is estimating that more than \$350 billion of that total was transferred to developing countries in

the form of remittances. However, despite the efforts made to ensure the protection of migrant workers, many remain vulnerable and assume significant risks during the migration process.

MEANING OF LABOUR:

Simply, 'Labour' means the work done by hard manual labour mostly work done by unskilled worker. But in Economics, the term labour mean manual labour. It includes mental work also. In other words we can say that Labour includes both physical and mental work undertaken for some monetary reward. In this way, workers working in factories, services of doctors, advocates, officers and teachers are all included in labour. Any physical or mental work which is not undertaken for getting income, but simply to attain pleasure or happiness, is not labour. Labour is the act of mental and physical activity on some work for some monetary benefits. Any work or services rendered by the professionals such as doctors, engineers, teachers etc are all included in the labour. Alternatively, any activity done with the intention of happiness or pleasure or doing any art work for hobby will not count in labour. Otherwise, if the art work is sold out for some consideration, then the same will be called as labour. S. E. Thomas defines as "Labour connotes all human efforts of body or mind which are undertaken in the expectation of reward".

MEANING OF MIGRATION:

Migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intention of settling; permanently or temporarily in a new location. The movement is often over long distances and from one country to another, but inter migration is also possible indeed, this is the dominant form globally, people may migrate as individuals, in family units or in large groups. A person who moves from their home to another place because of natural disaster or civil disturbance may be described as a refugee or, especially within the same country, a displaced person. A person seeking refuge from political, religious or other forms of persecution is usually described as an asylum seeker.

TYPES OF LABOUR MIGRATION:

There are different scales of migration, from interregional to intercontinental to intercontinental. Although the terms "emigration" and "immigration" are used interchangeably with the word migration, emigration and immigration typically refer to situations in which people are migrating from one country to another. The present study focuses on distressed seasonal migration in particular: the process whereby labourers move to another place within the district, within the state or to other states because of the seasonal unavailability of income opportunities at their native places. Distressed seasonal migration has deep rooted causes and far reaching consequences. Thus, it is very difficult to stop this kind of migration unless the root causes are properly identified and addressed on a continuous basis. Addressing the root causes is a long-term agenda and needs an approach that integrates development and proactive governance.

Migration is a difficult concept to define because it includes people who move for different reasons across different spaces. A migrant can be a person who moves to another city or town within a nation; a refugee who crosses an international border to escape religious or political persecution; a jobseeker who moves to another country for better economic opportunities; a slave who is forcibly moved; or a person displaced by war or natural disaster. Demographers lack a single, operational definition for migration because it occurs under different conditions.

The causes of migration are related to the specific contexts in which they take place. First, the composition of migration streams is characterized by structural forces such as the global economy. Second, socio cultural differentials (gender, class, caste, etc.) have important implications for individual mobility. Because migration occurs under different circumstances, the demographic implications for receiver populations change accordingly. For example, when large numbers of rural residents migrate to cities, infrastructure problems may arise in urban area.

- (i) **Long Term Migration:** Nearly hundred thousand labourers go to Surat (Gujrat). This is a long term migration, mostly in the textile-weaving (power loom) and diamond-polishing businesses. Though this migration has its problems, it is overall a long trend migration, with a more stable income.
- (ii) **Labour Migration:** Labour migration represents the movement of individuals from one country to another with the purpose of seeking work or responding to recruitment drives in another country. However, in labour migration it is possible to identify two types of migrants: highly skilled labour and unskilled low wage labour (including illegal or forced immigrants).
- (iii) **Highly Skilled Labour Migration:** This represents only a small percentage of migration and it is the type of migration most demanded by the host countries who develop special types of incentives to attract highly skilled labour, often in specific categories, such as doctors and nurses. The attraction of highly skilled labour lies in the ability of the host country to accumulate human capital with no education or training costs. However the loss of skilled labour, a phenomenon known as the “brain drain”, can have severe consequences for the sending countries, which lose human capital and all the money invested in the education and training of the people who leave. Nevertheless, it can be seen as an attractive solution for solving problems of labour shortage and a way to increase economic production.
- (iv) **Unskilled low wage labour and temporary migration:** After 1945 unskilled low-wage labour was the main type of migration which played a very important role in the economic reconstruction of the industrialised countries. Not all of this immigration is legal and some countries, such as the USA, have been very attractive to illegal migrants, especially from Mexico and other Latin American countries, willing to work in the “black economy”. In 1988, Sassen, in her approach to the global cities, referred to the dual economy which uses these low skilled labourers as a primary source for the low wage jobs (in industry, construction and domestic service).

- (v) **Forced labour migration:** Forced migration includes not only refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war or political repression but also people displaced from their homes by projects such as dams or roads or as a result of certain natural disasters. Castles has also referred to another mode of forced migration, the trafficking of people, with special emphasis on women and children destined for the sex industry ¹⁰.
- (vi) **International Retirement Migration (IRM):** International Retirement Migration is a phenomenon of the northern countries such as Germany, the UK and the Nordic countries, characterised by the residential mobility of retired people who have the economic power to buy properties abroad. Retirement is the main “push factor” to initiate this migration process. As a “pull factor” the pleasant climate characterised by warmer temperatures, the landscape, a quality lifestyle associated with a healthier and slower pace of life, and also the availability of information about the countries as well as previous holiday experiences are all elements that attract immigrants to southern European countries.
- (vii) **Internal migration:** This type of migration occurs inside a particular country, and between regions, especially from economically poor areas and rural parts to major cities. The effects during the 1990s can be explained by the social and economic disadvantages of living in some areas. This trend, which had occurred in western Europe for centuries, had been more-or-less arrested in the Eastern bloc due to social controls but once the socialist system collapsed along with the economies, large scale migration occurred which, with the incorporation of many of these countries into the EU became transformed into international labour migration. The patterns of internal migration can be quite complex and have profound effects on land use as will become clear.
- (viii) **Seasonal Migration:** Seasonal and circular (also known as cyclical, oscillatory) migration has long been part of the livelihood portfolio of poor people across India. Seasonal migration of labour for employment has become one of the most durable components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas. Migration is not just by the very poor during times of crisis for survival and coping but has increasingly become an accumulative option for the poor and non-poor alike.

PROBLEM

1. Poverty:

The problem of poverty is directly related to the existence of unemployment, under employment and low productivity. Agriculture is a seasonal occupation, which cannot open job opportunities round the year to all. In the absence of irrigation facilities permitting multiple cropping, the monsoon agriculture enjoins on a majority of the rural labour force on a extended period of seasonal unemployment. These helplessness dispirited unemployed labour leave their village homes and join to swell the already over populated areas not only in India but also in other parts of the developing and developed countries, whose agricultural labours are shifting to industrial sector, emphasizes the feature of reasonability and disguised nature of unemployment in the agricultural sector.

2. Illiteracy:

Illiterate people want and need to be literate for several reasons: They want to live autonomously without depending on others, they want to get a job or a better job, they have to pass an obligatory test that allows them to stay in Austria or to apply for citizenship, and perhaps literacy has also been a lifelong goal. Many have valuable competences. Many of the learners on literacy courses are plurilingual: they speak two, three or four languages, although they cannot write any of them. They also have the experience and skills that come from coping with the difficulties they have lived through.

3. Unemployment:

It is the one of most leading factor for labour migration. Unemployment effects of economic globalization figure prominently in policy debates about international trade, migration and outsourcing. Nevertheless, these effects are neglected in most of the related theory, which is predominantly in the full-employment tradition. In defence of this neglect, some theorists argue that the long-run (natural) rate of unemployment is analytically independent of international exchange in goods and services, while others reason that any globalization-induced change in the total number of jobs is likely to be empirically insignificant. The first of these defences is unconvincing, in light of known results from existing models of unemployment in open economies; and the second ignores the fact that even a negligible change in the aggregate number of jobs can be accompanied by a socially serious adjustment in the unemployment distribution between different types of workers.

4. Population Growth

Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently in the new location. The movement is often over long distances and from one country to another, but internal migration is also possible; indeed, this is the dominant form globally. Migration may be individuals, family units or in large groups. Social push factors can include ethnic, religious, racial, and cultural persecution. Warfare, or the threat of conflict, is also a major push factor. In the Australian context, most asylum seekers arriving by boat in the last decade have come from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka. All of these countries, apart from Iran, have undergone extremely destabilising conflicts in recent years. On the other hand, while it is free of violent conflict, Iran has one of the worst human rights records in the world leading many of its citizens to seek asylum outside of its borders.

Brief details of each of these reasons are given below:

(i) **In search of employment:** Persons, who were not already in employment at the time of leaving the last UPR, when migrated to another village/ town in search of employment were considered as migrated in search of employment.

(ii) In search of better employment: These included those persons who were employed at the time of leaving last UPR, but had come to the place of enumeration in search of better employment, in terms of emoluments, job satisfaction, etc..

(iii) To take up employment / better employment: The first two cases are different from this one because it related to persons who had come to the place of enumeration to take up employment. These persons were not in search of employment but were offered jobs or were offered better jobs than the one they were having at the time of leaving last UPR.

(iv) Business: Those who had migrated to start a new business or due to shifting of the existing business were considered as migrated for business.

(v) Transfer of service/ contract : Transfer of service/ contract included persons who as part of the employment contract or service liability migrate from one place of posting to another.

(vi) Proximity to place of work: This included persons who had moved in order to be nearer to their places of work. These were the people who moved to another village/ town with the explicit purpose of avoiding or reducing commuting to place of work or other similar reasons and formed a separate category from the persons who had migrated to take up employment/ better employment.

(vii) Studies: Students and others who had left their UPR for studies were classified under this category. If a person changed UPR to pursue his/her studies and at the same time looked for employment, which was the case in many occasions, the factor which was basic for his/her change of residence were considered.

(viii) Natural disaster (earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, etc.): Persons who had migrated due to natural disaster caused by earthquake, drought, flood, cyclone, tsunami, etc., were covered under this category.

(ix) Social/ political problems (riots, terrorism, political refugee, bad law and order, etc.): Migration arising out of social or political problems such as riots, terrorism, political refugee, bad law and order, etc. were included under this category.

(x) Displacement by development project: Sometime undertaking development projects, such as construction of dams, power plants, or starting a new factory, etc., might result in eviction of persons and those affected by such displacements may migrate to other village/ town. Such types of migration were included in this category.

(xi) Acquisition of own house/ flat: Persons who had moved to a place to stay in a house/ flat acquired by them were categorized in this category. Here again the reason for movement were directly attributable to the acquisition. Persons who on retirement moved to their own house, etc., were not included here.

(xii) Housing problems: Certain persons moved from metropolitan cities or large towns to nearby smaller towns or other areas due to the problems of getting suitable accommodation, poor amenities, or high rent, etc. Such persons were classified under this reason

(xiii) Health care: Persons sometimes moved from one place to another due to the availability of better medical facilities for treatment or conditions, unsuitable weather in the last UPR. They were covered under this reason.

(xiv) Post retirement: Sometimes after retirement, persons might leave UPR either to stay in their native place or in some other place chosen by him/ her. If the reason for migration was due to retirement from employment they were categorized here.

(xv) Marriage: A substantial number of women in India change their UPR after marriage. Person, whose change in UPR occurred exclusively due to marriage were covered here.

(xvi) Migration of parent/ earning member of the family: In many cases, the members were passive movers in the sense that they changed UPR because the parent or earning member changed UPR. Such migrants were categorized here.

(xvii) Others: Reasons for migration which could not be classified into any of the above categories were covered here.

Conclusion

Migration in India is mostly influenced by social structure and patterns of development. Migration has become a global phenomenon .As discussed earlier people migrate to another country for a number of reasons of which economic and political are the important ones .From our earlier explanation it is evident that migration has positive as well as negative effect both on the host and native countries .in a globalised world, the number of migrants is bound to increase . However in larger interest of nations and people (migrants) involved it is necessary to introduce measures so that the positive effects are maximised while the negative ones are minimised if they cannot be totally eliminated.

Migration has occurred throughout history and current trends certainly indicate that it will continue to increase in future. While the forces of globalization have created opportunities for greater integration of labour market ,a complex web of national immigration laws and border controls has restricted the mobility of people across border yes growing disparities in wealth , incomes ,human security ,human rights and demographic trends across countries are all exerting upward pressure on migration. Every year, millions of young men and women enter the labour force in developing countries where jobs are not created fast enough to absorb them. The impact of demographic trends in the form of population decline and ageing is being felt most profoundly in advanced destination countries, where scarcities of labour are emerging in many sectors.

The shrinking of the labour force in these countries has generated a demand for workers in many sections of the economy, particularly in services which has been met to a significant extent by migrants, new technologies also allow more people to acquire the information they need to access the global labour market.

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