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Status of Migrant Workers with Special Reference to Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract

Agriculture is the main source of occupation in India and a major portion of rural population depends on agriculture. It may be seen that cultivators, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labor, and landless labor all have limited purchasing power due to seasonal jobs they hold. Frequent occurrence of natural calamities and working in unorganized sector further reduce their purchasing power. The three types of migration, namely, seasonal, internal and international migration are noticed in Thanjavur district of Tamilnadu State, India. The helpless unemployed workers leave their village homes and join the already over-populated areas, viz., urban towns and cities.

Introduction

The process of migration has been discussed by many, who have emphasized social and cultural, distance and economic factors as causes of migration. Migration of labour started in India during the British colonial rule. It was aimed at meeting the requirements of Language in India www.languageinindia.com

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capitalist development both in India and abroad. The labour was moved from the hinterland to the sites of mining, plantation and manufacturing. Labor was recruited from the rural areas and regulated in a manner that women and children remained in the villages while males migrated to the modern sector (Gill, 1998).

Generally, there are two basic factors of migration: i) Distance and ii) Duration. From the distance point of view, migration can be classified under four categories:

- i) Rural to Rural
- ii) Rural to Urban
- iii) Urban to Rural
- iv) Urban to Urban.

In addition, migration can be divided into following categories:

- i) Intra-district,
- ii) Inter-district
- iii) Intra-state
- iv) Inter-state
- v) National and International.

From the duration point of view migration can be studied under three categories:

- i) Casual-temporary
- ii) Periodic- seasonal
- iii) Permanent.

Concepts

Migrant Agricultural Worker

A migrant agricultural worker is “an individual who is employed in agricultural employment of a seasonal or other temporary nature, and who is required to be absent

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overnight from his permanent place of residence.” The United States enacted the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act in 1983.

Migrant Workers

The term migrant worker refers to a person who is engaged or has been engaged in activities which pay remuneration.

Seasonal Migration

The process of moving for a period of time in response to labor or climate conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working in cities off-season; "snowbirds" moving to the southern and southwestern United States during winter).

Human Migration

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. An example of "semi-permanent residence" would be the seasonal movements of migrant farm laborers. People can either choose to move ("voluntary migration") or be forced to move ("involuntary migration").

Research Questions

1. Who are the migrant workers?
2. Why do they migrate from their native places?
3. Where do they migrate?
4. What is the status of migrant labor in the study area?

Statement of the Problem

Agriculture is the main source of occupation in India. And a major portion of rural population depends on agriculture. It may be seen that cultivators, small, marginal farmers, agricultural labor, landless labor, etc., have greatly limited purchasing power due to seasonal jobs they hold and also because they work in unorganized sector. In addition, frequent occurrence of natural calamities also limits their purchasing power. There are different sets of factors responsible for migrant laborers. Broadly, it can be economic factors, like job or

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better jobs and lending money and so on. Social factors, like poverty, indebtedness, monsoon failure and business failure. Personal factors, like pursuing of higher studies or for getting access to better educational, medical and health facilities and sometimes natural calamities in their destination. Other factors include problems such as density of population, exploitation, loneliness, hopelessness and feeling of insecurity. These helpless unemployed persons leave their village homes and join the already over populated areas, viz., urban towns and cities.

Objective

1. To study the status of seasonal, internal and international migrant workers.

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis H_0 is given as below.

HO: There is no significant difference between the average income of the three types migration.

Methodology

The Researchers came to know about the large scale migration from Thanjavur district in four administrative blocks to other parts of the state and the country, etc. The four administrative blocks included in the study are Orthanadu, Thanjavur, Ammapettai and Kumbakonam. In each block 80 samples were considered; thus a total 320 samples were collected in the study area. The after migration by earnings of focus group discussion the respondent was confirmed the majority of agricultural labor select four blocks purposively for this study. The every block four villages select the majority of agricultural labor collected censuses report 2001. The Researchers adopted the systematic random sampling technique to select the respondents for collecting the primary data. By adopting random start technique, the Researchers have selected the head of the households as respondents for the purpose of field investigations. Researchers have used the structured interview schedule as tool of data collection which was supplemented by observation technique for primary data collection.

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These are the two types of data collected for their research which are primary data, and secondary data. Researchers had collected primary data by means of interview schedule. Researchers collected the secondary data through various sources like books, journals, magazines, articles, reports, encyclopedia, websites, etc.

The scope of present study is confined to migrant laborers who leave from their village origin place to various destination places for employment opportunities. This study concentrated on actual group situation, and living and working conditions faced by migrant labourers. Findings and suggestions may be used for the development and welfare of migrant laborers.

The findings of this study can be generalized only to those areas with similar socio-economic and cultural background. This present study helps to understand and deal with the development of migrants workers from the human development perspective.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Four villages, namely, Pudur, Cholapuram, Kulamauglam and Alivovval were covered from the Orthanadu block. In Thanjavur block, four villages, namely, Marungulam, Soorakkottai, Thirukanurpattai and Andkullangarai were covered. In the Ammapettai block, four villages, namely, Arundapuram, Saliyamangalam, Agaramangudi and Raramuthirakkottai were included. In Kumbakonam block, four villages, namely, Thiruvallanjuuli, Thuippurambiyam, Patteeswaram and Neerathanallur were included. In each block 80 samples were collected, with 20 from each village. Three types of migration, namely, seasonal migration, internal migration and international migration were considered in this study for Thanjavur district.

It is proposed to examine whether there is a significant difference between the average income of the migrants under the three types of migration, namely, seasonal, internal and international. For this purpose, the null hypothesis formulated is H_0 .

For this purpose the analysis of variance one way classification (ANOVA) was carried out and the results obtained are given in the following Table-1 for the blocks under study.

Table-1

Types of migration	Block							
	Orthanadu		Thanjavur		Ammapattai		Kumbakonam	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
Seasonal	52025.0	8950.4	21183.3	8258.4	31700.0	12442.4	21892.9	8138.9
Internal	32487.5	15116.9	29022.2	16333.2	30462.5	22123.4	26122.2	17574.1
International	48705.8	21340.5	56693.8	10580.3	47788.2	16874.3	396110.5	16068.3
total	44689.6	19646.2	41787.1	19768.0	39937.5	18966.7	30814.3	16201.4

In the case of Orthanadu block a similar analysis of the data has been carried out and the computed results are given in the following table-2.

Table-2

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1680581234.787	2	840290617.394	2.394	.111
Within Groups	9126665661.765	26	351025602.376		
Total	10807246896.552	28			

From this table it is observed that the F statistics value computed is $F=2.394$ and the corresponding P value, namely, the level of significance is $P=0.111$ which is greater than 0.05. Since the P value greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis H_0 is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference between the mean level of income for the respondents under the three types of seasonal, internal and international migration.

In the case of Thanjavur block, a similar analysis of the data was carried out and the computed results are given in the following table-3.

Table-3

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	7568901574. 821	2	378445078 7.410	25.507	.000
Within Groups	4154353263. 889	28	148369759. 425		
Total	1172325483 8.710	30			

From this table it is observed that the computed value of F statistic is $F=25.507$ into corresponding $P=0$. Since the P value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there exists significant difference between the average incomes under the three types of migration. The least average income is earned by those who are under the seasonal migration group. The highest average income is observed for those who are under international migration.

In the case of Ammapettai block, the following results have been obtained on the basis of the analysis of the data pertaining to this block for table-4

Table-4

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2240978 602.941	2	112048930 1.471	3.647	.039
Within Groups	8910836 397.059	29	307270220. 588		
Total	1115181 5000.000	31			

In the case of this block also, F statistics was obtained on the basis analysis variance carried out in $F=3.647$ into a corresponding $P=0.039$. Since the P value is less than 0.05 it implies that the F statistics is insignificant. Hence the null hypothesis H_0 implying equality of means of the three types of migration is rejected. The average income difference significantly different between the three type of migration. It may further be observed that it is the highest in the case of international migration. The least average income is in the in the case of internal migration.

The results of the analysis for the data collected from Kumbakonam block are given under the table-5.

Table-5

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2782528 692.565	2	139126434 6.282	6.800	.003
Within Groups	7979322 736.007	39	204598018. 872		
Total	1076185 1428.571	41			

In this case of also there is a significant difference between the mean income of the

three types of migration since the F statistics which is equal to $F=6.800$ has a corresponding P value 0.003. Hence the means differ significantly. In this block also it is observed that the international migration gives the greatest average income and the least is in the case of seasonal migration.

The following overall conclusion can be drawn on the basis of the results pertaining to the four blocks taken up for analysis.

Conclusion

Majority of the people earning higher income came from the group that went for international migration in the Thanjavur district. International migration appears as the main pull factor for regular employment and higher wages.

Form the analysis of data collected in this study the following conclusions are drawn.

1. In the case of Orthanadu block, the type of migration has no impact on the level of increase in the income of the migrants.
2. There is a significant impact on the level of income under the three types of migration with regard to the other three blocks, namely, Thanjavur, Ammapattai and Kumbakonam taken up for the study.
3. In all the blocks the highest average income is achieved only by the international migration.

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