

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF MIGRATION: A CASE STUDY OF THANE CITY

Dr. (Ms.) H.A.Chande*

ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on causes and consequences of migration in India. This study was designed to investigate the consequences of internal migration on family at destination of Thane city. The study describes the factors contributing towards rural to urban migration. In rural areas, less employment opportunities, low wages, drought, lack of basic amenities, landlessness, social factors act as push factors and more employment opportunities, higher income, better wages, better facilities activities as pull factors towards the rural to urban migration of Thane city.

Keywords: *Consequences of Migration, Internal Migration, Rural to Urban Migration.*

Introduction

Migration is a global phenomenon. Whenever the situation rose to such an extent that people could no longer secure a livelihood, they migrated elsewhere. Even today, both poor and better off people pursue migration as a livelihood strategy. This increases the opportunities available for poor people. People migrate from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily in a new location to improve their livelihoods.

Literature Review

J.Indirani, S.Suba and R.Gayathri (2008) examines that the changes in labour demands, the increasing vulnerability of women, the conflicting social demands and the economic compulsions are the critical factors affecting the lives of migrant women. Gender-based discrimination in the labour market is not merely unjust for women workers; it is also economically harmful to the country. From the perspective of the wellbeing of migrant women workers, the consequences are apparent. Working conditions, types of employment, and wage levels clearly have an impact on the wellbeing levels of migrant women workers.

Tasneem Siddiqui (2003) in her paper which is a case study of Bangladesh examines the experiences of the government, private sector, and civil society in managing international emigration from Bangladesh. The paper outlines complex processes of labor migration. It identifies where policy interventions may act to make international migration an important livelihood strategy for poor people while ensuring that migrant workers receive maximum protection both at home and abroad. It describes the extent, nature and types of both short and long term international migration

Nearly 80 percent females said they moved because of marriage and / or that they accompanied their family members. (NSSO 64th Round). Education also contributes to migration flows. Universities in various places throughout the world are magnets for international students. Educational opportunities in these institutions motivate people to move and sometimes result in permanent settlement in the country where the education is received. Migration for educational purposes may contribute to further migration because of the relationships that are established during schooling. In addition, when unemployment levels are high in their home land, better educated persons are likely to seek opportunities elsewhere.

* Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Sheth N.K.T.T. College of Commerce and Sheth J.T.T. College of Arts, Thane, Maharashtra, India.

Nearly 62 percent of male migrants to Mumbai reported employment and business-related reason for migration (Census 2001). Employment as being the main reason was reported much higher among migrants of rural origin as compared to those coming from other urban areas.

Research Methodology

Objectives

- To study socio-economic causes of Migration and its effects
- To suggest policy measures to prevent its negative effects.

Data Collection and Analysis

This paper is based on primary data. Simple random sampling method was used to obtain responses. 30 migrants from thane city were interviewed using structured questionnaire. Data is analyzed using simple statistical tools. Secondary sources were also referred.

Findings

In general we can divide factors causing migrations into two groups of factors: Push and Pull factors, Push factors are economic, political, and cultural and environmentally based and pull factors are economic, political, cultural and environmentally based.

Push and Pull factors are those factors which either forcefully Push people into migration or attract them. A push factor is forceful, and a factor which relates to the country from which a person migrates. It is generally some problem which results in people wanting to migrate. A push factor is a flaw or distress that drives a person away from a certain place. A pull factor is something concerning the country to which a person migrates. Pull factors are some advantages or opportunities in a new location which attract people to migrate there.

City provides ample opportunity to both migrant and non-migrant. Non-migrants dominate in regular jobs, while migrants are involved mostly in trade and services activities. Migration causes cultural diffusion and social Integration. Migration has always played a significant role in population growth. Lack of affordable accommodation within the city forces the people to move towards outskirts and travel up to 4 hours. Majority of the people migrating to Mumbai find jobs in informal sectors especially construction works and live in slums with lack of basic amenities. Migration leads to increase in the wages of labourers. However, most of them travel through public transportation which leads to overcrowding during peak hours

In the survey conducted by random sampling method 30 migrants were interviewed. Out of the total 50 percent were from the age group 25-40 years. 30 percent were from age group 40 to 50 years followed by 16 percent in the age group 18-25 years. Out of the total surveyed 34 percent were graduates followed by 30 percent 12th passed. 10 percent were post graduates and education of 26 percent of the migrants was found to be less than 10th standard.

The main reason for migration was unemployment as reported by 48 percent of the respondents followed by 21 percent for better standard of living. 19 percent reported education as the reason for their migration. 67 percent of the respondents were engaged in service sector after their migration followed by 23 percent doing their businesses.

50 percent of the migrants reported improvement in their income after migration, 26 percent reported better educational attainment, whereas only 24 percent reported improved housing condition.

36 percent of the respondents reported their earnings after migration between 10,000 ₹ to 20,000 ₹, 31 percent between 20,000 ₹ to 50,000 ₹ followed by 20 percent below ₹10,000. 67 percent reported being satisfied after migration and were not willing to go back to their home town.

Policy Suggestions

Planners and policy makers are concerned with migration because it is associated with the socio-economic development of the country. The policy-makers should be concerned at the decline in the number of establishments and the number of jobs they create and offer.

Newer areas need to be developed within city to establish industries to sustain the employment on offer to match at least the present population's demand for livelihoods. The economic potential in Mumbai metropolitan region also needs to be fully utilized by developing and interlinking neighboring cities to absorb ever growing migrants from within the state and other states. Improvement in housing and infrastructure is also suggested.

Conclusion

The study reveals that fundamental causes of migration are unemployment and low income. Migration improves income and education of the migrants but it leads to poor housing condition. Most of the migrants surveyed are permanent migrants who are not willing to move back to their hometown.

Thus, migration takes place due to differentials of rural urban wage rates and the modern urban informal sector attracting the rural people to the urban areas. The link between rural –urban migration leads to urbanization, industrialization and economic development. There has been a wider gap between supply of labour and the availability of job opportunities in urban areas. The rural people are attracted towards urban areas as they earn higher wage rates than in the rural areas. Earning money and improving livelihoods are the main motivation for migration.

Limitations

The study is restricted to Thane city. The research was based on random and convenience sampling. Sample size is small.

References

1. Ahmed, S.R. (2000), ' Forlorn Migrants: An International Legal Regime for Undocumented Migrant Workers', Dhaka: University Press Ltd.
2. Akram, S.M. (2002), 'Migrant workers' rights and obligations in destination countries', In: Module on Labour Migration Process for Awareness Campaign through Community Leaders and Activists, Dhaka: RMMRU.
3. Government of Bangladesh (2002), 'Statistical Pocketbook: Bangladesh 2001'. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
4. Tasneem siddiqui (2003), ' Migration as a livelihood strategy of the poor: the bangladesh case - migration Development Pro-poor policy choices'
5. j.indirani; s.suba; r.gayathri (2008) 'Rural – urban migration: a gender perspective analysis'
6. <https://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/1907>
7. https://censusindia.gov.in/2011-common/census_data_2001.html.

