



MIGRANT WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR OF JAMMU: A PROBE INTO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

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Interstate labour migration has become a way of life to many who are unskilled and semi-skilled and find difficult to get better jobs within their natives and locality. Frequent droughts, desertification and underdevelopment are the major reasons for their migration from rural to urban areas.

Migration of labourers from the rural areas is the major source of labour supply to the urban construction sector as migrant labourers generally after their arrival at the urban centres are absorbed in the odd job in roads and buildings construction or other number of urban-informal activities. Therefore it becomes pertinent to ascertain the socio-economic impact of migration on the migrant labourers engaged in the construction sector of Jammu.

The study is mainly based on primary data collected through direct personal interview with the respondents. There are total 250 sample respondents, 50 from each of the five poorest states of India. Secondary data on labour migration is also collected from reports published by Census, NSSO, JDA and journals EPW and Kurkshetra. In order to facilitate comparisons the data has been tabulated, analysed and interpreted with the help of statistical tools.

On the advantages of migration, migrants disclosed that migration is a profitable proposition. Whatever may be the reasons or impact of labour migration, overall it leads to improvement in the socio-economic life of the migrants living in the urban areas and their family members in the rural areas.

Keywords: *Earnings, Employment, Interstate Migration, Remittances Social Status, Wages.*

Introduction

Internal migration has become a common feature of developing economies of the world. India is also experiencing free flow of internal migration. But in the recent times as compared to intra-state migration the growth rate of interstate migration has grown faster. This migration is usually from low earning states to high earning states which are popularly called as rural-urban labour migration. Rural-urban migration means movement of working population from the country side to the city. Data on internal migration in India is principally drawn from two main sources- the Census and the NSSO. However, at present, Census results for migration are available till 2001, because yet the direct information related to migrants is not available in census 2011, where as NSS results are available till 2007-2008 in the NSS Report 2010.

Table1: Magnitude of Labour Migration in India

Type of Migration	Size (in million in 2001)	Migration Size in(million) Growth rate in %		
		1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001
Intra-district migrants	193.5	24.90	8.30	3.70
Inter-district migrants	74.6	44.30	13.70	26.30
Inter-state migrants	41.1	28.10	26.30	53.60

The figures obtained from census 2001(as the detailed census data 2011 on migration are not yet available) reveals that no doubt the size of intra-district migration (193.5 million) and inter-district migration (74.6 million) is more than inter-state migration (41.4 million) in 2001 but the growth rate of inter-state migration is relatively more than intra-district and inter-district migration in successive decades. The growth rate of inter-state migration in 1971-81, 1981-91, and 1991-2001 were 28.1 percent, 26.3 percent and 53.6 percent respectively.

The NSSO specifically shows an increase in inter-state migration between 1999-2000 and 2007-2008 in the two urban streams; in the rural-urban stream, the percentage of inter-state migrants increased from 19.6 per cent to 25.2 per cent; in the urban-urban stream, inter-state migration increased from 19.9 per cent to 22.9 per cent (NSSO Report No-533, Statement 4.11).

Reasons/ Causes of Migration

Both the Census and NSSO results shows that in both rural and urban areas majority of the house holds migrated for employment related reason. Nearly 55 per cent of household of the rural areas and 67 per cent of the household in the urban areas had migrated for employment related reasons. At the same time a growing volume of micro studies shows abide by

poverty, inequality and environmental vulnerabilities people from lower socio-economic strata of under developed states migrated to developed states in pursuit of getting better employment.

Migrant labourers generally after their arrival at the urban centres are absorbed in the odd job in roads and buildings, construction or other number of urban-informal activities. The urban construction sector essentially is an unorganised labour market sector. The buildings and roads construction activities, therefore, rely on illiterate, unskilled, semi skilled surplus manpower from rural agricultural sector. Hence the construction sector is one of the largest employers of the informal sector workforce in the country, particularly in the urban scenario where work is highly labour-intensive.

Table 2: Size of inter-state migration in India and their employment in informal sector in 2007

Inter-state labour migration in 2007 (in millions)	Construction sector workers	Domestic workers	Small scale mines workers (illegal mines)	Sex workers
80	40	20	18	2

Source: The Hindustan times of 14th October 2007.

Table 3: Employment and Change in Employment during the Decade

Sectors	Employment across the sectors (in million)			Absolute change in Employment (in million)		
	1999-2000	2004-2005	2009-2010	1999-2000 to 2004-05	2004-2005 to 2009-10	1999-2000 to 2009-10
Agriculture	237.67	258.93	244.85	21.26	-14.08	7.18
Construction	17.54	26.02	44.08	8.48	18.06	26.54
Total	396.76	457.46	460.22	60.70	2.76	63.46

Source: Using usual principal and subsidiary status (UPSS) calculated from NSS 55th, 61st and 66th Rounds, Employment and Unemployment Rounds.

In the Table-3 we have taken only two sectors for comparison because majority of our sample respondents were employed in agriculture before their migration and all of them are employed in construction sector after their migration. The table shows that there is absolute decline of 14 million in employments (which is shown by negative sign) in agriculture during the second half of the decade.

The Present Study

The construction activities in Jammu have increased a lot from the last few years due to continuous increase in the population of Jammu, migration of population and increased tourist traffic. The dynamics of development in Jammu have opened up avenues of employment in industrial, commercial and service sectors which in turn induced rural folk to migrate to the city.

Hence due to all these factors different developmental and infrastructural activities such as construction of roads, National Highways, bridges, railway link works, tunnel, schools, colleges, hospitals, shopping malls, Residential houses/flats etc are under construction. Expansion of Jammu has increased real estate activities. Due to all these and other developmental activities there has been a continuous increase in the migration of rural people from different underdeveloped states like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh etc. towards urban informal construction sector in Jammu.

Magnitude of In-migration of Labourers to Jammu

Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has used a crude method to estimate the rate of net immigration in Jammu. Assuming the decadal growth of population as 47.22% for Jammu and natural growth rate as 16.1% for decades 1991-2001, 2001-2011, and 2011-2021, the net migration rate is 31.12% per decade. In-migration of Labourers to Jammu is estimated as follow-

- Labour Migration in Jammu in 1981-91 was 9,910
- Labour Migration in Jammu in 1991-2001 was 15,329
- Labour Migration in Jammu in 2001-2011 was 22,567
- Labour Migration in Jammu in 2011-2021 will be 33,222 (estimated)
- Source: www.jdajammu.in/m2.pdf

Review of Literature

It is economic implication that stimulates rural urban migration. The decision to migrate depends upon expected higher wages (real wage differential) and probability of successfully obtaining an urban job (Harris J.R and MP Todaro 1970). Hence migration of rural labourers towards urban areas is social beneficial because as against the rural agricultural sector which is characterised by unemployment/under-employment, modern urban sector is characterized by full employment and



wages are maintained at level much higher than the agricultural rural sector. In urban areas marginal product is not only positive, but also grows rapidly as a result of capital accumulation and technological progress (Lewis W Arthur 1954 and Fei, John CH and Gustav Ranis 1964).

It is an important route to come out of poverty for the poor. Although incomes of these migrants generate may help them to survive, there may be little scope for saving the investible surplus, (Bhattacharya, p. 1998).

The construction sector provides direct employment to at least 30 million workers in India (Chen 2007) but trade unions estimate that there was roughly 40 million migrant construction workers in India in 2008. (Sarde 2008) Construction sector attracts both skilled workers (masons, carpenters) and unskilled workers. Although there is some scope for upward mobility, poorer and lower caste/tribe migrants tend to remain in low paid unskilled jobs. This is because of the discrimination against them and being excluded from opportunity to gain skills.

No doubt, there has been continuous increase in rural-urban labour migration for better employment opportunities in informal sector but still the informal sector in the urban areas is characterized by low wages, excessively long hours of work and social security almost negligible. The casual labourers do not have regular job contract.

Whatever may be the reasons or impact of labour migration, overall it leads to increase in remittances from urban to rural areas. (Deshingkar, Priya 2004).

Objectives

1. To study the occupation wise annual employment position of the migrant workers in the construction sector of Jammu.
2. To estimate the annual Income pattern of the migrant workers after Migration.
3. To find out the saving pattern of the migrant labourers
4. To find out how large and how frequent are the remittances made by the migrant workers.
5. What are the causes of migration
6. Who are the people who dominate the migration flow
7. Why migrants come from some selective pockets of the state of origin.
8. To study the social-economic impact of migration on the migrant labourers.

Methodology

Data has been collected through direct contact with the respondents at the different places of Jammu chosen as the locale for the study. The tools employed for the collection of the primary data were interview schedules and observational study.

Total labour migration in Jammu in 2001-2011 was 22,567. It was decided to study total 250 sample respondents, 50 from each of the poorest states of India. According to Tendulkar report Chhattisgarh (44.61%), Jharkhand (40.84%) Bihar (34.06%), Orissa (35.69%), Uttar Pradesh (30.4%) and Madhya Pradesh (35.74%) are the poorest states in India [Figures in the bracket shows percentage below the poverty line only of rural areas of the respective states]. Hence we have taken our 250 sample respondents from the above mentioned states except Jharkhand due to inadequacy of sample.

During survey it has been found that in the construction sector skilled and unskilled workers are combined in the ratio of 30:70. Therefore we have taken a ratio of 75:175 i.e. 75 skilled workers and 175 unskilled workers.

An important point to be mentioned here is that the researcher has randomly chosen only those 250 sample respondents whose other working family members are also engaged in the various activities of construction sector of Jammu.

Secondary Data: In addition to primary data, a good bit information was collected from secondary sources. It includes reports of Jammu Development Authority, the report of UP Jal Nigam for Urban Environment Engineering Department, Jammu, on Sewerage Project, studies namely RITES & NEERI, Reports of Census and reports collected by NSSO regarding employment and unemployment through its various rounds. Information was also collected from some journals such as Economic & Political Weekly and Kurukshetra. Besides information given in the various sites of Jammu Development Authority, CSO, NSSO, NCEUS have been used.

Analysis of Data

Thus the data for the present study has been collected in the form of distinct, separately and mutually exclusive categories. In order to facilitate comparison and show the involved relations, the data have been tabulated in a compact form. The data,

thus, presented in statistical form has been analysed and interpreted by the help of statistical averages. Further one sample t-test is used to see the impact of migration on the socio-economic condition of migrant labourers engaged in the construction sector of Jammu.

Hypotheses

1. Number of man days generated are not sufficient to maintain their average minimum level of living for the migrant labourers.
2. Wages paid are not sufficient to maintain minimum level of living.

Interpret SPSS Output

Occupation wise Annual Employment Position and 't' Value Obtained for Employment Pattern of the Sample Respondents after Migration

One Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean
VAR00001	250	202.0560	11.00442	69598

One Sample Test

Test Value=300

	t	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	-140.728	249	.000	-97.94400	-99.3148	-96.5732

Source: Field Survey

For first hypotheses the one sample t-test statistic is -140.73, the estimated value is 202.06 and p-value from this statistic is .000 and that is less than 0.05 (the level of significance usually used for the test) Such a p-value indicates that the average mandays of the sampled population is statistically significantly different from 300 mandays (test value). The mean difference between the test value and the estimated value is (-97.94). It can therefore be inferred that though there has been increase in the employment of the sample respondents after migration to Jammu, but still it is not sufficient to maintain their average minimum level of living for the migrant labourers. Therefore the hypothesis has been accepted.

Annual Income and 't' Value for Income Pattern of the of Sample Respondent after Migration

For second hypothesis the one sample t-test statistic is calculated separately for the skilled and unskilled workers because both have different test values.

One Sample Statistics for Skilled Labourers

	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean
VAR00001	75	429.7333	16.88381	1.94957

One Sample Test

Test Value=225

	t	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	105.014	74	.000	204.73333	22.8487	208.6179

Source: Field Survey

The one sample t-test statistic for skilled labourers is 105.01 and p-value from this statistic is .000 and that is less than 0.05 (the level of significance usually used for the test) Such a p-value indicates that the average wages per day of the sampled population (skilled labourers) is statistically significantly different from Rs.225 (test value). The mean difference between the test value and the estimated value is (204.73).

One Sample Statistics for Unskilled Labourers

	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean
VAR00001	175	222.4713	22.04008	1.67085

One Sample Test						
Test Value=150						
	t	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	43.374	173	.000	72.47126	69.1734	75.7691

Source: Field Survey

Similarly, The one sample t-test statistic for unskilled labourers is 43.37 and p-value from this statistic is .000 and that is less than 0.05 (the level of significance usually used for the test) Such a p-value indicates that the average wages per day of the sampled population (unskilled labourers) is statistically significantly different from Rs.150 (test value). The mean difference between the test value and the estimated value is (72.47). It can therefore be inferred that there has been increase in the wages per day of the sample respondents after migration to Jammu, Therefore the second hypothesis has been rejected.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Migrant Labourers

Socio-economic characteristics of all the sample respondents show that majority of the respondents are in the age group of 30 years to 45 years. 74 percent of the sample respondents are Hindus and 26 percent are Muslims and no sample respondent belongs to Christian or Sikh religion.

14.40 percent are from the upper caste and 85.60 percent are from the SC/ST category. Because of inter-state and permanent labour migration all the sample respondents had migrated here along with their families. The average family size varies between 5 to 6 members.

Before migration 53.20 percent of the sample respondents were owner cultivators, 42 percent were non-owner agricultural labourers including students and 4.80 percent were construction workers in their respective states.

Among owner cultivators 43.20 percent of the sample respondents possess (0-2 acres) of land and 10 percent possess (2-4 acres) of land while remaining i.e. 46.80 percent of the sample respondents were landless agricultural labourers possessing no land in their home states.

Among total sample respondents 22.40 percent are the women and 77.60 percent are male sample respondents.

The educational status of the sample respondents is very poor. 67.20 percent of the sample respondents are illiterate, 28 percent are barely literate, 3.60 percent gained primary education, and only 0.80 percent are metric and above.

Impact of Migration

Migration is mainly an economic phenomenon. Migrant Labourers have its impact on the economic condition in the following respects:

Impact on Employment Generation

Employment has been measured in man-days taking a standard day of 8 hours. For calculating additional employment generation after migration, the additional hours spent on construction work were considered and converted into man-days.

$$\text{Mandays} = \frac{\text{Number of days worked in the year} \times \text{Number of hours worked in a day}}{\text{Eight hours}}$$

While calculating the work done in man-days before and after migration the sample respondents were asked regarding the number of days worked in a year before and after migration.

Mandays of Sample Respondents in a Year before Migration and After Migration

When they were in the home town, majority of the migrants 112(44.80%) used to get maximum 90-100 days employment on an average in a year, however, 89(35.60%) migrants disclosed that they used to get maximum 110-120 days employment in an average in a year, 42(16.80%) migrants said that they used to get up to 80-90 days employment with low wage rate, and only 7(2.80%) migrants revealed that they used to get employment up to 120-130 days at the most.

After migration, how their economic condition has improved through comparatively regular employment and higher wage rates, the migrants revealed that they get sufficient works in Jammu and comparatively high wage rate as well. Because of these two parameters wage rate and regular works their annual income went up more than three-four times in a year and also



their annual savings increased so faster that they could remit money to the family The data revealed that 127(50.80%) migrants happily said that they get 200-210 average employment days in Jammu in a year; some migrants 61(24.40%) said that they work or get up to 190-200 days work in a year. As far as migrants are concerned, it is a happy movement for them.

Impact on Income

Percentage Distribution of Sample Respondents by Skill and Wage Rates per Day in Jammu

157(89.71% of 175) of the migrant earn around Rs200-Rs.250 per day and remaining 18(10.29% of 175) are earning wage rate of Rs.250-Rs300 per day. The reason for this difference of wages among the unskilled workers is that first, that they are women labourer and secondly those unskilled workers who are attached with contractors or sub-contractors for the purpose of getting regular work get Rs.200-250 wages per day.

But in case skilled labourers wheather attached with contractors or worked independently all the 75 got Rs.400-450 per day.

Percentage Distribution of Sample Respondents by Total Income per Month and Skill

The data reveals that among unskilled workers majority of them 160(91.43% of 175) are earning on an average of Rs3000-Rs.4000 per month and remaining 15(8.57% of 175) are earning between Rs.4000-Rs.5000 per month.

Whereas among the skilled workers majority 50(66.67% of 75) are earning ranging between Rs.6000-Rs.7000, followed by 22(29.33% of 75) and only 3(4% of 75) sample respondents are earning monthly income of around Rs.7000-Rs.8000 and Rs.8000-Rs.9000 respectively. The data suggest that migration of these unskilled farm labourers, who were chronically under employed and were getting low income from agriculture, is a profitable proposition.

Percentage Distribution of Migrants by Total Annual Income and Skill

The data shows the annual income of the sample respondents according to their skill. The table reveals that majority of them i.e.170(68%) earned annual income of Rs.40000-50000 and they are all unskilled workers and the rest 5(2%) earned Rs.50000-60000 annually. Among the skilled workers 37(14.80%) earned Rs.70000-80000 annually and 35(14%) earned 80000-90000 annually. The highest income of Rs.90000-100000 is earned by only 3(1.20%) skilled labourers.

Annual Income of the Sample Respondent's Households before and after Migration

In the data it has been seen observed that before migration 190(76%) earned only Rs.20000-30000 annually and 60(24%) earned Rs.30000- 40000 annually in their respective states. But after their migration largest number of the migrants 142(56.80) earned 130000-140000 annually followed by 33 (13.20%) respondents who earned Rs. 140000-150000 annually. The lowest income of Rs.80000-90000 is earned by only 1(0.4%) sample respondents and the highest income of Rs 1,8000-190000 is earned by 17(6.80%) sample respondents. Those who have more earning members or less dependents in their family earned more income and vice-versa.

Impact on Savings

So far as the saving position of these migrant before their migration is concerned, it was almost difficult for them because all of their meagre earnings were consumed by the large sized families. So savings were more or less a dream for them at the native place.

On the contrary, the most significant thing that was noticed during the field survey is the power to save of these migrant households at the destination (study area). It shows the usefulness of their migration.

Distribution of Respondent's Households by Income and Saving per Month in Jammu

Looking at the levels of household income together with the savings per month, the data shows that 42(16.80%) of the respondent's households save less than Rs.500 per month and most of them earn Rs.6000-Rs.8000 per month. Majority of the respondent's households, 99(39.60%), however, are able to save Rs.1000-Rs.1500 per month; most of them fall in the category of income groups of Rs.10000-Rs.12000 and Rs.12000-Rs.14000.

The respondent's households who save money ranging between Rs.1500-Rs.2000 and Rs.2000-Rs.2500 mostly belong to the income group of Rs.14000-Rs.16000 per month. The households that are saving more money are earning more and the savings are from all the working members of the family.

Remittances

A major consequence of the migration is the transfer of cash or other resources between the migrant and the family members remaining at the home place. Although remittances usually refer to money usually to money transmitted to villagers by the migrants while they are away, the meaning has been extended here to include savings taken along with by returning migrants. Remittances may be in the form of cash or kind.



Annual Remittances by the Respondent's Household after Migration

Migrants usually send a portion of their saving (through post offices or through their friends or relatives or neighbours or through bank account in some cases) to their family members at origin regularly. We investigated about the proportion of migrants who send money in different modes. It could be found that nearly 97.6percent of the migrants from all the five states send money to their family members at origin and 2.40percent did not send. There is a positive relationship between the annual savings and annual remittances of the migrant's household i.e. higher the annual household's savings higher the annual remittances of those households.

Use of Remittances

The remittances are of great help to the families of the migrants for their survival as well as improvement of standard of living at present as well as in future. This will become apparent from our analysis where the use of remittances by the families of the migrant workers as been shown. The migrant's families are so poor that highest numbers of families have shown expenditure on food items as their first preference for which the money is used. It is noted in the table that a significant number of migrant households 160(64.00%) reported that they used the money to meet household expenses (food, cloth, purchase of household goods and for their children's education. Second requirement of expenses was on payment of old debt for about 12%. Third preference of use of remittance was found to be expenses for social function (including wedding of self/ sister/ son/ daughter. However, for productive investment(in purchase of land/ improvement of land) was found to the fifth preference in the case of households which constitutes about 7.60% of total migrant households of all the five states. Sixth and last preference was seen to be expenses on improvement of housing condition in nearly 4.80% of the total migrant households.

Social Impact

As long as this mobility of population, prompted by disguised unemployment to the extent of draining away the human resources, it helps definitely the emigrating region, but adversely effecting the place of origin of the labour force because rural-urban labour migration in India is leading to rural depopulation. Rural depopulation is when a large number of working people migrate from the rural villages and small towns to earn more money in the city. They leave behind old and young. This adversely impacts the agriculturally forward states in the country. But positively speaking migration may also bring in remarkable social changes.

It was also found that some have overcome the barriers of commonality. Positive attitude towards intercaste marriage has been increasing. Besides, increase of marriage age of girls and boys, semi-nuclear and nuclear families have been replacing joint families. There is a slow but positive trend towards modernization in the village. The people have not forsaken the traditional scheme of life and culture. But a number of compromises have been made in the performance of religious rituals, family ceremonies and in the sphere of morality as well as considerable deviation in respect of religious attitudes, celebrations of festivals and value orientation of the people.

There is another important demographic implication to be given due significance. Rural-urban migration usually reduces the proportion of people in the reproductive age and thus tends to reduce the birth rates in the rural area. Therefore, the large-scale rural-urban migration and consequent redistribution of population have a number of far-reaching implications.

Conclusion

While migrating to a long distance, the labourers procure and possess the 'perfect market information', whether they will get jobs or not. Various channels like contractors, relatives, news, and media are very handy for getting right information. It is observed that the process of a long distance inter-state migration is not sudden and it takes some time to reach the final decision on migration.

The market information on 'stable employability' is found to be the 'important information', on which migrants usually take decision on the migration. Before arrive to decision on migration, they compare the local available 'regular employability' and the total employment days in a week with the employability available at the migration destination points.

The next step is that migrants roughly calculate the weekly income through wage rates available in local places and at migration destination and compare for "comparative wage rate advantage" over local wage rates, which is strong point to encourage the migrants. The connectivity through railway and its cheapest transport facility plays crucial role in process of migration.

On the advantages of migration, migrants disclosed that they have positive impacts on the 'socio-economic' aspect of life as well as they could change the life style because of increasing total weekly/monthly/annual wages/income and savings. Besides, families, which are living at hometowns, are also greatly benefited as they receive regular "remittances" at hometowns.



Therefore, whatever may be the reasons or impact of labour migration, overall it leads to improvement in the socio-economic life of the migrants both living in the urban areas and their family members in the rural areas. (Deshingkar, Priya 2004). Besides without migration a majority of the poor would not be able to spend on health, consumption and other basic needs. Without migration the poor people would face the risk of sliding deeper into poverty (UNDP, 1998, 2009). Hence Migration from different rural states to other urban states in India has now become so important that its impact is felt in every aspect of life. Interstate labour migration has become a way of life to many who are unskilled and semi-skilled and find difficult to get better jobs within their natives and locality.

Suggestion with Special Reference to Destination

To safeguard the interests and rights of the construction workers, a fresh comprehensive legislation needs to be framed so that it can regulate the construction activity, employment, wage, employer-employee relationships and ensure the economic benefits and welfare to the workers.

The argument that the housing programme is not of much use for construction workers due to their floating nature is untrue. Most of them have also continued to live at the same place for long, but their accommodation is unhygienic, unhealthy and poor. The existence of slums is a social and environmental problem. It has also been seen that the gang contract labourers generally prefer to live together. Therefore, it becomes relevant that that subsidized colonies in the city with reasonable rent should be provided which would replace the slum dwellings.

The “Directive Principles” of our constitution which emphasised free and compulsory education to all the children upto 14 years of age is not implemented at all. It is therefore, suggested that there is the need to open schools in these labour colonies in order to educate their children. If these children remain uneducated, they will become a burden on the society in future.

In order to improve the health of these migrant labourers free health centres should be opened in the labour colonies, so that they can get proper medical care. It is also suggested regarding their expenditure that the government should open small shops in labour colonies so that they are able to obtain eatables at reasonable rates.

Panchayats and Block level bodies should be given the right in the organisation of the migrant labour cooperatives permitting only the co-workers to act as the leader of the co-operatives .

To escape from any type of harassment by the employers, the members of the proposed migrant labour-cooperatives should contact and register themselves with the labour departments at the immigration centres.

Unfortunately, the incomes of these workers like other workers have been eroded by inflation. Hence the real wage comes further down. Their wages are not regulated by any official authority. This makes out a strong case for the appointment of a permanent committee to look into the problems of such workers as migration has become unavoidable. While fixing the wages they should keep in mind the growing inflation. They should devise a permanent system under which the wages of these workers are automatically revised in the light of the growing inflation.

Rural-urban Migration is both a logical necessity and empirical fact. It promotes vertical mobility and helps to improve human well-being. It will be unwise to discourage such movement of people from the rural to the urban areas because restricting migration may hurt economic standards of the rural households and prove costly and self-defeating.

In a report without migration a majority of the poor would not be able to spend on health, consumption and other basic needs. Without migration the poor people would face the risk of sliding deeper into poverty (UNDP, 1998, 2009).

Suggestions with special reference to Origin

Though the process of labour migration has proved to be beneficial for the labourers but there should be simultaneous development in the rural areas also because due to continuous increase in labour migration there has increase in the number of slums in the city. Therefore, investment in the social infrastructure is highly required and villages must be focal point of development. Agriculture must be given top priority as it employs a large number of people and it is only when there is a slump in this sector that people in rural areas migrate to the cities.

Government must take steps to encourage private enterprise in rural and semi-urban areas so that educated people do not move to bigger cities in search of jobs. Initiatives like Provision of Urban amenities in Rural Areas must be promoted on a large scale to bridge the rural-urban divide in terms of infrastructure. Private sector too must be involved in rural infrastructure development projects by providing them incentives like tax-holidays and rebates.



Rural areas across the country must have all the amenities to ensure that people of younger generation choose to remain in there instead of moving to the bigger cities. The informal sector activities can also be encouraged by providing financial support, suitable location and training in certain skills which can be use to rural economy.

As a long term measure, the new vision of “Providing Urban Facility to Rural Areas”(PURA) propagated by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is a better solution. Creation of social and economic infrastructure in villages and connectivity through road and information and market access will encourage rural development and also prevents the migration.

Finally there are no ready-made solutions to the complex issue of interstate migration. All the stake holders, viz., the governments of the source state, the host state, professional groups, and national community should work together to address this issue.

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