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AN ANALYSIS ON INTER-STATE MIGRATION IN KERALA

Anju C Mohan

Department Of Economics
SreeKrishna College, Guruvayur, Thrissur,
India

ABSTRACT

The paper studies the various aspects of inter state migration in Kerala. The existence of high wage and lack of unskilled and semi skilled workers resulted in the high influx of migrant workers to the state. The study traces the socio economic characteristics of migrant workers and also identified the factors that determine the standard of living of migrant workers in Kerala. A linear regression model is employed to analyse on what extent these factors determines the standard of living of migrant workers.

Keywords: Interstate migration, internal migration, linear regression

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration is a process in which people move in search of good economic condition and for more secure environment .Such movements not only results in the development of lives of migrants but also leads to significant economic and social transformation in the regions of origin and destination of the migrants. As Kerala is concerned the term migration can be viewed in two aspects: gulf migration will leads to the inflow of income and the internal labour migration leads to outflow of income from the economy . Migration inward as well as outward has significant implication over the economy. The socio economic structure is highly influenced by the process of migration . The labour migration to Kerala had strengthened its momentum by the boom in the construction sector in mid 1991. But latter the pattern of labour migration has changed. At first people migrate and engaged in agricultural activities then turned to do construction works and now they are moving towards the service sector. Migrants are now employed in hotels, beauty parlours , shops etc.

2. LITERATURE BACKGROUND:

Ghosh and Sharma(1995) emphasizes on the migration pattern of rural Bihar. In this paper, a survey result of 56 sample villages spread over six districts have mentions that there is lowest incidence of migration in better agriculture areas and highest incidence of migration in the opposite environment. They migrate to Punjab, West Bengal, Assam ,Delhi and Kerala to find their job. Temporary migrants out migrate for a particular period . The author also points out the destination and the occupation of migrant workers. Migration of workers generally takes place from areas of low employment to those with high employment. Kerala had too witnessed a large number of migrant workers from Bihar ,just before the advent of the migrant workers from the north eastern states. The study mainly focuses on the pattern of the aspects of rural migration.

Dilip Saika (2008) in his study analyses the economic conditions of the in migrants workers in Kerala. this has been done by analyzing their saving ,income, and consumption pattern and nature of work before and after migration. Through primary survey they surveyed 166 in migrants workers in Thiruvananthapuram district . They found that saving and investment habit among the migrants in found to be very poor, whatever money remains after consumption.

Moses and Irudaya Rajan (2012) in their study Labour Migration and Integration in Kerala , they made an attempt to show how out of state migrants are kept isolated from the surrounding community .they found that migrant workers to Kerala are unable to integrate with local workers and residents go gain important information about local wage level worker rights and worker working



standard .they had an opinion the labour unions have to be effective and keen in integrating the workers and the locals in Kerala so that their working environment will become safe.

Ajith kumar (2012) examines the dimensions of vulnerability of migrant labourers in a sub national context ,Kerala state in India. The state has been witnessing large inflow of migrant labourers not only from the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka but also from states in East India (West Bengal and Odisha), North India (Bihar , Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand) and north east (Assam , Manipur). The paper explores how the state and other agencies in the host state (Kerala) responded to reduce the vulnerability of inter state migrant workers. The paper points out that due to limitations in portability of entitlement/benefits from central and State Governments at the destination . The paper calls for better coordination among host state (Kerala) and states of origin and also to formulate better strategies to reach out to migrant workers coming from diverse backgrounds to improve the migration outcomes.

Narayana and Venkiteswaran (2013) domestic migrant labour in Kerala estimated the stock and flows of migrant labours . Even though unemployment rate is hit by 7.4 % Kerala is home for 25 lakh migrant workers. The socio economic characteristics and working and living conditions of migrant workers are studied. As per the study Perumbavoor in Ernakulam has more number of migrant workers in Kerala. as per the case studies conducted in Perumbavoor ,Chavidimukk and Aluva they made some recommendations that they must be provided a unique registration id card and it can be used for availing benefits of all the schemes that the different departments of the state governments offer to the domestic migrant labourers. It is suggested that provision of affordable housing and associated services to the DML may be done by the state government through the formation of a non profit company under section 25 of the companies Act. They also suggested that the states government undertake awareness programmes both amongst the employers and amongst the DML.

3. OBJECTIVES

The study has following objectives:

- To understand the socio economic characteristic of inter -state migration in Kerala
- To identify the factors determining the standard of living of the migrant workers in Kerala

4. DATA SOURCE

The Interstate Migration survey(2012) conducted by Centre for Development studies under Ministry Of Overseas Affairs, Government of India is employed for realizing the objectives of the study. The Inter State Migration survey is a sample study of 2100 migrant workers across the four districts of Kerala - Kozhikode, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Trivandrum. From the survey data the necessary data is extracted for the realization of the objectives.

5. SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Kerala is hit by 7.4% of unemployment rate , the state provide employment opportunities to 25 lakh migrant workers in the state. Due to high status in education and the Gulf migration Keralites are not ready to do menial jobs and thus rises the problem of lack of demand of skilled and semi skilled workers in the state. This gap is filled by the workers from other states. The main origin states are West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Bihar ,Uttar Pradesh, Tamil nadu etc.

The socio economic characteristic of migrant workers shows that the average age group of migrant workers is 28 years. Search of better employment opportunities being the reason for migration the sex composition reveals that immigration to Kerala is dominated by males. Most of the migrants migrate in their reproductive age and the marital status shows that the share of currently married migrant workers are more. Considering the educational status of the workers it shows that most of the migrants have basic knowledge of reading and writing. They earn income between Rs 5000-10000, remit above Rs 5000 monthly. And their average monthly savings is below Rs 2000.Their monthly living expenses range from Rs 1000-2000.

Kerala emerged to the status of Gulf country to the migrant workers of other state.The migrants prefer to live and work in Kerala due to the existence of high wage rate comparing to their origin states. They are satisfied with the life in Kerala and had an opinion that they have good working environment in Kerala



6. FACTORS DETERMINING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The factors determining the standard of living of migrant workers are analysed below:

The econometric model of the standard of living of the migrant workers can be expressed as

$$SL = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AGE + \beta_2 SNF + \beta_3 EL + \beta_4 MI + \beta_5 OW + \beta_6 RE + \beta_7 SA + u_i$$

Where; $\beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 > 0, \beta_4 > 0, \beta_5 > 0, \beta_6 > 0, \beta_7 > 0, \beta_8 > 0$

SL = standard of living of the migrant worker

β_0 = constant

β_1 = coefficient where $i = 1$ to 7

AGE = age of the migrant workers

NF = number of family members

EL = education level of migrant workers

MI = monthly income

OW = over time work

RE = remittances

SA = savings

The above model of the standard of living was using IBM SPSS statistics version 22.0 to determine the relationship between standard of living and each of the selected variables.

TABLE 1. MODEL SUMMARY OF REGRESSION

| R | R Square | Adjusted Square | R | Standard Error of the Estimate | Durbin-Watson |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| .719 ^a | .517 | .515 | | 908.426 | 1.746 |

a: Predictors: (Constant), Age of the migrant worker, number of family members, educational level of the migrant worker ,monthly income, overtime work ,remittances ,savings.

The coefficient of the determination of the estimated model shows 51% of the variation in standard of living is attributed to the explanatory variables and the remaining 49% unexplained.

Of these seven variables number of family members, education level of the migrant worker, remittances and savings exhibits negative relationship with standard of living where as the other variables age of the migrant worker, monthly income and overtime work shows a positive relationship with the standard of living of the migrant worker.

7. CONCLUSION

The migration is a universal phenomenon. Its implication on any economy will be vast. Internal migration data reveals that Indian people are more mobile within the country and the male rural to urban migration is increasing. Apart from the earlier reasons for migration like marriage, natural calamities etc better employment opportunities, better living environment adds up to the reason for the internal migration. As far as Kerala is concerned the interstate in migration to Kerala results in leakages in the economy. Even though interstate migration has positive impact in filling the gap between the demand and supply of semi skilled and unskilled workers it also pocesesses some challenges to the state. The crime rates are increasing, health issues like spreading of AIDS,communicable diseases etc are some issues related to it. The main attraction towards Kerala is the existence of high wage rate in Kerala. The recent news of amendment of new minimum wage act establishes uniform wages among the states of India. The states are grouped in to group A,



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group B and Group C. Between the groups the wages will be different and within the group the wages are same. The states that comes under group A are Goa, Haryana, Mizoram, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Lakshadweep Chandigarh and group B includes Kerala, Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha Jharkhand Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan Gujarat Maharashtra Jammu and Kashmir Meghalaya Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Group C includes Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Pondicherry and Telengana. It is to be noted that major origin states of migrant workers in Kerala and the state Kerala, belongs to the same group i.e. group C and hope this will reduce the flow of migrants to Kerala.

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