

Migration of unskilled Agriculture labour from Keoti Block District-Darbhanga (Bihar)

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ABSTRACT

The technological revolution, industrialization, unrestrained urbanization and centres of growth make in roads changes occurred in the social set-up of the society and as result of which the current trends towards the movement of people is from rural areas to the centres of growth, particularly the developing industrial and urban areas as well as areas noted for plantation of economy.

So, out of this panoram of migratory movement from the Darbhanga district, the present Research takes up one sector i.e. unskilled rural migratory force, from sociological point of view, the rural out migration of hetrogenous group of unskilled labourers belonging to six adjacent villages i.e. Bansars, Bharatpur, Mohanpur, Pacharhi, Phulkahi and Sarjapur of Keoti Block of Darbhanga district. The Research aims to examines the phenomena of migration at the places of origin. The Research focuses on the village with a view to highlight the consequences of rural out migration of hetrogenous group of unskilled labourers.

1. Introduction

Migration means the settlement or shifting of an individual or a group of individuals from one culture area or place of habitation to another, more or less permanently. A migrant is generally regarded as a person who has moved from his place of birth to another place with the intention of settling there more or less permanently. Migration of a person within a nation is known as internal- migration . The area from which a migrant departs is known as the area of origin and the area where a migrant arrives is known as the area of destination. The departure of a person from the community of origin is termed as out migration or emigration while arrival at the place of destination is known as in-migration or immigration.

2. Review of Literature:

Migration is not a new phenomenon. Scholars of different disciplines have devoted considerable attention to understand and analyse the different dimensions of the phenomenon within the ambit of Indian soil.

Suxena (1977) advanced that migration is the result of severe famine, drought, and gradual decay of traditional occupation and poor migrating for economic reasons, while the rich for better economic pursuits.

Majumdar and Majumdar (1978) studied two shanty colonies. The study explored the vicarious experience of the oppressive environment, the limited opportunities for employment-particularly for women- the difficulties of coping with social and economic crisis of poverty and brave attempts made by rural migrants to make a new life in the cities. The study is based on anthropological approach. The study further indicated that the migrants, miserable as they are in the cities, are of the view that migration has improved their situation not only in terms of income but also the general conditions of life such as food, health and clothing. The study further referred to the strategy of growth centres, the mechanization of agriculture and development of the rural areas to regulate and control the flow of rural urban migration.

Thakur (1988) discussed the impact of migration of Bihar labourers in Gauhati at the place of the origin of the migrants. He noticed that migrants remit money every month to their family and visit their village once or twice every year. Income saved by the migrants has been able to improve their socio-economic status at home. They have become somewhat well-to-do and quality of life at home has definitely improved. Traditionally the prestige of the family is defined in terms of land holding, the kind of housing and level of expenditure on social occasions.

3. Statement of Problem:

Migration also creates social problems for the out-migrants. An individual who out- migrates from one place to another, has to face the responsibility to look after the family members at the point of his hearth and home and at the same time he is exposed to forces and factors which create an atmosphere of psychic insecurity in his new environment.

4. Study of the Area:

Keoti block -Darbhanga District. Block contains largest unskilled agriculture labours.

5. Result & Discussion:

This is the picture of migrational Research in India which reveals that 'male-only' migration has been a traditional feature of migration in India and employment opportunities viz-a-viz income, earning sources are limited in rural areas, people move out to urban centres. Migration is primarily due to economic factors. Other features of migration on the lines of economic issue at the parental place and at the destination which 'pushes' and 'pulls' the people. Kinship and social networks play an important role in facilitating migration and adoption.

Table-1
Religion and castes of out unskilled migrants

| Castes/Sub Castes | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Brahmin (Maithil, Upper caste) | 20 | 12.12 |
| Chamar (SC) | 9 | 5.45 |
| Dhanuk (BC) | 18 | 10.9 |
| Dusadh (SC) | 20 | 12.12 |
| Halwai (BC) | 7 | 4.24 |
| Kalwar (BC) | 3 | 1.81 |
| Khatbey (BC) | 23 | 13.93 |
| Koiri (BC) | 8 | 4.84 |
| Lohar (BC) | 4 | 2.42 |
| Mallah (BC) | 11 | 6.66 |
| Muslim | 32 | 19.39 |
| Nonia (BC) | 3 | 1.81 |
| Teli (BC) | 2 | 1.21 |
| Yadav (BC) | 5 | 3.03 |
| Backward Castes | 84 | 50.90 |
| Muslims | 32 | 19.39 |
| Scheduled Castes | 29 | 17.57 |
| Upper Castes | 20 | 12.12 |
| Total | 165 | 99.98 |

Source: Compiled from primary survey.

Out of the total Hindus unskilled out-migrant respondents, the Backward castes have the largest share (63.15%) followed by scheduled castes (21.80) and the upper castes (15.15%). In fact out of the total Hindus unskilled out-migrant respondents, only one backward castes, Khatbey, carries the largest share (17.25 percent). The proportion of Muslims unskilled out migrant respondents is **vary between 40.90 to 63.88%** and its concentration is in Pacharhi and Sarjapur villages only whereas Maithil Brahmin unskilled out migrant respondents constitute the upper caste and its proportion varies between 4.54 to 23.07% and are concentrated in Banasara, Bharatpur, Mohanpur, Pacharhi, Phulkahi villages (above table). It is important to note that not a single unskilled scheduled castes out migrant respondents hails from Pacharhi, Phulkahi and Sarjapur villages, rather they are mainly concentrated in Bansara, Bharatpur and Mohanpur villages.

Thus, it is clear from above that the young stars belonging to backward castse of the area under study are more conscios to out migrate to utilize their working potentialities followed by the Muslims, Additionally, one may safely say that the young stars of the backward castes are socially better placed to exploit the available earning opportunities under unskilled jobs away from their soil followed by the Muslims. However, it is extremely significant to observe that even young stars of Maithil Brahmin (upper caste) of the area under Research have migrated and are absorbed in unskilled jobs. As amatter of fact, except one village i.e. Sarjapur, the Maithil Brahmin respondents (upper caste) are concentrated almost in all the villages under Research. On the whole, the fact that most of the unskilled out migrant respondents hail from the backward castes and scheduled castes leads support to the idea that economic necessity of those in the families **comps** them to undetake jobs outside from their soil.

Marriage is an institution established for the fulfilment of social and cultural needs. In our society it has been recognized as an important institution. This institution varies from religion to religion in ways and forms but the fundamental purpose remains the same. Since marriage directly influences the

development of an individual personality and consequently the attitude, the following table No.2 makes attempt to show the marital life of the unskilled out-migrant respondents at the time of their migration as well as at the time of stay.

Table No.2
Marital status of out-migrants

| Marrital Status | At the time of out-migration | | At the time of investigation | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Unmarried | 39 | 23.63 | 11 | 6.66 |
| Married | 126 | 76.36 | 154 | 93.33 |
| Widower | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 165 | 100.00 | 165 | 99.99 |

Source: Compiled from primary survey.

Above table shows that more than three- fourth (76.36%) respondents were married at the time of their migration. 23.63% respondents were unmarried at the time of their migration. The representation of widower in the sample at the time of out- migration is nil. A break up of the respondents from villages wide revelas that thte proportion of married respondents hailing from Phulkahi, Bharatpur, Bansara, Sarjapur, Mohanpur and Pacharhi villages are, however, significantly higher, vary between 44.44 percent to 90.90 percent whereas the proportion of unmarried respondents under Research, hailing from Bansara, Bharatpur and Phulkahi villages, are higher as compared to the remaining villages at the time of out-migration.

At the time of Research, the bulk of respondents (93.33%) are married. A break up from villagewise reveals that only 5 unskilled out-migrant respondents of Phulkahi village, 3 unskilled out-migrant respondents each of Bansara and Sarjapur villages respectively, are the representatives of unmarried samples.

The representation of widower in the sample is also nil at the time of Research.

Thus, from above analysis, it is clear that the proportion of married samples rose considerably after migration. This is also borne out from the fact the large number of **migrants migrated** in their early 24 years of age and took up work after marriage and it shows that they migrated out of sheer economic necessity.

Table-3
Distribution of unskilled out-migrants according to their age.

| Age Group | At the time of out-migration | | At the time of investigation | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 15-25 Years | 116 | 70.31 | 258 | 15.15 |
| 25-34 Years | 44 | 26.66 | 92 | 55.75 |
| 35-44 Years | 5 | 3.03 | 37 | 22.42 |
| 45 to above years | - | - | 11 | 6.66 |
| Total | 165 | 100.00 | 165 | 99.98 |

Source: Compiled from primary survey.

The age-distribution at the time of out-migration of the total 165 unskilled out-migrant respondents under study has been set-out in the table No.3.

However, analysis of the age distribution of the respondents according to their village status at the time of their out-migration as described earlier clearing points out that 60% respondents of Bansara village, 73.07 percent of Bharatpur village, 57.14 percent of Mohanpur village, 59.09 percent of Pacharhi village, 100 percent of Phulkahi village and 80.55% of Sarjapur village are concentrated in the age-groups of 15-24 years while 37.14 percent respondents of Bansara village, 26.32% of Bharatpur village, 32.14 of Mohanpur village, 36.36% of Pacharhi village and 19.44 percent of Sarjapur village are concentrated in the age group of 25.34 yr.s of against the concentration of 2.85 percent respondents of village Mohapur and 4.54 percent of village pacharhi in between 35-44 years of age group.

The village Bharatpur reports two age group patterns of out-migration of its respondents viz. 15-24 years of age group (73.07 percent) respondent and 25-34 years of age-group (26.92 percent respondents) and the village also points out the dominance of the age group of 15-24 years in the matter of concentration of its respondents.

The villages Mohanpur shows three age-group patterns of out-migration of its respondents viz. 15-24 years of age group (57.14 percent respondent). 25-34 years of age- group (32.14 percent respondents) and 35-44 years of age group (10.71 percent respondents) and the village also reveals the dominance of the age-group of 15-24 years over the rest of the age groups with regard to the concentration of its respondents.

The village Pacharhi also reveals three age-group patterns of out- migration of its respondents viz. 15-24 years of age-group (59.9 percent respondents), 25-34 years of age group (4.54 percent respondents) and the village also points out the dominance of the age group of 15-24 years over the rest of the age-groups in the matter of the concentration of its respondents.

The village Phulkahi reports only one age-group pattern of out- migration of its respondents viz. 15-24 years of age-group (100 percent respondents) while the village Sarjapur reports firstly two age-group patterns of out- migration of its respondents viz. 15-24 years of age group (80.55 percent respondents) and 25-34 years of age group (19.44 percent respondents) and secondly, the dominance of the age group of 15-24 years in the mater of concentration of its respondents.

In nutshell, Bansara, Mohanpur and Pacharhi villages report three age group patterns of out-migration, Bharatpur and Sarjapur villages report two age- group patterns of out-migration whereas the village Phulkahi shows only one age group pattern of out- migration. All the villages under Research report the dominance of 15-24 years of age group pattern of out -migration on the whole, pattern of out-migration by age-group reveals that the people in between 15-24 years of age of the villages under Research are more likely to out-migration because in this age bracket people mostly face and feel economic problems, unemployment, family burden etc. and move from their shall to solve the same.

Table-4
Level of education of unskilled out migrants

| Level of education | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------|------------|
| Illiterate | 110 | 66.66 |
| Upto Primary | 23 | 13.93 |
| Middle | 16 | 9.69 |
| High School | 11 | 6.66 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Intermediate & Higher degree | 5 | 3.03 |
| Total | 165 | 99.97 |

Source: Compiled from primary survey.

The educational level of the total 165 respondents under Research has been arranged in the table No. 4.

Table No. 4 reports that 33 percent respondents are literate whereas the rest are illiterate. Out of the total 33.33 percent literate respondents, 41.81 percent respondents have the benefit of primary education, 29.09 percent have passed middle, 20 percent have the benefit of High School and only 9.09 percent respondents have the benefit of intermediate or higher degrees.

However, appendix table No. 4 dealing with the educational level distribution of the respondents as per their village status clearly points out that out of the total 35 respondents of village Bansara, 25.71 percent are literate having the benefit of education upto High School level and the rest (74.28 percent respondents) are illiterate.

Out of the total 26 respondents of village Bharatpur, 34.61% are literate having the benefit of education upto intermediate or higher degree level and the rest (65.38 percent respondents) are illiterate.

Out of the total 28 respondents of village Mohanpur, 25% are literate having the benefit of education upto intermediate or higher degree level whereas the rest (75% respondents) are illiterate.

Out of the total 22 respondents of village Pacharhi, 27.27% are literate having the benefit of education upto high school level and the rest (72.72 percent respondents) are illiterate.

Out of the total 18 respondents of village Phukahi, 38.38% are literate having the benefit of education upto intermediate or higher degree and the rest (72.72 percent respondents) are illiterate and out of the total 36 respondents of village Sarjapur, 47.22 percent are literate having the benefit of education upto middle level and the rest (52.77 percent respondents) are illiterate.

So, from above analysis, it is quite clear that the villages under Research show firstly two broad patterns of out-migration i.e. the out-migration of literate respondents and the out-migration of illiterate respondents. Secondly, the villages show three patterns of literate respondents out-migration i.e. upto the intermediate or higher degree level includes the respondents of Bharatpur, Mohanpur and Phulkahi villages, upto the High School level included the respondents of Sarjapur village. Thirdly, the villages show the dominance of illiterate over the literate.

Thus, in nutshell, pattern of out-migration by educational level shows that both illiterate and literate out-migration but illiterate out-migration more in comparison to literate.

Conclusion:

Migration is an opportunity for Scheduled Caste and other Backward Classes to migrate and earn anywhere in India. Incidence of Migration is not an isolated story neither migration is going to end by policy measures. Migration is also an individual's choice and decision. At the same time economic conditions to be improved in the rural and remote areas of India. This way migration may not be compulsion but choice.

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