

Seasonal migration of unskilled labour from Bahadurpur Block District-Darbhanga (Bihar)

Dr. Nirmal Kumar Jha

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, M.L.S.M.College, Darbhanga (Bihar)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 20 February 2019

Keywords

Employment, poverty, opportunity

ABSTRACT

Bihar has a long history of labour migration. A large number of migrant workers from Bihar are engaged in short term, casual and precarious employment at the destinations. They live and work in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. In the villages, households of migrant workers suffer from low and irregular remittances, semi--feudal systems, lack of access to social protection and basic services. These issues are aggravated by the disproportionate burden on women to manage the household in the absence of men.

1. Introduction

The phenomena of human migration is not a new one. Because man is the only known intelligent species on this planet earth, who can, by the use of his intellect, bring about alteration in the circumstances of his life. Through out this process of evolution, man has wandered hither and thither in groups or in isolation in search of food, shelter, mate and comfort. This movement of human beings for the purpose of setting down which is commonly known as migration, occupation a central place in the drama of human history as well as in the growth of civilization.

History has many examples to prove the different dimensions of human migration. The incoming of the dreaded Teutonic races, the savas, the **Magyars**, the **Hunas**, the Mongols and the Turks almost all over the than known civilized world of Asia and Europe may be visualized as one of the dimension of the human migration.

India is a country of villages, their number being about 5.80 lacs. About 80 percent of people depend on agriculture and unskilled labourers form an inseparable part of the rural sector and from where large scale mobility of unskilled with a paradoxical situation- migration from the land of village, increase burden on the over- crowded urban area.

However, the term migration has been defined in a number of ways. The term has been defined in the New Websters. Dictionary (1966, p. 1462), "the act or an instance of moving from one country, region or place to settle in another (2) the act or an instance of moving from one area to another in search of work."

Paterson (1958, p. 256) described free migration as 'movement motivated by the individual willingness to risk the unknown of a new home and breaking, from a familiar social univers for the sake of adventure, achievement of ideas, or to escape a social systems from which he has become alienated.'

Kenneth Kammeyer (1975, p. 175) advanced that "Migration is relatively permanent moving away of a collectively called migrants from one geo-geographical location to another preceded by decision- making on the part of the migrant on the basis of **hierarchically** ordered set of values or value ends

and resulting in changes in the inter-actional system of the migrants."

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.

Pakarasi (1962) advanced that migration from rural to rural and from rural to urban invite a dynamic change in the economic structure and ecological set-up and act as a broker in the field of culture and linguisticities for migrants.

D'Souza (1964) pointed out that depending upon the economic opportunities, only persons having distinctive socio-cultural background migrate.

The study of Mehtrotra (1971) analysed the 1960-61 census data on the birth place migration. Analysis of migrant population migrated from rural to rural, rural to urban unurban to rural and urban to urban taken into consideration in the study. Apart from these, some other aspects i.e. characteristics of migrants, socio-economic variables correlated to migration, life-time migration rates, status variations and not increases and decrease in population due to inter-state migration (1961-71).

Kumar and Bhagat (2012) studied the volume, trend pattern and cause of out migration from Bihar. In the sixties movement was towards north western state like Punjab and Haryana and agricultural developed states. From last two decades the movement of labourers from Bihar is to cities and urban centres. The impact of remittances from migration have helped average migrant households for purchase of food and household goods and also financing for health and education.

3. Statement of Problem:

Migration is an opportunity for unskilled labour, who are unable to get work in their own area. It is noble desire to get better job and better earning. Other facts at the origin is that large numbers of outgoing labours creates shortage in agriculture laboures. Wages are push up because of migration though productivity is Low. (Birthal P.S. - Labour scarcity in

agriculture and farm mechanisation, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economic, 68 (4) 2013, 619-623.

Area of Study: Bahadurpur Block- Darbhanga District. Block contains largest unskilled agriculture labours.

4. Result & Discussion:

The study on the "Migration of Seasonal labourers from Darbhanga district of Bihar" was based on Primary data. Therefore the data collected from the respondents have been analysed and presented below.

Age of the migrants: Age of the migrants reveals the preference for migration by some age group.

Table No. 1 Age of migrants

S. No.	Interval	Frequency	Percent
1	16-25	34	48.6
2	26-35	22	31.4
3	36-45	11	15.7
4	46-55	02	2.9
5	56-65	1	1.4
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary survey

The table shows that age group between 16-25 are more in number which is 48.6 per cent. The age group of 26-35 is second highest in order which is 31.4 per cent. The table shows that younger age groups are more prone to migrate. It proves Ravenstein's theory that younger people are prone to migrate than the older age group.

Educational qualification of migrants: The table No. 2 reveals the educational level among seasonal migrant Labourers which is very pathetic.

Table No. 2 Educational qualification of migrants

S. No.	Interval	Frequency	Per cent
1	1-5	16	22.9
2	6-10	21	30.0
3	12 & above	6	8.6
4	Illiterate	27	38.6
5	Total	70	100.0
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary survey

The table No.2 reveals that most of seasonal migrant workers are illiterate who number 27 (38.6%). There are seasonal migrants whose educational level falls between 1-5 classes such respondents are 16 out of 70 respondents which forms 22.9 per cent. The first and the fourth categories constitute more than 50 per cent of the seasonal migrant workers.

Income level of the seasonal Migrant workers: Income levels of the Seasonal migrant labourers are presented in table No. 3 which reveals the changes in the income levels after migration.

The table No. 3 shows Annual income levels of migrants

Interval	Annual income Before migration		Annual income after migration	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
10000-20000	40	57.1	0	0.0
20001-30000	25	35.7	3	4.3
30001-40000	5	7.1	18	25.7
40001-50000	0	0.0	4	5.7
50000<	0	0.0	45	64.3
Total	70	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary source.

The Table No. 3 shows annual income levels before and annual income levels after migration. With adaptation of migration strategy annual income levels of seasonal labourers has increased tremendously. Before migration 40 respondents which are 57.1 per cent had their annual income level below 20000. After migration to outside their region the respondent's income level have increased.

5. Conclusion:

Seasonal migration has improved the families economic condition. Families has positive attitude towards migration. Housing has been improved. Children are going to school and get education without any hinderance. Migration has not raise any problems in the relationship with the village based family.

Reference

1. Rodgers, G., A. Datta, J. Rodgers, S.K. Mishra and A.N. Sharma (2013). *The Challenge of Inclusive Development in Rural Bihar*. New Delhi: Institute for Human Development and Manak Publications.
2. Srivastava, R. "Bonded Labour in India: its Incidence and Pattern". *ILO Working Paper* (2005).
3. Mitra, M. (1981). "Women in colonial agriculture: Bihar in the late 18th and 19th century". In *Development and Change*, 12, 29--53.
4. Mitra, M. and Mishra, S.K. "Stolen Childhoods: A Study of Trafficking in the Kosi Region of Bihar". *Save the Children* (2011)
5. Shanthi, K. (2006). *Female labour migration in India: Insights from NSSO data*. Working Paper No. 4, Madras School of Economics, Chennai.