

Effects of Interstate Migration on the Socio Economic Status of the Open-pit Mine Workers and Planning for Better Livelihood of India

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Abstract: *This Paper presents the field data pertaining to the study, collected from 357 respondents selected for the study, comprising respondents from Tamil Nadu and Respondents from Uttar Pradesh. The respondents were both men and women of the other-state migrant workers employed for stone cutting in the Mine. This paper also comprises with Literature work, Proper methodology, Limitations and Analysis work. Researcher has stated Frequency Tables of Districts, Sex Wise Distributions, Age wise workers table, Educational status of the Sample population, Particulars of Basic Occupation at the Place of Origin before Mine Works, Ownership of House etc. Researcher has mentioned Findings and Conclusion based on analysis and presents the inferences based on the field data and also based on the field observations and outcome of Focus Group Discussions.*

Keywords: Mine, Stone, Socio Economics Status, Workers, Frequency Table.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a leading producer and exporter of natural stone in the world. India is a leading producer and exporter of natural stone in the world. On average 10 India is a leading producer and exporter of natural stone in the world. On average 10 per cent of the natural stone traded on the world market comes from India. Dimensional stones like granite, marble, slate and sandstone constitute the bulk of India's export in natural stone. India accounts for over 20 per cent of the world's granite resources. It is the second largest exporter of raw granite after China and ranks fifth in the export of processed granite products. Migrant stone workers occupy a large scale of professional community due to the increasing number of stone quarries in India. This business contributes a lot to meet the local demand for stone and stone products. Exporting is under processed which will enable us to earn a staggering amount of foreign currency. But the open-pit mine activities are facing both challenges and opportunities having various negative impacts on the ecology and environment, especially on the human rights of the Mine workers.

II. LITERATURE STUDY

On discussing on migration, we generally discuss on International migration which have brought about a drastic change in Country as the largest remittance receiving nation and Kerala being placed at the top among the state with 40%. Many studies have been conducted in this regard especially to Gulf countries. Let us study more:

Upadhya and Rutten (2012) the paper reviews migration and development, by debating the current flows and reverse flow of migrant resources to India, giving a clear-cut understanding of migration and migrants socio-economic implications. The paper is detail discussion in transactional mobility and the development achieved thereby. The study put forward a methodological approach to the flow and reverse flow involved in migration providing an organizational structure, in transactional social fields regulating the flow of migration, which will help to provide a comprehensive understanding of migration and development.

Rajan and Moses (2012) on their study on labor migration and integration in Kerala, tried to show out of state migrants are kept isolated from the surrounding community. From the study it is found that migrant workers to Kerala are unable to integrate with the local workers and community and have no information about the prevailing local wage, their rights, working hours and the amenities provided in the work sites. They opine that the labor union have to be

effective and keen in integrating the workers and the locals in Kerala so that their working environment will be safe and secure.

John (2014) points out that seasonal migration has been a source of income for rural households who are unable to support themselves and the family through agriculture. Household's number diversify their (the migrant worker's) economic activities outside the traditional agriculture sphere to urban areas in the lean period. He points to different demographic and socio-economic factors such as age sex, educational qualification, religion etc. as some causes leading to this temporary migration.

Ahmad (2014) deals with the emerging trends in the Indian economy with the inflow of remittance and the related phenomena. The Journal gives an approximate estimation on the countries from which India receives the highest remittance as the top position is for North America followed by Europe and Middle East countries. Whole is divided mainly as three parts as the role of remittance in overall development with special focus on merits of remittances received in the Indian economy, secondly the different phases of migration and finally the domination of Gulf countries in remittance proportion. The journal in detail discussed the flow and role of remittance in and to different sectors but need not discussed the major utilizers of this remittance and confined it to a statement as macro and micro development rather than specifying it.

Anju (2016) the paper studies the various aspects of inter-state migration in Kerala, by analyzing the existence of high wage and lack of domestic manual labor resulting to a high inflow of migrant workers from different parts of the country. By tracing their social and economic characteristics and also by identifying the factors that determine the standard of living of migrant labors in Kerala, using the linear regression model to determine the standard of living.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the Methodology of research framework. Containing Objective, Research Design, Sample Size, Analytical Tools, Limitation, etc.

3.1 Problem Statement

Researcher is examining general understanding about Sex Wise Distributions, Age wise workers table, Educational status of the Sample population, Particulars of Basic Occupation at the Place of Origin before Mine Works, Ownership of House of respondents.

3.2 Objectives of the Study

To study the socio-economic and ethnographic background of the migrant open-pit mine workers.
To identify the educational status and other issues of migrant worker's children.

State Name and District Name:

- Tamilnadu: Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvellore, Dindigul and Theni
- Uttarpradesh: Varanasi, Allahabad, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli
- **Research Design:** Descriptive Research Design, Interview Method
- **Data Type:** Primary Data
- **Sample Size:** 184 respondent from Tamil Nadu and 173 Respondents from U.P.

3.3 Limitations of the Study

The owners/representatives of the quarries in the study region were not interested to allow the research and investigating team to interact with the workers. Therefore, it was very difficult to meet the workers in the work sites. The workers fear of eviction from the employment by the Mine owner also influenced the interview process.

IV. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Around 50 per cent of labour families were interacted for collection of data pertaining to the objectives of the study. Accordingly, the district-wise number of sample workers selected were listed in the above table (3.1). Relevant data and required information were collected from 357 respondents covering 183 from Tamil Nadu and 174 from Uttar Pradesh.

Sample Districts and Number of Respondents Selected for the Study from Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Districts	No. of Respondents
Tamil Nadu		
1	Krishnagiri	27 (14.8%)
2	Dharmapuri	43 (23.4%)
3	Thiruvallur	38 (20.8%)
4	Dindigul	32 (17.5%)
5	Theni	43 (23.5%)
Total		183 (100)
Uttar Pradesh		
1	Varanasi	37 (21.3%)
2	Mirzapur	31 (17.8%)
3	Allahabad	35 (20.1%)
4	Sonbhadra	38 (21.8%)
5	Chandauli	33 (19.0%)
Total		174 (100%)

Sex wise distribution of the respondents

S.No.	Sex	State		Total
		Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	
1	Male	116 (63.4%)	93 (53.4%)	209 (58.5%)
2	Female	67 (36.6%)	81 (46.6%)	148 (41.5%)
Total		183 (100%)	174 (100%)	357 (100%)

According to the above table, It is observed that employer prefers family on collective contract, it can be seen from male and female sample represented for the study, 58.5 per cent workers were male and 41.5 per cent were females.

Age Particulars of the Study Respondents

S. No.	Age	State		Total
		Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	
1	Below 20	42 (22.9%)	31 (17.8%)	73 (28.0%)
2	21-30	53 (29.0%)	43 (24.7%)	96 (26.9%)
3	31-40	58 (31.7%)	61 (35.1%)	119 (33.3%)
4	41-50	16 (8.8%)	21 (12.1%)	37 (10.4%)
5	50 Above	14 (7.7%)	18 (10.3%)	32 (9.0%)
Total		183 (100.0%)	174 (100.0%)	357 (100.0%)

According to the above table, around 80 per cent of workers were in the age between 20-40 years. The remaining 20 per cent population though replied engagement in similar activities, their performance level was poor compared to the main category of labourers.

Educational status of the Sample population

S. No.	Education	State		Total
		Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	
1	Illiterate	139 (76.5%)	157 (90.2%)	296 (82.9%)
2	Primary	44 (23.5%)	17 (9.8%)	61 (17.1%)
3	Secondary	-	-	-
4	College	-	-	-
Total		183 (100.0%)	174 (100%)	357 (100%)

The present study also reflects high percentage of illiteracy in the study region. Out of 357 interacted, 296 (82.9 per cent) are illiterates. Only 17 per cent reported attending primary schooling. The State-wise presentation of data shows above 90 per cent illiteracy in Uttar Pradesh comparing to Tamil Nadu where 23.5 per cent studied up to primary level.

Particulars of Basic Occupation at the Place of Origin before Quarry Works

S. No.	Occupations	State		Total
		Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	
1	Farmer	8 (4.4%)	5 (2.9%)	13 (3.6%)
2	Livestock Rearing	40 (21.9%)	16 (9.2%)	56 (15.7%)
3	Agriculture-Labour	96 (52.5%)	79 (45.4%)	175 (49.0%)
4	Non-farm Labour	14 (7.7%)	18 (10.3%)	32 (9.0%)
5	Under-employed	21 (11.5%)	15 (8.6%)	36 (10.1%)
6	Unemployed	4 (2.2%)	41 (23.6%)	45 (12.6%)
Total		183 (100.0%)	174 (100.0%)	357 (100.0%)

As per the data presented in table, out of 357 sample respondents, majority families were engaged in agriculture labour, i.e. 175 (49.0 per cent), around 22 per cent families of the respondents were underemployed and unemployed. Only 13 (3.6 per cent) were engaged in agriculture as full-time farmers, followed by 56 (15.7 per cent) engaged as part-time farmer and the rest of the period getting engaged in livestock rearing.

Ownership of House

S. No.	Ownership of House	State		Total
		Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	
1	Own Created	50 (27.3%)	66 (37.9%)	116 (32.5%)
2	Rented	7 (3.8%)	15 (8.6%)	22 (6.2%)
3	Provided by the Employer	126 (68.9%)	93 (53.4%)	219 (61.3%)
Total		183 (100.0%)	174 (100.0%)	357 (100.0%)

The study data shows, 61.3 per cent people living sheds provided by the employer mainly in Tamil Nadu and 32.5 per cent live in the houses created by them funded by the employers.

V. FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH

- Sex wise representation of the sample population shows, 58.5 per cent workers Under the study were males and 41.5 per cent were females. Among them, around 80 per cent of workers were in the age group between 20-40 years and 92.3 per cent were married and 83 per cent illiterates. Only 17 per cent completed primary schooling. High percentage of children were not attending school Majority of the sample population belongs to Hindu religion.
- The study sample has covered different types of caste groups from both study States. Labourers working in quarries of Tamil Nadu belong to Vaddy sub-caste migrated from Andhra Pradesh and Kalla Wadar from Karnataka.
- In Uttar Pradesh majority of the migrant open-pit mine workers come from Bihar and they belong to Musahars and Patharkat sub-castes.
- Higher the annual income will lead to higher expenditure especially on buying of comfort needs to lead a better life.
- Around 21 per cent families were in the expenditure category of above Rs.1,10,000. The expenditure of Mine workers is mostly on food and alcohol. Quite surprising enough around 20 per cent of their income was spent on intoxicants. It has resulted in premature deaths and in some cases, they are incapacitated to do any work.
- Specific problems faced by women workers are, due to their physic. The ability of strength affects women and creates specific problems like back pain (93.8 per cent), incidences of abortion, unequal payment and sexual harassment were also reported by around 20 per cent More than 81 per cent expressed that the contractors and other male members' force and urge to have an illegal sexual relationship. Women are unable to report the situation either to family members or to anybody else with the fear of eviction from the work or disintegration from the family.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

Total working hours in a day and timings of the work are to be regulated as per the standard operating procedures and it is to be monitored by the inspector of works appointed by the State government Functional training programmes related to fundamental work are to be imparted to the open-pit mine workers on safety during work, application of 'First-aid' for accidental injuries and these are to be organised by the Mine licensees Semi-mechanization of stone cutting work to reduce the drudgery of the workers and initiatives to impart know-how and operating skills are to be given to the laborers. Conducting awareness campaigns on the rights of labour in general and other State migrant workers to the Mine workers. Various provisions of the relevant laws and their provisions associated with the open-pit mine workers Compulsory week breaks from work to be maintained to enable the workers to take rest. Provision of

protected and sanitized living environment with protected decent house with minimum space and provision of drinking water, toilet, electricity and shops for basic things Creation of grievance redressal mechanism and periodical interaction with the workers by the worksite supervisors and reporting the appellate authorities for appropriate action protecting the interest of the workers are essential. Creation of access to education for the children of Mine workers by establishing study centres, mobile schools or transport facilities to reach school and encourage every parent to send their children to study Imparting skills in alternative trades of employment may be for the workers or on priority to their children through government schemes or by NGOs and encourage them to search for safe employment and better living condition.

VII. CONCLUSION

Open-pit mine is one of the key extractive economic activities in India, supplying the bulk of stone of varying aggregates to the construction industry, roads and railways. The country also earns considerable income through exporting of semi-polished and full polished granite stones to a number of countries. Mining provides some levels of employment and generates some income to the people. Majority of the people who are engaged in labour activities in Mine activities are from low economic groups and socially backward. With inadequate skills and high consumption expenditures mining does not generate returns to commensurate the efforts and problems faced. The operation of Mining in its current form is environmentally unsustainable. Land degradation is widespread posing a serious threat to food security. Atmospheric dust concentration coupled with the physical nature of the Mining process creates negative health consequences in general and workers in particular. The existing legislation and implementing agencies remain ineffective in comprehending the dynamics of socio-economic and cultural problems prevailing in this industry. Therefore, there is an urgent need to evolve a comprehensive legislative mechanism, effective initiatives to strengthening the implementation of existing labour-related laws and a special institutional set-up to liberate other State migrant open-pit mine workers.

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