

Migrant Construction Workers In Kolhapur.

By Asso. Prof .B. T. Naik Dr.V.A.Patil

Abstract: Migration of workers has become common phenomenon. The problem of unemployment, poor chances of development is the push factors of migration. The Kolhapur city & adjoining areas have witnessed the influx of migrants in construction sector. This trend has triggered the fast urbanization with standardized infrastructure. This has also become the driving force for the development. Now a days migrated areas are infested with the social issues at the cost of emerging development. The Kolhapur city & adjoining areas are witnessing more inflow of migrants in the construction sector.

Introduction:

The recent development of Kolhapur city is the result of growing industrialization witnessed with the arrival of many big enterprises namely Indo Count, Raymond, and Kirloskar etc. This type of development has necessitated the network of standardized infrastructure such as airport, hotels, resto, roads & other eco system. The Kolhapur Engineering Association (KEA) is eyeing upon the development of IT hub. Political leaders are keenly interested & taking initiative to develop the city as next IT centre after Pune & Mumbai. As a result the Kolhapur city is witnessing sea change in the construction sector. The available domestic working force from native place is not competent & viable. The builders are tapping the workforce from the outside state. This has led to the inflow of more workforce in the construction sector from outside area. This article highlights the effects on the socio economic impact on these migrated workers.

1 Concept of Migration:

Migration is a human tendency of movement from one place to another for the betterment of life or comfort 1. We find the out migration is common in industrial areas. It has become common in other sectors also such as service & construction sector. Migration can be of temporary or permanent nature. In Kolhapur there is permanent nature of migration of construction workers who have come from other states namely Uttar Pradesh Bihar & Karnataka.

Most of the studies have reiterated this tendency & justified as the migration is common. It prevails all over the nation & also at the global level. Mr.Solaris Santhapparaj in his article “Internal Migration, remittance & Determinants of Remittance stated that, lack of development is the root reason for migration from rural to industry. The author cited the case study Of Madurai city where large number of migrants are from rural areas. Most of the migrants were youngsters between the age group of 20 -25 years. Earnings of the migrants at the time of migration were meagre. The push factor was unemployment, family responsibility, indebtedness, small holdings, landlessness, social conflicts & other reasons² . Similarly Resmi P Bhaskran in her article “From the Village to the City” highlighted the issue of migration of villages of Samstipur Dist in Bihar. Poor conditions at the rural level are the responsible factors for migration. The comparison between rural & urban influenced the issue of migration. It is observed that migrants are landless & marginal & small farmers³.

Gushran Bhalla Rastogi in his article “Structural Shifts in the Indian Economy : A re- examination of Push Pull Hypothesis highlighted there is tendency of structural shift of agricultural laborers to industry & other sectors. The author stated that development of industrial activity generate employment which further open the flood gates of employment opportunities. Obviously the agricultural laborers start migrating to industrial hub.⁴

Suresh Babu in his article “Labor in the Organised Manufacturing Sector in the Era of Globalization” stated that, after NEP of 1991 industrialisation led to the increase in the wages of employment & wages which triggered the migration of labour. Post reform period witnessed more structural shift from unorganized sector.⁵

Santosh Mehrotra article “Organized & Unorganized Employment in the Non Agricultural Sector” highlighted that insecurity of employment , low wages in the agriculture are the responsible factors which are responsible for migration. Poor opportunities in agriculture triggered to find out the way in other sector.⁶

The research gap is that, the above articles have highlighted the migration only to the industrial sector.The author has pointed out that, the trend of workers migration covered the construction sector .The workers are preferring their attitude in this prospective sector.

II Methodology of the Study:

Most of the articles reiterated that, there is common tendency amongst the rural youth to migrate to other sectors in search of better opportunities. This is common phenomena we find in industrial sector. The author has considered the case studies of construction workers who have migrated in Kolhapur District place & adjoining areas from where workers are contacted. Places covered are Gaganbawada, Radhanagari & Shahuwadi. A random sample of 100 workers selected representing all areas & questionnaire filled up after the interaction. The information collected about the gender, wages, type of work performed such as (centering, cementing, tiles fitting & other), wages per day, reasons for migration, reason for migration to Kolhapur. The data collected & analyzed on the basis of information.

III Socio Economic Conditions of Migrant Construction Workers:

1 Sex, Age Distribution of Migrant Construction Workers :

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0 -20	15 (16.66%)	--	15
20 – 30	39 (43.33 %)	06 (60.00 %)	45
30 – 40	18 (20.00%)	04 (40.00 %)	22
40 -50	16 (17.77%)	--	16
50 & above	02 (2.22%)	--	02

Total	90 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	100
-------	----------------	----------------	-----

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that 43% of the total workforce is belong to young age i.e.20 to 30 years age group, remaining 28% in the age group of 30 -40 age group. The percentage above 40 years is 16 % & 2% respectively. The above nature clearly shows that, the tendency of migration is more in the age group of i.e. above 20 to 30 years. Besides there are 10 female workers found. Most of them married. Amongst the sample holders there are married couples from Karnataka state. In case of others, they are young & some of them married came from U.P, Bihhar, and M.P. Those married have left their families at native places due to distance.

2 Education Level:

The literacy status play a decisive role in case of migration. The following chart depicts the situation of literacy status of the respondents .

Worker	Illiterate	Primary school	Middle School	High School	HSc	Above HSC	Total
Male	11 (12.12)	30 (33.33)	35 (38.88)	12 (13.33)	02 (2.22)	-----	90 (100)
Female	04 (40.00)	06 (60.00)	--	--	--	==	10 (100)
Total	15	36	35	12	02	---	100

Source: Field survey

The number of respondents in the category of primary school & middle school are more. Most of them are school drop outs. The family background couldn't make them to continue education. There were very few matriculated workers. Respnibility & other obligations made them to migrate.Female workers are illiterate & hardly completed primary education.After marriage they accompanied their husbands.

3 Place of Origin :

In case of couple sample holders they came from village namely Yergatti, & Soundatti taluka.Where as Sample holders from Bihar, UP , &MP from remote villages .

4: Type of Work Performed In Construction:

Sex	Centering	Cementing	Bricks Attachment	Fencing	Helper	Security
Male	23	31	16	10	----	10
Female	--	---	---	----	10	10

Field Survey

The above table depicts the type of work performed by the workers. All female workers performing the dual role as a watchman & helper. Most of the couple performs the work of other skill related & watchman ship. In case of other single workers they are performing the all types of construction work.

5 Wages & Type Of work:

The following table shows the type of work & wages.

Wages per Day (Rupees)

Type of work	Male	Female
Centering	Rs 600	
Cementing	Rs 700	
Bricks Attachment	Rs. 700	
Fencing	Rs 700	
Helper		Rs 450
Watchman	Rs.450	

The above information is collected directly from sampleholders. The builder/contractors not cooperated in providing of information. There is no pay sheet maintained. All employees are not protected. There are no any amenities provided by the employer.

6 Monthly Family Incomes of Construction Workers:

Monthly Income	No. of Workers
Below 10000	20
10000 -15000	17

15000 - 20000	23
20000 – 25000	37
Not revealed	03
Total	100

The family income of watchman is below Rs 10,000. Where as the workers who perform the job of centering, Bricks attachment & cementing have a sizable income. The sample holders in the category of

Above Rs 25000 are mostly centering & cementing workers. Besides the couple workers are also included who performed the work of both watchman & helper. It is observed that by overtime most of the construction workers are earning more. Very few workers couldn't tell out of their ignorance.

7 Size of Family:

Size of Family	No of construction Workers
Below 2	56
2 -- 4	36
4 -- 6	08
6 above	Nil
Total	100

Field survey

It is observed that most of the workers have sizable family including of children & parents left behind their native places. Language difference, culture, climate discouraged them to bring their families. There are very few sample holders who have a big family. Migrant couples are staying with their kids; they are eyeing upon their education & enrolled in the corporation run school. Rest of the sample holders children are taking education at their native place. Importantly most of them have observed small size family norm.

IV Reasons for Migration:

8 Push Factors

Construction Workers	Unemployment	landless	Less job	Poverty	Family Responsibility	Other Reason	Total
----------------------	--------------	----------	----------	---------	-----------------------	--------------	-------

			Opp		y	s	
Male	52 (63.41)	10(12.19)	08 (9.75)	04 (4.87)	07 (8.53)	01 (1.21)	82 (100.00)
Female	07 (38.88)	03 (3.65)	01(5.55)	03 (16.66)	02 (11.11)	02 (11.11)	18 (100.00)
Total	59	13	09	07	09	03	100

(Field Survey)

9 Pull Factors:

Contract Workers	Better Wages	Higher Demand	Safety	Better conditions	Other	Total
Males	45	13	07	10	07	82
Females	06	02	04	06	--	18
Total	51	15	11	16	07	100

(Field survey)

Table 8: Explanation of Pull Factors :

1) Unemployment: It is observed that most of the sample holders stated that, the employment opportunities at their native places are very bleak. Those areas are not covered with development. Hence they feel that, there is no alternative to migrate to outside areas.

2) Landless: Most of the sample holders are landless. They don't have a land for tilling. Family members cultivate on lease basis. These workers are migrated to support the income for family. There is unequal distribution of land. The area is also not irrigated.

3) Less Job Opportunities: As these areas are not developed, job opportunities are very less. Adjoining areas are not covered with industrialization. Hence the sample holders feel, there is no alternative to migrate for job.

4) Poverty: Unemployment is co-brother of poverty. Most of the families have realized that, they are vulnerable to the financial position may plunge into poverty. This fear of uncertainty compelled them to migrate for work.

5) Other Reasons: It is here observed that most of the migrants have left their families at their native places. Their children are taking education in school. The sample holders have migrated to support income to continue education & standard of living of their family.

Table 9 : Pull Factors:

1) Better Wages : Regular & attractive wages are the pull factors in construction sector, There are better wages due to skill & hard work of the workers, buiders pay to complete the project in a stipulated period.

2) Higher Demand: It is observed that, fast urbanization has given momentum to the development of construction sector. New residential buildings, various infrastructural projects necessitated to satisfy the requirements of growing population. In this context, the demand for the skilled construction workers increased significantly.

3) Safety: It is learnt that the central part of Maharashtra is the safest place. Most of the workers preferred this destination because of peace & safety. There is no incident of riots or any other conflicts. Hence migrants preferred this destination.

4) Better Conditions: It is observed that most of the contractors & developers are caring in nature of the workers. To retain the workforce minimum staying conditions provided. This was considered to maintain the continuation of work. Hence workers preferred this place.

5) Other Reasons: Better communication, healthy atmosphere & loving nature of the people also pull factors. The Kolhapur city is experiencing the development pace many migrant workers have stayed for a long time in Kolhapur

V Impact of Migration:

The study area has shed light on the impact of migration in the field area as well as in native place from where workers are migrated.

Positive impact:

1) Availability of much needed labor:

It is observed that, the study area i.e. Kolhapur city construction sector much benefitted with the availability of these skilled migrated workers. The fact is that, local workers from Kolhapur city are not available in adequate numbers. The builders were worried about availability. Migrated workers have given momentum to the construction activities.

2) Perform hard work:

Migrated workers are famous for performing hard & risk oriented work. They take a risk of centering, & cementing highly towered buildings. This is not possible on the side of local workers. The workers from Karnataka, Bihar famous in this regard.

3) Development of Construction Sector:

Availability of the migrant workers has given momentum for the development of construction sector. The new projects are coming up. The study area is now benefitted with standardized infrastructure.

4) Perform Odd jobs:

The migrated workers end up with performing odd jobs .They does the cleaning, washing, night watchman etc not possible by the local workers. It is seen that, the local workers grumble & hesitant.

5) Hard & continuous work:

Unlike local workers, migrant workers have tendency to do hard work. They perform it by devoting more time. The duration of working hours are more than 10 hrs. This type of nature of working helping to accomplish the projects within stipulated time.

6) Benefit of Developments:

It is seen that, the influx of migrant workers have somewhat contributed to the development of local economy. These workers have directly, indirectly helped in rotating the economy by way of turnover at the local market. This is somehow is contributory as far as the development of construction sector is concerned.

Negative Impact:

There is negative impact of migrant workers at the local & native place

1) Unemployment of local workers:

The inflow of migrants has axed the job opportunities of locals. As these workers are hard worker, mostly preferred by the builders. Automatically, locals are sidelined; the pall of discontent is brewing at the local level

2) Shortage of Agriculture labor:

The native places are experiencing the shortage of labor for agriculture. The agriculture sector has come into situation of uncertainty. The tendency of migration has continued unabated. This is very dangerous.

3) Addiction:

It is here observed that, due to not connectivity with family & long distance, some of them are addicted. The tendency of addiction is common. It adversely affects the working capacity. Some workers prefer to have chewing of tobacco, cigarettes, aplchoholic drinks. This is the negative effect of migrant workers.

4) Social Disturbances:

It has been keenly observed that migrated sites have become the sites of social disturbances. Incidents of infighting & other crimes are the routine matters. The locals are strongly objected about this.

5) Exploitation:

Most of the workers are belong to the unorganized sector. They are deprived of all amenities applicable as per Labor Laws. Their names are not payroll & paid less. Their need of financial urgency exploited .it is observed that, they suffer hardship in all respect.

Conclusion:

Migrated construction laborers have become the boon for the development of urban areas particularly in Maharashtra. The Kolhapur city is not exception. Now a days the construction sites are manned by migrated workers from UP, Bihar & Karnataka State. This type of migration has given momentum to the development of infrastructure. On the contrarary it has also exposed the number of social issues at the migrated areas & native places from where the workers are migrated, But the recent trend of New Economic Policy has led to the free flow of goods & services, which has resulted into the regional development . The Kolhapur district is passing through this transformation.

References:

1. Puri S.K. Misra S.K. Indian Economy 2021
2. Solris Santhapparaj “Internal Migration, Remittance & determinants Of Remittances: An Empirical Analysis” The Indian Journal Of Labour Vol 41 No.2 1998
3. Resmi P Bhaskaran Article “ From the Village to the City : The changing dynamics of Migration In Contemporary Area “ The Indian journal Of Labor Economics Vol 54 No.3 2011
4. Bhalla Ratigi “ Structural Shift In The Economy The Indian Journal of Labor Economics Vol 52No.1 2009
5. C.B. Maamoria, S. Mamoria “ Dynamics Of Industrial relations In India” edition 1991
6. Mr suresh Babu Article “ Loosing out in a Growing Economy ” The Indian Journal Of Labour Economics No.2 ,Vol 55, 2009