Marriage, Migration and Labour Market: A Study of Slum Areas in Bangalore City

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Introduction

Abstract

The paper is based on a study of women's marriage; migration is related to labour market in urban slums of Bangalore city. It particularly focuses on their socio-economic issues influence on their migration. The study examines how women are facing the problems & affects from labour market through migration in their life.

Objectives

The main objectives of this study are to:

- To study the background of the slum women.

- To study the socio-economic factors, influence on migration & as well as labour market.

- To examine the programmes & policies of these women.

Methods

This research uses the descriptive and narrative technique for presenting research data. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be perused.

Key Results

The outcomes of the study indicate that majority of the women were affected from migration & labour market. Govt & Non-govt should be make developmental programmes & policies.

KEYWORDS: Socio-economic factors, Working conditions, Urban slum.

Introduction

Marriage related migration is a crucial factor affecting mobility. It is interesting to note that a large number of poor women enter labour markets in urban centre at the place of destination through marriage. However, existing conditions of the labour market in urban centers are inhospitable, deplorable with long hours of work, low wages, absence of job security etc. It is vital to study the existing position of female migrants to put in place policies to improve their living & working conditions.

Objectives

The main objectives of this study are to:

- To study the background of the slum women.

- What are the study factors responsible for their migration?

- How do they enter urban informal sector labour market & what is their current employment status?

- To examine the programmes & policies of these women.

Methods

I was selecting 50 married women migrants in different age group who were living in urban slums in Bangalore city. I have used convenient sampling method for my field study. This research uses the descriptive and qualitative technique for presenting research data. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be perused.

Study Background

I was selecting 3 slums in Bangalore city like-

* Ambedkar Nager Slum

* Kasturamme Badavane Slum

* Mankalamma Badavane Slum

The sample: Size of the study fifty married women, were selected for interview. The sample women
Were selected on the basis of availability of married migrant women at the slums.

Data Analysis:

Table 1: Districts wise Distribution of the Respondents:

Sl.No	Districts	Percentage
1	Bellary	43.5
2	Bangalore rural	22.5
3	Kolar	15.0
4	Tumkur	7.5
5	chikkabalapur	7.5
	Total	100

Majorities of the surveyed women migrants came from the Bellary; it has been shown in the table. About 22.5% of them belonged to Bangalore Rural areas, 15% to Kolar, and 7.5% each to Belgaum & Chikkaballapur.

Previous Work Experience

About 42.5% worked on the farms of landlords. But the wages are low & the work was seasonal in nature of short duration. Consequently, they faced the problem of uncertain livelihood. 12.5% of the respondents are engaging in beedi making, construction working, plastic flower making.

Education-wise Distribution of Family Size

It was found that out of these 50 migrant women, 77.5% were illiterates, 12.5% were primary level, 5% were secondary level education.

Source of Information on Bangalore

In around 75% of the cases, relatives living in Bangalore provided the basic information. About 15% & 10% of the respondents migrated at the instance of their friends & acquaintances, mainly their co-villagers respectively.

Married migrant women could not get jobs immediately after arrival. About 80% of them found jobs after migration.

Table 2: Present occupation of Married Migrant Women

Sl.No	Occupation	percentage
1	Domestic servants	36.0
2	Scavengers	40.0
3	Construction workers	14.0
4	Bamboo things & plastic flower making	10.0
	Total	100

The table shows that 40% of the married women migrants were engaged in scavenging work. 36% of were engaged as domestic servants, 14% of the women are going to the construction work, & 10% of the respondents are doing bamboo things like-grooms, baskets & plastic flower pots.

Caste-wise occupational distribution of Respondents

58% of the respondents are belonging to SC, & 28% of the respondents are ST, only 14% of the respondents are belonging to the OBC. (gollas, vokkaligas, kumbaras)

Age-wise occupational distribution of Respondents

68% of the respondents between age group of 25-35 years, 12% of between 36-40years, 10% of between 18-24 years & 10% of above 40years.

Average Monthly wages of migrant women's

The wages received by different categories of migrant women workers reveals that current wages of these migrant women are not very high. 15% of them received less than 500 Rs, 14% of them received 600-1000Rs, 40% of received 1100-1500, & 31% of them received 1600Rs & above per month.

Violence against women

Majority of woman don't enjoy much decision-making respect of disposal of money earned by them and even freedom to socialize with others. Besides, they have to tolerate various forms of intre-household gender discrimination and atrocities like- physical violence, molestation, abusive behavior of the husband, lack of to freedom spent and socialize which all make them mentally sick and subordinate to the husbands always.

Women's role in Decision Making

The role of migrant women inside their households in matters like decision making, it would be more appropriate to find out the say/role they had in the decision to migrate. In approximately 50% of cases, the crucial decision on migration was taken by their spouses alone. But 35.5% of cases women were the primary decision makers. This may be because of the fact that a household migrates after exploring the employment possibilities of women in the urban centers as a major & immediate resort for family survival.

Case Studies

- **Sanjeevini** (25) is a SC landless woman. She studied 6th standard, she came from Bellary, she is having 3 children. According to her she had a love marriage with a man who was already married. They migrated from their native place due to their poverty & unemployment. Her husband remained unemployed. She used to earn money to run day –to-day life & repay the loans. Despite the fact that she did engage in paid work for six hours and unpaid work for four to five hours at home, her husband used to drink a lot and quite often indulged in physical violence. At the time of our survey she was passing through the phase of acute mental distress as her husband took away her children and went back to his native place, when she was out for work. She was naturally missing her children. Moreover, she was earning just Rs.740 per month by working as a domestic servant, paying Rs.400 as monthly rent and was not able to meet her basic requirement of food with the balance amount of Rs.340 and was at the mercy of her employers.

- **Nirmala (30)** is a Scheduled caste, illiterate, landless woman having four children. Her husband used to take away the money earned by her and often indulged in physical violence so much so that he broke her bones once and then she had to go for stitches. Gradually his atrocities increased. He took away her children and left them with her parents back home. He himself, however, came back but was having an extramarital relation and was not ready to give her maintenance charges.

- **Draupadi,** a domestic servant of 40 years from U.P is illiterate and landless and migrated to Delhi because of her poverty and unemployment. She reported to be doing paid work for eleven and half hours and unpaid household work for three hours o daily basis. She was overburdened and was frustrated, as she had to bear with her unemployed husband and five unemployed sons. After doing so much for her family she neither enjoyed any freedom to spend the money earned by her nor was she allowed to socialise with anybody. Moreover, she had to tolerate abusive

language and violent behavior of her husband. She cried whenever she felt frustrated. She couldn't share her problems with her relatives back home as she visited them once in three years due to paucity of funds.

Policy Issues and suggestion

- Gender focused and issue pacific strategy
- Food based intervention
- Introduction and enforcement of legislations
- Organizational initiatives
- Role of Ngo's
- Empowerment of women

Conclusion

The study also reveals that in addition to their paid work in the informal segment of the labour market, migrant woman performs both paid as well as unpaid work for long hours in the labour market. The study also highlights some of the main issues such as complete uncertainty of work and regular income earnings which could have enable migrant woman workers to lead a decent standard of living in societies. Hence the study suggests for a gender focused and issue-based poverty alleviation strategy to be adopted by both government and non government agencies.

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