

Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrant Tribal Women in Bangalore City

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Abstract

Introduction: The paper is based on a study of Tribal women's socio-economic conditions in urban slums of Bangalore city. It particularly focuses on their socio-economic issues influence on their migration. The study examines how tribal women are facing the problems & affects from migration in their life.

Objectives

The main objectives of this study are to:

- To study the background of the Tribal women's.
- To analyze the dynamics of social adjustment the tribal women in the cities have to make in relation to employment and residential facilities
- To study the socio-economic factors influence on migration

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 migrant tribal women were affected from migration & backward in all respects. Which if implemented, will reduce their misery and help in improving their socio-economic conditions

KEYWORDS : Migration, Urban Slum. Socio Economic factors

Introduction:

More number of tribal women migrates from their tribal areas to urban city centers mainly in search of employment. They are new to the city life style and environment and find it difficult to make adjustment with the changed situation and environment. They have to face a number of problems in the cities they get migrated. Moreover, they are exploited both financially and sexually by the non-tribal in the cities. With a view to examine the socio-economic conditions of these migrant tribal women in the cities and to study the problems faced by them it was proposed to conduct a research study.

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Methodology:

This is pilot study; I was selecting 50 married women migrants in different age group who were living in Bangalore city. I have used Random 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 Areas in Bangalore city for research purpose. In these areas migrant tribal women's are large in number.

- 1. Ambedkar Nagara 2. Jaibhuvaneshwari Nagara 3. Kempegowda Nagara**

Data Analysis

Age Composition 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.

Marital Status of the Respondent:

78% of the respondents are married, 18% of the respondents are widows, & 4% of the respondents are deserted

Education Level:

It was found that out of these 50 migrant women, 76.5% were illiterates, 12.5% were primary level, and 6% were secondary level education.

Type of family:

70% of the respondents are belonging to Nuclear family & 26% from joint family. Only 4% of the respondents are belonging to the single family. In this study 78% of the families are patriarchal, only 22% of female headed families.

Basic Civil Amenities Available

In this study, 89% of the respondents are living in Govt. construction building, include-water, toilet, & bathroom facility. But 11% of the respondents are living in huts because these families nearly or 1-2 years back came in to slums. No proper road, electrical & streetlights, garbage dumping, drainage facilities in this slum. Respondents do not maintain clean &hygienic. They are bathing 2-3 times per week because of water problem. 55% of the respondents having TV, radio & mobile, but 45% of them do not having these facilities because of their poverty. 64% of them having BPL ration card, 16% of anthodaya card, 10% of APL, & 10% the families do not have ration card they were newly migrated.

Table 1: Districts wise Distribution of the Respondents:

Sl.No	Districts	Percentage
1	Bellary	33.5
2	Bangalore rural	22.5
3	Kolar	15.0
4	Tumkur	7.5
5	Chikkabalapur	7.5

6	Chamarajnar	10
	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 Belgum & Chikkabalapur, & 10% from Chamarajnar.

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

Reasons for Migration to Cities

Sl. No.	Reasons for Migrations	%value
1	Lack of employment opportunities in the native place	45
2	Marriage (husband was living in city).	14
3	Repeated natural calamities like floods and famines	25
4	Other reasons	16
	Total	100

In this table we can see, majority of the tribal migrant women were migrant for searching new employment opportunities. But 16% of the respondents are giving other reasons such as land alienation, freedom from bonded labour etc.

Problems Faced By Migrant Tribal Women

The migrant tribal women faced certain problems, immediately after their emigration in the cities. These were the problems of settlement in new environment. They were still facing certain problems. The study examined the nature of these problems by collecting relevant information from the respondents. Immediately after migration the migrant tribal women faced the problems like –food, drinking water, Residential Accommodation, infrastructure facilities, Employment, financial problems, Education of Children, Lack of social Contacts, Difficulty in adjustment with changed environment, no medical facilities, discrimination from civil society etc...

Present occupation of Married Migrant Women

Sl. No	Occupation	percentage
1	Domestic servants, vegetable, flower seller, Garbage collectors, Beedi, Agarbatti making	46.0
2	Scavengers	30.0
3	Construction workers	14.0
4	Bamboo things & plastic flower making	14.0
	Total	100

The table shows that all migrant women's are doing unorganized works like 30% of the married women migrants were engaged in scavenging work. 46% of were engaged in domestic servants, vegetable, flower seller, Garbage (waste) collectors, Beedi, Agarbatti making etc 14% of the women are going to the construction work, & 14% of the respondents are doing bamboo things like-grooms, baskets & plastic flower pots.

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 1600-2000Rs & above per month.

Expenditures of the income

The respondent are expenditure their income for food, housing rent, family maintaining, children's educations, some habits, clothing, ceremonies like marriage, festivals & others. Here 89% of the respondent do not have freedom on their earning, husband, brother, father, mother-in-laws, father-in-laws having their control on respondent's income, respondent's are financially depending on these peoples. But only 11% of them have sometimes freedom on their income, but nobody fully having freedom on their earnings.

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.

Impact of Migration on Social, Religious and Cultural Norms of Tribal women's

Every tribal community in India has through ages developed its own social, religious and cultural value systems. The community member is bound to follow these values in his personal and social life. In different tribal societies the women are given good status and sufficient freedom in certain aspects of life. But, they too have to follow the traditional norms strictly. The tribal's, even after migration to a region where a different value system of social, cultural and religious life prevails, stick up to the cultural, social and religious norms of their respective tribal society. The investigation carried out for the present study revealed that the tribal's have preserved and protected their value systems even after migration. However, they had to make certain adjustments at times as an influence of urban society and culture of the local people. The following table throws light on the views of the respondents about the preservation of tribal values after migration. Until today majority of tribal women migrated to cities still follow the values and norms set by their respective tribal society in their social, religious and cultural life.

Celebration of Tribal Festivals and Performing Cultural Programmes

It is evident from the tabulated data that migration from tribal land to non-tribal regions and to cities in particular has significantly affected the cultural and religious life of the migrated tribal women and girls. About 15% of the women covered by the study have totally left celebrating tribal festivals and performing tribal cultural programmes in the city. As against this, a majority of 52% of the women celebrated only selected tribal festivals and arranged selected tribal cultural programmes in the city. However, it is worth noting that about one-third of the tribal women continued to celebrate all tribal cultural programmes in the city.

Change in Life Style after Migration

The life style of any group of people or community is shaped by the surroundings in which they live. The tribal's are habituated in different regions of India and hence have different life styles. Therefore, different tribes have different patterns of life style in India. The tribal's are very rigid in the matter of life style and they generally do not discard it. When the tribal's migrate from their Hinterland to plains in general and to cities in particular, they are placed in a surrounding where majority of the people have a life style totally different from one they follow. The tribal's are then caught in conflict. On one hand they have their own life style which they have followed generation after generation and on the other there is the local life style totally foreign to them. In order to adjust with the new environment the tribal gradually shift from their traditional life style to the local life style in the new land. In order to know whether the tribal women and girls migrated to cities have undergone any changes in their traditional life style particularly with regard to food habits, clothing pattern, Standard of living, Social behavior and cultural life the data was collected from the respondents covering these aspects of life style.

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 in-household gender discrimination and atrocities like-physical violence, molestation, abusive behavior of the husband, lack of freedom spent and socialize which all make them mentally sick and subordinate to the husbands always.

Causes of Exploitation

The study examined the causes of exploitation of migrant tribal women different factors were reported as causes of exploitation like- Poverty, Ignorance about provisions of Minimum Wages Act, Unorganized Labour, No knowledge of institutional finance and credit facilities, Lack of employment opportunities in the city, Loans from non-registered money-lenders, Misunderstanding among the non-tribal people about the free sex in tribal communities, Ignorance about the law giving protection form forced sexual exploitation, Indifferent attitude of police department when complaints of sexual exploitation are lodged in the nearby police stations, Lack of social and community support.

Suggestions:

- Provide basic infrastructure facilities
- Govt. must implement poverty alleviation programmes
- To awareness create on cleanliness & hygienic
- Equal pay for equal women's work
- Remove exploitation against women in community & workplace
- Govt. & Non-Govt. implemented tribal women's related empowerment schemes, like-education, health, employment programmes for their welfare.

Conclusion:

The study also reveals that in addition to their paid work in the informal segment of the labour market, migrant woman perform 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. Caste wise women's exploitation from other dominates caste of the slum as well as civil society. 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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