

MIGRATION OF CANDLE MAKING WORKERS: A STUDY IN UTTARAKHAND

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ABSTRACT

Mobility means 'shiftability' of individuals between jobs, occupations or locations in response to the incentives. Mobility may be horizontal as between similar jobs and occupations, a vertical such as the upward mobility of worker from casual labour generation. Occupational mobility alters the occupational in certain types of occupations. Migration has been significantly reshaping the traditional social and economic structures of rural communities of this country. Present research study was carried out in the Nanital District of Uttarakhand. A sample of 100 respondents was selected. Maximum number of respondents (50 per cent) belonged to middle age group and belonged to General caste and middle income category. Total 67 per cent respondents are living in Kutcha houses. All the respondents owned television, mobile phone followed by print media (90 per cent) and magazine (60 per cent).

Keywords: migration, socio-economic, candle making

INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand is one of the states which are marked by the large number of population residing in the hill rural areas. These hill rural areas offers most tough working and living conditions for its inhabitants. The areas do not provide conducive terrains for the development of industries or other source of employment generation (Agarwal, 2003).

The livelihood activities of rural families are no longer confined to farming and are increasingly being diversified through rural-to-urban and international migration. With the development of trade and industry and the awareness produced by the mass media, rural poor are shifting towards the urban areas in order to improve their living standards and to search for better livelihood opportunities (Bharadwaj, 2009). The lack of employment opportunities in the rural areas and better employment prospects and infrastructure facilities in the urban areas motivate people to migrate to urban areas. In the rural areas, sluggish agricultural growth and limited development of the rural non-farm sector raises the incidence of rural poverty, unemployment and underemployment. Given the fact that most of the high productivity activities are located in the urban areas people from rural areas move towards town or cities with a hope to grab diversified livelihood opportunities as the rural poor still consider migration as

one of the significant as well as reliable livelihood coping strategy. Rural migration is the phenomenon that describes the movement of people from their villages to urban areas, usually in search of a better livelihood. In India there are a vast number of landless labours and equally vast numbers of partially employed workers in rural sector, internal mobility is critical to the livelihoods of many people, especially for people from rural areas who generate a continuous stream of out migrants destined for cities. These emigrants add to their own misery by living on pavements or in slums and add to the misery of the cities by taxing to the already in adequate city services and by adding to the un-employed and unskilled workforce of the city. At present there are many economic activities in Nanital district but the dominant part of the economic activity is shared by candle making enterprises. Present paper focuses on the migration of candle making workers. Candle making workers of Nanital district using local resources, low level technology and local skills will go a long in mitigating the problem of rural and urban areas.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the socio-economic condition of candle making workers
- (2) To find out the causes of migration and non migration

for candle making workers

METHODOLOGY

The research study was carried out in the Nanital District in Uttarakhand. A sample of 100 respondents was selected. Data was collected through interview schedule and focused group discussion. The collected data were classified and tabulated by the use of appropriate statistical methods like percentage, mean scores.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio Personal Profile of the respondents

(1) Age: Maximum number of respondents (50 per cent) belonged to middle age group (35-45 years) followed by young age group respondents (44 per cent) whereas, only six per cent respondents belonged to old age group (45 - above).

(2) Caste: The table 1 reveals that maximum respondents (60 per cent) belonged to General caste followed by Other Backward Caste (30 per cent) and Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe (10 per cent).

(3) Education: Total 40 percent of the head of the households have completed primary school level. From the analysis it can be inferred that the head of the households are having non-reasonable education. In the study area, method of marketing is only sale on the store. To improve their standard of living, people are moving from one place to another. From the study it is observed that the effects of migration admitted that the social and economic status have considerably increased due to migration. Migration provides them permanent job, adequate wage and reasonable savings.

(4) Income: A majority of the respondents (90 per cent) were of middle income category. This was followed by respondents in the high income group (10 per cent) and low income (10 per cent).

(5) Housing conditions: Total 67 per cent respondents are living in Kutcha houses. They have no primary facilities like both rooms and toilets. The average size of a house for six people is 18 ft. by a 9 ft. with a varying number of rooms. Access to both rooms and latrine facilities is yet another indicator of the quality of life. In the Indian social context the lack of access to these facilities is much more distressing for female workers than for male workers.

(6) Health: Safe drinking water is an important factor in determining the living environment of the workers. The

consumption of polluted water leads to various diseases. The disease pattern shows a high incidence of dysentery, back pain, diarrhoea and diseases of teeth and bone related.

(7) Media ownership: It can be inferred that all the respondents owned television, mobile phone followed by print media (90 per cent) and magazine (60 per cent). Whereas, computer is possessed by 50 per cent of the respondents.

Causes of non-migration: The data revealed the following facts about non-migration:

(1) Affection for their native place: its natural phenomenon that the person has affection to his birth place. Majority (87 per cent) responded that they would prefer to die hungry than leave their native place. Thus affection for their native place is one of the reasons for their non-migration.

(2) Feeling of satisfaction: The candle making workers in spite of their meagre earnings, feels satisfied and live a life of limited needs.

(3) House ownership: Most of the people in the study area are living here for generations. They have their own house to live. Because of being unsure about suitable residence in other place they do not prefer to migrate.

(4) Close interaction with community: This also emerged as a major cause (78 per cent of respondent) of non migration. These workers have close interaction with the people around them and this interaction has developed a feeling of interdependency.

(5) Services and facilities: Infra- structural condition of Nanital district is moderate. People use various sources of water for their everyday needs. The blocks of Nanital district have health facility i.e. private hospitals, government hospital, private doctor etc. which facilitate them satisfactorily. So these facilities are also one of the reasons for the non-migration of cottage industry workers as revealed by 75 per cent respondents.

Reasons for Migration

Some Empirical findings Migration and mobility of workers are two topics extensively studied by economists, sociologists, demographers and geographers. Economic theory postulates that workers should be moving from slow growing to rapidly expanding sectors and there is evidence to show that this does in fact happen. Agricultural work to obtain cash and worsening to economic situation where most frequent cited reasons for migration. People change

employers, occupations and industries, but some of them also change their locations. The shift from “Old Home” to “New Home” is termed migration. The movement to Stopping Places around the old and the new homes may be on a regular basis in which case they can be termed as a form of “temporary movement” community and other temporary movements make-up the activity space of an individual and can be referred to as ‘circulation’ occupational shifts, migration (long term residential shift), and circulation (short term movements) are thus subsets of labour mobility. Thus, most of these mobile workers obtain some prior information on the availability of work in the places they are moving to. Some of them have established close relationship with workers at the destinations. There are many reasons that could be responsible for migration. Majority of migrants find insufficient work in the villages, expectation of higher income. Also there are other reasons like indebtedness, quarrels between the relatives etc. Households of all castes migrate but most of the households belong to scheduled and backward castes. The average duration of migration ranges from 6 to 9 months. In the study area, method of marketing is only sale on the store. To improve their standard of living, people are moving from one place to another. From the study it is observed that the effects of migration admitted that the social and economic status have considerably increased due to migration. Change in cropping pattern and increased in cropping intensity would have generated more employment, mandays, increased in wages and decreased in migration due to work pressure (Shaikh and Patel, 2011). Patel et al (2012) reported in his study that more than half (51.00 per cent) of the respondent’s families from which migration did not take place and rest 49.00 per cent respondent’s families from which migration took place.

Migration provides them permanent job, adequate wage and reasonable savings. Rural - urban migration is an inevitable socio-economic phenomenon as a result of the standard of living in the urban areas when compared to rural areas. High population density, surplus of labour force,

high unemployment rates, meagre incomes, dissatisfaction with housing demand for higher schooling rural urban wage differentials, pattern of land possession, and the prior migration patterns were identified as some of the main determinants of rural out migration in most of the developed countries.

CONCLUSION

The present study on “Migration of candle making Workers in Nantital district” has led to some interesting conclusions. The region of study is found to be the centre of cottage industry in eastern U.P. Most of the industrial workers are engaged in such industries. As far as migration is concerned, insignificant numbers of candle making workers migrated toward cities. In spite of low earnings they do not prefer to migrate as they have affection for their native place and are satisfied with their present work. The state as well as the central government should frame such policies which could harness the energy of the rural workers to assist in the upliftment of the underprivileged section of the society.

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Received : April 2016 : Accepted : August 2016