

MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR OF TRIBAL FAMILIES OF DAHOD DISTRICT OF GUJARAT**G. N. Thorat¹ and U. M. Patel²**

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ABSTRACT

Migration is a part of the process of development as people search for better employment opportunities within and across countries. In Gujarat migration is not a new phenomenon, not just a post globalization phenomenon. The present study was conducted with an objective to study migration behavior of tribal families of Dahod district of Gujarat state. Interview schedule was prepared in light of the objectives and the data was collected through personal interview method. Ex-post facto design of social research and statistical tools like frequency, percentage and migration index were used for the present study. Majority of the head of the tribal families were middle aged group, illiterate, having medium size of family, belonged to joint family and possessed pakka house. Tribal families were migrate three times in a year and only one member made migration from the families with an average 121 to 180 days duration of migrates. Great majority of the tribal families were migrate from rural to urban and mostly within state due to lack of employment opportunities and low wages in tribal area. They availed the work opportunities at construction site and as a tenant farmer on a seasonal base with fixed proportion of share in production.

Keywords: migration, tribal, employment, opportunity, pull and push factor

INTRODUCTION

Migration is an important aspect of mankind from the beginning of human life. Now it is a common phenomenon all over the world as migrants had been migrating from one area to the other area to find their means of survival. Migration is an equilibrium process which reduces regional disparities at different stages of development and a process which is as old as human civilization. (Dineshappa, 2014). Migration is a part of the process of development as people search for better employment opportunities within and across countries Migration is the movement of people, either within a country or across international borders It includes all kinds of movements, irrespective of the drivers, duration and voluntary/involuntary nature. The decision to move can be undertaken on a voluntary basis (voluntary migrants), in conditions where individuals/families perceive that there are no other options to survive with dignity (distress economic migrants), or for engaging in remunerated activities (migrant workers). Some people can move from one place to another without any plans to return to the original home (permanent migration). Others could move for a short definite period (temporary migration), and in particular parts of the year (seasonal migration). In some cases, migrants can move from an origin and one or more destinations, both within and between countries, repeatedly overtime (circular migration). Migration due to marriage is very frequent among rural women. In India, two-thirds of all women have migrated for

marriage, amounting to approximately 20 million women moving each year. This increase in migration is essentially due to regional differences in the population pressure on land, drought, and inequality of infrastructure, Industrial development, and modernization of agriculture. Field evidence shows that the major subsectors of three sectors namely agriculture, industry and services using migrant labour are textiles, construction, stone quarries and mines, brick-kilns, small scale industry (diamond cutting, leather accessories etc), crop transplanting and harvesting, sugarcane cutting, plantations, rickshaw pulling, food processing including fish and prawn processing, salt panning, domestic work, security services, sex work, small hotels and roadside restaurants/tea shops and street vending. We piece together available information on the numbers of workers involved and

India will be the most populous country by 2024. An analysis of Indian Population (1.3 billion) showed that it is a country of young people that largely lives in villages and there are more men (51 per cent) than women (49 per cent). About 69 per cent of population lives in villages and 31 per cent in urban areas (Bhagat, 2014 & Nawab, 2018). A large share of migrants originates from rural areas. 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 Gujarat migration is not a new phenomenon, not just a post globalization phenomenon. The spectrum of migration stretches from seasonal migration at one end to large number of Gujaratis migrating out of country. However our concern here is on the internal migration made by the people in search of employment. Gujarat has 14.75 per cent of tribal population. The most tribal populated districts of Gujarat Dangs, Tapi, Narmada, Dahod and Valsad where more than 50 per cent of the population is tribal population. In Dahod, the tribal population is 74.3 per cent. Most of the tribal families living in Dahod district mainly depend on monsoon because of lack of irrigation facilities. So during the summer and winter season the rate of migration towards the urban area is often more.

With all this in view, the present investigation entitled "Migration behavior of tribal families of Dahod district of Gujarat" was undertaken with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the profile of tribal families
- (2) To study the migration behavior of tribal families

- (3) To study the factors responsible for migration among tribal families
- (4) To study the employment opportunities obtained by tribal families through migration

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Dahod district, which has highest tribal population in the state of Gujarat. On the basis of highest tribal population, four talukas i.e. Devgadhi Baria, Limkheda, Jhalod and Dahod of Dahod district were selected. Two villages from each taluka and ten respondents from each village were selected. Thus, total eight villages and total eighty respondents were selected for the present study. Interview schedule was prepared in light of the objectives in consultation with extension experts. The data was collected through personal interview method by maintaining social distances with taken a precaution by wearing a mask and sanitized hand. Ex-post facto design of social research was used for the present investigation. In this study, migration behaviour has been operationalized as extent to which the existence of selected indicators is perceived by the respondents at given point of time.

Keeping the objectives in view, measurement of the migration behaviour of tribal families was done using frequency and percentage and then respondents were categorized accordingly. Further, migration index was calculated to measure the extent of migration of tribal families, which mainly depends on two factors number of family members who migrates and duration for which they migrates. Accordingly, following formula was conceived to calculate the migration index. It should be noted here that only adult members were considered in total number of members in a family; childrens were ignored.

$$\text{Migration Index (KI)} = \frac{\text{Average days of migration of total migrants in a family}}{365} \times \frac{\text{No of migrants}}{\text{Total no. of members in a family}} \times 100$$

The data presented in Table-1, revealed that majority of the head of the tribal families belonged to middle aged group (60.00 per cent) and less than one third (30.00 per cent) were illiterate. Exactly one half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents having medium size of family i.e. in between 5 to 8 member and more one half (55.00 per cent) of the respondents belonged to joint family and possessed pakka

house (55.25 per cent). Further, slightly less than two-third (63.33 per cent) of the respondents possessed marginal size of land holding and slightly more than half of the respondents had up to 2 animals. Slightly more than half of the tribal families had upto Rs.50000/- of annual income and no membership in any organization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the tribal families

Table 1 : Profile of the tribal families

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Characteristics of the respondents	Number	Per cent
1	Age		
	Young (Upto 35 years)	16	20.00
	Middle (In between 36 to 50 years)	48	60.00
	Old (Above 50 years)	16	20.00
2	Education level		
	Illiterate	24	30.00
	Primary (1st to 7th std.)	22	27.50
	Secondary (8th to 10th std.)	19	23.75
	Higher secondary (11th to 12th std.)	12	15.00
	Graduation and above	03	03.75
3	Size of family		
	Small (upto 4 member)	24	30.00
	Medium (In Between 5-8 member)	40	50.00
	Large (above 8 member)	20	25.00
4	Type of family		
	Joint Family	44	55.00
	Nuclear Family	36	45.00
5	Type of house		
	Kachha house	29	36.25
	Pakka house	45	56.25
	Mix house	06	07.50
6	Land holding		
	Landless	06	07.5
	Marginal (up to 1.0 ha)	51	63.75
	Small (1.1 ha to 2.0 ha)	14	17.50
	Medium (2.1 ha to 4.0 ha)	09	11.25
	Large (above 4.1)	00	00.00
7	Animal Possession		
	No animals	21	26.25
	Up to 2 animals	43	53.75
	3 to 4	08	10.00
	5 to 6	06	07.50
	More than 6	02	02.50
8	Annual Income		
	Up to ₹ 50,000/- income	42	52.50
	₹ 50,001/- to 1,00,000/- income	30	37.50
	₹ 1,00,000/- to 1,50,000/- income	06	07.50
	₹ 1,50,000/- to 2,00,000/- income	02	02.50

Migration behaviour of tribal families**Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their migration behaviour**

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Component of migration behaviour	Frequency	Percent
A	Number of members who migrate		
1	One	36	45.00
2	Two	16	20.00
3	Three	28	35.00
B	Frequency of migration in a year		
1	One time	14	17.50
2	Two time	28	35.00
3	Three time	38	47.50
C	Average days of migration of all the members of family		
1	Up to 60 days	06	08.00
2	61 to 120 days	16	20.00
3	121 to 180 days	34	42.00
4	181 to 240 days	20	25.00
5	Above 240 days	04	05.00
D	Place of migration		
1	Within Taluka	05	06.25
2	Within Districts	17	21.25
3	Within State	58	72.50
E	Types of migration		
1	Rural to Rural	10	12.50
2	Rural to urban	70	87.50

Study on migration behaviour comprises of different components like number of members from family who migrates, frequency of migration in a year, place of migration, duration of migration and type of migration.

It is obvious from the Table-2, indicate data in case of 45.00 per cent of tribal families, only one member made migration, followed by three (35.00 per cent) and two (20.00 per cent) family members from the families made migration. In regards with frequency of migration, that 47.50 per cent of the tribal families were migrate three times in a year and slightly more than two-fifth (42.00 per cent) of the tribal families average 121 to 180 days duration of migrates. Great majority of the tribal families (87.50 per cent) were migrate from rural to urban and mostly within state (72.50 per cent).

So far as duration of migration is concerned, slightly more than two-fifth (42.00 per cent) of the tribal families, average days of migration of all the members were 121 to 180 (4 to 6 months) followed by 181 to 240 days (6 to 8 months) in case of 25.00 per cent of Tribal families. The tribal families with the least average migration period (up to 2 months) and the highest average migration period were few, i.e. 6 (8.00 per cent) and 4 (5.00 per cent), respectively. This might be because of the fact that during the monsoon, they might be engaged in agriculture at their native, while for the rest of period, they might migrate to other places as per availability

of work opportunities. Gaikwad, (2020) observed that half of the respondents had had temporary nature of migration.

In respect of place of migration, the data indicate that migration out of own district but within the state was observed in case of majority (72.50 per cent) of tribal families. Agriculture production being low and the job opportunities were rare in this part, the people migrate in search of job. As far as type of migration is concerned, rural to urban migration (87.50 per cent) was found to be dominant over rural migration (30.83 per cent). Agricultural operations even if are possible they do not yield much of returns due to higher costs and poor quality of land as well as the tribal people get more work opportunities at construction side or road construction in nearby district or even far districts. Due to this, large scale migration which has been taking place and migration within the state and rural to urban were observed more.

Extent of migration of tribal families

Study on extent of migration of tribal families mainly depends on two factors i.e., number of family members who migrate and duration for which they migrate. Based on this, migration index was worked out for each tribal families and on the basis of migration index score, respondents were arbitrary categorized.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their migration (n=80)

Sr. No.	Component of migration behaviour	Frequency	Percent
1	Very Low (Up to 20)	24	30.00
2	Low (21 to 40)	46	57.50
3	Medium (41 to 60)	08	10.00
4	High (61 to 80)	02	02.50
5	Very High (81 to 100)	00	00.00

Study on extent of migration of tribal families mainly depends on two factors i.e., number of family members who migrate and duration for which they migrate. Based on this, migration index was worked out for each tribal families and on the basis of migration index score, respondents were arbitrary categorized.

It is evident from the table that more than one half (57.50 per cent) of the tribal families had low extent

of migration followed by 30.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent of them with very low and medium extent of migration, respectively. Only 03.33 per cent of them were found with high extent of migration, whereas none of them had very high extent of migration. This might be because of the fact that in majority cases of tribal families, the number of migration members was 1 or 2 which reduced the migration index score.

Factor responsible for migration among tribal families

The main causes of migration are almost the same across the globe and it can be divided into types like social, political, economic and so on. It is important to note that the push and pull factors have been identified as the major causes of the migration among tribal families As the name itself indicates, push factors push the tribal people from their native place to migrate, while pull factors are the attractins at the place to be migrated which pull or attract the tribal people towards the place.

Table 4: Factor responsible for migration among tribal families

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Factor or reasons responsible	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
A	Push factors			
1	Lack of employment opportunities in tribal area	80	100.00	I
2	Low wages in tribal area	73	91.25	II
3	Lack of basic amenities	52	65.00	V
4	Drought / Famine/ Crop failure	32	40.00	VII
5	Poor Economic conditions	64	80.00	IV
6	Landlessness	06	07.50	XIII
B	Pull factors			
1	Better education	20	25.00	IX
2	Better health care services	08	10.00	XI
3	Availability of diverse work opportunities	66	82.50	III
4	More income than MANREGA	44	55.00	VI
5	Better scope for marriage	07	08.75	XII
6	Family welfare purposes	30	37.50	VIII
7	Better social status	10	12.50	x

It is evident from the data presented in Table-4, cent per cent of the tribal families (100.00 per cent) given respond to factor responsible for migration among tribal families was lack of employment opportunities in tribal area. The other major important push factors realized by the respondents tribal families for migration were low wages in tribal area

(91.25 per cent), poor economic conditions (80.00 per cent) and lack of basic amenities (40.00 per cent). The major pull factors as realized by the respondents were availability of diverse work opportunities (82.50 per cent), more income than MANREGA (55.00 per cent) and family welfare purposes (37.50 per cent).

Employment opportunities obtained by tribal families through migration

Table 5: Employment opportunities obtained by tribal families through migration

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Employment opportunities	Frequency	Percent
1	At construction site	64	80.00
2	As a factory labour	16	20.00
3	As a farm labour	09	11.25
4	At road construction	24	30.00
5	As a tenant farmers	36	45.00

As it is apparent from the Table-5, Majority (80.00 per cent) of the migrating members of the tribal families availed the work opportunities at construction site and more than two-fifth (45.00 per cent) and less than one-third (30.00 per cent) of them reported to have availed the work opportunity as a tenant farmer on a seasonal base with fixed proportion of share in production and at road construction, respectively.

COCLUSION

It could be concluded from the study majority of the head of the tribal families were middle aged group, illiterate, having medium size of family and belonged to joint family. Tribal families were migrate three times in a year with an average 121 to 180 days duration of migrates. Great majority of the tribal families were migrate from rural to urban and mostly within state due to lack of employment opportunities

and low wages in tribal area. The state as well as the central government should frame such policies which could be provide them alternative opportunities like skill-based training and employment, educational institutions for children of migrate families to get primary education. Public policies targeting smallholder family farmers and promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Diversification to off-farm activities, effective rural services and investments in value chains linked to sustainable agriculture. Seasonal employment schemes in agriculture and building the capacity of employers and migrant workers' associations to implement them.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest

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