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INTENSIFICATION AND BLUEPRINT OF LABOUR MIGRATION IN KERALA STATE OF INDIA

Ms.Reshmi Susan Jacob , Dr.M.Muruganathan

Research Scholar, (Part Time), Department of Economics, Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Chennai.

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Chennai.

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Introduction

Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location for different reasons. These differences affect the overall migration process and migration experience. The conditions under which a migrant enters a receiver population can have broad implications for all parties involved. The expression migration experience refers to the fact that different causes for migration will produce different outcomes observable from a sociological perspective. In general, migration is a process in which an individual or a group shifts their residence from one place to another. Apart from its spatial dimension, migration also implies the disruption of work, schooling, social life, and other partners. A migrant is someone who breaks off activities and associations in one place and reorganizes their daily life in another place. A move within the same area is considered mobility, not migration, because the mover can continue day-to-day life (keep the same job or school, shop at the same place and socialize with the same people) without significant disruption

Migration started in the world, from the origin of life on the earth. The great civilizations of the world were developed as a result of the migration of people from forest to the river valleys. Since time immemorial human beings were wandering from place to place in search of better food, better standard of living and better surroundings. This journey of human civilization highlights the importance of labour as a human factor of production. It is through his hard work and effort the economy was able to move out of the barbarian age to the most modern computer age. Migration of labour has been a recurrent phenomenon since the dawn of human history. Though its style has changed, still it remains a very important phenomenon in the global social system. In this modern era still people migrate from under developed regions to the developed ones in search of better employment and other opportunities. There are far reaching consequences of migration of labour force on their place of origin and the place to which they migrate. It is an important factor not only in production but in all other economic activities. Migration has thus the potential to lift millions out of poverty, provide access to decent work and standard of living.

Reasons for Migration in India

Poverty becomes a major determinant for migration in recent years. The relative increase in inter-state migration is an indication that migration trend is moving towards economic reasons (Singh, 2009). For males, economic reasons for migration increases in urban area where as in rural area it increases for education. Increasing proportion of male migrants for employment reason in urban areas indicating migration is increasingly used as a survival strategy. The other reasons include repayment of debts, financing education of dependents, marriage of dependents, and so on. This suggests that migration mostly occurs for the creation of outside support system for livelihood. Further, dominance of economic reasons also suggests that it is primarily the differences in economic opportunities between different States that pushed for migration of workers to other States. At one end of the migration spectrum, workers could be locked into a debt-migration cycle, where earnings from migration are used to repay debts incurred at home or in the destination areas, thereby cementing the migration cycle. At the other end, migration is largely voluntary, although shaped by their limited choices.

Statement of the Problem

This study also examines to what extent, the migrants are satisfied or dissatisfied with the treatment given to them by the local co-workers, supervisors, labour contractors, principal employers and the officials of the Government, whether the majority of the migrants intend to be a floating population in Kerala during difficult times in their own native places or do some of them, at least, intend to settle down in Kerala.

Migration was construction oriented with male workers alone; now this phenomenon has spread to almost all other sectors including hotels and restaurants, plantation iron and steel, wooden furniture, marine fishing, mining and quarrying, plywood, cashew, textile and apparel, seafood and footwear and personal services. These migrant workers are affordable, hard working, and are more workaholic than local labourers which increased the preference for migrant workers by the employers. Migrant women workers are largely employed in sectors like hotels and restaurants, parlours, manufacturing and food processing sector and are paid higher salaries when compared to the domestic counter parts. Their strength is significantly increasing in the domestic labour market which becomes a severe threat to the domestic labour force.

Objectives of Study

1. To study the growth of Migrant labour in Kerala state of India.
2. To observe the quantity of migrant labourers in the domestic labour force in various sectors of employment in Kerala state of India.
3. To give policy suggestions from the analysis of the study.

Methodology

Data Collection

To observe the quantity of migrant labourers the study made use of secondary data. Census data from 1971-2011 was collected and tabulated. Further the decadal growth rate and compound annual growth rate was analysed. Trend Line is used to find out the change in trend of migration pattern to Kerala. Based on the National Census data from 1971- 2011 a detailed analysis was conducted to list the number of migrant workers in the fourteen districts of Kerala over the years. Accordingly the total number of migrants and their percentage in each district was examined. Compound Annual Growth Rate was used to indicate the uniform growth rate

during the period; Decadal Growth Rate was also used to assess the actual growth rate in each decade. The districts were also ranked based on the total number of migrant workers in each district over the years. In order to find out the change in trend of migration to the state after 2011, annual data published by the State Planning Board, Economic Review (2013- 2023) was tabulated systematically. Simple percentage analysis was used to represent the district wise strength of migrant labourers.

Tools of analysis

The collected data were entered into excel sheet and then to SPSS for in- depth analysis. Descriptive statistics, Compound Annual Growth Rate, Decadal Growth Rate, Trend Line, Z test for proportion, F- test, one way ANOVA, Two way ANOVA, Chi square test, t- test, Multiple Regression are some of the statistical tools used in the study.

Growth of Migrant labour in Kerala state of India

Migration to Kerala economy is an early phenomenon which started in 1971. One of the main reasons for this in-migration was the out-migration of the people from Kerala to the Gulf countries. Number of migrants in Kerala enumerated by Census from 1971-2011 is presented in Table 1

Table.1

Growth of Migrants Labourers in Kerala state of India During 1971-2011

Year	No. of Migrant Labourers	Index Number	Decadal Increases	Decadal Growth Rate
1971	248775	100	-	-
1981	341159	137.1356	92384	37.14
1991	398470	160.1728	57311	16.8
2001	412849	165.9528	14379	3.609
2011	420744	169.1263	7895	1.912
LGR	15.04	-	-	-
Average	364399.4	-	-	-

Source: Census of India. (Various issues)

Table 1 , it can be seen that the number of migrant workers in Kerala during 1971 was 248775. However, this number has increased to 341159 during 1981. The decadal growth rate was found to be 37.14 percent. After 1981, the decadal growth rate has steadily declined during the study period. During the period between 1981 and 1991, the decadal growth rate had fallen by more than 20 percent. The decadal growth rate between the period 1991 and 2001 again decreased to nearly 3.61 percent. The number of migrant workers in Kerala during 2001 was 412849 which had increased to 420744 during 2011. The decadal growth rate between 2001 and 2011 marked a decrease of 1.7 percent. The index numbers was increased by 69 times.

Diagram.1

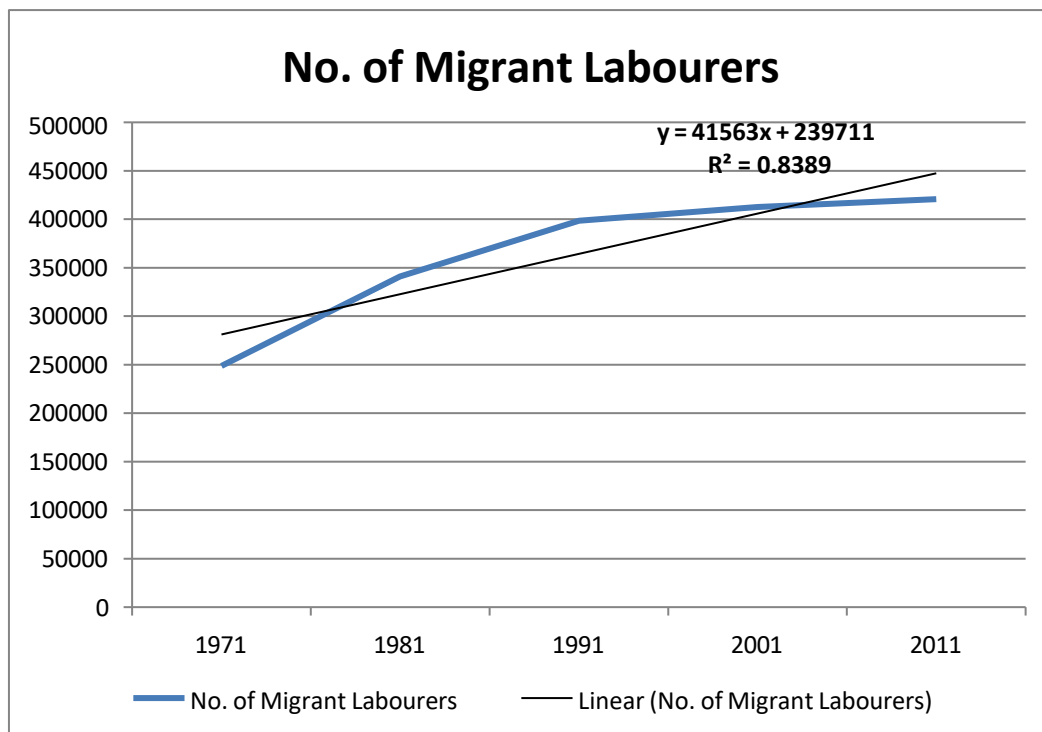


Diagram.1 presents the growth in number of migrants enumerated in the Census from 1971-2011 with Linear Trend. The Trend equation shows that the slope of the Trend line is 41563 with R Square of 0.8389. The result indicates that 83.89 percent of the

growth of migrants is represented by the Trend line. The slope of the Trend line indicates that during the study period, the average decadal increase in the number of migrants was 41563.

Table 2
Number of Migrant Laborers in Kerala during the Period 2013 to 2023

Year	Migrants	Index Number	Annual Growth Rate
2013	35062	100	-
2014	36841	105.0739	5.074
2015	51579	147.108	40
2016	53089	151.4146	2.928
2017	54599	155.7213	2.844
2018	285849	815.2672	423.5
2019	393281	1121.673	37.58
2020	421567	1202.347	7.192
2021	475615	1356.497	12.82
2022	523157	1492.091	9.996
2023	596841	1702.245	14.08
LGR	25.69		
Average	266134.54		

Source: Census of India (Various issues)

The total number of migrant labourers in Kerala from the period 2013 to 2023 shows a massive in flow. The annual growth rate of migration in the year 2018 was 285849 which is more than fivefold increase when compared to previous year. The Annual Growth Rate of migration in 2018 was 423.54. The total number of migrants in Kerala in 2019 was 393281, with an annual growth rate of 37.58 percent. The index number was increased by 70 times during 2013 to 2023.

Table.3
Number of Migrant Labourers in Kerala by their Home Southern States of India
During 2023

States	Number of Migrants	%	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	15289	8.72	III
Telugana	2578	1.47	IV
Karnataka	69858	39.85	II
Tamil Nadu	87598	49.96	I
Total	175323	100.00	

Source: Census of India. (Various issues)

The table gives a clear picture about the domicile of the migrant labourers in Kerala in 2018. Out of the total 175323 migrants, 87598 migrant labourers in the state were from Tamil Nadu constituting 49.96 percent of the whole migrant population in the state. The state to occupy the second position was Karnataka with 39.85 percent of the migrants followed by Andhra Pradesh (8.72 percent) Telugana (1.47 percent)

Thus even though Kerala economy is an attractive destination of migrants from every nook and corner of the country, the recent data published by the State Planning Board points to the fact that Kerala took the topmost position in this regard.

Major implications of the study

Large scale in migration will lead to replacement or displacement of the native workers from domestic labour market. It will lead to drastic changes in the proportion of employment, composition of employment and can aggravate the problem of gender differences in the payment of wages in the domestic labour market. The heavy inflow of migrants from different states within the country with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds exerts pressure on governance. It has its implications in making population projections due to the absence of reliable data on migrants and also in planning infrastructure development for the future and maintaining law and order situations. These are the primary implications of labour migration to the state.

Policy Suggestions from the study

1. Discussions may be stimulated between state governments, (employers and trade unions), civil society and migrant communities so that the contributions of migrant workers are recognized, their rights are protected, to ensure positive social and economic changes in the local community.
2. National labour and migration legislation may be introduced which enshrines international standards for the legal protection of migrant workers (particularly women), to ensure decent working conditions for migrants and local workers alike.
3. Appropriate labour laws regulations and inspections may be promoted to Ensure fundamental rights at work, including freedom of association for the migrant workers.
4. Rationing system in every state may be digitalized and prompt delivery of Ration Cards everywhere in India may be ensured, enabling the migrant workers to make use of the civil supplies system.

5. National level sports competitions may be organized every year for organized and unorganized sector workers for promoting national integration which will have a positive impact on integration of migrant workers.

Conclusion

The present study is an attempt to highlight the labour market implications of migration with respect to proportion and composition of employment and the economic drain in the form of remittance, due to the large scale in- migration of labourers into Kerala.

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