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INTENSIFICATION AND BLUEPRINT OF LABOUR MIGRATION IN KERALA STATE OF INDIA

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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