Migration Pattern and Livelihood Status of Migrants in Coffee Plantations of Sakaleshpura

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ABSTRACT

Labour migration connotes migration for the main purpose of employment. Those who are moving from one place to another in search of livelihood and those who secure jobs as the result of the movement are called migrant labour or migrant workers. Migration contributes to the overall growth and development of the destinations, while the origins are benefitted greatly from their remittances and migration experience. The present study was conducted during June 2021 in Sakaleshpura, Hassan district of Karnataka state with a sample size of 32 migrant labours from four coffee estates. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample. The data was collected with the help of structured interview schedule. The study reveals that nearly half of the (46.87%) of the migrants are the single member of the family to get migrated. While, half of the respondents (50.00%) had seasonal nature of migration followed by temporary migration (40.63%), further 62.50 per cent of the migrants had a frequency of one-time migration in a year and 46.87 per cent of the migrants travelled more than 200 kms from their natives. Further, half of the migrants (50.00%) decided to migrate in consultation with their family members whereas, almost two-third (71.87%) of the respondents migrated due to their small land holdings and Cent (100.00%) per cent of them migrated because of higher wages at the destination. The various factors like human factor, physical factor, social factor, financial factor and natural factors altogether makes the livelihood of an individual. As a result of migration 34.37 per cent of the migrants opined, they have partial improvement in their livelihood followed by improved (28.12%) and only 03.13 per cent opined that there is no improvement in the livelihood status inspite of the migration.

Keywords : Migration pattern, Livelihood, Migrant workers, Coffee plantation

MIGRATION is one of the most dynamic process of the human activities from the very beginning of human life. During early days people used to move from one forest to another in search of food. When most of people discovered forest life and adopted civilized life they developed relationship with domesticated animals and fertile land. As a result, mobility of mankind changed considerably. They almost left a wanderer's life and started developing settlements. Certainly, at this stage also mobility of mankind did not stop at all. In fact, people continued to move from one region to another in search of fertile land for developing cultivation. Afterwards, the nature of mobility frequently changed. The people moved from early civilized area to other parts of world, partly for agricultural purposes or for trade and partly for investigation. Migration of the people to big cities takes from all the corners of the country with different social and cultural background. Migration, a complex phenomenon influenced by social, economic, political, geographical and environmental factors leading to seasonal migration of the population from the rural areas to urban areas to find their livelihood and has made them gradually to shift from farming especially the youths (Kalyanmurthy *et al*.). Migration directly impacts the migrants, their families and overall development. There is no doubt that migration is the only driver of development for the migrant labours (IOM, 2018). It is estimated that in middle of 2019 that around 272 million of the world's population migrated in which 48.5 per cent were women and 74 per cent were in the age group of 20 - 60 years and 39 years old is the median age group (UN Report, 2019) who migrated due to various factors and coffee is a labour intensive crop which requires more labours (Mohankumar *et al*.). Hence in this backdrop the

present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives:

1. To elicit the migration pattern of the migrant labours

2. To assess the livelihood status of the migrant labours in coffee plantation

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Hassan district of Karnataka. In Hassan district, Sakaleshpura taluk was selected based on the coffee growing area. Under Sakaleshpura taluk, four estates which are having more than 50 acres of coffee were selected by sociogram technique and eight migrant labours from each estate where randomly selected for the study. Thus, the total sample constituted to 32 (Table 1). The data was collected by using the interview schedule developed for the study. The responses were scored, classified, analyzed and tabulated with the help of frequency and percentage technique in Microsoft Excel-2019.

TABLE 1
Sampling procedure

Name of the Estates	Number of Samples
Kadumane	08
Devi	08
Harle	08
Igure	08
Total	32

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Migration pattern comprises of the components like number of migrants from a family, nature of the migration, frequency of migration and the distance of destination. The data with regard to these aspects were collected from the respondents and were presented in Table 2. Nearly half of the respondents (46.87%) were single migrant member of the family, followed by whole family migration (31.25%) and it is quite obvious to say that it is the young age people will take the risk of moving out of their houses and also, they are having less family commitments.

TABLE 2
Labours migration pattern to coffee plantations of Sakleshpura (n=32)

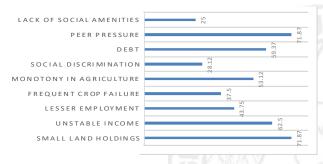| Migration pattern of The Migrant Labour	f	%
Number of Family Member		
One	15.00	46.87
Two	07.00	21.88
Whole family	10.00	31.25
Nature of Migration		
Temporary migration	13.00	40.63
Seasonal migration	16.00	50.00
Permanent migration	03.00	09.37
Frequency of Migration		
Once in a year	20.00	62.50
Twice in a year	12.00	37.50
Thrice in a year	00.00	00.00
Distance of Migration		
< 100 kms	05.00	15.63
100-200 kms	12.00	37.50
> 200 kms	15.00	46.87

f- Frequency and % - Percentage

Whereas, half of the respondents (50.00%) had seasonal migration followed by 40.63 per cent who had temporary nature of migration and only 09.37 per cent of the respondents had permanent nature of migration. Further, majority (62.50%) had migrated once in a year and 46.87 per cent of the migrants were from the place more than 200 kms. This could be explained with the facts that the availability of employment in coffee estates restricted only to the important operations like fertigation, shade trimming and coffee picking. Hence, the seasonal migration is more beneficial. Even the employment may not be available to the migrant labour in the off season and hence the permanent migration is very less with the migrants. It is needless to mention that the migration distance will always be more than 200 kms because of the coffee growing areas which is restricted to the western ghats and heavy rainfall areas Table 3 depicts that half of the (50.00%) migrant's decision to migrate is made in consultation with the members of the family followed by self-made decision without
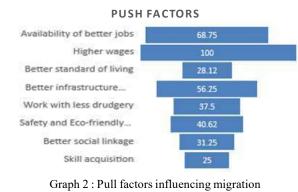
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considering the family and friends (31.25%) and almost one-fifth (18.75%) of the respondents make their decision in consultation with others who were already migrated this is because of the bread winning situation of the migrant to the family and they have to accept the absence of that migrant individual to carry out their day-to-day activities (Saha 2015). It's clear through the Graph 1 that (71.87%) majority of the respondents migrated due to their small land holdings and by the peer group influence followed by the unstable income (62.50%), debt (59.37%) and monotony in agriculture (53.12%).

PUSH FACTORS

Graph 1: Push factors influencing migration

The land fragmentation resulted in less land holding in the family coupled with less scope for diversified cropping pattern due to the climatic conditions forces them to borrow the loan from the land lords and private money lenders ultimately results in migration to earn and repay the debts (Nagaesh Bhat, 2018). Further, Graph 2 shows the various pull factors which makes the migrants to move out of their places *i.e.,* higher wages (100.00%) followed by availability of better jobs (68.75%) and better infrastructure (56.25%)

PUSH FACTORS

Graph 2 : Pull factors influencing migration

TABLE 3

Decision of migration to the coffee plantations of Sakaleshpura

(n=32)

Migration Decision	f	%
By self without consulting others	10	31.25
Consultation with family members	16	50.00
Consultation with others	06	18.75

f- Frequency and % - Percentage

The various factors like human factor, physical factor, social factor, financial factor and natural factors altogether makes the livelihood of an individual. Table 4 represents the overall livelihood status of the migrant labours in coffee plantations of Sakleshpura *i.e.,* It is noted that 34.37 per cent of the migrants opined they have partial improvement in their livelihood followed by improvement and less improvement. This can be conveniently explained with

TABLE 4

Overall livelihood status of the migrant labors in coffee plantations of Sakaleshpura

(n=32)

Component	Status improved	f	%
Livelihood Status Mean:410 SD:41.50	Highly Improved	03.00	09.38
	Improved	09.00	28.12
	Partially Improved	11.00	34.37
	Less Improved	08.00	25.00
	Not Improved	01.00	03.13

f- Frequency and % - Percentage

the facts that the migrant labours will get the employment and the higher wages than they get in the native places. Further, the welfare measures for the labours like free housing, medicines, safe drinking water might have also contributed for the result. Further, only 09.38 per cent of the migrants opined that their livelihood is highly improved and meager per cent (03.13%) of the respondents said that they have not seen improvement in their live lihood it could be because of low wages received due to lesser skills and experience which is considered while making payments to the migrant labours.

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic condition at the state, national and international level. It is a way forward for development. The landless and marginal farmers who are in constant debt, migration is the only choice of live lihood and it acts as a catalyst to improve the livelihood status. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social condition at origin. Mobility may be considered as a necessity for lifting people out of poverty. Remittance also plays an essential role in ensuring food for many rural poor households and thus constitutes an efficient strategy for facing adversities such as low agricultural productivity and inherent risk and instability of farming activities. Distress migration found across the nation, the policy makers must care to avoid the illegal migrants into the country.

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