

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PERCEPTION OF NON MIGRANTS TOWARDS THE BENEFITS AND PROBLEMS OF RURAL URBAN MIGRATION

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Abstract

Migration of persons from one place to another is common. Agricultural labourers also migrate from their villages to urban areas to be employed in non-farm operations. But there are still agricultural labourers involved in the farm operations and hence food grains are available. Hence it is interesting to analyse the perception of non-migrants (labourers working in fields) towards the benefits and also the problems caused by rural urban migration. A research was carried out with a sample of 205 non migrants using a scale developed in a five point continuum with 18 factors towards benefits and with 13 factors to study the perception of problems. The data collected was analysed using factor analysis. The results of factor analysis reveal that the 18 factors studied towards perception of benefits by migrants have been reduced to 3 factors and the 13 factors studied towards perception of problems by migrants have been reduced to 3 factors.

Key Words: Rural Urban Migration, Non Migrants, Perception, Problems, Benefits

Introduction

Rural Urban Migration is an important topic of discussion in India and World over since vast migration of rural population to urban areas has created threat to both the rural and urban areas. On the rural side it creates scarcity of agricultural labourers and in urban areas it leads to over population congestion and pollution. Agricultural labourers migrate to urban areas for higher paid wages and for better working conditions. Rapid industrialisation and huge infrastructure have attracted people for employment from the villages. Further, the improved public transport system and the transport facilities offered by the employers to pick the people from villages have also motivated agricultural labourers to migrate to urban areas and hence many of the agricultural labourers have migrated to urban areas (migrants). But still there are agricultural labourers who continue to work in the villages (non-migrants). Therefore this research study was conducted to know the perception of agricultural labourers on the benefits and problems caused by rural urban migration.

Review of Literature

Non Migrants Perception about Benefitsof Migration:

Adebayo, K and Ajayi .O.O (2001)[1] have reported that over 80% of the respondent agreed or strongly agreed that the movement of a member of the family to an urban location frees more land space for farming in the rural areas. Respondents also agreed or strongly agreed with two statements of personal benefits that it makes them happy that there is a migrant in the family (87.8%) and that it boosts their morale (81.1%). Two other benefits with which respondents agreed or strongly agreed are cultural. Over 70% opined that rural-urban migration helps them to appreciate their culture and helps them to understand the culture of other people. Finally, most of the respondents (71.1%) agreed or strongly agree that migrants bring more investments into the rural economy [1]

The study by Anamica, M. (2010)[2] concluded that on the economic front, 'the migrant get better job opportunity' was the most perceived benefit followed by 'family income has increased because of the migrant'. On the agricultural front, 'Introduction of improved varieties due to seeds brought by the migrants' was the most perceived benefit followed by 'it helps to locate better market in town for farm products'. On the personal front, 'proud have a migrant in our family' was the most perceived benefit followed by 'increasing property acquisition'. On the cultural front 'migration helps us to understand other people culture' was the most perceived benefit followed by second item namely 'exposes our culture to others'. On the societal front, 'the migrant being more investors in the rural areas' was the most perceived benefit followed by 'the migrant contribute to the development of the village'^[2].

Non Migrants Perception about Problems of Migration:

It has been stated that in terms of agricultural problems, most of the respondents (75.6%) agreed or strongly agreed that the movement of migrants away from the rural area decreases the labour available for farm work. Similarly, non-migrants agreed on the personal front that they often miss the loved ones (the migrants) who may choose not to return to the village. In fact, over 60% of the respondents agreed that migrants often miss family or village festivals and that rural-urban migration results in higher transport costs for agricultural produce given the reduction in the frequency of movements and therefore, made rural transport less lucrative for transport service providers^[1].

It was reported that that on the economic front the most perceived problem was 'requirement of much money by the migrants to depart from

home' followed by 'the migrant demands more from home after migration'. On the agricultural front, 'decreased labour force for farm work' and on the cultural front 'the migrant misses the family festivals and ceremony' are the most perceived problems respectively. On the personal front, 'missing loved ones' coupled with 'the movement of the migrant has left more responsibility' was the most perceived problem. On the societal front, 'the village land being sold at cheaper rate to stranger' was the most perceived problem followed by 'stealing of resources by the investors'^[2].

Methodology

This research was conducted in Kancheepuram&Wallajah blocks of Kancheepuram district in Tamilnadu. A Multi Stage Sampling technique was adopted and respondents from three villages from each selected block were selected by simple random technique. The primary data were collected from 205 migrants using two well-structured pre-tested interview schedules and the collected data were analysed with factor analysis. The data on the perceived benefits of rural urban migration by the migrants was analysed by a factor analysis with 18 factors to find out the benefits of rural urban migration and the data on the perceived problems of rural urban migration by the migrants was analysed by a factor analysis with 13 factors to find out the benefits of rural urban migration. The perception of non-migrants towards the benefits and problems of rural urban migration was studied using a scale developed by Okyiwole (2005)^[3] with slight modification. The results are discussed below for benefits and problems separately.

Analysis of Perceived Benefits of Rural Urban Migration by Non -Migrants

The details of factor analysis are tabulated in Table :1

Table: 1 Factor Analysis - Total Variance Explained by Initial Eigen Values

Component	Initial eigen values		
	Total	Percentage of variance	Cumulative Percentage
1	10.525	58.473	58.473
2	3.339	18.552	77.025
3	2.945	16.363	93.388

Extraction method: Principal component analysis.

Varimax Rotated Factor Loading Matrix is presented in Table :2

Table :2 - Perceived Benefits of Rural Urban Migration by Non- Migrants (n= 205)

Sl. No.	Perceived Benefits of Rural Urban Migration	Factor loadings			Commonalities (h ²)
		F1	F2	F3	
1	The migrant helps to pay the school fees(X1)	0.976			0.971
2	The migrant helps to pay the house rent (X2)	0.863			0.760
3	The migrant gets better job opportunity (X3)	0.938			0.938
4	Family income has increased because of the migrant (X4)	0.920			0.958
5	Provides more space for farming in the rural areas (X5)			0.793	0.764
6	Helps to locate better market in town for farm products (X6)			0.765	0.903

7	The migrant introduce new innovation to the village (X7)			0.819	0.971
8	Improved seed varieties are brought by the migrant (X8)			0.953	0.964
9	I am happy to know a migrant (X9)		0.975		0.985
10	Migration increases the morale (X10)		0.866		0.941
11	Migration increases your property acquisition(X11)	0.963			0.956
12	Migration relieves responsibilities to the migrant.(X12)		0.932		0.969
13	Migration helps to appreciate our culture (X13)		0.828		0.974
14	Migration exposes our culture to others (X14)		0.893		0.961
15	Migration helps us to understand other people culture (X15)		0.662		0.962
16	Migration can change people's orientation on ritual making (X16)		0.919		0.967
17	Migrant bring more investors to the rural areas (X17)			0.754	0.954
18	Migrants contribute to the development of the village (X18)			0.660	0.913
19	Eigen values	9.202	4.011	3.569	
20	Percentage of variance explained	51.124	22.285	19.979	
21	Percentage of cumulative variance explained	51.124	73.409	93.388	

Source: Primary Data

As evident from Table :2, it can be seen that 3 factors extracted together account for 93% of total variance. Hence the number of variables has been reduced from 18 to 3 underlying factors. Variables X1- Migrant helps to pay the school fees, loaded as 0.976, X2- The migrant helps to pay the house rent, (0.863), X3- The migrants gets better job opportunities (0.938), X4-Family income has increased because of migrants (0.920) and X11-Migration increases property acquisition loaded as 0.963 on factor 1. Thus factor 1 can be named as "Economic Benefits". As for factor 2, it is evident that X9-I am happy to know a migrant (0.975), X10-Migration increases morale (0.866), X12-Migration relieves the responsibilities to migrants (0.932), X13-Migration helps to appreciate our culture (0.828), X14-Migration exposes our culture to others (0.893), X15-Migration helps us to understand other people culture (0.662) and X16-Migration can change people's orientation on ritual making (0.919) Thus factor 2 can be termed as "Personal and Cultural Benefits". Variables X5- Provides more space for farming in the rural loaded as 0.793, X6- Helps to locate better market in town for the farm products (0.765), X7-The migrant introduce new innovation to the village (0.819), X8-Improved seed varieties are brought by migrant (0.953), X17-Migrants bring more investors to rural areas (0.754) and

X18-Migrants contribute to the development of the village loaded as 0.660 on factor 3. Thus factor 3 can be named as "Agricultural and Social Benefits. It was reported that, over 80.0 Percentage of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the movement of a member of the family to an urban location frees more land space for farming in the rural areas. Respondents also agreed or strongly agreed with two statements of personal benefits that it makes them happy that there is a migrant in the family and that it boosts their morale. Two other benefits with which respondents agreed or strongly agreed are cultural opined that rural-urban migration helps them to appreciate their culture and helps them to understand the culture of other people. Finally, most of the respondents agreed or strongly agree that migrants bring more investments into the rural economy^[1]

Analysis of Perceived Problems of Rural Urban Migration by Non- Migrant

The results of factor analysis are given in Table :3

Table :3 - Factor Analysis: Total Variance Explained by Initial Eigen Values

Component	Initial eigen values		
	Total	Percentage of variance	Cumulative Percentage
1	6.163	47.409	47.409
2	3.767	28.978	76.387
3	2.127	16.360	92.747

Extraction method: Principal component analysis.

Varimax Rotated Factor Loading Matrix is presented in Table 4

Table :4-Perceived Problems of Rural Urban Migration by Non- Migrants (n=205)

Sl. No.	Perceived Problems of Rural Urban Migration	Factor loadings			Communalities (h ²)
		F1	F2	F3	
1	The migrant family waste money (X1)			0.566	0.894
2	The migrant family incurs more debt (X2)			0.978	0.959
3	The migrant require more money to depart from home (X3)			0.832	0.958
4	The migrant demands more money from home after migration (X4)			0.919	0.923
5	Migration decreases labour force for farm work (X5)		0.882		0.855

Sl. No.	Perceived Problems of Rural Urban Migration	Factor loadings			Communalities (h ²)
		F1	F2	F3	
6	Migrants miss their loved ones (X6)	0.607			0.944
7	Migrant refuses to come back to the village (X7)		0.924		0.904
8	Migrants movement left more for to do (X8)		0.950		0.949
9	The migrant find it difficult to cope up with the city life (X9)	0.931			0.980
10	The migrant miss the family festival and ceremony (X10)	0.962			0.971
11	Lands in the villages are sold at cheaper rate to strangers (X11)		0.771		0.921
12	The investors steal resources (X12)		0.957		0.947
13	Industries developed cause pollution (X13)		0.744		0.852
14	Eigen values	4.171	3.971	3.915	
15	Percentage of variance explained	32.085	30.545	30.117	
16	Percentage of cumulative variance explained	32.085	62.630	92.747	

Source: Primary Data

As evident from table 4, it could be seen that, 3 factors extracted together account for 93 per cent of total variance. Hence the number of variables has been reduced from 13 to 3 underlying factors. Variables X6-Migrants miss their loved ones loaded as 0.976, X9 – The migrant find it difficult to cope up with city life (0.9.31), and X10-The migrants miss the family festivals and ceremonies loaded as 0.962 on

factor 1. Thus factor 1 can be named as “Family Problems”. As for factor 2, it is evident that X5-Migration decreases labour force for farm work (0.882), X7-Migrants refuses to come back to village (0.924), X8- Migrants left more to do (0.950), X11- Lands in the villages are sold at cheaper rate to strangers (0.771), X12-The investors steal resources (0.957), and X13- Industries developed cause pollution

(0.744). This factor can be termed as "Personal and Agricultural Problems". Variables X1-The migrant family waste money loaded as 0.566, X2- The migrant family incurs more debt (0.978), X3- The migrant require more money to depart from home (0.832), and X4- The migrant demands more money from home after migration loaded as 0.919 on factor 3. Thus factor 3 can be named as "Economic Problems".

Conclusion

Since the rate of migration of labourers is increasing at faster rate a two pronged approach to be followed to minimise the rural urban migration. 1. Retaining the present non migrants without being migrated. 2. Attracting more labourers for farming work. The above could be possible by the following suggestions.

1. Village development plans should be drawn for agricultural labourers in each village by the Government Departments to keep the agricultural labourers engaged in villages. The agricultural labourers who had good educational background can be motivated and trained to start agro industries with financial support from Nationalised Banks.

2. Employment plans for each agricultural labourer have to be done taking into account of the area cultivated for each village and the man power requirements of agricultural labour. The information about the requirements of agricultural labourers may be communicated in villages well in advance so as to be known to the agricultural labourers.

3. Contingent plans for each agricultural labourer have to be planned to keep them engaged in NREGA programmes and also in other village development programmes in case of natural disasters.

4. Preference may be given to the agricultural labourers in lean period when no agricultural activity is carried out for all developmental activities.

5. All basic infrastructure facilities like hospitals, schools and other basic requirements have to be made available. This could be done through the scheme of Providing Urban Facilities in Rural Areas (PURA) which will attract the migrated agricultural labourers.

6. The wards of agricultural labourers have to be taken special care by allowing special concession in admission of schools, colleges. The educational institutes may implement this as a measure of social responsibility and it is a chance to serve to the poor who are toiling in hot sun and heavy rains to feed the Nation

7. Agricultural labourers and his family members can be provided with free medical treatment. The medical establishments can do this as a measure of social responsibility and it is a chance to serve to the poor who are toiling in hot sun and heavy rains to feed the Nation.

8. Providing house sites to the agricultural labourers in rural areas on priority basis will be an excellent motivator. Currently many young people are arriving from North India in search of employment and they may be involved in agricultural activities by making proper arrangements for their stay.

Industrialization and development especially Information Technology can be concentrated in other districts apart from Chennai so that benefits of industrialization would be made available to those districts besides making uniform spread of industries across Tamilnadu.

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