

MIGRATION AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BIJAPUR TALUKA OF KARNATAKA STATE

Prakash Lamani* & P. M. Honakeri**

Over the years, the scheduled caste population in Karnataka migrates to neighboring state for their livelihood as they do not get work throughout the year. In this paper, seasonal migration of scheduled caste from rural areas in Bijapur taluka of Karnataka State to neighboring states like Maharashtra, Goa and Andhra Pradesh has been analysed. 120 respondents from six villages were used to analyze and draw conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

Sixteen percent of the scheduled castes in the country resides in urban areas and the rest 84 percent of the scheduled castes population resides in the rural areas in India. The scheduled castes populations living in rural areas are very poor and there are traditional occupations such as leather work handicrafts, bamboo and cane weaving, fishery etc. These along with the degrading professions like carrying of night soils flaying and training account for their very low economic and social status. Almost all of them are concentrated in the rural areas. They suffer from the dual handicap of social disability arising out of the stigma of untouchability, economic deprivation below subsistence wages.

Over the years, the scheduled caste population in Karnataka migrates to neighbouring state for their livelihood as they do not get work throughout the year in existing place. In many places, people do not get work even for six months a year. Land and property belongs to rich landlords while majorities are poor and landless people one can see the absence of the middle class as there are few landlords and majority of the people are landless. The small and marginal farmers have only arid land in their name and do not get profit much from it. In this paper, seasonal migration of scheduled caste from rural areas in Bijapur taluka of Karnataka State to neighboring state like Maharashtra, Goa and Andhra Pradesh has been analysed. Bijapur taluka is one of the backward taluka in the Karnataka state which has largest concentration of scheduled caste population i.e. 31.05 percent to total population of Bijapur taluka. The Bijapur taluka has district headquarter and it is nearly 580 kms from the capital city of Karnataka State and situated in the northern border of Karnataka State. The taluka comes on border of Maharashtra State. The economy of the Bijapur taluka is swindling with the occurrence of droughts at least twice in every fixed years. The land under irrigation is only 11.58 per cent (30.798 hectares), out of the new sown area i.e. 64.38 percent (1.71.104 hectares).

Now adays, majority of scheduled caste population are changing their occupations due to awareness, better employment opportunity, etc., which gives a better position than precious one. It takes places especially during the lean season i.e. from October to May, exhibits scarcity of water and no possibility of growing crops in the substantial portions of agricultural land. Usually, the nature of work done by the workers is like construction work, hotel work, brick-kilns, quarries, plantations and business activities. Further, large number of seasonal migration work in urban informal manufacturing construction, services or transport sectors, employed as casual labourers, head-loaders, rickshaw pullers and hawkers. Thus, they are engaged in low paid jobs and occupations which faculties them with higher payments.

* UGC, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Economics, Karnatak University, Dharwad-03, Karnataka

** Professor of Economics, Karnatak University, Dharwad-03, Karnataka

The seasonal migration system, wherein the middle men or mastery recruits the laboures and regulates the labour market on behalf of the sub-contractor residing at urban places of the places through screening of labour and by a stream of advancing loans of labour and by a stream of advancing loans.

Most of the migrants leave the village around November and return in April/May to look after their land or parents. But as drought in the area have become prolonged, some families are leaving their lands and are more or less permanently away and come back only to celebrate festivals or functions. Half of them take their families along with some belongings.

Prakash Lamani (2009) pointed in his study migration has been growing among Banjara people in terms of its importance as a source of employment and house hold income, and have less labour opportunities within the village due to backwardness of agricultural and industry. It is now recognized that migration is a part of the normal livelihood strategy of the poor (MD Dowell and De Haan, (1997) and does not occur only during times of emergency. According to Davies (1996) the main drivers of migration as the worsening situation of dry land agriculture created by draught, crop failure and poor terms of trade.

Haberfeld (1999) research on migration in Dungapur found that those households that were sending migrants had higher income levels than those not sending migrants on the other hand Kothari's (2002) review of migration studies finds that migration can both reduce and perpetuate poverty.

A number of other research studies carried to find out impact of migration, structure of migration, gender migration, and trend of migration among deferent groups and the present study also to contribute migration of scheduled castes from Bijapur taluka of Karnataka State.

The objectives of present paper is the paper are to know background of migrants, to study level of work and problems faced by respondents at migrants place and to evaluate their level of improvement for migration.

METHODOLOGY

The Bijapur taluka was selected purposely which is one of the backward taluka in the Bijapur district of Karnataka State and it is mainly dry and highly drought prone. It has largest concentrations of scheduled caste population i.e. 31.05 percent to total population in Bijapur taluka compared to other taluka of Bijapur district.

The study has covered six villages of Bijapur taluka spread over different parts and concentrations of scheduled caste population is very high in the villages viz, Arakeri (3728), Jalageri (3262), Baratagi (3205), Hanchinal PH (2475), Babaleshwar (1881) and Ainapur (1718). From 6 villages the respondents were selected on a random sampling basis. By this method we selected total 120 respondents from six villages i.e. 20 respondents from each villages. Simple statistical tools were used to analyze and draw conclusions.

The study is based on the primary data; the data were collected through an exhaustive field work from the selected respondent in the study area. For the purpose of collection of data a well structured questionnaire was prepared and personal interviews were conducted with 120 respondent migrants from Bijapur Taluka of Karnataka State.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF MIGRANTS

Age-Group

Age is the key variable to understand the status of an individual. In terms of occupation age has got some more significant role to play. The table No.01 provides information regarding the age group of respondents. It can be noted that a maximum of 40.00 percent respondents are in the age group of 15-25 years followed

by 27.05 percent respondents between 26-35 year of age, 17.5 percent respondents are between 36-45 year of age and only 56 years during the survey period.

Table 1 : Age-Group of Respondents

Sl. No.	Age-group	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	15-25	48	40.00
2	26-35	33	27.05
3	36-45	21	17.05
4	46-55	16	13.34
5	56 of above	02	01.33
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

It is interesting to note that majority of the respondents are youth and only few respondents are the old age-group. The impact of this type of distribution is that respondents in the age group of 15-45 years are in a position to resort migration for livelihood for a long period.

Education

Education is one of the major tools, which provides individuals the necessary qualifications to fulfill economic roles and consequently improve their socio-economic status. The following Table No.02 explains educational background of family members of respondents.

Table 2 : Educational Status of Respondent Families

Sl. No	Education	Members	Percent
1	Primary	89	25.58
2	High school	34	9.78
3	Inter	13	3.73
4	College	4	1.15
5	Illiterate	208	59.76
Total		348	100

Source: Field Survey.

Educational level of the respondent family members is exhibited in the Table No. 02. It elucidates that 25.58 percent of the respondent's family-members have received education upto Primary level; 9.78 percent of them up to high school level, 3.73 percent received inter level and 1.15 percent completed graduation. Remaining 59.76 percent of them are Illiterates, which is quite above the national level. Illiterate migrants are depending on mestris who take some percent of the wages because of they lack contacts, educated have more confidence to find better work and negotiate with enterprises.

Type of Houses

First let us try to understand the type of houses of respondents. Food, cloth and houses are necessary for everybody to live. The following table No.03 throws light on their type of houses.

Table 3 : Type of Houses of Respondents

Sl.No.	Type of Houses	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Kuccha	101	84.16
2	Semi pucca	17	14.18
3	Pucca	02	1.66
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

The table as above also reveals that type of houses owned by respondents in study area who migrants for their livelihood. It shows that 84.16 percent of them have Kuccha houses, 14.18 percent have semi-pucca houses and very few of them i.e. 01.66 percent have pucca houses.

A conclusion can be drawn based on the above table that majority of the respondents resides in their kuccha houses. The percentage of respondents residing in pucca houses is very good commentary upon their economic and living conditions.

Work Status

Work status, it gives a clear idea about the nature of work whether it is predominantly agricultural or non agricultural. The data analysis of the status of work at migrant place of respondents are presented in the Table No.04.

Table 4 : Work Status of Respondent at Migrate Place.

Sl.No.	Work status	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Hotel Work	12	10.00
2	House hold work	18	15.00
3	Construction	16	13.34
4	Casual Work	24	20.00
5	Industry	13	10.83
6	Business	17	14.17
7	Sugarcane cutter	20	16.66
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

Table No. 04 reveals that the highest 20.00 percent respondents are fully depend upon casual work, tolled by 16.66 percent are sugar cane cutter, 15.00 percent are invalid in house hold work and lowest 10.00 percent in hotel work.

Thus, we can say that majority of the respondents are casual workers and 15.00 percent respondents are female workers who involved in house hold work. The highest 20.00 percent of causal worker can be given

reasonable wages, but were not available every day, there are many more people waiting before them for work. Even if they get work, there is often no guarantee of payment.

Income

The ultimate success of migrants scheduled caste people to cross the poverty line. The aforesaid analysis shows that there is a possibility of increasing in the income of respondents after migration period is explained in the table No.05.

Table 5 : Average Income of Respondents After Migration.

Sl. No	Income	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Below - 10,000	64	53.35
2	10,001 - 20,000	26	21.67
3	20,001 - 30,000	12	10.00
4	30,001 - 40,000	08	6.67
5	40,001 - 50,000	07	5.85
6	50,001 and above	03	2.06
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

Table No.05 exhibits that average income of migrant respondent after migration, it shows that 53.35 percent have income below Rs.10,000, followed by 21.67 percent between Rs.10,001-20,000 and very few percentage of them have income above 20,001.

It is concluded on the basis of above table that migrants do not get more income even migrated from their native place. Only skilled persons are paid good wage and regular work that have got more income from construction, business and hotel work.

Post Migration Status

The ultimate aim of any migrant's persons is improvement in the living conditions of its direct respondent. We find that people migrated due to many reasons like better work opportunities earning more and it is important to know to what extent they have improved from migration and the table No.06 throws light on improvement of respondents.

It is clear from above table that majority 48.33 percent of the respondents have reported that there is no improvement in their socio-economic condition, followed by 35.84 percent improved moderately and only 11.66 percent of respondents have improved in their socio-economic conditions. Eventhough, great majority of respondents have reported that there no improvement in their condition which is main source of earning for their livelihood only 11.66 percent of respondents have improved in business due to better skills.

Table 6 : Status After Migration

Sl. No	Level of condition	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Improved	14	11.66
2	Medium	43	35.84
3	No change	58	48.33
4	Not applicable	05	14.17
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

Problems

The problem faced by respondents at migrated places is seen with the help of table-07.

Table 7 : Problems Faced by Respondent at Migrated Place.

Sl. No	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Salary	12	10.0
2	Language	39	32.5
3	Food	05	4.16
4	House	15	12.5
5	Work	18	15.0
6	Torture	21	17.5
7	Others	10	8.34
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey

It shows that 32.5 percent have language problem, followed by 17.5 percent torture from contractor or localised, 15.0 percent work problem and lowest 4.15 percent food problem.

It is seen from above table that every migrants have faced problems at working place.

FINDINGS

The main findings from this study are summarized in the following points.

- The main reasons for migrants of respondents lack of work opportunity and wages in their native place and they migrated for livelihood and better income.
- The majority of 59.76 percent of respondents are illiterates and low standard of education, which is quite above the national level. They are unable to get good work in their native or migrants place and neither gets benefit under government schemes.
- It pointed out that unemployment high among scheduled caste people and migrated neighboring states like Goa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh for their livelihood.

- Most of migrants leave the village around November and return in April/May to look after their land or parents. But as drought in the area have become prolonged. Some families are leaving their lands follow and are more or less permanently away and come back only to celebrate festivals or functions. Half of them take their families with some belongings.
- It is interesting to note that majority of the respondents are youth and only few respondents are the old age-group. The impact of this type of distribution is that respondents in the age group of 15-45 years are in a position resort to migration for livelihood for a long period.
- The majority 84.16 percent of the respondents resides in kuccha houses only few percentage of respondents' reside in pucca houses and are good commentary upon their economic and living conditions.
- The highest 20.00 percent of casual worker can be given reasonable wages, but were not available every day, there are many more people waiting before them for work. Even if they get work, there is often no guarantee of payment.
- It is found from our study that migrant do not get more income even migrated from their native place. Only skilled persons are paid good wage and regular work that have got more income from construction, business and hotel work.
- The 48.33 percent of respondents have reported that no improvement in their condition which is main source of earning for their livelihood only 11.66 percent of respondents improved in business and due to better skills.
- It is also found in the study, that every migrant have faced problem at migrated place.

CONCLUSION

Migration is an integral and regular part of livelihood strategies and production systems and also migration is a diverse phenomenon with various non-economic determinants of caste and gender; most of the migrants receive little support and live in very difficult conditions.

In this paper, it reveals that migration of scheduled caste to neighboring state like Goa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh where lack of opportunity available for their livelihood and better work options that are complementary to migration, the availability of surplus labour within the household. Caste emerges as an important determinant who is excluded from positive migration stream. This is because of the strong correlation between belonging to a scheduled caste and being poor, illiterate, asset less, backward and poor areas can be on positive migration with the result that migrants have no entitlements to livelihood support from their home area and welfare scheme.. Seasonal migration of labour for employment has become one of the most durable components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas like Bijapur taluka.

Government has been implementing several programmes to improve their Socio-economic conditions of weaker sections in general and migrants in particular. Most of scheduled caste people are illiterate unable to get benefit by government programmes. Recently, Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNEGA) was started in 2005 to provide 100 days employment everybody, who living below the poverty line at Rs.100. Even the migration among scheduled caste people is very high due to lack of awareness of MGNEGA. MGNEGA provides only 100 days employment, but it does not help to laid their family by Rs.100/- therefore migrants has not been declined among scheduled caste who does not have ever 2 acres land. Bijapur taluka is one of the backward and high prone area industry should be established in this area which provides employment opportunity for poor people to lead their family.

In order to minimize the incidence of migration of the respondents it is suggested here that small scale and large scale industry should be established as well as local area development programmes should be given top priority, higher educational and training centers are concentrated in city areas. Therefore the government should divert these towards small urban and rural areas, it is provide job opportunity for unemployement which will ultimately reduce the migration.

There are several different position in what should be done to address view is that of migration should be reduced by creating employment in villages.

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