



INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDIA: A CASE STUDY OF ALANG SHIP BREAKING YARD

Dr. Hrudanand Misra

*Director, The Mandvi Education Society Institute of Business
Management & Computer Studies, Mandvi, Surat, Gujarat*

ABSTRACT

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Migration is as old as human history. The massive movement of population in modern times has wide social, economic, political, demographic and economic implications. The unskilled labour migrate from their native to destination do not expect a very high economic gain as in the case of skilled workers or highly educated persons. The basic need of unskilled workers is primarily for a continuous work throughout the year. The migration of this type is considered as migration from underdeveloped region to developed region or backward region to forward region. Alang ship breaking is known as world's largest ship breaking yard, which employs 30,000 labours directly, and 1.5 to 1.6 lakh labours indirectly in downstream and upstream industries. In Alang ship breaking yard majority of the labourers are migrated from different states of the country viz, U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat. There are various factors associated with the migration of labour from their place of origin to Alang ship breaking yard. The aim of this paper is to focus on the process of migration of labour to Alang ship breaking yard and also on the differentials and determinants of migration. This paper also tries to identify the factors influencing out-migration of the rural poor labour.

I. INTRODUCTION

People are moving from one place to another since ancient period, which is a continuous international phenomenon resulted due to complex mechanism involving social, economic, psychological, political, institutional and other determinants. Migration is a form of geographical or spatial mobility which involves a change of usual residence of a person between clearly defines geographical units. The concept of migration is of key importance in social science, particularly in population studies. The importance emerges not only from the movement of people between places but also from its influence on the lives of individual and urban growth. Broadly speaking migration is a relocation of residence of various duration and various natures.

In recent time due to urbanisation and industrialization, the of social transformation takes place and it is fast in developing countries. The accelerating rate of urbanisation is high among the least developed countries of Asia. It is found for the period of 20 years i.e. 1970 to 1990, the average annual growth rate of urban population was 3.4 percent for India, 6.5 for Bangladesh and 4.2 percent for Pakistan and Sri Lanka. However the urban growth rate is due to rural-urban migration and it contributes three-fifths to two-third. The incidence of rural-urban migration is higher in developing countries, a distinct selectivity with respect to age, sex, caste, marital status, education, occupation etc, occurs and the

propensity of migration different among these socio-economic groups (Lee, 1996; Sekhar, 1993; Yadava, 1988).

Migration differential plays an important role in identifying the nature and strength of the socio-economic and demographic impact of the population. Various scholars have tries to establish some uniformity in migration patterns for all countries at all times. In the process of migration age is the factor, which is more or less similar in developing as well as developed countries. Many studies found that adult males are more inclined to migrate than other people of the community (Rogaia, 1997; Singh and Yadava, 1981). Several studies reported that determinant of migration vary from country to country and even with the same country. The variation in migration depends on the socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors. Unemployment, low income, unequal distribution of land, demand for civic amenities are some of the prominent determinants of rural out-migration (Bilsborrow et al., 1987; Kadioglu, 1994; Nabi, 1992; Sekhar, 1993; Yadava, 1988).

The process of migration is influence by the combination of push-pull factors. People migrate to cities and towns because they are attracted by bright light of city. Studies on migration found that there are positive associated between levels of infrastructure development of a region and the magnitude of out-migration (CUS, 1990). The poor rural population considered migration as a livelihood coping strategy. On the other hand some people migrate to urban

areas from villages for higher education, employment and higher income. These both categories are driven preponderantly by economic reasons. Information and communication also influence the decisions of migration (CUS, 1990).

Migration studies in developing countries have generally dealt with the economic aspects of migration. However, majority of studies dealt with the differentials and determinants of migration focusing mainly on causes and consequences of migration (Afsar, 1995; Hugo, 1991; Selvaraj and Rao, 1993; Yadava, 1988). Apart from economic impact migration of individual produces various impacts such as reduce of agriculture labour in rural areas, physical separation of husband and wife etc. Therefore it is important to understand the causes of migration, extent of migration.

In Alang ship-breaking yard, adequate attention to migration aspect has given which is due to lack of national level data. The existing micro-level studies mostly investigation the characteristics of migrants at Alang ship breaking yard (FIDH, 2000), giving a little attention to the socio-economic conditions and causes of out-migration from villages. Studies on Alang ship breaking yard detail with the some aspect on the migration especially on economic consequences based on sample survey. Chaudhury (1978) found that out-migration is generally higher from the villages where scarcity of land, unequal distribution of land and high proportion of agriculture labours.

In the process of migration it is important to note that the characteristics of migrants are not sufficient to explain the motive behind migration because the decision of a person to migrate is largely depend on family background. The individual characteristics can only give the type of people involve in migration. Therefore, it is important to study the characteristics of migrant's households and individual, which will give idea about the causes of migration. The aim of this paper is to focus on the socio-economic conditions of migrants and also to identify the factors influencing out-migration.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In Alang ship breaking yard majority of labours are migrated from different backward and underdeveloped regions and few local labours are involved in ship breaking activity. Therefore, for the study researcher has collected the data personally from labours at their place of work as well as at living place. A stratified random sampling was applied to select the respondents and covered 300 sample migrants which constitute about 1 percent of the working population.

It is difficult to identify the differentiating factors among migrants. For example, the socio-economic conditions of migrants at the place of origin and destination. However, some characteristics of migrant such as education, occupation background, agriculture land owned, family size etc have been taken into consideration to find out the causes and consequences of migration to Alang ship breaking yard.

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III. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The socio-economic characteristics of the migrants, it generally assumed that the migrants have certain important socio-economic characteristics, which are different from those of the rest of the population in their place of origin. These socio-economic characteristics such as age, education, income, linkages to place of destination and their family occupation play a significant part in their movement from one place to another place for livelihood.

a) Age

Age differential reveals the impact of migration on socio-economic and demographic structure at both the place of destination and origin. Huge (1981) found that the loss of young adults through migration from villages leads to undermining of agricultural production by reducing agricultural labour. Singh's study on Uttar Pradesh found that out-migration of young male's leads to decline in fertility (Singh *et al.*, 1981).

Table 1 shows age wise distribution of the respondents originating from different states. It indicates that 75.3 percent of the population falls under the age group of 21-35 years. In Alang ship breaking yard all respondents are belong to the working age group and majority of them are young. A study conducted by Yadav found migration differential by age has been almost generalized and the percent is higher for the people aged between 15 and 40 (Yadava, 1988). Average age of the migrants from five states i.e. from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat are 28.52, 31.03, 29.77, 27.13 and 30.70 years respectively. Average age of the respondents from Orissa is lower of 27.13 years as compare to the other states. The group or total average age of the respondents from all states is 28.81 years.

Table 1. Age Structure of Respondents and their Nativity

Age Groups	U.P	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
15-20	15.93(18)	3.23 (1)	2.78 (2)	9.46 (7)	--	9.34 (28)
21-25	24.78(28)	22.58 (7)	27.78 (20)	32.43 (24)	30.00 (3)	27.33 (82)
26-30	23.89(27)	25.81 (8)	33.33 (24)	24.32 (18)	--	25.67(77)
31-35	22.13(25)	29.02 (9)	20.84 (15)	21.62 (16)	20.00 (2)	22.33 (67)
36-40	7.96(9)	9.68 (3)	8.33 (6)	6.75(5)	20.00 (2)	8.33 (25)
41-45	2.65(3)	6.45 (2)	6.94 (5)	2.70 (2)	20.00 (2)	4.67 (14)
46+	2.65(3)	3.23 (1)	--	4.05 (3)	--	2.33 (7)
Total	100.00(113)	100.00(31)	100.00(72)	100.00(74)	100.00(10)	100.00(300)
Average Age	28.52	31.03	29.77	27.13	30.70	28.81

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in bracket are number of the respondents.

b) Education

The migration decision of an individual is influenced by education. Several studies showed that migrants are usually more educated than non-migrants with respect to the place of origin and less educated than non-migrants with respect to the place of destination (Singh and Yadava, 1981; Singh, 1985). Table 2 shows that respondents having primary level education are less than the (23.3 percent). Only one respondent has technical education and 3 respondents are Graduates. Table also shows that majority of respondents from the five states are illiterates and only 10 percent of

respondents have tertiary of higher education. The percentage of illiterate is higher from Orissa state, which is 47.3 percent. Studies on developing countries pointed out that most of the migrants are educated and the process of migration has education selectivity (Singh and Yadava, 1981). But the present study shows that migrants are less educated. However, migration process is not education selectivity because the percentage of illiterate is high i.e. more than 30 percent. It is also found that educated people are less interested in taking agriculture as their occupation.

Table 2 Distributions of Respondents by their Level of Education

Education Level	U.P	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
Illiterate	22.12 (25)	32.23 (10)	38.89 (28)	47.30 (35)	30.00 (3)	33.67 (101)
Primary	16.81 (19)	25.81 (8)	19.44 (14)	32.43 (24)	50.00 (5)	23.33 (70)
Secondary	46.01 (52)	35.48 (11)	30.56 (22)	18.92 (14)	20.00 (2)	33.67 (101)
High-Secondary	14.16 (16)	6.45 (2)	6.94 (5)	1.35 (1)	--	8.00 (24)
Graduation	--	--	4.17 (3)	--	--	1.00 (3)
Technical	0.88 (1)	--	--	--	--	0.33 (1)
Total	100.00(113)	100.00(31)	100.00(72)	100.00(74)	100.00(10)	100.00(300)

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in bracket are number of respondents.

c) Pre-Occupation & Income

In the study of migration, the pre-migration occupation and income also helps to understand the causes behind migration. In this section migrant's profiles are discussed considering their previous occupation and previous income at any place or their native place. The distribution of respondents according to their previous occupation and previous income at the place of origin is shown in the given table 3a and 3b.

The table 3a shows the respondent's previous occupations can be diverse. It is found that 35 percent of migrants were involved manual work in agriculture and 21.3 percent of migrants were unemployed before migrating. Further only 14 percent respondents were engaged in agriculture as marginal farmer and 29.7 percent respondents were non-agricultural labour. Therefore, it is clear that most of the respondents were engaged in unskilled occupations which constitute 60 percent of respondents. In Alang ship-breaking yard previous occupation of majority of the respondents before migrate to Alang from the different states is related to

non-agriculture sector, which created opportunity to employment in industrial sector due to their experience in industrial work and considered as one of the push factors in the process of migration. It is found that majority of respondents were engaged in non-agricultural occupation and therefore the propensity to migrate was higher.

Table 3b indicates that average previous income of 236 respondents from all states is Rs. 1065.38 which is very low. Out of 300 respondents, 64 have reported that current occupation at Alang to be their first job, hence for them previous income does not exist. The average income of respondents from Bihar state is higher (Rs 1269.04) whereas average income of the respondents from Orissa is lower (Rs 944.05). The vast majority of the respondents are in the income group of Rs 500-1000 which constitute 71.6 percent. Therefore, it is found from the analysis that respondent's previous income is lower, which is one of the important push factors in the process of migration. It is found that for most of the families, the respondents in this study are the sole bread winners, hence per-capita availability of resources is much lower.

Table 3a Distribution of Respondents by their Previous Occupation

Previous Occupation	U.P.	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
Farmer	11.50 (13)	22.58 (7)	19.44 (14)	10.81 (8)	--	14.00 (42)
Manual Labour	35.40 (40)	29.03 (9)	50.00 (36)	27.03 (20)	--	35.00 (105)
Manual Labour in Non-Agriculture	31.00 (35)	32.26 (10)	15.38 (11)	37.84 (28)	50.00(5)	29.67 (89)
Unemployed	22.20 (25)	16.13 (5)	15.38 (11)	24.32 (18)	50.00(5)	21.33 (64)
Total	100.00(113)	100.00(31)	100.00(72)	100.00(74)	100.00(10)	100.00(300)

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in bracket are number of the respondents

Table 3b Average Previous Income of the Respondents

Previous Income	U.P.	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
500-1000	946.84(57)	923.33(13)	930.00(46)	904.17(48)	962.50(5)	933.37(169)
1001-1500	1273.10(21)	1275.00(7)	1281.25(14)	1183.33(8)	1150.00(2)	1232.54(52)
1501-2500	1904.16(8)	2011.11(6)	1800.00(1)	--	--	1905.09(15)
Total	1115.56(86)	1269.04(26)	1024.88(61)	944.05(56)	1016.07(7)	1065.38(236)

Source: Field Survey.

In developing countries, particularly in Asia, low agricultural income and agricultural unemployment and under-employment are the major factors pushing migrants towards areas with greater job opportunities. The pressure of population, resulting in a high man-land ratio has been widely hypothesized as one of the important causes of poverty and rural out-migration. With the given mode of production only a small part of the labour force can be absorbed by agriculture. Unless the non-crop husbandry sectors, cottage and small-scale industries in the rural areas can take in the surplus labourers and these people move to the urban centers to be gainfully employed (Oberai and Singh, 1983).

The causes of migration are usually explained by using two broad categories viz, push and pull factors. For example, people of a certain area maybe pushed off by poverty and unemployment to move towards a town and/or industrial base for employment. While a better employment and higher facilities may pull people to move to urban areas to get these opportunities. People's decision to migrate from one place to another may be influenced by many non-economic

factors such as personal maladjustment in the family or community, natural disaster and political instability. When these non-economic factors arise, economic disadvantages may appear as a strong influential or push factor in migration decision of an individual.

The causes of migration as reported by the respondents have been collected by the researcher and the results are presented below. The findings show that it is the economic opportunity that played a dominant role in migration decision. Over 58 percent of the respondent reported that they migrated due to unemployment and low wages at their place of origin. Another 35.7 percent did so to find better income (See Table 4). Further, about 5.3 percent migrants were pushed off due to the influence of the family members because of low property at their native place. From the analysis of data the main reason for migration it is found to be the backwardness and unemployment situation in the respondent's native place. It pushed them to migrate to Alang ship breaking yard and to earn their livelihood as well as to fulfill their family responsibilities.

Table 4 Percentage distribution of Respondents by Reason for Migration

Reason for Migration	U.P.	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
Low Property	0.88 (1)	9.68 (3)	1.39 (1)	13.52 (10)	10.00(1)	5.33 (16)
Low Wages	39.83 (45)	32.26 (10)	44.44 (32)	21.62 (16)	40.00(4)	35.67 (107)
Social Problem	--	--	2.78 (2)	1.35 (1)	--	1.00 (3)
Unemployment & Low Wage	59.29 (67)	58.06 (18)	51.39 (37)	63.51 (47)	50.00(5)	58.00 (74)
Total	100.00(113)	100.00(31)	100.00(72)	100.00(74)	100.00(10)	100.00(300)

Source: Field Survey.

It is documented that migration decision of an individual is influenced not only by the push factors but also by the pull factors (Yadava, 1990). But in case of migrants from different states to Alang ship breaking yard it is found that the most of the migrants are migrated due to push factors but some pull factors are also responsible in the process of migration.

Another most important factor is the situation in the place of origin, which also influenced decision to migrate. In Alang ship breaking yard most of the migrants arrived between the years 1996-2000. Some states were frequently suffering

from drought, which is one of the important factors in the process of migration (see Table 5). From the data it is revealed that most of the respondents migrated to Alang ship breaking yard between years 1996-2000 and they account for 35.6 percent. This is due to the fact that in these years most of the districts of Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand faced the drought situation. Therefore, most of the respondents migrate to Alang ship breaking yard in search of employment and to fulfill their survival needs.

Table 5 Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Year of Migration to Alang Ship Breaking Yard

Migration Year	U.P.	Bihar	Jharkhand	Orissa	Gujarat	Total
1980-85	7.08 (8)	9.67 (3)	6.94 (5)	4.05 (3)	12.50 (1)	6.67 (20)
1986-90	15.04 (17)	12.90 (4)	11.11 (8)	14.06 (11)	--	13.33 (40)
1991-95	24.78 (28)	48.39 (15)	30.56 (22)	22.97 (17)	50.00 (4)	28.67 (86)
1996-2000	35.40 (40)	22.59 (7)	38.89 (28)	39.19 (29)	25.00 (2)	35.33 (106)
2001-2004	17.70 (20)	6.45 (2)	12.50 (9)	18.93 (14)	12.50 (1)	15.40 (46)
Total	100.00(113)	100.00(31)	100.00(72)	100.00(74)	100.00(8)	100.00(300)

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in bracket are number of the respondents.

One of the important pull factors in the process of migration is the network of the migration to Alang. This pull factor is important in the process of migration because presence of villagers and relatives at the place of destination helps in getting employment and accommodation at the place of destination during the initial period.

Another pull factor which is very important in the process of migration is the availability of employment opportunity at the place of destination. During the years 1996-2000, Alang ship-breaking yard was at its boom with high growth of ship-breaking industry in the world. In these years most of migration took place. From the discussion it is found that the push factors are stronger than the pull factors in the process of migration to Alang.

Table 6 focuses on the staying of respondents at Alang. It is found that 60.3 percent of the respondents have been working at Alang for 6-15 years which is long. In Alang ship breaking yard most of the migrants are long term migrants because they are staying there for more than 8 month (see table 6). It is also found that 38 percent of respondents are staying for the period of 6-10 years at Alang ship breaking yard. Further 22 percent of respondents stayed for 11-15 years. The new entrant at ship breaking activities in last one year is only 6 percent. Therefore, it can be said that majority of respondents at Alang ship breaking yard are long-term migrants. This shows that due to long stay of respondents at Alang, which create link for the new entrant to entry into ship breaking activity.

Table 6 Respondents Stay at Alang Ship Breaking Yard

Years of Stay at Alang	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
0-1	18	6.0
2-5	67	22.3
6-10	115	38.3
11-15	66	22.0
16-20	29	9.7
21+	5	1.7
Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey.

IV. CONCLUSION

The process of migration is as old as human history. It is observed that differences are prevailing in the socio-economic development of the different states and district within. A large proportion of labours employed at Alang ship breaking yard are migrants from different states. They are largely from backward states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand. Only a small proportion of workers are from Gujarat state i.e. 5-10 percent.

In Alang ship breaking yard majority of respondents have low level of education or none at all. Further it is found that only around 10 percent of the respondents have higher education. Due to this educational background labours are largely unskilled or semi-skilled.

The causes of migration are highly important in the process of migration. Among the causes of migration reported in the present study, it is observed that both 'push' and 'pull' factors have their influence on migration. Little more than 35 percent mentioned 'pull' factors are the main causes of their migration and 65 percent mentioned that 'push' factors as the most important. So it is found that 'push' factors have been more important than 'pull' factors. As far as 'push' factors are concerned, it is observed that the leading cause of migration is unemployment in the rural areas which is the principal causes of migration. The present study also finds out that 58

percent migrants moved out of the rural areas because of non-availability of work at the place of origin. Another important push factor is low fixed property (5.3 percent) of the migrant at their native place. It is observed that the important 'pull' factors, which cause migration of rural labourers, is relatively good wages at Alang as compared to their native place.

It is concluded from the analysis that majority of the respondents have migrated from rural areas due to low income, unemployment and link at Alang. These labours are not economically sound at their native place and migrated to earn their livelihood at Alang ship breaking yard. The study also helps planners and policy makers to implement rural development programs to reduce rural out-migration.

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