AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF MIGRATION TO KERALA USING GARRETT'S SCALE

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ABSTRACT

Interstate migration is a complex phenomenon and closely related to economic and social factors as well as economic development. The exodus from rural areas is one of the vital issues in India. Because of the ongoing structural changes and consequent alterations in the economy as a whole, the nature, magnitude and pattern of migration have been evolving over time. The studies on migration argue that migration is by and large closely linked with the basic arguments, that is, people are compelled to migrate due to development - driven factors and/or distress driven factors (push factors) and migration of people is mainly motivated by better employment opportunities, higher wages, good quality education and health conditions and better living conditions at destinations (pull factors). Here the researcher focuses on migrant labourers who migrated to Kerala from various states of India for employment in construction fields, and tries to identify which factor is acting more in this type of inter-state migration with help of Garrett's Scale Ranking.

KEYWORDS: *Interstate migration, Push and Pull factors, Garrett's Scale Technique.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration talks about the dual economy comprising the subsistence agricultural sector characterized by the surplus-labor and unemployment/underemployment and modern industrial sector characterized by the full employment. In the modern sector, the wage is maintained at levels much higher than the average wage in the agricultural sector (Fei, Ranis,1961). But in the case of individual utility maximization, the decision to migrate to cities would be determined by the wage differentials and the expected probability of obtaining employment at the destination (Lewis, 1954). In reality, rural-urban migration is stimulated primarily by economic implications. The theory explains that the decision to migrate would depend upon higher wages (real wage differentials and the probability of successfully obtaining an urban job (Harris,Todaro, 1970). Some of the researchers argue that migration is due to pull and push factors. Pull factors refers to better employment, higher wages, better living conditions, and good health and educational opportunities at the destinations. On the other hand migration in impelled by push factors(distress) at homes such as lack of employment, low wages, agricultural failures, debt, drought and other natural calamities(Lee,1966). In Tamilnadu, the female migration is due to push and pull factors of migration. The major push factor is lack of employment opportunities in the places of origin because of drought and the pull factor is the employment situation in the destination areas it also reveals that after migration there seems a marked improvement in their livelihood. Migration of workers generally takes place from areas of low employment to those with high employment, Kerala had too witnessed a large number of migrant workers from Bihar, Assam (Gosh, Sharma, 1995)

While dealing with the dimensions of the vulnerability of migrant labors in the context of Kerala. The state has been witnessing a large inflow of migrant labourers not only from the neighboring states of Tamilnadu and Karnataka but also from North India and North-Eastern States (Kumar, 2012). In this paper, the researcher investigates the factors responsible for the process of migration to Kerala using the Garrett's Scale Technique.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

One of the earliest studies in this area by **Dasgupta and Roy (1975)** in his studies, he seeks to find answers to two basic questions –which social, economic, demographic factors in villages life are associated with migratory movements? And who are the migrants? The authors focus on differences among villages in terms of migration and other socio-economic variables. The study that the unequal distribution of resources in a village is the key factor for migration. The majority of migrants are adults males, married and better educated than their fellow villagers. However, within the migrant group, there are members from two opposite ends of the educational

scale –illiterates and those with secondary or higher education in occupation wise, the majority of migrants are from self-employed agricultural and non –agricultural households, while agricultural labour households contribute only a smaller amount.

Jayaraman (1979) studies the seasonal migration of tribal labour from the predominantly rural district of Panchamahals in Gujarat to the rural areas of neighboring Kaira district, it is a part of the command area of the Kadana irrigation project on the Mahi River. He examines the phenomenon both at the origin and destination of the migrating labour. The findings of the study show that variations in landholdings are not only the reason for migration because the people from large and small landholding households are found among seasonal migrants. But the reason is that agriculture at the place of origin is dependent on rain and agricultural activities are at peak only during the monsoon months, June to September. During the monsoon period migration from Punchamahals district is very low. Once the monsoon crop is harvested, agricultural activities almost come to an end and migration begins to pick up. As expected so, since most households do not have other activities during the rest of the year that might usefully absorb the labour of their members and discourage migration.

Kundu and et al (2007) analyze the pattern of migration in urban areas and their socio-economic correlates. The analyzes are based on the National Sample Survey 's reports on employment and unemployment; Economic deprivation is not the most critical factor for migration decisions, people migrate from both poor and rich households although the reason for migration and the nature of jobs sought by them are different. Rural-urban migrants run a greater risk of being below the poverty line than the urban –urban migrants, but both report a lower risk than non-migrants. And the results states that migration is to be considered as a powerful instrument to wipe out the poverty among the poor and also for their economic wellbeing. Comparatively the probability of being poor is much less among migrants to the local population in any other urban Centre.

Rogaly et al (2001) summarize the findings of empirical research on the scale and pattern of seasonal migration for rice cultivation in West Bengal. It analyzes the cause and consequences of the migration. In this study, he raises a question of seasonal migrant workers whose wages and working conditions are not covered by any laws. And there is no active union and protective measures in their workplace for those people migrate temporarily for manual work. And the study reveals that the migrant workers employed in rice cultivation have made crucial contributions to the agricultural success of the state. This study explains the recruitment of the workers directly by individual employers at busy market places or from migrants home villages.

Premi (1980) the secondary data related to the 1971 census, brings out some of the characteristics of female migrants in India. The study reveals that the number of female migrants is more than double that of male migrants but their migration is largely limited to the rural –to –rural steam within the district enumeration. As the distance of migration increases, the sex ratio falls sharply. The data on the occupational categories of migrant workers shows that the majority of rural to rural migrants are engaged in primary activities. Female migrant workers engaged in other services in the urban to rural stream shows that there is some extent of white-collar employment among migrants in this group. On the other hand, female workers in other services in the rural to urban stream largely reflect their employment in menial and low –paid jobs.

Fei, Ranis (1961) theory of migration talks about the dual economy comprising the subsistence agricultural sector characterized by the surplus labor and unemployment / underemployment and the modern industrial sector characterized by the full employment. In the modern sector, wages are maintained at levels much higher than the average wage in the agriculture sector. **Lewis's (1954)** theory says in the case of individual utility maximization, the decision to migrate to cities would be determined by the wage differentials plus the expected probability of obtaining employment at the destination.

Another important rural-urban migration theory put –forward by the **Harris –Todaro (1970)** is that migration is stimulated primarily by the economic implications. The theory explains that the decision to migrate would depend upon expected higher wages (real wage differentials) and the probability of successfully obtaining an urban job.

Lee (1966), the theory argues that migration is due to pull and push factors. Pull factors refers to better employment, higher wages, better living conditions, and good health and education opportunities at destinations. On the other hand, migration is impelled by push (distress) factors at homes such as lack of employment, low wages, agricultural failures, debt, drought, and other natural calamities.

In his study, **De Haan (1999)** observed that migration is not a choice for poor people, but is the only option for survival after alienation from the land and exploitation in origin places. Hence, in developing countries, the largest proportion of migrants moves between rural and urban areas.

Deshinngkar Akter. (2009) argue that a majority of the seasonal migrants, many of whom are SCs and STs, are poor, and for the migration is a household strategy for managing risk where one or more members of the family go away from the village to find work and that this is a central part of their livelihoods. Whether or not seasonal migration is a coping strategy or becomes more accumulative, depends on several factors including improved work availability, rising wages cutting out intermediaries, and improving skills.

The study by **Rafique (2003)** exposed that migrants from the Murshidabad District of West Bengal are very vulnerable when they travel to other areas of the state. Seasonal migration has been a response to increasing vulnerability associated with the lack of access to land, irrigation water, finance, supportive networks, contacts, and qualifications. There are slightly better – off households that are also migrating, but they are less vulnerable and may undertake migration to save for or invest in a particular purpose.

3. RESEARCH GAP

From the literature, the researcher identified that in Kerala the number of migrant labour is very high especially in the construction field. Interstate migrant workers are engaged in all kinds of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled manual works irrespective of time-bound working time. In spite of this heavy load of works, they receive a very low wage rate. In Kerala, the construction sector is booming but the contractors are facing a lack of skilled Keralites due to the large scale gulf migration. The gulf migrant's remittances is a large source of Kerala's GDP. The scarcity of labour in Kerala is now filled

by migrant workers from other states of India. The socio-economic condition of migrant workers, their wage rate determination, and the vulnerability of the working condition of migrant workers are discussed by so many researchers. There are scanty studies focuses on the factors that are determining migration to Kerala.

4. RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the factors responsible for the large inflow of migrant workers to Kerala?

5. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Interstate migrant labours play a vital role in Kerala's economy. Most of the migrant labours engaged in unskilled works. They are working daily in the construction fields. But they earn a very low wage rate compared to native workers. The migrant worker's role in our economy is very important. There so many studies were conducted by the researchers on Interstate migration to Kerala. Most of the studies dealt with the socio-economic condition of the migrant workers, the vulnerability of workers in working place. It is evident from the literature review that migration to Kerala takes place due to both push and pull factors. But what has the most important factor which are responsible for migration to Kerala is gained special attention. In this backdrop, this study focuses on migrant labourers who migrated to Kerala from various states of India for employment in construction fields, and tries to identify which factor is acting more in this type of interstate migration with help of Garrett's Scale Ranking.

6. OBJECTIVE
- To identify the important push and pull factors for the migration to Kerala.

7. METHODOLOGY

The researcher used the snowball sampling technique which is a non-probability sampling technique used for finding the sample and uses a semi-structured interview schedule for obtaining data with the help of a friend who is fluent in Hindi. The study is based on the primary data collected from Edakkara Grama Panchayath. The selected sample size is 74. The field survey was conducted for gathering information from the migrant workers. Garrett's ranking technique is used for ranking the pull and push factors to know which of them are more influential and which is less influential in this inter-state migration.

8. DETERMINING THE FACTORS WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OF MIGRATION TO KERALA.

Ñ **Garret Ranking of Factors Responsible for Migration to Kerala**

Garrett ranking is a scientific method used to analyse the perception of respondents regarding factors that are responsible for migration to Kerala. Here the factors are ranked based on the entire ranking of each respondent.

Table 1 Factors Responsible for Migration

F1	Better working condition in Kerala
F2	High wage rate in Kerala
F3	Availability of work
F4	Work condition dissatisfaction
F5	Accumulation of saving
F6	Unemployment and seeking work
F7	Inadequate infrastructural facilities
F8	Earnings not adequate to sustain in home
F9	Other Factors (no job, Kerala is secured than other place)

Source: Elicited from Respondents

Step-I:

In step one each factor responsible for migration elicited from the field is asked to rank by them. There are 9 factors. Each respondent assign ranks from 1 to 9 for each factor.

Table 2 Rank wise estimation – Tabulating the factor ranks

Factors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
F1	13	12	8	6	8	6	8	7	6
F2	23	14	11	9	8	3	1	2	3
F3	19	8	9	6	3	18	5	4	2
F4	17	13	6	6	6	11	4	8	3
F5	16	14	7	6	8	11	3	5	4
F6	22	10	7	8	7	12	4	3	1
F7	4	7	12	13	10	12	7	6	3
F8	20	6	14	8	16	3	2	3	2
F9	16	8	13	8	16	3	5	1	4

R_{ij} = 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th ,8th , 9th Ranks and

N_j = Total ranks given by 74 respondents = 9

Step II:

The per cent position of each factor is arrived at through the formula indicated above

$$GS = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where R_{ij} = Rank given for the ith variable by j[th] respondents
and N_j = Number of variable ranked by j[th] respondents.

Table 3 Finding Per cent composition

Factors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Rank	GS (Per cent)
F1	13	12	8	6	8	6	8	7	6	1	5.55
F2	23	14	11	9	8	3	1	2	3	2	16.67
F3	19	8	9	6	3	18	5	4	2	3	27.77
F4	17	13	6	6	6	11	4	8	3	4	38.88
F5	16	14	7	6	8	11	3	5	4	5	50.00
F6	22	10	7	8	7	12	4	3	1	6	61.11
F7	4	7	12	13	10	12	7	6	3	7	72.22
F8	20	6	14	8	16	3	2	3	2	8	83.33
F9	16	8	13	8	16	3	5	1	4	9	94.44

GS = Garret per cent position (formula given in the beginning) Garret value is obtained from Garret conversion table.

Step III :

In the next step, from Garret conversion table, the corresponding Garret value assigned for each GS per cent is obtained and prepared in a format.

Table 4 Garret Value [using Garret conversion table]

Rank	GS per cent	Garret Value
1	5.55	81
2	16.67	69
3	27.77	62
4	38.88	55
5	50.00	50
6	61.11	45
7	72.22	38
8	83.33	31
9	94.44	19

Step-IV: Multiplying the Garret value with its respective Ranks

After assigning garret value, the value is multiplied to the frequency of the respondents assigning the respective ranks in each category and the product of the frequency of ranks assigned and the respective garret value is obtained for each factor and these products are summed up for each factor.

Table 5 Product of frequency of ranks with Garret value

Factors	1st*81	2nd*69	3rd*62	4th*55	5th*50	6th*45	7th*38	8th*31	9th*19	Total
F1	1053	732	496	330	400	270	304	217	114	3916
F2	1863	854	682	495	400	135	38	62	57	4586
F3	1539	488	558	330	150	810	190	124	38	4227
F4	1377	793	372	330	300	495	152	248	57	4124
F5	1296	854	434	330	400	495	114	155	76	4154
F6	1782	610	434	440	350	540	152	93	19	4420
F7	324	427	744	715	500	540	266	186	57	3759
F8	1620	366	868	440	800	135	76	93	38	4436
F9	1296	488	806	440	800	135	190	31	76	4262

Step V:

Finally, the garret ranking is assigned by taking the average of the respective sum of the products of the frequency of each rank with respective garret value. The average is obtained by the sum with that of sample size. The highest average is assigned with the highest rank.

Table 6 Final Garret Ranking

Factor	Total	Sample Size	Average	Garret Ranking
F1	3916	74	52.92	8
F2	4586	74	61.97	1
F3	4227	74	57.12	5
F4	4124	74	55.73	7
F5	4154	74	56.14	6
F6	4420	74	59.73	3
F7	3759	74	50.80	9
F8	4436	74	59.95	2
F9	4262	74	57.59	4

Average = Total divide by sample size

Major observations

The high wage rate in Kerala is rated as the first important factor responsible for migration. This should be read along with the inadequate infrastructural facilities in Kerala which are rated as the least factor. Also, Better working condition in Kerala is one of the least rated factors.

Table 7 Factors Responsible for Migration

Order	Factors	Garrett's Ranking
F1	Better working condition in Kerala	8
F2	High wage rate in Kerala	1
F3	Availability of work	5
F4	Work condition dissatisfaction	7
F5	Accumulation of saving	6
F6	Unemployment and seeking work	3
F7	Inadequate infrastructural facilities	9
F8	Earnings not adequate to sustain in home	2
F9	Other Factors (no job, Kerala is secured than other place)	4

Elicited: From Respondents

9. CONCLUSION

From the analysis, it is evident that there is some push and pull factors are responsible for migration to Kerala. The high wage rate in Kerala and the low wage rate in their respective states are the major factors responsible for migration. This should be read along with the inadequate infrastructural facilities and better working condition is the least affected factor for this kind of migration.

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