

Research Paper :

Impact of migration on women working as household maids in Jaipur city

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ABSTRACT

Migration of women along with men in search of employment has great influence on their lives. The present study was conducted in Jaipur city on migrated women who were working as household maids. The objective was to study the perceived impact of migration on their lives. Semi-structured interview schedule was used for data collection. The results were analyzed on the basis of comparison made regarding the perception of women before and after migration about selected parameters. The results showed a mixed impact of migration on their lives.

Key words : Women migration, Household maids, Impact of migration

Migration is an age old phenomenon. Internal migration of men from rural to urban areas has been prevalent through the ages. Adverse living conditions in rural areas and the search for employment have been the main reasons for driving thousands of people towards cities. However, of late, a major change in the migration pattern has been that the women have accompanied the men in their march towards the cities. Due to revolution in the area of transportation and communication the migration has become much easier than before. Literature on migration has only recently given appropriate recognition to the gender perspective of migration (Siddique, 2003). Blumberg (1991) suggests that women migrate for two reasons, for either greater empowerment or to increase economic opportunities. Rural areas of India are often more traditional culturally and women's levels of empowerment is lower in these areas than in urban areas. Therefore, a movement can be explained as based on a desire to increase their independence and power that would not be able to achieve in the rural areas.

Women are considered to be the custodian of family. When they accompany the men in migration, it has manifold consequences. They face a number of challenges at different stages of migration. Often, the young children accompany their mothers.

Of late, Jaipur city has become a popular destination of migratory population as it is developing at very fast pace and is well connected to almost all the big cities of the country. It is also offering employment opportunities not only to men but also to women. As men get employment in various skilled and semi-skilled jobs, the women find it most easy to work as household maids.

The present paper is an attempt to study the various

facets of migrated women working as household maids in Jaipur city.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Jaipur city which is the capital of Rajasthan. It is situated amidst Aravali hill ranges which girdle the city from three sides. It is directly linked with several big cities in and out of Rajasthan. Climatically, Jaipur is in sub-arid zone of India. Its main characteristics are high temperature, low rainfall and low relative humidity, which are good for health. Jaipur city is famous for its beauty and grandeur. Its tourist attraction and historical past are well known. Jaipur has been coming up as a major centre of trade, education, pilgrimage, industrial growth and state administrative machinery and attracting migration in a big way.

A two-stage sampling procedure was used to select the sample. At the first stage, the area of the study was selected while at the second stage, the respondents were selected through purposive sampling. Only those household maids who had migrated to Jaipur were included for the study. A total of 77 household maids constituted the sample for the study.

A self constructed semi-structured interview schedule was used for the data collection, which was validated and pre-tested in advance. The test-retest method was applied to determine the reliability of the tool. The reliability co-efficient was found to be 0.75. Face to face interviews were held with individual respondents for data collection. The data were analyzed through frequency distribution, percentages and rank orders. While interpreting the data, observations made during the data collection were also incorporated.