

RESEARCH PAPER

Regional migration of agriculture labour to other sectors in Bidar district of Karnataka: A factorial analysis using Garrett's Scale

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ABSTRACT

Round the world, migration is a way of life for many of the poor people and has been for centuries. Globalization has radically altered the scale of migration all over the world. People are now more aware of opportunities elsewhere and it has become easier for them to travel and get employment. In this context, this paper is concerned with circular migration between the agriculture and construction sectors in Karnataka. The seasonal migration of agricultural laborers is not a new phenomenon in Karnataka and India. Britishers had mobilized labour force for commercial crop production, mining and for other administrative purposes during their rule. As a result of the defective policies of agricultural development the regional disparity is increasing even after independence leading to the increase in the seasonal migration of agricultural laborers. Agricultural labourers, especially in smaller villages away from towns and cities, are generally unskilled workers carrying on agricultural operation in the centuries old traditional ways. Most agricultural workers belong to the depressed classes, which have been neglected for ages. This movement has some time helped them to get the benefits of growth and development. In the state of Karnataka there is a wide gap between South and North Karnataka as far as development is concerned and this regional disparity has become a political issue. Many social, economic, political and psychological reasons pull them to migrate for survival and improvement of livelihood. The work participation ratio of North Karnataka is even though less compare to South Karnataka but still the agriculture laborers migrating from agriculture to other sectors. This paper is an effort to identify some of the main causes for the agricultural labour migration from north Karnataka to south Karnataka and capital city of Telangana and Maharastra.

KEY WORDS : Agriculture labour, Bidar, Karnataka labour force, Regional migration

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Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and it occupies the major employment for the nation. Among the total population, 39.5 per cent of population comes under the labour force (includes both seeking job and working) in which 55.6 per cent of male and 22.5 per cent of female participating in the total labour force. In 1990-2000 work force (only working) was distributed and agriculture was having

highest share 59.92 per cent, as followed by service sector 23.74 per cent, secondary sector and construction (includes manufacturing, mining, electricity and water supply) 11.92 per cent and construction 4.42 per cent. Over the decades labours are changing their occupation from agriculture to others sectors because of various reasons. In 2011-12 labour force in agriculture was decreased 48.93 per cent but it shown tremendous increase in the areas like construction (10.58%), service sector (26.39%) and secondary sectors (13.67%). In Karnataka 43.0 per cent of population comes under the labour force and it is higher than the national labour force. The term migration was usually understood to cover all cases where the decision to migrate was taken freely by the individual concerned for reasons of “personal convenience” and without intervention of an external compelling factor; it therefore applied to persons, and family members, moving to another country or region to improve their material or social conditions and improve the prospect for themselves or their family. The United Nations defines migrant as, an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. Under such a definition, those travelling for shorter periods as tourists and business persons would not be considered as migrants. However, common usage includes certain kinds of shorter-term migrants, such as seasonal farm-workers who travel for short periods to work in planting or harvesting farm products.” Migration refers to the movement of people from one geographical location to another, either on a temporary or permanent basis (Ekong, 2003). The common observation all over the world one can see is that rural-urban migration is the dominant pattern of internal migration. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. People migrate in response to prevailing conditions and the reasons for it differ from one individual to another Agricultural labourers, especially in smaller villages away from towns and cities, are generally unskilled workers carrying on agricultural operation for the centuries old traditional wages. In some parts of India, agricultural labourers are migratory, moving in search of jobs at the time of harvesting, this type of migration influenced by many reasons.

Objective the paper :

To identify factors which influencing push and pull factors for the migration of agricultural labours.

Guido and Waldo (2010) reveal that the mathematics of a push-pull model are shown to incorporate many of Ravenstein’s laws of migration, to be equivalent to a quadratic transportation problem, and to be related to the mathematics of classical continuous flow models. These results yield an improved class of linear spatial interaction models. Empirical results are presented for one country.

Manon Domingues, Dos Santo Thiser (2000) analyses the dynamics of migratory flows and growth in a developing economy. They show that when workers freely choose their location, some natives can rationally decide to return to their home country after they have accumulated a certain amount of knowledge abroad, while some prefer to stay permanently in the same economy (either at home or abroad). They point out that worker mobility can have an expansionary effect on the developing economy. Moreover, we show that in the long-run, as the sending economy develops, fewer natives are likely to emigrate and more migrants are likely to return.

Shigemi Yabuuchia and Sarbajit Chaudhurib (2005) develops a three sector general equilibrium structure with diverse trade pattern and imperfection in the unskilled labour market to analyze the consequences of international mobility of skilled and unskilled labour on the skilled-unskilled wage inequality in the developing economies. The analysis finds that an emigration (immigration) of either type of labour is likely to produce a favorable effect on the wage inequality. In particular, the result of emigration (immigration) of skilled labour on the relative wage inequality is counterintuitive. These results have important policy implications for an overpopulated developing country like India.

Kumar and Sidhu (2005) attempt to identify the push and pull factors which influence workers’ inter-state migration, on the basis of perceptions of workers. A sample of 200 workers drawn from 25 brick-kilns located in three districts of Punjab was interviewed. This study found that industrial development, better job opportunities and comparatively higher wages in Punjab have emerged as the most important pull factors which motivate labour to migrate. But lack of development, inadequate agricultural land and poor economic conditions of family

forced laborers to migrate out of its native place. The study further found that economic factors have emerged more significant as compared to non-economic factors in the process of migration. Study recommends that in view of the slow absorption rate in the urban industrial sector, the labour migration should be regulated. Concrete plans and their effective implementation are necessary in order to reach the people.

METHODOLOGY

Karnataka is one of the fastest growing state in India and its having major three divisions viz., Bangalore division, Gulbarga division, Mysore division and Belgaum division and among these division the work participation ratio is highest in Mysore division (47.11) followed by the Bangalore division (46.45), Gulbarga division (44.67) and Belgaum division (43.47). When it comes to district wise work participation ratio Bidar district is having very less compared to other all districts in Karnataka and its work participation ratio is only 41.25 per cent, even though work participation ratio is very less and labours are migrating from agriculture labour to other sectors, so the Bidar district is selected for the study.

Sampling procedure :

The multistage random sampling technique has been used for the selecting the samples. In the first stage Bidar district has been taken for the study area and in the second stage two talukas viz., Bidar and Humnabad was selected. In the third stage five villages were selected in each Talukas. From each villages 5 respondent were selected. Primary data collected from the respondents with the help of pre tested schedules. Garrett's ranking technique is used for ranking the pull factors to know which of them are more influential and which is less influential in this internal regional migration.

Garrett's ranking technique :

To find out the most significant factor which influences the respondent, Garrett's ranking technique was used. As per this method, respondents have been asked to assign the rank for all factors and the outcome of such ranking has been converted into score value with the help of the following formula:

$$\text{Per cent position} = 100 (R_{ij} > 0.5) / N_j$$

where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for the i th variable by j th

respondents.

N_j = Number of variable ranked by j th respondents
The per cent position of each rank was converted to scores by referring to tables given by Garret and Woodworth (1969). Then for each factor, the scores of individual respondents were summed up and divided by the total number of respondents for whom scores were gathered. The mean scores for all the factors were ranked, following the decision criterion that higher the value the more important it will be in order of preference given by customers.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The majority of respondents are comes under the age of 31 to 40 year old and it accounts for 40 per cent, followed by the 41 to 50 year old (30%), 21 to 30 year old (20%) and 50 and above (10%) (Table 1). The male respondent was highest in the study and it accounts for 70 per cent and female respondent was 30 per cent, respectively. The education qualification of the respondent was taken and it shows that majority of the respondent was illiterate and that accounts for 40 per cent of the total respondents, secondly the primary level of education (30%) and followed by the high school level of education (20%) and PUC (10%). The annual income of the majority of the respondents was 50,000 to 1 lakh i.e. 40 per cent and five respondents was above 1,50,00 and it accounts for 10 per cent.

The Table 2 represents the reasons for migration and ranking has been made. Though there are many factors which are influencing the laborers to migrate. According to Garrett's ranking technique table total income is one of the most important reasons to migrate it got (74.20) of total score, because the daily wage rate in sectors like construction is higher than the agriculture labour, second foremost reason is seasonal based and it got the (5.80) of the total score, where the seasonal based employment is also pulling them to migrate to higher waged construction area which was ranked second in Garret ranking table. Literacy rate of Bidar district is getting better and the educated young people are preferring the other sectors as compare to agriculture and it got the score of 50.70, size of the land holding (45.80) also one of the important factor because the families in Bidar district are joint families and the average land handholding is very less to fulfill the family needs so it makes

agriculture labour to work in other sectors. Urbanization got the fifth ranking because urbanization turning the agriculture labour into construction labour because the many commercial stores constructions in the district. The others reason is climate because the climatic condition of the district were most of the people are dependent on the rain and the other climatic factors affecting the agriculture labour migrating to other sectors.

Conclusion :

The above study helps us to make some observation as below. The migrant laborers from bidar is becoming the main labour source to the construction sector in the cities and the construction works of the cities are pulling these laborers because of high wages. Migrated laborers are going to other region in good number for employment to fulfill their financial as well as social needs. Many of the social economic, political reasons are playing important

Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents

Demographics	No. of respondents	Percentage
Age		
21-30	10	20
31-40	20	40
41-50	15	30
50 and above	5	10
Gender		
Male	35	70
Female	15	30
Education qualification		
Illiterate	20	40
Primary school level	15	30
High school level	10	20
PUC	5	10
Annual income		
Below 50,000	10	20
50,000 – 1,00,000	20	40
1,00,000 – 1,50,000	15	30
Above 1,50,000	5	10

Table 2 : Garret's ranking table

Sr.No.	Variables	Score	Rank
1.	Income	74.20	I
2.	Seasonal based	65.80	II
3.	Education	50.70	III
4.	Size of land holding	45.80	IV
5.	Urbanization	37.70	V
6.	Climate	25.80	VI

role to pull them into migration by solving the financial and livelihood problem and improving their standard of living. Above ranking technique shows that out of all it is unemployment faced by the agricultural laborers in this region which is significantly influencing their migration to Telangana state and south parts of Karnataka.

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