

## Inter-State Migrant Labourers in Tamil Nadu: Issues, and Dimensions

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### **ABSTRACT**

Migration is not a new concept, since time immemorial people migrant one or the other reasons which are typically called push and pull factors. Push factors encourage people to leave their points of origin and settle elsewhere, while pull factors attract migrants to new areas. Unemployment, and underemployment, are the common push factors, while plenty of income-generation activities, better academic institutions, and health facilities are playing vital roles as effective pull factors. Although it is impossible to know precisely why each migrant decided to leave their place of origin to settle elsewhere for a short duration, or a longer period, it is possible to outline general push factors motivating emigration from different areas. Migration is defined as movement from one nation, dwelling, or area to another. Ever since the earliest humans commenced to banquet from Africa, humans have been on the move. Even today, 3.00% of the world's population, or at least 258 million people as of date live outside of their country of origin, it is either voluntary or forced, and migration has intensely formed our world. There are a variety of migrations have been identified by the researchers such as internal migration: moving within a state, nation, or continent, external migration: moving to a different state, country, or even continent, emigration: leaving one nation to move to another, immigration: moving into a new nation, return migration: moving back to where one has come from seasonal migration: moving with each period or in reply to work or weather circumstances ([www.nationalgeographic.org](http://www.nationalgeographic.org)). According to existing information, from the Census of India 2011, the number of internal migrations including inter-state migration thirty-six crore people are migrants claimed as more than one-third of the (37.00%) India's total population. People migrate to various states to find out about poverty reduction in families' remittance of money on one hand and several challenges are for them to come across in the place of settlement. This is one of the areas that Social Scientists in general and Sociologists, in particular, have in-depth research to understand through empiricism. There are over 34.87 lakh migrant laborers across the country who have settled in Tamil Nadu, out of them significant numbers of 7.13 lakh are women (Press Information Bureau, 2022) As per the census 2011, the total number of internal migrants in India is 36 crore or more than one-third (37.00%) of India's total population. The major origin states of internal migration are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Major destination states of

internal migration are Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Punjab. With this backdrop, this paper throws light on inter-state migration takes place in Tamil Nadu from a Sociological perspective since migration is the third decisive factor of population after fertility and mortality, Beyond these contributory factors, the social, cultural, economic, and political parameters too to be understood to explore the trend of social change, different issues of the migrants, and the dimensions given by the Everett Lee, and Ravenstein with help of their systematic theoretical approaches.

### Key Words

Unemployment	Internal Migration	Inter-state migration
Decisive factor	Cultural factor	Social Change
Decisive factor	Poverty reduction	Significant number
Push factors		

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### Introduction

Migration in common dialect is the movement of people from one place to another with the purpose of settling, forever or briefly, at a new location for a number of causes. The movement often occurs over long distances and from one nation to another is obviously known as external migration, but, internal migration implies that within their own nation physical movement of people takes place. Human migration is the third conclusive factor to know the population beyond the remaining two as fertility, and mortality. Migration is often related to better economic, social, health, and educational prosperity to form human capital at both individual and family levels. Migration of people certainly is in a position to provide a lot of chances as a compact mechanism to enhance skills, expansion of knowledge, income generation activities, learn new cultures, and find ways to adapt themselves to innovation, and so on. Ultimately, human development is unmeasurable from material cultures alone, since it consists of different yardsticks such as child development, gender equality, and access the resources as positive notes on the one hand and eliminating poverty, and gender disparity in various forms on the other hand. Sociologists visualize there are countless elements, and aspects of culture, each can be branded as either material or nonmaterial culture. Material culture comprises all the physical things that people create and

attach meaning to. Dress, nourishment, tools, and construction are examples of material culture that greatest people would think of. Usual objects and materials rock, dirt, and trees aren't considered to be part of material culture. Though, how people view natural objects and how they use them are. Nonmaterial culture includes creations and abstract ideas that are not embodied in corporal objects. In other words, any insubstantial products created and shared between the members of a culture over time are aspects of their nonmaterial culture. Social roles, rules, ethics, and beliefs are just some examples. All of them are key guides for members of a culture to use to know how to behave in their society and understand the world to guide them to move from one destination to another to incorporate within them to change their social, economic, cultural, and other kinds of ambiances to make the difference between migrants and non-migrants across the world.

To learn more about the migration of people as an age-old phenomenon touching almost every society everywhere the globe. Nevertheless, they have changed over time in significant ways. Fact-finding shifts in scale, direction, demography, and incidence can help us comprehend how migration is sprouting and can inform current policies, programs, and functioning replies on the ground. The United Nations' global estimate is that there are around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6% of the world's population. This is a small minority of the world's population, meaning that staying within one's country of birth remains, overwhelmingly, the norm. Without a second thought, migration is a multifaceted issue.

If we look into India's situation, nearly eighteen million Indians are abroad, and to claim that our country is the origin of more international migrants than any other country in the world and is being considered as the major diaspora in the entire globe. If we see Indians in USA, we can learn that a significant proportion of the immigration from India to the USA began only after 1965, when the USA plunged national-origin quotas that favoured Europeans. Today, Indians make up the nation's second-largest foreign-born collection. Normally, they are inclined to be very well educated: 80.00% have at least a college degree and nearly 50.00% are graduates or professional degree holders (Migration Policy Institute, 2023).

So, migration provides thought-provoking ideas for researchers, statisticians, academics, activists, and policy-making institutions to make formidable action-oriented programs to find the way for the peaceful, prosperous, and planning orientation of the migrated people. In this context, inter-state migration is the key to knowledge from which states most people migrate and where more migrators are settled down, which age groups are migrating, remittance of money, frequency of visits to the place of origination, and the issues of them, dimensions from different angles are need of the hour.

### **Review of Literature**

The researcher has well aware of the review of literature is a logical work that helps him to relook into the existing studies on interstate migrant workers and to identify the strength, weaknesses, research gaps, theoretical building, and trends of the research and to frame the objectives. In this scenario, the researcher provides the background information on the inter-

state migrant workers, establishes the ideas on the importance of the topic, determines the familiarity, and carves out the learned discussion in depth. For instance, population pressure always motivates the people dwelling in villages to push them towards the urban areas to convert their economy from a farm-based to an industrial industry-cum-urban ambiance. This process is visualized as third-world countries, and Asia Pacific region's unnatural consequence of the developmental process on the one hand and a chance for inappropriate planning for the policymakers at the local, regional, district, and state levels (UN ESCAPE, 1991). Within the migration, the gender role is significant when the males migrate to remit money from Kerala to the middle east leading to changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns, like possession of land, housing, amenities for families, and the nutritious and well-being status of the members of the families (Zachariah and Rajan, 2001). Most of the literature surveys state the remittance of money by the migrants, but there is a lack of information or petite data on this particular aspect in the Indian context, it was found amongst the migrant workers of Uttar Pradesh are unable to send the money since they are changing the jobs frequently and the women find the difficulties to manage the financial insecurity (Jetley, 1987). The expectation of the families from an economic point of view is unfulfilled for the time being and it may be comes true in the later stages of migrant workers. Canadian-American Economist, Diplomat, and Public Official John Kenneth Galbraith (1908-2006), describes migration as ***the oldest action against poverty***. In this similar line of thinking of the male migration on females, there are research findings narrating that internal and international

migration of male workers physically splits millions of female spouses and others in the respective families in developing countries. We can understand the economic welfares that out-migration brings to the families in origin communities (De Brauw and Rozelle, 2008; Mberu, 2006; Taylor et al., 2003). But, male out-migration also principals to married separation and family disturbance, inspiring stress among the female counterparts left behind. The nonappearance of the husbands also brings thoughtful vicissitudes in the lives of wives staying behind by increasing their workloads (Mu and Van de Walle, 2011) and family responsibilities on the one hand (Gulati, 1993), and yielding more executive power and independence to the wives on the other hand (Desai and Banerji, 2008; Hadi, 2001). While the augmented assignments and responsibilities can create physical strain, the improved economic environments and boosted independence could be promising for the health of left-behind wives.

Migration from another dimension establishes the regional disparities, when one see the Lee's theory (1965) discloses that the volume of migration within a given area varies with the point of variety of areas included in that area to reiterates that the financial matter is the basic motive behind most of the migration. According to Mukheji, (1993) with regard to inter-state migration and regional disparities in India came to know that in our country even in recent past inter-state migration of the men for employment, as well as of women is still very much linked with the underdevelopment, scarcity, spatial incompetence, regional inequalities, social variations, rural inaction, rural neglect and instable regional growth over nationwide interplanetary

which encourages him to write that in India, people are still primarily migrating just for the existence.

A research which has been carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, 1991) concludes that migration from rural to urban areas continues at a speedy stride in many nations of the region, and it was often outside the volume of urban centres, which include towns, cities and metropolitan extents to manage with the enhancing migrating people. In this regard, as of today, across the world, migration is backing to monetary and social growth by allowing males to find out the solutions to the problems face the households concerned. The migration is scaled as changing nature of household economy positively country like India and other developing nations is notable aspect.

The role played by migration in socio-economic development necessitates since its form and role have changed somewhat over time. Migration is a healthy procedure serving to improve relations between man's numbers and his physical environment or to reduce disparity between communities or regions in different stages of development, or to give rise to an increase in the overall output (Spengler and Myers, 1977). Lucas (1977) has done the research to state that the role of population migration in indorsing economic advance through increased effectiveness of resources distribution and some aspect of distributional implications.

From the observations made some of the authors classifies that the social security, health benefits, minimum safety standards, basic amenitie, and cultural barriers. Dyson and Visaria (2004) observe that in India



migration is more urban oriented, but progressively happen within expanding regional urban system. Deshingkar and Start (2003) accomplish that seasonal and circular migration of labour for employment has become one of the strongest components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas. The progression of migration is related to the idea of development. In other words, development activities are met with the quick response in terms of people's mobility (Yadava, 2002). Kulkarni (1985) while analysing the census data classifies that there is substantial internal migration in India, more than one-third the population migrates at least once in their life time and beyond one-tenth has moved during a specific decade. In terms of capacity, most of the migrants are females and these are mostly because of marriage. Within the kind of migration is concerned the seasonal and circular migration are in the scale which comes under push and pull factors as well.

### **The research gap**

The preceding discussions sketch out that migration takes place most parts of the Indian context for many reasons in general and find out the solutions to the economic prosperity of the households in particular. The researchers find that male dominant migration creates in conveniences to the women to maintain the families and immediate economic benefits are somewhat difficulties during the early days, months, and years of internal migration. Most of the women migration because of marriage and rural to urban migration is the strongest in connection with making the urban economy is wealthier and pressurization on urban dwelling and insecurity. In

this connection, this article wishes to underline the problems of the migrant labourers, dimensions of them, future perspectives and so on.

### **Methodology**

This paper has been written on the basis of case studies conducted in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu during the months of December, and January 2023. Several rounds of visits to the residential areas of the migrant labourers living in Annur, and Suler in Tamil Nadu. Fifteen respondents have been interviewed with the help of interview guide, and in this process the snowball sampling technique has been used to identify the inter-state migrant workers.

### **Discussion and Findings**

Out of 15 respondents who have been studied systematically six from Rajasthan, five from Manipur, and the remaining four from Assam. The six respondents who have come from Rajasthan their age groups are: varies from 21 – 45, all of them are doing fixing the tiles, construction works, sometimes working under the contractors. They are well connected with many of the tiles, ceramics shops, and hardware merchants. While doing their work they skip the lunch and starting the work before 9 am and completes their work in the late evening around 7 or 8 pm. In between the course of work the researcher finds that hard work, sincerity, commitment, and adaptability to nature of work is the key aspects of them. All the six are married and no has brought their spouses to the place of destination and they move around the Coimbatore district. They remit the money mostly once in fifteen days to their respective families and two of them are interested to go back to their native

places within five years duration. Their level of education is Illiterates: 2, Primary Education: 2, high school education: 2. All six have inter-relations and social networks, and they never accept other than the tiles fixing jobs. The push factors such poverty, lack of employment chances, poor lifestyles, health aspects of the family members, and loving of work are the contributory factors to come to Coimbatore. A senior most among them is working more than fifteen years in Coimbatore district and he is responsible to bring all the remaining five respondents. He has networking with the nine contractors and builders who are consistently providing employment chances without any break. All the six are living in Rathinapuri areas somewhat manage the language of Tamil. They realize that finding the dwelling house for them is difficult since mistrust develop the house owners in the city, and district is concerned.

The remaining nine respondents who have come from north east working in miscellaneous jobs as unclassified. Four of them working in hotels, car mechanic shops and all of them living with their spouses. Two of their wives working in beauty parlours to add the additional income. All the nine have well acquainted with local friends to run the tiny business like fish selling.

The purpose of this research is identifying the problems of them and the researcher understands that adjustment, adaptability, aim of them are keeping peaceful, and making economic contrition to their families.

## **Conclusion**

Coimbatore is an industrial town and neighbouring areas have business sectors attract the migrants from backward areas where employment opportunities are very less. The inter-state migrant labourers who have been interviewed are comfortable, finding their work consistently, without any inconveniences.

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