

Factors Responsible for Migration of Tribal Families

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ABSTRACT

For the first time since independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas as per census 2011 which indicates that the extent of migration from rural area has been increasing. In Gujarat, migration is not a new phenomenon. It has been observed since long in the tribal populated districts viz. Dangs, Tapi, Narmada, Dahod and Valsad where more than 50 percent of the population is tribal. The present study was carried out in two purposively Talukas (blocks) of Dahod district of Gujarat state of India. The study revealed that Selected Availability of diverse work opportunities is the first and most significant pull factor with maximum percentage which motivates the tribal families to migrate followed by low wages in tribal area (95.00 per cent), poor economic condition (81.66 per cent) and lack of basic amenities (54.16 per cent) and on other hand lack of employment opportunities in tribal area is most significant push factor responsible for tribal migration followed by more income than MANREGA (64.16 per cent).

Keywords: Migration, Push factor, Pull factor, Tribal families

INTRODUCTION

Migration is inevitable in the process of economic development (Afsar, 2003; Ballard, 2005). There exists a two-way causation between migration and economic development. Migration induces economic development while economic development induces further migration. Migration can be of two types: international migration and internal migration. International migration deals with migration across the countries of the world, while internal migration deals with migration

within the national boundary of a country (Zohry, 2005). There are four streams of internal migration which are rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban. Migration is a global phenomenon caused not only by economic factors, but also by social, political, cultural, environmental, health, education and transportation factors. It commonly takes place because of the push factor of less opportunities in the socio-economic situation and also because of pull factors that exist in more developed areas.

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In the Indian context, seasonal migration is not a new phenomenon and the issue has been researched at length by many scholars either from the viewpoint of migration or non-farm employment (Cali & Menon, 2013; Deshingkar and Start, 2003; Haberfeld et al. 1999). Breman (1996) has written at length about seasonal migration in South Gujarat (India) since 1970. He argues that the main reason for increased seasonal migration is the decline in agricultural employment and landless tribal households in this region. Further, he points out that increased urbanization in Gujarat has attracted these individuals to migrate on a short-term basis to work in the informal sector. This diversification strategy has helped households in sustaining their livelihoods. Mosse (2005) argued that seasonal migration has become an “irreversible part of the livelihoods of rural adivasi communities in western India” (p. 3025).

With this in view, the present investigation was undertaken with the following objective.

- To study the factors responsible for migration among tribal families

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in two purposively selected talukas of Dahod district of Gujarat State viz; Jhalod and Limkheda. From each selected taluka, six villages were selected randomly, out of which 60 respondent tribal families were selected with proportionate random sampling. Thus, total 120 respondent tribal families were selected for the study. Ex-Post Fcto research design was used (Kerlinger 1976). An interview schedule was developed in accordance with the objective of the study. The data were collected through personal interview. For studying these factors, the list was provided to the respondents and they were asked to indicate the factor/s responsible for

their migration by putting a tick mark. The frequencies were then obtained and rank was assigned from highest to lowest.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The outcome of the study has been presented here after applying appropriate statistical analysis. The results have been described under the following sub heads in the light of the objectives of the study.

3.1 Factors responsible for migration among tribal families

Migration among tribal families is caused by certain factors which can be grouped in to two: push factors and pull factors. As the name itself indicates, push factors push the tribal people from their native place to migrate, while pull factors are the attractions at the place to be migrated which pull or attract the tribal people towards that place. With this in view, factors responsible for migration were studied. The data in this regard were collected from the respondents which are presented in Table 3.1

As seen from the Table 3.1, the major important push factors realized by the respondent tribal families for migration were: lack of employment opportunities in tribal area (100 per cent), low wages in tribal area (95.00 per cent), poor economic condition (81.66 per cent) and lack of basic amenities (54.16 per cent). The other push factors were drought/ famine/ crop failure (42.50 per cent) and landlessness (07.50 per cent). The major pull factors i.e. attractions at the place of migration as realized by the respondents were availability of diverse work opportunities (91.66 per cent), and more income than MANREGA (64.16 per cent). The other pull factors were: family welfare purpose (34.16 per cent), better education (29.16 per cent), better social status (14.16 per cent), better scope for marriage (12.50 per cent) and better health care services (10.00 per cent).

Table 3.1: Factors responsible for migration among tribal families n=120

No.	Factors or reasons responsible	Frequency	Per cent	Rank
A	Push factors			
1	Lack of employment opportunities in tribal area	120	100.00	I
2	Low wages in tribal area	114	95.00	II
3	Lack of basic amenities	65	54.16	VI
4	Drought/ Famine/ Crop failure	51	42.50	VII
5	Poor economic condition	98	81.66	IV
6	Landlessness	09	07.50	XIII
B	Pull factors			
1	Better education	35	29.16	IX
2	Better health care services	12	10.00	XII
3	Availability of diverse work opportunities	110	91.66	III
4	More income than MANREGA	77	64.16	V
5	Better scope for marriage	15	12.50	XI
6	Family welfare purpose	41	34.16	VIII
7	Better social status	17	14.16	X

CONCLUSION

Overall, it can be concluded that major factors responsible for migration among tribal families were lack of employment opportunities in tribal area, low wages in tribal area, and availability of diverse work opportunities at migration place and poor economic condition which ranked first, second, third and fourth, respectively.

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