

A study on the perception and problems of migrant workers in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.

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Abstract

There is no wide general policy on the issues, problems and limitations faced by the inter-state migrant workers live and work in different states. Most of the migrant workers are from the West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. Only male respondents are covered in this study. The more number of respondents are from West Bengal. The factors such as Happy life, Good savings, Self Reliance, Freedom of Life, Type of stay, Work satisfaction and Be a permanent resident of Kerala are significant. The study pointed to the problem areas of migrants. Among the problems undefined working hours, no Insurance coverage and no medical facility were consecutively ranked.

Key words: Migrant Workers, problems, perceptions, challenges etc..

Introduction

The workers, who migrated to Kerala are facing various challenges, different maltreatment, abuse including they receive much lower wages and work longer hours than local labourers. They are the labour force move from some other states to Kerala for an unskilled work for their livelihood. Majority of the workers are experienced with unpleasant living conditions and sickness. The lack of an inclusive national labour policy to include the migrant workers inside the country states, who are exposed to a number of constraints in getting benefits on the security of the states where they live and work. They are not the beneficiaries of the government welfare programmes.

There are casual work provisions, inadequate social fortification and perilous work environment, including soaring incidence of inadvertent deaths are an omnipresent element. At present, there are more than 25 lakh of migrant workers, who live in Kerala state (**Indian express July 18, 2018**). Majority of migrant workers are from north east states including West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

They are paid comparatively lesser wages and efforts are lengthy than the locals. Somewhere, they face problems including as default or deferred or late payments. The builder's industry of the state is completely depending upon the migrant labour, who are in the major share of workers in the Kerala state. Unfortunately, there is no system to convey their complaints and problems.

Review of literature

Ashok, Shruthi., and Thomas, Neena. (2014) The floating population as mentioned refers to the migrant labourers belonging to Economically Weaker migrate from one state to the other in search of better jobs, facilities & better quality of life and they have less work days and lesser wages but satisfied with lesser wages than the native workers. They are satisfied with unclean water and inadequate sanitation facilities because majorities are illiterate, 75% of them received below primary level education.

Constant, Roberts, and Zimmermann (2009) their study have shown that the migrant workers have to be absorbed or incorporated households are more apt to have a residence than their marginalization for a specified position of socioeconomic and demographic features.

Drydakis. (2012) the study has found that the migration - absorption and incorporation dramatically raise the immigrant's pay, where severance and marginalization are come down.

Akinola. et. al. (2014) their study have revealed that the problems of justness, non-discrimination, the terms of ethnically knowledgeable care to migrants, distribution of limited resources, and attuning an equilibrium between settlement and risk for migrants.

Gorinas. (2014) the study has shown that there the first-generation migrants encompass considerably enhanced pay outcomes, but that immigrant employment is almost impassive by cultural characteristics.

India Today. (2017) report has said informal work arrangements, limited social protection and hazardous work conditions, including high incidence of accidental deaths were a pervasive feature. It was pointed out that workers from other state receive significantly lower wages and work much longer hours when compared to locals and even face issues such as non-payment or delayed payments.

Zabeer.et. al. (2019) their study was conducted among 400 workers,withsurvey containing socio-demographic detailsand the elements of Quality of Life. The statistical analysis shown that the workers have higher wages had upper mean scores.The Migrantlabourers in the construction industry had deprived physical, social, and mentalhealth and recommend strategies to improve their life.

Research Gap

The study is the first research conducted about the perception and problems of migrant workers in the state of Kerala, based on Trivandrum. Most of the studies conducted among different parts of the world or in India concentrate on the migrant workers different problems. The present study concentrates to find out the migrant labourers perception about work in Kerala and the problems faced by them during their employment.

Statement of the problem

Once again, Kerala became a gridof interstate migration. Whenever, wherever a contractor plan to start a new construction work, they approach or agents approach them to getfixed to hire workers from the neighboring states as well as from distant states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal. The migration of worker force to Kerala attracted due to thereductionin the youth workforce in the state because of the demographicshift in the state, the demand for upper wages and ability of Kerala workers to live with remittances from relatives for long periods support them to live with no work, no income, the Kerala people’s unwillingness to do tough physical labour. The contract system of employment isapparently increased inDistrict of Trivandrum,Kerala. Their working time and insurance coverage are still not addressed by either by any stakeholders or the state than the general available welfare conditions.

Objectives

- i) To analyse the socio – demographic profile of the migrant labourer respondents in Trivandrum, Kerala.
- ii) To ascertain the various problems of the migrant workersin Trivandrum, Kerala.
- iii) To analyse the perceptions of the migrant labourersin Trivandrum, Kerala.

Scope of the study

This paper aims to study the problems and perceptions of the migrant labourers in Trivandrum, Kerala. The area of study includes all the commercial sectors where the outside labourers are employed in the District. The needs of respondent migrant labourers are different from the local labourers. Health, environmental parameters and even money is not a problem for them. They work and live in the same place without the knowledge of privileges they are entitled to get. A large number of the labourers are suffering from contagious diseases due to lack of sanitation and healthy environment. The contract system of employment is increased in the Trivandrum District, Kerala State. The native workers are well structured and happen as expected in receivingupright wages and working environment. Awareness programs are being conducted by the state for the migrant workers.

Research Methodology& Design

The paper aims to study the perception and problems of migrant workers in TrivandrumDistrict, Kerala.

Research Design

The research design of the study isprepared in accordance with the compilation and analysisof thedata. The study conducted is descriptive. Both the primary and the secondary sourcesare used for data mobilization. The opinion of the respondents is collected using a structured questionnaire. Secondary data includes different Magazines, Journals, News Papers and Online resources, etc., The survey sample is collected by stratified random within the geographical limits of Trivandrum, Kerala. The sample size is 120 respondents.

Statistical tools used

The analysis consists of the tools such as simple percentage and ANOVA .

Analysis & Interpretation

Table No.1
Socio- Demographic Profile

Sl.No	Particulars	Number of Respondents	Per cent	Cumulative percent
1.	Gender			
	Male	120	100	100
2.	State of Origin			
	Tamil Nadu	12	10	
	Odisha	24	20	
	West Bengal	48	40	

	Bihar	6	.05	100
	Assam	17	10	
	Uttar Pradesh	3	.025	
	Madhya Pradesh	3	.025	
	Total	120	100	
3.	Income			
	10000-25000	25	79	
	25000 & above	95	21	100

Source: Primary Data

According to Table No.1 out of 120 respondents, most of the respondents 48 are (40 per cent) from West Bengal. Other respondents 24 are (20 per cent) from Odisha, 12 are (10 per cent) from Tamil Nadu, 6 are (0.5 per cent) from Bihar, 17 are (15 per cent) from Assam, 3 are (0.25 per cent) from Uttar Pradesh and 3 are (0.25 per cent) from Madhya Pradesh.

Table No.2
Problems of the Migrant Workers

Sl.No	Problems of the migrant workers.	Total	score	Mean	Rank
1	Less wages	120	505	4.21	5
2	Hazardous work environment	120	465	3.88	11
3	Lack of Insurance coverage	120	550	4.58	2
4	No medical facility	120	542	4.52	3
5	No proper accommodation	120	485	4.04	10
6	No social acceptance	120	500	4.17	9
7	Undefined working hours	120	575	4.79	1
8	Language problems	120	492	4.10	8
9	Psychological pain due to nostalgia	120	502	4.18	6
10	No Job security	120	495	4.13	7
11	No proper diet	120	467	3.87	12
12	Lack of personal hygiene	120	425	3.54	13
13	Susceptibility of public and authority	120	515	4.29	4

Source: Primary Data

According to Table No.2, among different Problems of the Migrant Workers, less wages ranked as 5, Hazardous work environment ranked as 11, no Insurance coverage ranked as 2, no medical facility ranked as 3, no proper accommodation ranked as 10, no social acceptance 9, undefined working hours ranked as 1, Language problems ranked as 8, Nostalgic Issues ranked as 6, no job security ranked as 7, no proper diet ranked as 12, no proper cleanliness ranked as 13 and the susceptibility of public & authority ranked as 4.

Ho: Income associated with the perceptions of migrant labours.

Table No.3
ANOVA Test

Sl.No	Particulars	P.Value	Significance/Insignificance
1	Happy life	.001*	Significant
2	Good savings	.028*	Significant
3	Dignity in the society	.066*	Insignificant
4	Self Reliance	.048*	significant

5	Freedom of Life	.00**	Significant
6	Type of stay	.04*	Significant
7	Work satisfaction	.049*	significant
8	Benefits of Migration	0.89	Insignificant
9	Be a permanent resident of Kerala	.001*	Significant
*Level of Significance @5%		**Level of Significance @1%	

*Source: Primary Data

According to Table No.3, factors such as Happy life, Good savings, Self Reliance, Freedom of Life, Type of stay, Work satisfaction, Be a permanent resident of Kerala are significant and Dignity in the society and the benefits of Migration are Insignificant factors to the perceptions of the migrant labours.

Findings

- All the respondents are male.
- Most of the respondents(48 per cent) are from West Bengal.
- The factors such as Happy life, Good savings, Self Reliance, Freedom of Life, Type of stay, Work satisfaction, Be a permanent resident of Kerala are significant and dignity in the society, benefits of Migration are Insignificant factors to the perceptions of the migrant labours.
- Among different Problems of the Migrant Workers, less wages ranked as 5, Hazardous work environment ranked as 11, no Insurance coverage ranked as 2, no medical facility ranked as 3, no proper accommodation ranked as 10, no social acceptance 9, undefined working hours ranked as 1, Language problems ranked as 8, Nostalgic Issues ranked as 6, no job security ranked as 7, no proper diet ranked as 12, no proper cleanliness ranked as 13 and the susceptibility of public authority ranked as 4.

Limitation

- The study covers only the respondents and their employment were not considered.
- The migrants are reluctant to open out their opinion freely.
- The study not covered any topics related to reduce the flow of migrant problems.

Future scope of the study

The future scope of the study includes the further investigation on sector wise employees problems and perceptions. Likewise state wise migrants problems and perceptions can be studied. Gender wise, state wise, education, organized sector and unorganized sector can be considered for further study.

Suggestions

- The migrants should have a platform to express their difficulties.
- There should be an office in every place for the help of migrants.
- The authorities should consider the migrants issues and make solution to it immediately.

Conclusion

The migrant labours are one of the important factor in the economy of Kerala. But they are treated without any human consideration. They are eligible for good diet, accommodation, social status and dignity for their life. The authorities and public should take initiative to bring them to mainstream of the society rather than using as a human resource for various tasks.

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