

Name of the Research Scholar: Suvendu Barik

Name of the Supervisor: Dr. Mirza Allim Baig

Department: Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science, Jamia Millia Islamia

Title of the Thesis: Rural to Urban Migration and Informal Employment: A Case Study of Slums of Cuttack City, Odisha.

Keywords: Migration, Employment, Socio-Economic Conditions, Living Conditions, Reasons for Migration, Income Differentials, Social Security and Awareness of Informal Workers.

Abstract

Migration is a common phenomenon to all types of species due to any kind of favourable or unfavourable conditions or reasons. Unlike migration of species which happens primarily due to some biological needs or environmental conditions, migration of the human being is a very complex phenomenon and it depends on different factors, like the personal, social, cultural, economic, political, environmental and psychological factors.

No doubt, migration is a vital component of struggle for survival by the poor, which entails both costs and benefits for migrants and their families. It has potentially growth producing and poverty reducing impacts. Lack of gainful employment coupled with poverty in rural areas has pushed people out of their villages in search of a better existence in the cities of developing countries particularly in India. Generally, these groups of people do not possess the skills which enable them to find well-paid secured employment in the formal sector. As a result, they forced to live in slums and get engaged in the informal sector.

Therefore, the proper understanding of the role of internal migration in the dynamics of informal urban labour employment assumes paramount importance. In this context; it is very important to study different issues pertaining to informal employment of the migrant workers. A case study will provide real problems around the issues of the migration and informal employment. For this purpose, slums of Cuttack city are chosen. The Cuttack city is one of the oldest cities of Odisha, which provides mass informal employment from its inceptions.

In this context, the broad objective of the study is to identify the factors of migration and a comparative study of migrant and non-migrant informal workers. The general objective of the research is to understand the relationship between increasing migration and increase in the informal sector activities, and how that impact on people's livelihoods in the city. More specifically, the study seeks to understand how this situation is linked to the rural conflict in Cuttack. In this regard, present study tries to analyses the differences exists between the migrants and non-migrants informal workers in the context of socio-economic and living conditions, reason for migration, current patterns of employment, income differentials, available social security benefits and the awareness about the various programmes available to them.

In this study, the objectives are based on an in-depth household level primary survey, which is conducted in Slums of Cuttack city of Odisha. The scope of the survey is limited to 470 numbers of household heads. The household heads are chosen on the basis of their present occupation in the informal sector. The informal sector occupation includes self-employment, wage employment and casual labourers. The household level information on migration status, employment status, wages, remittance etc., has been collected through a structured questionnaire. A multistage stratified sampling method has been applied to choose the households. The statistical analysis of the data are conducted using mainly, the correlation, factor analysis, ANOVA, multiple regression and logistic regression models.

The analysis and findings of the study experienced that the informal workers (particularly the slum dwellers) lacks the basic facilities; like the electricity, toilets, sanitation, drinking water, etc in the urban areas. *The government should ensure these basic facilities to the citizens.* The policy authority should extend social security, education and health facilities to these vulnerable classes of the society. This study also experienced that the migration is mostly driven by the demand pull/economic factors, the policy authority should *ensure jobs/ employment opportunities* at rural level to discourage migration to urban areas, particularly, MGNREGS and PMGSY. It is suggested that if the coverage under such schemes are wider, then these vulnerable groups of the society will be benefitted.

The most important findings of the study is that the average income of the migrants is more than that of non-migrants. The relatively more average income of the migrants comes from the risky jobs. Again, the range of income is very high, with the zero level of income of some of the workers in both the groups. Therefore, policy authority has *to provide minimum subsistence level of income* (either based on the consumer price index or household consumption expenditure method in every financial year) to the informal workers.

The study also finds that the informal workers are not aware of the various on going social security and pension protected schemes, even the participation rate is very low due to lack of confidence and money. Therefore, there is a greater need to *make people aware about the various government schemes* either through the ‘Panchayati Raj System’ in rural or ‘Municipality System’ in urban areas for the poorer section of the society. Most of the informal workers do not have written job contracts even if some of them are working in formal sector, and hence they are deprived of regular benefits and rights. Again, these workers do not have any union or association. Therefore, their *issues relating to job security and exploitations by the employers should be taken seriously* by the government.

However, in general, the informal sector workers, both migrants and non-migrants need greater attentions at micro level for their upliftment in the modern society. The study concludes with the observations of UN General Assembly in September 2015 that there are four crucial pillars of the Decent Work, i.e. employment creation, social protection, rights at work and the social dialogue. Thus, the government or the policy formulating agencies or institutions in India may *consider the Decent Work Policy Framework* for the large informal sector workers.