

Causes for Agricultural labour Migration in Tamil Nadu



Agriculture

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ABSTRACT

Every human being needs food, shelter and clothing for their livelihood. To earn for the livelihood he seeks the places where Agricultural Labour can earn his daily bread. In a vast country like India, where unequal distribution of resources exist, It is inevitable for the agricultural labour to find a place ideal to him. There is always uncertainty on the farm works and if the off season, it is unable to feed the labour sumptuously hence as an alternative he starts migrating to an ideal place suitable for him. All over the world though migration occurs, there are many specific reasons for Tamil Nadu agricultural laborers to migrate. A study made to achieve this objective revealed that all the laborers prefer to migrate due to poor salary. In a situation of unemployment, when there is not even a single organization to assist temporarily or professionally, as a stop-gap arrangement agricultural laborers shift their place out of necessity.

Even absence of social status too makes a person to migrate next in order. In a situation, where a labour has maintained a status for a period, if there is a shift toward, negative level the attitude is very much affected to bow his head before to others. Hence even with a prestige satisfaction long working hours and bad working conditions too chase an agricultural labour from his niche.

Introduction

Labour migration is a boon as well as bane for a developing nation. Since, it is affecting people surviving in a territory overcrowding and it is a way of competing for resources in a locality. This leads to unhealthy health hazards in a territory too like pollution, slum development etc.

In India labour migration is the order of the day. Many studies have been made on industrial labour migration and the valid reasons have been found out On the agricultural operations side, so far none has studied the migration by workers from Agricultural works.

Importance of Agricultural operations

An observation about the farm practices will reveal, majority of farming activities are confined to a particular season. All crops do not need the agriculture labour uniformly in the different stages of their crop growth. Moreover, where there is adequate rainfall, irrigation work may not be required. If it is summer and crop free period, farmer may not need more labour. Hence, this uncertainty on labour needs makes the life of agricultural laborers to consider alternate options.

Poor resources

We can observe farm laborers run a simple life without adequate savings to meet all their needs in a period of crisis. A vast majority of farm work labour force rely solely on their daily wages for survival.

Study focus

In order to assess the various reasons for which labour migrate from agricultural works, a study was carried out among agricultural laborers in Tamil Nadu. A simple random sampling technique was followed to choose 50 respondents belonging to various districts of Tamil Nadu.

In this study, an attempt was made to enlist various causes for migration is presented in Table No.1.

This study revealed that all the agricultural laborers preferred to chose migration if there is no adequate salary, for a longer period.

Table No 1. Causes for labour Migration from Agriculture N = 50

S.No	Reason	Mean	Remark
1.	Poor Salary	1.6	1
2.	Unemployment	2.30	2

3	Absence of Social statuses	4.57	3
4.	Lack of job security	5.55	4
5.	Poor job satisfaction	5.90	5
6.	Lengthy working hours	8.08	6
7.	Bad working condition	9.32	7

Source: Primary Data

This might be due to their poor savings and commitments to meet family basic needs. In agriculture we can't provide all through the year a continuous employment, as it is offered in Mills.

Even in a big farm, this status quo in maintained.

Moreover, a farm labour who has a special skill, will expect more yet, it has been legally accepted to provide continuous employment for permanent workers.

Unemployment, is often quoted reason for labour quitting agriculture, a place where unemployed workers exist, Labour unrest may be developed, due to mental tension. Majority of agricultural laborers quoted, it as a problem and opted for Migration.

"In place, every worker also leads a satisfying life and posses status, too. Due to problem of unemployment or poor salary, when a danger comes to his social status, he is compelled to migrate", the study revealed.

On job security reasons and poor job satisfaction reasons agricultural laborers shift from agricultural works and it is next to absence of social status.

By seeing their counter parts in other industries and contract employment providing job security an agricultural laborers in attracted towards such jobs since their job security aspects are satisfactory. Moreover, the drudgery involved in the farm operation i.e. making the worker feel exhausted after the day also encouraged him to consider other alternatives, which he could not cope up with the tempo of hardships.

There is also a problem of lengthy working hours involved in some situation like harvesting and sowing for the farm workers. During such occasions, they can neither come out nor leave the job and out of strain carry out the tasks, but they may not be suitable rewarded as very rarely over time allowances are offered. Hence this is cited as a cause for migration.

In all the industrial settings, the environmental safety and legal issues are governed by separate officials. No such things exist in farm front. It is always having bad working condition and need lot of patience and stamina. As the age advances, some may not cope up. Hence they opt for migration due to this issue.

Conclusion

Agricultural labour migration is a challenge to be solved. By knowing the reasons or the needs for what they shift, planners can suitably evolve strategies. In a way they are similar to in-

dustrial workers in their shifting pattern. Of the reasons quoted poor salary, unemployment, social status not available are prime considerations to jump out of agriculture.

In additions lack of security, poor job satisfaction, lengthy working hours and bad working conditions are often quoted valid reasons for the agricultural laborers to prefer other avenues. This crisis needs priority on the national level, For labour management to support agriculture properly.

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