A STUDY

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF LABOUR MIGRANT AT DESTINATION
New Delhi

By:

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BACKGROUND:

Sohawal and Amaniganj block in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh are very much deprived in terms employment, agricultural production, marketing and rural development. Social negligence and high prevalence of caste rigidity leads to forced migration of the landless labourers. The organization (PANI) conducted a pilot survey in these two blocks for one year to understand the causative factors in the high migration pockets.

The major destination of the labourers ends at Delhi, in the Naraina Industrial Area. During the implementation of Migration project data was collected and analysed. Through the data analysis it was found that out of 11052 migrant people's 28.54% migrants migrated to New Delhi in Narayana Loha Mandi to work as daily wage labors and they are purely un-skilled laborers. The survey data indicates that the highest migration to Delhi for the source point. To cover the objective of the project rise a thinking to study the migrant situation of destination points Narayana Loha Mandi, New Delhi.

OBJECTIVE:
• To assess the status of basic amenities and services available to migrants i.e. condition of living such as accommodation, safe drinking water, sanitary situation, health care facilities.
• To study the employment nature of migrants at destination point such contractual basis or direct employment, duration of employment, provision of leaves, payment of wages and problems related to payment.
• To study the nature of migration i.e. their living condition and income versus expenditure of migrants.

METHDOLOGY:
AREA SITUATION:
Narayana Loha Mandi is situated in New Delhi. It is very huge Loha Mandi of world. In this mandi, finished iron products are exported to other countries. Narayana Loha Mandi covers a huge area and is spread over 25 sq. km. This area is divided into five blocks; with high population density. Being densely populated place the conditions are very un-hygienic place and people live in Jhuggis (Slums) which have developed besides natural and open drains.

Majority of the migrants are employed as porters, loading and unloading materials throughout the day. About 95 per cent of the migrant labourers worked as palledary (loader) almost all belonging to social backward class.

DATA COLLECTION:

Data was sourced using three methods of data collection (Methodology):

FGD (Focus Group Discussion):

A total of 25 respondents from Narayan Loha Mandi were a part of the focus group discussion and survey. The source points indentified are Sarangapur, Pilhaun, Kararu and Derakote. The major findings have been summarized below:
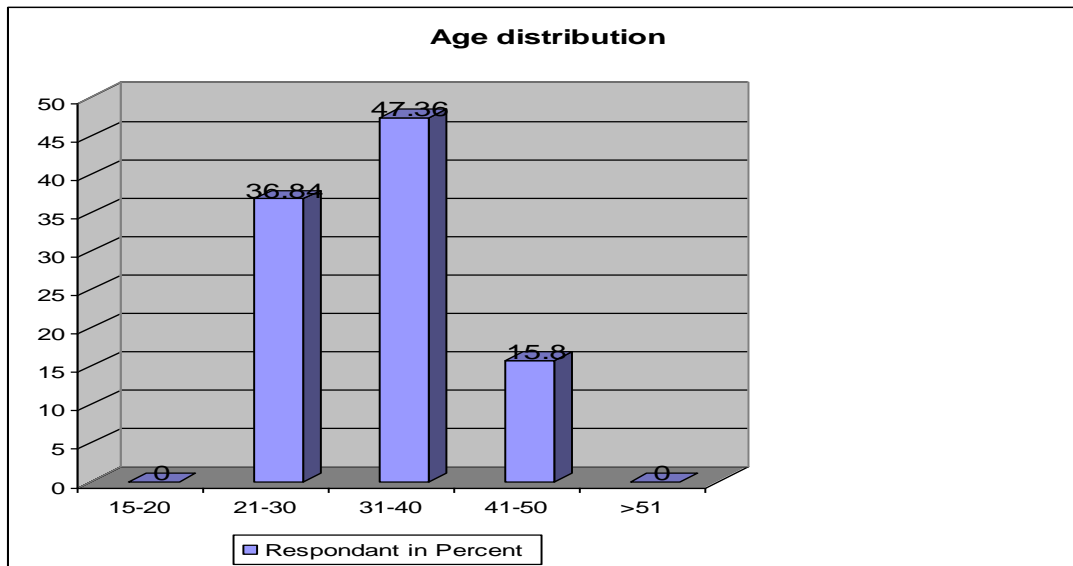
- The labourers are eking out their living through slums in degraded conditions. Situated near Noida, the jhuggi Jhopdri are devoid of access to social and civic amenities.
- The municipal board supplies drinking water although the supply is erratic and its quality is doubtful. Similarly, the labourers use public utilities for meeting their daily needs.
- Occupational health hazard: occupational hazard is highly prevalent due to risky nature of work in the industrial units and there are no proper first-aid facilities in place.

In Depth Interviews:

For the purpose of study to find out such the social condition of the migrants, questionnaires were developed with the support of Aajeevika Bureau Udaipur, Rajasthan. The Interviews were conducted covering the aspects of Demographics, Work profile, nature of migration, living condition and income and expenditure.

Findings of the survey and analysis of data

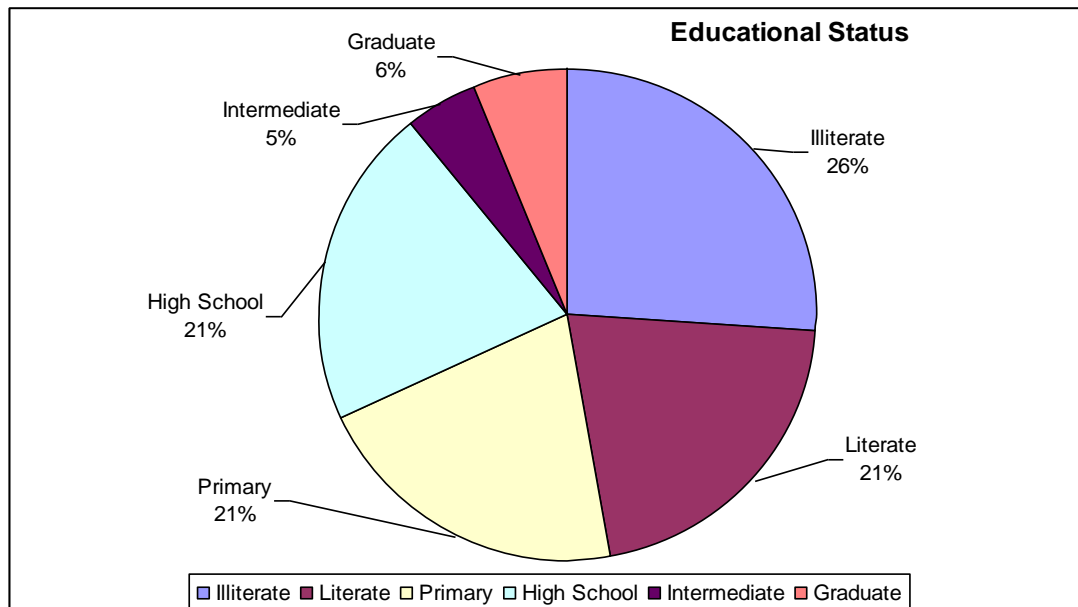**Age group of the migrants**

Age distribution

From the survey conducted, the distribution of migrant labourers shows that majority of them belong to the age group of 31-40 years (47.36 per cent) followed by 36.04 per cent in 21-30 years group. This indicates that most of the migrants are adolescent or young adults. Given the type of employment and nature of work as daily labour, it acts as a major pull factor for people in the age group of 21-40 years.

Social status of the migrants:
Considering the caste structure of the migrants, the date reveals that most of the respondents belong to the backward class. 73.68 per cent were from Scheduled Caste and 26. 32 per cent belonged to other backward classes. None of the respondents surveyed reported belonging to general category. This shows that the type of work carried out by the migrants is attached to the caste of the migrant. This is in turn also has a bearing on the earning power of the migrant at the destination.

Education status:

Educational Status

Data computed on the educational attainment of migrant labour represents an equal mix of primary and secondary level of education. While 26 per cent of the respondents reported being illiterate, 21 per cent had little knowledge of reading and writing.

Family status:

Majority of the labourers migrated without their family to their destination sites. Only 5.27 per cent of the respondents lived with their families at the destination. This is not surprising because the nature of work is highly uncertain, with periods of boom and slack. The survey area of Loha Mandi in Delhi is comprised of men adult labour living together in cramped accommodations. Also the period of migration lasts about six to eight months and hence leaves their families at the origin states. When the data was analyzed on the awareness of the work location of the migrant family member, 95.73 per cent family members were aware about the site but they did not know the exact address of the work organization or employee.

Working conditions:

Most of the migrant labour is hired directly by the employer with only 15.87 per cent being sourced through the contractors. The average working hours ranges from eight to ten hours. Over fifty percent (52.63 per cent) are made to work eight hours daily.

Given that the destination site is an urban industrial area, there were no issues reported on wage payment and its regularity.

All of the respondents had an assurance from their employer on timely payment of wages. As far as duration of employment is concerned, almost 95 per cent of the migrants stayed for more than eight months at their destination sites for work.

The average earnings ranges between Rs 100 to Rs 200 per day with majority (73.68 per cent) receiving Rs 100. About 21 per cent were reported to earn Rs 150.

Living conditions:

Most of the migrants are made do in small accommodation. As reported earlier, the family in majority of the cases stays back at the origin place and hence, the labourers share their dwelling arrangement. More than five members live in one room house. However, the sanitation facilities and hygiene conditions are pathetic. There's no provision of either drinking water or tap water for other use. Drainage facility is unavailable and the labourers practice open defecation.

Income-Expenditure condition:

With limited income as a daily wage earner, more than half of their earnings (55 per cent) is spent on meeting their daily consumption requirements. The remaining amount is expended on health treatment. All the respondents in the survey preferred visiting a private doctor for their common ailments rather than undergoing diagnosis in a government hospital.

Conclusion:

Employment opportunities in urban areas, better education for children are the major pull factors causing migration. Labourers from smaller towns and rural areas are migrating to larger urban areas. Migrants have very limited educational background, limited to primary level of education. Their job opportunities are thus confined to the informal sector and the services sector where they find petty jobs. They however, the migrant labour forms a key component of services delivery thereby enabling smooth functioning of the urban life.

The situational analysis of the destination places of the migrants has brought about better understanding of their life at their work-sites. Majority of the labourers are employed as semi-skilled or on manual jobs. The hygiene condition of their dwelling is unsafe with no provision of safe drinking water, lack of drainage facility, limited access to sanitation facility. Availability of medical services is scarce as a result of which, injuries and common ailments go untreated. Educational facilities and nutritional services for the migration children is a cause of concern. The data analysis has revealed that a major part of their daily income is spent of food and other daily requirements. This further signifies the constrained living condition and hardships endured by the migrant families.