

Constraints and Opportunity of Rural Labour Migration Process: A Perceptual Analysis

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Abstract

Migration is the intrinsic character of rural livelihood of India. Many a time, the low economic productivity of the small and fragmented holding associated with uncertainty and seasonality of market prices push the farmers to the process of migration from their own village to elsewhere in search of economic and social security as well. Consequences of the migration process the migrants and their family enjoys some opportunity as well as they are bound to face some constraints. With these views keeping in background the study was conducted in villages namely Chengerkuthi Khalisamari, Choto Khalisamari and Jatamari villages of Coochbehar district with the objective such as to identify the perceived opportunity enjoyed by the migrants; to identify the perceived constraints faced by the migrants in this process; to identify the perceived opportunity enjoyed by the migrants family members; to identify the perceived constraints faced by the migrants family members in this process. This study was conducted on 100 respondents and their family members of the villages selected by simple random sampling method. The study reveals that according to migrant's perception earning of comparatively high revenue is the most important opportunity followed by family financial stability, whereas dependency on dalal is the main constraints identified by the migrants. The migrant labour are not so organized which results low bargaining power and sometimes cause for discrimination, under employment and exploitation. As they leave the traditional agricultural practices mainly the youth and middle age group the indigenous knowledge becomes vulnerable day by day. In absence of male earning member of the family the decision making power, social participation of women increased which plays a positive role in women empowerment which also causes excess physical labour and high labour stress for women and number of child labour increases. As the community became male-free the farm families faced to some extent social insecurity. Due to rural-out migration of young population, participation in any Government programme is decreasing day by day.

Key words: Migration, Dalal system, Women-empowerment, Social insecurity, Child labour

Introduction

Migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihoods is a key feature of human history. There is extensive debate on the factors that cause populations to shift, from those that emphasise individual rationality and household behaviour to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development (de Haan 2002). Industrialization widens the gap between rural and urban areas, inducing a shift of the workforce towards industrializing areas. Moreover, numerous studies show that the process of migration is influenced by social, cultural and economic factors and outcomes can be vastly different for men and women, for different groups and different locations. In the past few decades new patterns have emerged, challenging old paradigms. First, there have been shifts of the workforce towards the tertiary sector in both developed and developing countries. Secondly,

in developed countries, urban congestion and the growth of communication infrastructure has slowed down urbanization. Thirdly, in developing countries, the workforce shift towards the secondary/tertiary sector has been slow and has been dominated by an expansion of the 'informal' sector, which has grown over time. Along with inter regional disparity, disparity between different socioeconomic classes and the development policy adopted since independence has accelerated the process of seasonal migration. Moreover, absence of non-farm employment, low agricultural production has resulted in a growth of seasonal migration (Rogaly B, Biswas J, Coppard D, Rafique A, Rana K and Sengupta A). Migration is largely voluntary, although shaped by their limited choices. It has been recognized the existence of this continuum for poor migrants by distinguishing survival

and for subsistence. The landless poor, who mostly belong to lower caste, indigenous communities, from economically backward regions, migrate for survival and constitute a significant proportion of seasonal labour flow. This migration process in rural ecology really has a great impact which varies place to place according to situational and socio-economic condition.

Methodology

The study was conducted in three villages named Chengerkuthi Khalisamari, Jatamari, and Choto Khalisamari under Khalisamari Gram Panchayat of Coochbehar district of West Bengal. For analysis of the socio-economic status of migrants household level the data was collected from the migrant individual as well as their family member also. Total number of respondent was 100. State, district, block, gram panchyate were selected purposively but villages and respondents were selected by simple random sampling method. Data collection was done through personal interview method with the help of structured schedule.

Results and Discussion:

Operational cost of agricultural sector is increasing in increasing rate where as land human ratio is decreasing day by day. As a result of that the poor and marginal farming community is drives towards industrialized versatile job opportunity of outside the village. The rural ecology is transforming continuously traditional monolithic occupational situation (Only Agriculture) to versatile multi-dimensional industrialized sectors. This migration process invites a dramatic change in the rural life culture. The migrants and their family members enjoy some noticeable benefits which influence them for further continuation of this process. Side by side they have to face some constraints also. Naturally this opportunity and constraints are varies according to socio-economic condition, location, situation as well as the migrants and their family members perception.

The important Opportunities perceived and identified by the migrants are listed in Table 1 and Fig. 1. The migrants themselves give score against each statement and make a ranking to understand sequential

importance of those identified opportunity. Opportunity gained for migration process: migrant’s perception

- a) Earning of comparatively high revenue
- b) Employment versatility
- c) knowledge gathering
- d) High individual quality and exposure
- e) Participation on social festival increases.
- f) To develop skill
- g) Age of marriage become high
- h) Increase of confidence level
- i) Modernization of mindset influence of globalization
- j) Application of educational qualification
- k) Family financial stability
- l) To improve personal communication channel

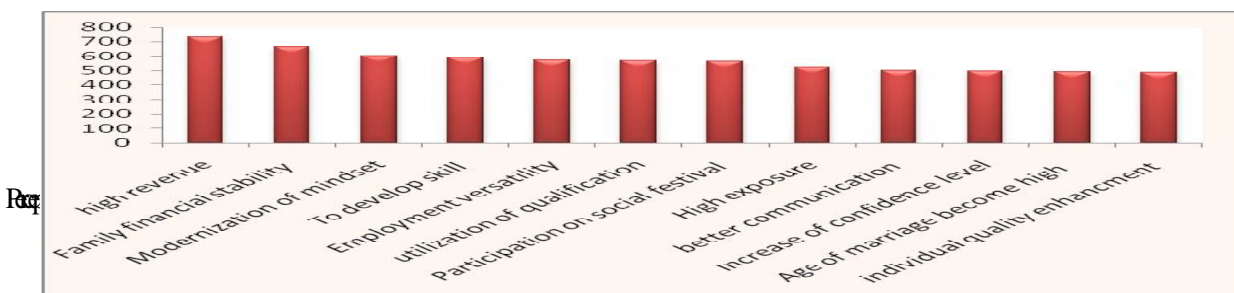
Each respondent (total no of respondents N =100) give score against each statement out of 10 and that’s for the total score is measured out of (10×100) = 1000, Total respondent N = 100.

Table 1: Ranking of Perceived Opportunity gained in migration process: migrant’s Perception

Statement	Total Score	Rank
Earning of comparatively high revenue	731	I
Family financial stability	663	II
Modernization of mindset influence of globalization	600	III
To develop skill	590	IV
Employment versatility	569	V
Application of educational qualification	565	VI
Participation on social festival increases	562	VII
High individual quality and exposure	522	VIII
Chance to improve personal communication channel	502	IX
Increase of confidence level	498	X
Age of marriage become high	492	XI
Age of marriage Emergence of individual quality	486	XII

The study reveals that according to migrant’s perception earning of comparatively high revenue is the most important opportunity followed by family financial stability (Table 2 and Fig. 2). The migration process plays a positive role for modernization of mind set which is identified as the important opportunity by

Figure 1: Ranking of Perceived Opportunity gained in migration process: migrant’s



the migrants. The perceived sequences of identified opportunity by the migrants are represented below.

The important Constraints perceived and identified by the migrants are listed here. The migrants themselves give score against each statement and make a ranking to understand sequential importance of those identified Constraints.

Constraints faced for migration process: migrant perception

1. Dependency on Dalal (a)
2. Loss of traditional knowledge (b)
3. Distance from family (c)
4. Did not take any regional govt. institution help (d)
5. Under employment, exploitation, low salary compare to hard work (e)
6. Risk for failure (f)
7. Life risk (g)
8. Low standard of living (h)
9. Language barrier (i)
10. Low bargaining power in new sector (j)
11. Health hazards increased due to unhealthy life style (k)
12. Not Organized (l)

Each respondent give score against each statement out of 10 and that's for the total score is measured out of (10×100) = 1000, Total respondent N = 100.

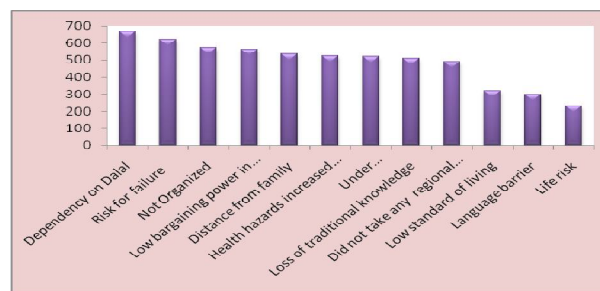
Table 2: Ranking of Perceived Constraints faced due to migration process: migrant's Perception

S No	Statement	Total Score	Rank
1.	Dependency on Dalal	665	I
2.	Risk for failure	620	II
3.	Not Organized	574	III
4.	Low bargaining power in new sector	560	IV
5.	Distance from family	532	V
6.	Health hazards increased due to unhealthy life style	521	VI
7.	Under employment, exploitation, low salary compare to hard work	518	VII
8.	Loss of traditional knowledge	505	VIII
9.	Did not take any regional govt. institution help	488	IX
10.	Low standard of living	320	X
11.	Language barrier	298	XI
12.	Life risk	232	XII

The study reveals that according to migrant's perception dependency on dalal is the main constraints identified by the migrants. As the occupation, area and situation is totally unknown and far away to the locality migrants faced insecurity and a chance of failure is there. The migrant labour are not so organized which results low bargaining power and sometimes cause for discrimination, under employment and exploitation. As they leave the rural agricultural practices mainly the youth and middle age group the indigenous knowledge becomes vulnerable day by day. The perceived sequences of different constraints faced by

the migrants are represented below.

Figure 2: Ranking of Perceived Constraints faced due to migration process: migrant's Perception



The important Opportunities perceived and identified by the migrant's family are listed in Table 3. Naturally the conception regarding the opportunity of migration process is different for migrants themselves and migrant's family member's perception. They give score against each statement and make a ranking to understand sequential importance of those identified opportunity.

Opportunity gained for migration process: migrant's family perception

- a) High level of income
- b) good amount Savings
- c) Woman get empowered
- d) Women Decision making power increased
- e) Increase of confidence level
- f) Less dependency on land.
- g) Women social participation increases
- h) Participation on social festival increases
- i) Modernization on mindset influence of globalization
- j) Spreading of knowledge
- k) Family financial stability
- l) Input for agriculture sector is confirmed

Table 3: Ranking of Perceived Opportunity gained in migration process: migrant's family Point of view

S No	Statement	Total Score	Rank
1.	High level of income	704	I
2.	Family financial stability	640	II
3.	Input for agriculture sector is confirmed	627	III
4.	Less dependency on land	589	IV
5.	Good amount Savings	581	V
6.	Women Decision making power increased	576	VI
7.	Increase of confidence level	558	VII
8.	Spreading of knowledge	547	VIII
9.	Woman get empowered	539	IX
10.	Participation on social festival increases	523	X
11.	Women social participation increases	497	XI
12.	Modernization on mindset influence of globalization	487	XII

The study reveals that according to migrant's between rural labour migration for family perception

high level of income is the most important opportunity identified by the migrant's family followed by family financial stability. The remittance from migration also secured the regular investment for agriculture. The dependency on irregular and uncertain return from agricultural sector decreased. In absence of male earning family member the decision making power, social participation of women increased which plays a positive role in women empowerment. The perceived sequences of different opportunity enjoyed by the migrant's family are represented below:

The important Constraints perceived and identified by the migrant's family are listed Table 4. Naturally the conception regarding the opportunity of migration process is different for migrants themselves and migrant's family member's perception. They give score against each statement and make a ranking to understand sequential importance of those identified Constraints.

Constraints faced for migration process: migrants family perception

- a. Social insecurity (a)
- b. Less participation in govt. programme (b)
- c. Village becomes male-free (c)
- d. Distance from family (d)
- e. Change in cropping pattern (e)
- f. Delay to take any family decision (f)
- g. Orientation about outer world become less (g)
- h. Problem during if any person become ill (h)
- i. Tension for migrant (i)
- j. Less schooling due to high child labour (j)
- k. Labour crisis in field (k)
- l. Excess physical labour High labour stress for women (l)

Each respondent give score against each statement out of 10 and that's for the total score is measured out of $(10 \times 100) = 1000$, Total respondent $N = 100$.

Table 4: Ranking of Perceived Constraints faced due to migration process: migrant's family Perception

S.No.	Statement	Total Score	Rank
1	Social insecurity	608	I
2	Labour crisis in field	588	II
3	Excess physical labour High labour stress for women	562	III
4	Less schooling due to high child labour	518	IV
5	Delay to take any family decision	491	V
6	Village becomes male-free	489	VI
7	Less participation in govt. programme	488	VII
8	Problem during if any person become ill	484	VIII
9	Change in cropping pattern	480	IX
10	Tension for migrant	480	X
11	Distance from family	417	XI
12	Orientation about outer world become less	411	XII

The study reveals that in the absence of main earning member of the family social insecurity is the main constraints identified by the migrant's family. The youth and middle age group of the rural population are mainly attract to the migration process which results field labour crisis for farming operation. Excess physical labour and high labour stress for women and number of child labour increases. As the community became male-free due to rural-out migration, participation in any Government programme is not so satisfactory.

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