

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Study

“Study of Migration of Labour to and from Karnataka” aimed at understanding the factors that influence the push and pull factors in Karnataka by analyzing available data and literature and conducting a study with 518 migrant labour in Karnataka, Goa and Solapur. The study participant migrants included: intra-district migrants in Yadgir and Koppal; inter-district migrants from Yadgir and Koppal in Bangalore and Mysore; inter-state migrants in Bangalore and Mysore; inter-state migrants from Karnataka in Goa and Solapur.

The current assignment is to prepare a document on various push and pull factors that shape labour mobility and more importantly lives of migrant labour in Karnataka as well as Karnataka’s labour migrating outside Karnataka. Council for Social Development (CSD) has been assigned the study after signing a contract with KEA (Karnataka Evaluation Authority).

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are to examine:

- ▶ Factors that motivate/compel individuals and families to migrate
- ▶ Social and economic profile of migrant labourers and their families
- ▶ Extent of migration of labourers compared to the total strength of labourers in an area
- ▶ Proportion of migrants who:
 - migrate alone

- migrate with their families
- migrate with only adult members of the family
- ▶ Typical movement annual calendar for the three categories of migrant labourers
- ▶ Comparative analysis of facilities in terms of better income, housing, food, access to health care, education etc.
- ▶ Condition of women and children of those migrant labourers' families who migrate with families and who leave families behind
- ▶ Savings and remittance pattern of migrant labourers' and their families
- ▶ Impact of MNREGA on migration
- ▶ Process of implementation of the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979 and awareness level regarding the Act among migrant labour, their employer and the enforcement machinery
- ▶ Availability and impact of redressal mechanism of grievances of migrant labours and similar (like the 1979 Act) regulatory protection for intra-state migrant labours
- ▶ State's possible role in improving migrant labours' skill to ensure better opportunities
- ▶ Impact of labour inflow from other states in Karnataka on employment opportunities of Karnataka's resident labourers and on the status of crime and law and order in the state

Sample

Study was conducted with following groups' migrant labours:

- 218 inter-district migrants in Bangalore and Mysore from
 - Doranhalli (Shahpur taluk), Yediapur (Shorapur taluk), Ashoknagar (Yadgir taluk) and Chintenpalli (Yadgir taluk) villages in Yadgir district
 - Mainhalli (Koppal taluk), Alwandi (Koppal taluk), Siddapura (Gangawati taluk) and Venkatpur (Kushtagi taluk)
- 143 inter-state migrants from 11 states (West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Assam) in Bangalore and Mysore
- 56 intra-district migrants in Yadgir and Koppal
- 51 inter-state migrants in Goa from-
 - Joida village of Uttara Kannada district (Karnataka) and
 - Kauar, Mukhnar, Tigadi and Pathihal villages of Belgaum district (Karnataka)
- 50 inter-state migrants from Vijayapura , Raichur and Gulbarga district of Karnataka in Solapur

Methodology

The study was conducted in six districts of three states. We adopted a mixed method approach, which included tools like survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Combination of qualitative and quantitative tools facilitated us in capturing the complex socio-economic realities of diversified groups of intra-district, inter-district and inter-state

migrant participants of six study districts. Study tools were used for the pilot study first and after the pilot study report was approved by KEA, the same tools were adopted for the study.

Main Findings

- I. Unavailability of work was recognized as the most compelling reason behind migration. Over 60 per cent participants at all study sites noted that they migrated not because of better wages or to explore more livelihood options but because there was no work available.
- II. Over 68 per cent participants from socially marginalized castes (SC, ST and OBC) of this study were landless, with highest proportion of landless SCs. Labour migration is most common among SCs and most uncommon among socially privileged castes (Other/General caste category).
- III. More than 50 per cent migrants in all three categories (intra-district, inter-district and inter-state) earned less than Rs 6000 per month. Study indicates that labour with a family income of more than Rs 25000 usually do not migrate.
- IV. About 74 per cent women and 79 per cent men participants of this study noted that they have never witnessed gender based discrimination at work place of their migration destination. About 62 per cent women and 77 per cent men believed that there is no discrimination at work places of their native place as well.
- V. Over 64 per cent women migrants' annual income is less than Rs 75000 whereas 61 per cent of male migrant participants' annual income was above Rs 75000. This trend also reflects the prevalence of gender-based wage discrimination, a commonly accepted malpractice acknowledge by over 73 per cent female and 84 per cent male labour participants.
- VI. Over 90 per cent participants from Yadgir and Koppal, both working within home-district and other districts of Bangalore and Mysore, considered living condition of their native place better than their migration destination.
- VII. Majority of participants felt the condition of affordable and accessible education for children and health care facilities to be of good quality in Karnataka. Participants of

Karnataka were very appreciative about their native place's education and health care facilities.

- VIII. Migration of labour, especially in Karnataka, is also connected to affordability as it requires financial ability to spend for travelling as well as surviving until finding work at a place far away from the nexus of home and family. Inter-state and inter-district migration is not common for extremely poor workers in Karnataka.
- IX. Caste and gender based violence was also recognized as a push factor by inter-state migrants in Karnataka. Some SC migrants shared that the violence they had to experience by local people in Begur (Bangalore) did not affect them much as subjugation to violence on a regular basis was a common phenomenon at their native village. An Oriya garment factory worker also shared that verbal abuse at the factory doesn't bother her much as she had been subjected to regular physical violence in her marital home.
- X. With declining industrial significance and livelihood opportunities, Solapur has not remained a preferred destination of migration for people from Karnataka, including those hailing from Joida (Uttara Kannada) and Belgaum.
- XI. Despite declining industrial significance, migrant labour participants in Solapur were living and working in a comparatively better condition. Because of the initiatives taken by the government, many of the migrant labour participants, who have settled in Solapur, owned house in regularized colonies. They had access to regular electricity, toilets, water supply and welfare policies which made their life easier and to some extent healthier as well.

Limitations

- The most critical constraint of this study emerged due to pre-defined sample. Finding exact sample was not possible for three of the six study districts.
- Majority of the migrant workers are not registered. In this context, finding exact size of migrants in any administrative unit was a major challenge.
- 2011 Census data on migration at district level has not been published yet and it is not possible to find district wise data on migration. The district Census Handbook has data on

workforce and main and marginal workers but not on migration. Migration data is not available at District Labour Offices as well. Hence, finding required data on the extent of migration of labourers compared to the total strength of labourers in an area was not possible.

Short Term Recommendations

- ▶ Effective implementation of MNREGS and generating livelihood options at local level
- ▶ Ensuring farmer's access to seeds, fertilizer etc. at subsidized rates and also availability of loan at lower interest rate
- ▶ Ensuring easy access to credit to small entrepreneurs and petty traders
- ▶ Stringent law/policies to counter monopoly of unregistered contractors who charge commission from migrant workers of almost all study sites
- ▶ Effective implementation of redressal mechanism
- ▶ Strengthening bodies and cells meant for protection of women workers' rights and ensuring their safety at work place
- ▶ Creating provision for organizing regular training workshops to educate workers' about their rights
- ▶ Creating provision for organizing workshops on gender sensitization

Long Term Recommendations

- ▶ Adequate measure to generate employment at local level

- ▶ Enhancing awareness about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)
- ▶ Convergence of MNREGA with other developmental programmes/projects at local level
- ▶ Ensuring easy access to good quality health care services and education for children (specially in other states as most of the migrant labours of Karnataka were appreciative about the quality and accessibility of education and health care services at their native place)
- ▶ Effective implementation of welfare policies, specially pertaining to income generation, health and education
- ▶ Stringent policies to discourage child labour
- ▶ Stringent policies to stop gender based wage discrimination
- ▶ Effective implementation of policies for protection of rights of migrant women and children
- ▶ Effective role of anti-sexual harassment committees

Policy Changes

- ▶ Ensuring registration of migrant workers and issue them identity cards.
- ▶ This identity card should also ensure their access to:
 - PDS shop at migration destination
 - Public health care institutions

- Government schools

- ▶ Formulation of policies to ensure migrant workers' easy access to basic services such as health, sanitation and also other necessary welfare services
- ▶ Stringent policies to discourage violation of migrant workers' rights; exploitation of women migrant workers; wage discrimination; and child labour
- ▶ Formulation of policies/laws to regulate unregistered contractors
- ▶ Provision to organize training workshop on rights of migrant workers at work sites for workers, employers and management staff
- ▶ Provision to organize gender sensitization workshops at work sites for both male and female workers as well as employers and management staff