

Patterns of Migration in Urban Slums and its Impacts on Economic Development

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Abstract:

The shifting of labour and capital from rural to urban plays a significant role of economic and demographic scenario' in India. It depends on the process of urbanization and high rate of industrialization. Migration is one of the inevitable social processes in our society. It is a fact that every human being mobilises from one place to another in search of better livelihood. It is a demographic and geographical phenomenon in a city or a Nation. This phenomenon can be seen in the slums as well. While taking in to account the slums of Jorhat in Assam, it is observed that a large number of dwellers came here from other towns for various reasons. The slum area selected for this study comprises of large number of migrants both inside and outside of town in Assam as well as other State. Increasing numbers of slum dweller constitute major challenges for the economic development. It is an obstacle for economic development. The present study tries to explain patterns of migrated people and their impacts on economic and demographic structure. Migration is one of the major hindrances for economic development in Assam. The present study reveals that intra- State and inter-State migration creates a number of problems in the city slum dwellers.

Keywords: Migration, Development, Intra-Sate Migration and Inter-State Migration

Introduction:

Living conditions of urban areas is a multidimensional aspect. In that aspect, the urbanization is created to the formal and informal both sector economic activities in cities are turning out to the major centre for migrant dwellers. The major problems faced by slum dwellers are housing and space, health and sanitation and water logging etc. Migration the existing phenomena related to the problems of slums life. In the other term, migration is the way to enter the slums life in a city/town area. Every social system, it is often industrial or urbanized, 'slum' is a part and parcel of city life. Therefore, the contributions to the economic development and its impact on societies are also applicable in the urban centre of the city. The paradigm of socio-economic development is multidimensional. It is related with economic and social features; measured with Gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. The concept of development is conceived in terms of economic goods and services necessary for a good society. In the socio-economic development of a Nation, economic and non-economic factor play a vital role. Migration is a big phenomenon of every society in the World.

Urbanization is an important figure in the development of an area. On the other hand, excessive urbanization creates population explosion in a developing country. Over population can produce myriad challenges that push the dwellers towards a deplorable lifestyle. It is one of the causes for the emergence of slums. A slum is one of the vulnerable parts of urbanization process. In terms of

migration, according to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English, Migrate means “Move from one place to another”.¹ According to Mangalam, “migration is a relatively permanent moving away of a collectively called migrants, from one geographical location to another proceeded by decision making on the part of the migrants on the basis of a hierarchically ordered set of values and resulting in changes in the International system of the migrants”.² The types of migration vary from society to society in developing countries like India. Migration is the most intriguing and most complex demographic phenomenon.

In North east India, most of the areas are surrounded by below poverty line people. Besides lack of land, over population, people adjusted in the congested places. Before independence, the term slum was alien one in North East India. Slums were gradually developed in north east India as a result of industrial development and urbanization. Assam is also a part of north east India. A large number of people living here fall in to the category of below poverty line. During the British colonial period many dwellers come to North-Eastern region to spread of trade and commerce. In 1971-81, a large number of migrants came to Assam. Large scale of illegal migration from across Assam’s international boarder; during the 1981-91 took place, mostly from Bangladesh followed by Nepal. The migrants came to Assam for many reasons such as employment (mainly in the informal sectors), business, education, marriage, movement of family, natural calamities etc. A variety of natural resources are available in Assam, hence migrants are attracted so far. Besides, many dwellers came to Assam from other States of India like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and West-Bengal so on and so forth. The migrant dwellers sometimes reside in the small urban areas and are engaged in both unorganized and organized sector. Unorganised or informal slum dwellers are suffered from job security and standard of life.

The slums in city are not a new arrival. Slums are spread all over the world from ‘Bombay to Bermuda, and from Manchester to Manila’ (Abrams, 1970). It has become a major problem in the present era. When a city grows, slum areas increased as well. According to Oxford Dictionary, “Slums are street of dirty, crowded houses or street of houses build together”. Slum is developed as a result of the migration of a large number of poor people. In India, slums have been rising since 1947. There were two main reasons for slum development, one is partition of India and another one is industrial revolution after independence. A city is developed through the human and natural resources. Therefore, a large number of people were migrated to the cities. Lack of land and over rate of population leading to the congested situation in the urban areas and it gradually result in the crisis of basic amenities. The poor dwellers reside in the rented house of deplorable condition and some reside near the river and rail line areas. These congested abodes of dwellers are known as slum. They have partly contributed to the economic development in our society. The census of 2011 clearly portrays the slum population. As per the report 5.4% of the total population of India is slum population. Andhra Pradesh has maximum and Assam has the minimum 0.6% of the total population. 51% are male and 48% are female. 36% of slum population of Assam are engaged in works. 86% of slum dwellers of these are main workers and 17% are marginal workers. 1% of workers are cultivator, 1% related with agriculture labourers, and 3 % are household’s industrial workers. (Census of India 2011)

In a developing country like India labour power is exploited by capitalist. Land, labour and capital are basic requirements of production. But a section of people almost exploit the labourers who are unable to fulfil even the basic needs. Therefore, Article 19 of the Indian Constitution has ensured that all citizens

¹ Oxford advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2010)

² Sudhir, H.(2009)

have right to reside and settle anywhere in India. The freedom of movement is considered as ideal for development in any free and liberal economy. The fundamental rights and directive principles of State policy also provide various rights for the migrants labour.

Methods:

The research paper focuses on Pujadubi slum, Royal Road slum and Rajamoidam slum areas, which fall under the municipality areas of Jorhat town. There are 100 respondents from the slums which are randomly selected for the study. This paper is based on both of the qualitative and quantitative method. Both primary and secondary data has been collected. Primary data were collected from the respondents in the selected slum areas. Secondary data were collected from Municipality records, census report, books, Magazine and other journals. Jorhat town located at 26.75/N latitude to 94.22 /E longitude and at a height of 86 metres above sea level. It is one of the major urban hubs of upper Assam after Guwahati. The population of urban Jorhat is 2, 20,534 (Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2016). Out of 10,468 are living in notified slums and 10,580 are living in non-notified slums. (Jorhat Municipality Board).

Objective of the study

1. To know about the causes of migration in slums area.
2. To explain the contributions and hindrance for economic development in order to increase the slum migrants.

Analysis and Findings:

A migrant dweller coming to the new areas, without any information and sometimes they have known from everything that place. So, sometimes they have carried some tools and starts living as different places of the centre in the city. Sometimes, they came alone and have no relatives. It is pinpointed that their primary need is work; not in the shelter. The socio-economic life of a slum migrant dwellers depends on quality of life and availability of amenities. It varies on education, income, fuel for cooking, drinking water facility, electricity facility, drainage facility and so on. Some of them are working with private sector business and some of them are working on illegal activities. It is observed that most of dwellers have not engaged in any activities. The present study aims to observe the education is the basic amenities of society and the migrants always deprived from access of education facility. The present study focuses on the facilities of education and problems of recreation during the earning of migration in urban areas. The large number of migrant dwellers resided with the Pujadubi slum area in Jorhat town. Intra-state and Inter- state migration is common in this area. The following table directs the inter-state migrants' dwellers in slum areas.

Table1: No of Inter-State migrant dwellers

Name of the State	Frequency	Percentage
Bihar	20	20%
Jharkhand	10	10%
Utter Pradesh	10	10%
West Bengal	15	15%
Total	55	55%

Source: Primary (2021 Survey)

On the above table it has revealed that most of the respondents are coming from other State to Jorhat town. Bihar is the highest State of among them i.e. 20%. They have engaged with small own business-like street vendor. Maximum dwellers are engaged with construction work under contractor and daily wage earner like driver. Maximum women dwellers are engaged with maid servant, sweeper, catering party for marriage and so on.

Causes of Migration:

In urban areas, marriage is one of the major Causes of intra-state migration in Assam. Some social forces are like availability of urban infrastructure and basic amenities affects to the dwellers choice to migrate from rural areas to cities. Main component that are responsible for the causes of migrated from rural to cities are- The better educational opportunities, medical facilities, cultural and entertainment activities and many other facilities which are not available in their areas. Therefore, they must be attracted towards the urban places. But another section of urban dwellers is always maintained a long distance from the slums; because they have belonged to illiterate and unskilled labour. Migrant labourer of Jorhat generally patch up in various slums of the town and engaged in various activities like rickshaw pulling, thelawala, street vendor like Sanawala, Phuskawalla, petty trading, doing domestic work like maid servant etc. They have engaged in some petty labour contractors who engage them in jobs of relatively long-term nature. The others are completely daily wagers and have working hardly from 8 to 10 hours. Still their remuneration has below 500 daily and they have struggle for better life in urban places. Due to unskilled and traditional skill set, the workers work participation is very low.

Changing a society can be possible through the lack of minimum standard of life in a society. The changing situation of society and the process of industrialization and urbanization is the main reason to increase the poverty; therefore, the rich become richer and poor always become poorer in India. In a big city, the poor people are always backward some such situations because of their less effective participation of economic development. Due to poor conditions of slum dwellers, low wages are flows and unemployment or underemployment led to low income, lack of land ownership, absence of saving and shortage of cash. Natural calamities like flood are always major ones of the factor of displacement in Assam. It has destroyed the dwellers living place, production function and create rehabilitate situation in every year. Displaced people are going to another safety places for livelihood. It has also found that flood affected dwellers did not have another place to rehabilitate; government could not focused of this section of dwellers. Due to insufficient of land, they have living with congested places. Sometimes they have resided with private land; sometimes they have occupied the Governments land.

Contribution to Economic Development:

Increasing the urban poor becomes engaged with different activities in urban society. For economic development each and every human resources are playing a vital role. There are certain motives of dwellers coming from different places. The purpose is basically unemployment of different sections of society. Rag picker is one of the income sources of labour implementation in urban places. Dwellers are highly attentive in this particular work. Occupational mobility is also established through the rag picking of urban culture. From the basic observation it has not found that the non-slum and native people did not have engaged with such activities in the society. On the other hand, the destroyed utensil and other materials are important to the industrial development. They have done this work properly without any tolerating. The rikshaw puller is another work force in the urban area. Basically, those who are migrated

from other State have engaged with the rikshaw puller in the town. Those dwellers are particularly migrated from Bihar have engaged with this activities so far.

The work participation of slums, in has found that 50 percent of respondents are daily wage earner. 12 percent are casual worker. 10 percent are occasional worker and only 4 percent of respondents are monthly worker. Most of the worker are associated with the informal sector and own small business. Among of them 20 percent of dwellers are not working in any field. Therefore, it acts that the slum inhabitants and their contribution to our urban economy is very precisely. Women have been working as maidservant and home maker.

Factors related to the hindrance of economic development:

The Present study found that migrant slum dwellers are related with some deviant activities. These deviant activities are associated with criminal activities. This criminal activities like theft, more use of alcohol, drug dealer (Smuggler), human trafficking, kidnapping and violence against women and so on. However, it is the main hindrance for the socio-economic development of a city or a State. It has laid to low life expectancy; some dwellers who are beggars or homeless or pavement dwellers are the main problems for development of a State. Large numbers of slum dwellers are resided with footpath, rail line side and river side; struggle their life for money and food. It is the negative impact for economic development in a State or a Nation. The last thing is that the inter-State labour is not safe for the inter-city and intra state dwellers. They have captured to the whole market in the city. At the time they are mostly engaged with production function. It is an image of the dwellers is they are basically one step forward from them. So native slum dwellers are panic about their dignity and skill of the work. At the time the minimum industry and native workers are dominant figure of the urban environment.

Conclusion:

The conditions of migrant dwellers were poor because of the inequality of work distribution. The informal sector of Jorhat town is dominated by the migrant workers. The migrant labourers of Jorhat are usually settled in the various slums and earn their livelihood in different activities in the informal sector. Informal sector has been facing with insecurity as compared with formal sector. Some of the informal sector slum dwellers can earn more money more than workers in the formal sector. Slum dwellers mainly come from wage labouring and from wages as professional, hawker, mechanics and drivers and so on. The fact is that types of occupation and low income give an idea of less economic development of a society. Sometimes it has observed that large scale of inter State migration could be affected native people and non-slum people too. If the urban economy and influencing component are critically analysed then it may be some concluding figure which are good effects from our own economy.

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