

Seasonal Migration Workers in Brick Kiln Industry Cauvery Delta Zone in Thanajvur District, Tamilnadu

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the an economic analysis of seasonal migrant workers in brick kiln industry in Thanjavur Ditric Tamil Nadu as a highlight the extreme vulnerability of circular migrants workers while stressing the diversity of circulation. Unemployment is the major cause of economic development and it is too severe in the rural are and urban areas. Agriculture is also affected due to monsoon failure and various economic factors. The people migrate to various places for searching their livelihood and to clear all their debts. The people migrate for to brick kiln industry for their survival and to overcome indebtedness. In brick kiln industry is only half season 7-8month (December to July). The Brick kiln industry both male and female is engage in works. Before starting the works in brick industry, majority of the workers get advance amount from the employers to clear all their debts. Thereafter, they start working in the brick industry and face various

issues. In order to overcome their debts in brick industry, they work beyond the usual work hours more than 12 to 16hours where in the undermine the poor living arrangements provided. In particular, the female workers are highly affected due various health hazards, the present study analyses the migrant workers of brick kiln industry in, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: brick kiln, migration, debt bondage, economic condition, working condition

I.INTRODUCTION

Migration is an important feature of human civilization. It reflects human endeavor to survive in the most testing conditions, both natural and manmade. Human mobility and development focuses on migration. In any country, some laborers migrate from their native places in search of jobs. There are two important reasons for rural to urban migration of

labor migration for survival and migration for subsistence. The first indicates the severe social and economic hardships faced by rural laborers, a situation where migration becomes necessary to stay alive. These communities are generally landless, illiterate and drawn largely from depressed castes. The second reason for migration is also rooted in subsistence and arises because of the need to supplement income in order to fill the gaps of seasonal employment. Such communities often migrate for shorter periods and do not ordinarily travel very far from their homes (Punjab Human Development Report, 1990).

Each year millions of women and men leave their homes and cross national borders in search of greater security for themselves and their families. “Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual’s will to overcome adversity and to live a better life”.

STATEMENT PROBLEM

In India Unemployment is the major cause of economic development and it is too severe in the rural areas. Agriculture is also affected due to monsoon failure and various economic factors. The people migrate to various places for searching their livelihood and to clear all their debts. The present study emerges with all those above mentioned and the people migrate for to brick kiln industry for their survival and to

overcome indebtedness. In brick kiln industry is seasonal work; both male and female are engage in works. Before starting the works in brick industry, majority of the workers get advance amount from the employers to clear all their debts. Thereafter, they start working in the brick industry and face various issues. In order to overcome their debts in brick industry, they work beyond the usual work hours wherein they undermine the poor living arrangements provided. In particular, the female workers are highly affected due various health hazards and indebtedness rise as a vicious circle and trap them under bondage. The present study analyses the seasonal migrant workers of brick kiln industry in Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE SEASONAL MIGRATION IN BRICK KILN WORKERS

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The studies about brick kiln workers revealed that the poverty, vulnerability, family and social expenditures forced the rural human resources to work under the bondage condition. Few of the studies explores that the local social pressures and economic motivation thrust forces the migration of rural manpower towards brick kiln work (Shah, 2006

and Guerin et al., 2009). The economic motivation and local societal pressures forces the migration of laborforce to the brick kiln industry through the advance payment. Further, they received the loans from the brick kiln owner for their family and societal expenditures (marriage and other functions). In this context, low wage, unlimited work hours and poor standard of living pays the serious health problems to workers and unfavorably affect the loan repayment capacity of the brick kiln workers. It put the brick kiln workers and their family into the line of indebtedness and debt bondage. It has been underlined by few of the empirical studies (Guerin et al., 2012).

Objectives

1. To study on socio economic status of seasonal migration and the purpose of selecting brick kiln industry in thanjavur district Tamilnadu.

IV.METHODOLOGY

In Thanjavur district there are nearly 250 brick kilns employing around 50 Thousand workers. These workers migrate either within the district or state in order to earn their livelihood by working in brick kilns from December-July. They usually stay in their work places for 7 to 8 months every year. Around 250 brick kilns are located in Thanjavur district, majority of

agricultur labour in four block Orathanadu, Thanjavur Ammapettai and Kumbakonam .Thiruvallure, Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Dindugal and Thirunalvelly and approximately 3 lakhs workers are employed in these brick kilns. The Studies indicates that more than 85% of the migrate workers in brick kilns in Thanjavur district.

Brick kilns

In brick kiln industry which also employs large numbers of poor people circular migrants. There are 50,000 brick kilns all over India, Brick-kiln workers often migrate with their, the number of brick kiln workers in India an agent who gives the family in the village a wage advance of Rs 20-50,000. This is a substantial piece sum and is wrongly perceived by the workers and their families as a cheap loan because there is not interest. The money has to be paid back through work and the wages paid are well below the legal minimum effectively making the arrangement a kind of debt-bondage. The entire family comprising the husband, wife and children live on the site and work as one unit for the full season. The overall situation is exploitative as everything necessary to manage daily needs is sold by the employers and agents (at higher rates than the market) on credit

and subsequently deducted from actual wages. Each couple earns between Rs 70-130 a day and many are cheated out of their full payment. They spend heavily on country liquor and usually come home with a saving of not more than Rs.1000-2000 at the end of the season. Some are perpetually in debt and migrate again the following year so that they can get a lump sum to repay outstanding debts. This kind of migration appears to be the domain of the poorest migrants. Two streams of brick kiln workers are discussed here: the migration of tribals from Western Orissa and the migration of musahars in Bihar. While both involve inter-state migrants they differ in the level

Seasonal Migration

Seasonal Migration for brick kiln workers is from November to June. Brick kilns work usually begins every year after Deepwali, in the month of November-December, and continues till before the onset of the monsoon in June. A large group of people those migrate from their remote village in search of employment. The factors that determines the physical mobility is unemployment, debt and better wage.

Migrants work on a few brick kilns, coming back home after work is over at one brick kiln, staying for some time at home and then again move to another brick kiln. When the laborers return home, in between the brick production

cycles or after “retiring”, they either till their lands or take up other short-term wage employment locally or migrate for short duration to other brick kilns.

1. Reasons of Migration

Seasonal migration has long been seen as a practice in the rural part of the society as a contingency livelihood option. There were number of reasons behind migration which compelled.

Economic Reasons
1. Poverty and poor economic conditions
2. Unemployment in agricultural
3. Alternative job opportunities during agriculturally lean season
4. Irregularity of payment in MGNREGA
5. Indebtedness

6. Comparatively high wages at brick kilns particularly in Tamilnadu
Economic condition
The economic conditions most of the workers of brick kilns are migrants and they belong to deprived community. Poverty is the major cause of brick kiln workers and their poor economic status forces them to work by eliminating other drawbacks of brick kiln industries such as poor environment and health hazards. The economic factors of indicate that migration is primarily motivated by economic factors. In large number of developing countries, and under developing countries, low agricultural income, agricultural unemployment and underemployment are considered basic factors pushing the

migrant workers job opportunities. The rural people affected to as one of the important reasons of poverty and rural out migration. Thus, almost all studies analysis that most of the migrants have moved in search of better economic opportunities. . The basic economic factors which motivate migration may be further classified as „Push Factors“ and „Pull Factors“. The people migrate in brick kilns. The push factors The economically push factor a person, due to different reasons, to leave that the people movement of one place and go to some other place. For instance, low productivity, unemployment and sundered elopement, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for advancement, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities may compel people to leave their native place in search of better economic opportunities. The Pull factors The pull factor refers to those factors which attract the migrants to an area, such as, opportunities for

better employment, higher wages, facilities, better working conditions. The brick kiln industry for seasonal work sector.

Working condition

Poverty is the major cause of brick kiln workers leads to advance loan from the employer and by a long tenures relationship, which turn as forced women workers. All categories of brick kiln workers said they work between 12 and 14 hours. The brick kiln workers has to work for 12 to 14 hours a day and they have to live in temporary sheds, which does not have proper drainage, toilet/bath rooms and ventilation. Even for drinking water they have to walk miles and the working conditions are very tough and they face various health The workers of brick kilns are migrants and they belong to deprived community. Poverty is the major cause of brick kiln workers and their poor economic status forces them to work by eliminating other drab.

Brick kiln Working Hours Table -1

Time	Working condition
1 to 3 pm	Preparation of clay
4 to 6 pm	Cleaning of ground
7 to 10 am	Molding
9 to 11 am	Arranging
Separate work	Lording
Separate work	Firing of bricks

Source;of Primary Data

Wage status of workers

The wages are paid after weakly Sunday. In case of brick making or manager the wage are given to the family head. For example, brick making of 1000 Bricks, get for money Rs.600 ,Loaders/unloaders 10000 Bricks, get money Rs.700 ,Bullock driver and Tractor driver 10000 bricks arranged get for money Rs.800&750And final Firemen workers for get money Rs800. The brick kiln industry wage structure and get for money then following show Table.

Brick kiln Working Wage Table -2

Employment status	Weekly wages in
Molders of bricks	600/1000(bricks)
Loaders/un loaders	700/10000(bricks)
Bullock cart driver	800/10000(bricks)
Tractor driver	750/10000(bricks)
Firemen	800

Source;of Primary Data

V.CONCLUSION

The brick kiln industry is only seasonal work. Poverty is the major cause of migrate to various places for searching their livelihood and to clear all their debts. Brick kiln workers that push them to migrate and work under poor working conditions. After entering into the brick kiln industries, the economic status of the workers does not change due to their poor economic background. To overcome the

economic problems, get advance amount from the employer makes them as bonded labor. As a result, the brick kiln workers fall into the trap of vicious circle of low wage, poor health and indebtedness and ultimately bondage.

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