

## Rural Labour Migration: A Case Study in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu

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**Abstract:** *India is the second most populous country in the world, having more than one billion populations and a huge population of about 73 per cent living in rural areas in very poor conditions. They do not have adequate income to fulfill their needs. Even though the area-wise major reasons for migration among the male and female migrants are similar; the extent of migration differs markedly. For instance, in the case of rural males, 43.7 per cent have migrated for work/employment, which is only 14.17 percent among the urban males, while 82.67 per cent of the rural females have migrated for their marriage, which is only 26.61 per cent in the case of their urban counterparts. This also suggests that other reasons like business and education cause only a negligible impact on migration of the people in the country, though clearly the share of both reasons is higher among the male migrants than in the case of the female migrants and similarly, the proportion is higher among the urban migrants than that of rural migrants. In this context this study explains based on the field work carried out in the study area. It argues that much of the development literature makes the false assumption that sedentary patterns in society are the norm, instead making the case that migration is often the rule, rather than the exception. It concludes that migration should be seen as just one of the livelihood strategies open to households, that it is often combined with other strategies, and that it is frequently a two-way process in which migrants maintain close links with their areas of origin over a much longer period than is frequently assumed.*

### Introduction

In the recent years migration and labour in developing countries have received considerable attention from social scientists. Migration associated to the growth of urban centres in India during their developmental process is considered by scholars as a normal and healthy byproduct as well as a need of industrial expansion and as a response by the rural population to the prospect of bettering themselves. As such the present trends of global economy are breaking the isolation of nations and bring not only co-operation but also competition and conflict in their relationships (Paini, 1994: 18). Raghunath Reddy (1996) states that the new economic policy effect the poor adversely and thereby register a rise in poverty and unemployment among rural labourers. J.K. Singh (1996) states that the labourers are exploited more in organized sector of the nation. Increase in the process of development has also increased the exploitation of labour. U. Tataji (1986) takes up the issue of the absorption of the migrant labour force in the formal and informal sectors of the urban economy and the pattern of work organization. His major point of criticism stems from the way the migrants get themselves recruited to certain lower level jobs, and the nature of the work organization which does not permit an easy entry into them. According to the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the unemployment in rural workers is increased. Particularly seasonal unemployment in agriculture is a normal condition in India.

Over 3 percent of the world's population is international migrants. According to United Nations (2003), internal migration is almost four times as large as international migration. Population pressure, scarce land, decreased agricultural productivity, and lack of wage earning opportunities influence rural migration, which is the result of a complex decision-making process. Usually, it is determined by a combination of 'push' and 'pull' factors. In many cases, it is triggered by lack of employment and wage-earning opportunities; in others, by war, civil unrest, expulsion or ethnic conflict and the associated violence and violation of human rights or also by a deteriorating natural environment, declining soil fertility, crop and animal diseases, drought, or floods and other natural disasters that destroy livelihoods.

### **Problem of the Study**

Migration of workers is a century old phenomenon that has been taking place across the countries in the world. Migration presents both benefit and problem to both the place of origin of the migrants and their place of destination. In the place of origin, it reduces the extent of uneconomic or surplus workforce, which might set right the labour market and wage rate and the repatriation of their savings will also help boost the local economy. However, migration of workers, especially skilled workers might also affect the local economy, by depriving of the qualitative workforce and creating an imbalance in the demographic structure. In the place of destination, migration will help improve the quality of labour force and the functioning of its labour market and it will lead to huge influx of people, particularly in the case of permanent migration, and hence will exert greater pressure on the availability of basic infrastructure facilities. Migration of agricultural workers, unlike a general migration, is quite dangerous, since it is mostly distress driven and chiefly due to push factors. It is dangerous in the sense that it implies the death of a sector, which is the lifeline of the country, as it has to supply the basic food grains to the country as a whole, apart from the raw materials to the agro-based industries.

Thus, the place of origin is mostly affected by the migration of the agricultural workers, in terms of declining economic activities in the agricultural sector, employment and income, and it sucks away the blood of the rural economy. Without the agricultural sector, the rural economy, cannot find sufficient scope for employment generation and income creation, leave alone the issues of livelihood. In the place of destination too, the migrated agricultural workers cannot be expected to improve the quality of the urban workforce, since they are not skilled or suited to the urban labour market. Thus, it is not known to what extent the migrants benefit themselves from their migration leaving aside their agricultural occupation, and to what extent the urban labour market and economy benefits from it, apart from swelling the ranks of unskilled and informal labour force. Hence, the present study makes an attempt in unravelling the issues of socio-economic conditions of the migrant agricultural workers and its impact on their livelihoods.

### **Review of Theoretical Studies on Migration**

The study of migration has been given due importance since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ravenstain (1885 and 1889), Lewis (1954), Fei and Ranis (1961), Everett Lee (1966), Todaro (1969), Harris Todaro (1970), Connell *et al* (1976), Premi (1980), Oded (1991) Pazhani (2001), Paul (2002) and Sathiadhas and Prathap (2013) studies reveal the following propositions.

- ❖ Migration takes place mainly to the centres of commerce, trade and industry.
- ❖ Migration increases with the development of commerce, manufacture and transports.

- ❖ Social, economic and demographic factors in village life are associated with migratory movements.
- ❖ Job opportunities cause rural to urban migration.
- ❖ Education, health, old age, means of earning income such as access to land influence migration.
- ❖ Migration takes place where there is lack of employment and income opportunities.
- ❖ Migration is the outcome of the push and pulls factors in the place of origin and destination.

In economic theory, migration is treated as an integral part of development process and therefore, migration theories have more or less moved along with the changes in development theory.

### **Area of the Study**

This study is chiefly based on the primary data collected from the sample households who have migrated leaving behind their agricultural occupation. For this purpose, Villupuram district has been identified as the sample district, since it is one of the backward districts of Tamil Nadu with low socio-economic indicators. From Villupuram district, Sankarapuram taluk has been selected as the sample taluk, since it is one of the taluks with a lot of migrated agricultural workers, who have migrated not only to other districts of Tamil Nadu, but also to other states like Karnataka and Maharashtra. From this taluk, two blocks, viz., Sankarapuram and Rishivandiam have been selected as the sample blocks from which four villages each, viz., Aalathur and Melapattu from Sankarapuram block and Ariyalur and Pakkam from Rishivandiam block, have been identified as the sample villages. These four villages form the area of the present study.

### **Period of the Study**

Migration data is made available from Census of India and also National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The data published by both sources have been made use of in this study, in which the 2001 and 2011 Census data have been used, while the 2008-09 report published by the NSSO has been utilised. Thus, the period 2001 to 2011 is considered as the period of the present study. The primary data for this study has been gathered through a field survey which has been carried out during March to June 2013.

### **Objectives of the Study**

This study is based on the following objectives:

1. To understand the socio-economic characteristics of the sample households in the study area
2. To examine the role of migration on the indebtedness among the sample households in the study area and
3. To measure the level of poverty among the sample households during the pre and post migration periods.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

The hypotheses to be verified in this study are:

1. There is no significant variation in the reasons for migration among the sample respondents in the study area;
2. Poverty level among the sample households has not declined significantly in the study area.

## Results and Discussions

In this chapter the social background of daily migrant wage labourers, causes of their migration, awareness of labour law and rights have been described. Also how their socio-economic background are related with the causes of their migration and the awareness of labour law and rights, have been described.

### Social Background

It is important to mention the social background of migrant labourers in Villupuram District. The social background has been studied as age, religion, caste, education, distance, nature of job, family size, family type, daily income and working days (in a month). The facts on these variables are presented separately as the following:

#### Age

The age group is an important feature of any person. According to the age, they may engage in different works. The age distribution of respondents is presented in the following table.

**Table 1: Age of Daily Migrant wage Labourers**

Age group of years	No. of Respondents (%)
16-25	15(12.50)
25-35	54(45.00)
35-45	40(33.33)
45-55	6(5.00)
55 and above	5(4.17)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) there are 15 (12.50 %) respondents belong to the age group of 16-25 years. 54 (45.00 %) respondents belong to the age group of 25-35 years, 40 (33.33%) respondents belong to the age group of 35-45 years. 6(5.00 %) respondents belong to the age group of 45-55 years and 5 (4.17%) respondents belong to the age group 55 and above years.

Thus, it indicates that majority (45.00 %) of respondents are in the age group of 25-35 years and lowest number (4.17 of respondents are in the age group of 55 and above years. It means that more migrants are of younger (25-35 years) age group.

#### Sex Wise Respondents

A keen observation of data in table indicates the sex wise housing quality status in the study area.

**Table 2: Sex Wise Respondents**

Sex	No. of Respondents (%)
Male	74(61.67)
Female	46(38.33)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

It could be noted that majority of the male respondents' (61.67%) live in the thatched houses, whereas, majority of the female respondents' dwell in the sheet form of houses.

### Religion

Hindu, Muslim and Christian are the three important religions group found in the religion. Their numerical distribution it's given in the following table.

**Table 3: Religion wise respondents**

Religions	No. of Respondents (%)
Hindus	77(64.16)
Muslims	23(19.17)
christian	20(16.67)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) respondents, there are 77(64.16) respondents belong to Hindu religion, 23(19.17) respondents belong to the Muslims 23 (19.17) and 20 (16.67) respondents belong to christian religion.

Thus, it indicate that majority 77(64.16) of respondents belong to Hindu religion and lower number 20(16.67)of respondents belong to christian religion. It means that migrant has been there connected with Hindu religion.

### Caste

Caste is the main feature of an individual, which identifies the status of particular individual in both social and occupational. The caste distribution is presented in the following table

**Table 4: Caste wise respondents**

Caste Group	No. of Respondents (%)
FC	3(2.50)
BC	35(29.17)
MBC	39(32.50)
SC/ST	43(35.83)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

This table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) there are 43 (35.83) respondents belong to SC/ST caste, 39(32.50) respondents belong to MBC, 35(29.17) respondents belong to BC caste and 3 (2.50) respondents belong to FC caste.

Thus, the above facts show that the large number ((35.83) of the respondents belong to the SC/ST caste and lower number (2.50) of the respondents belong to FC caste. It means that migrant has been there connected with SC/ST caste.

### Education

Education is the most important factors of any person. Only education helps people to fight against social inequality, poverty and fulfills other necessities of person. The education distribution is presented in the following table.

**Table 5: Education Status of Daily Migrant wage Labourers**

Educational Status	No. of Respondents (%)
Illiterate	15(12.50)
Primary	17(14.17)
SSLC	39(32.50)
Hr. Sec	25(20.83)
Degree	6(5.00)
Others	3(2.50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) there are 15 (12.50) respondents have no education, 17 (14.17) respondents belong to primary education group, 39 (32.50) respondents belong to SSLC education group, 25 (20.83) respondents belong to Hr. Sec education group, 6 (5.0) respondents belong to graduate and 3 (2.5%) respondents are any other education.

This indicates that majority (32.50) respondents are SSLC and short number (2.5%) respondents in any other education. It means that migrant has been there connected with illiterate group.

### Distance (Place of living)

Distance of rural migrants vary the facts about the distance of rural (in approximate) lands are presented in the following table.

**Table 6: Distance of Daily Migrant Wage Labourers**

Distance Living Place from City (Km)	No. of Respondents (%)
1-10	38(31.67)
10-20	40(33.33)
20-30	20(16.67)
30 and above	22(18.33)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

This table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) there are 38 (31.67) respondents belong to (1-10 Km), 40 (33.33) respondents belong to (10-20 Km), 20 (16.67%) respondents belong to 20-30 Km and 22 (18.33%) respondents belong to 30 to above Km.

This indicates that are large numbers (33.33%) of the migrants belong to (10-20 Km) and lower number (16.67%) of the migrants belong to (20-30 Km) and (16 and above Km.) group. It means that migrant has been there connected with 10-20 Km. distance group.

### Nature of Job

Job is significant variables, which plays an important role in uplifting of their social life. The nature of Job distribution is presented in the following table.

**Table 7: Nature of Job of Daily Migrant Wage Labourers**

Nature of Job	No. of Respondents (%)
White Wash	25(20.83)
Contractor	19 (15.83)
Wages Labour	76(63.33)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100.0%) there are 25 (20.83%) respondents doing white wash work, 19 (15.83%) respondents are doing the Contractor work and 76 (63.33%) respondents are doing the wage labour work.

This indicates that majority (79.5%) respondents are doing the wage labour work and lower number (9.5%) of respondents are doing the Contractor work. It means that migrant has been there connected with wage labour works.

### Daily Income

Daily income is important variable, which is determined style and standard of an individual and family. The daily income distribution is presented in the following table.

**Table 9: Daily Income of Daily Migrant Wage Labourers**

Daily Income (Rupees)	No. of Respondents (%)
60 - 80	64(53.33)
80 -100	25 (20.83)
100 -120	19(15.83)
120 and above	12(10.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120 (100.0%)</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100%) there are 64 (53.33%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 60-80 rupees, 25 (20.83%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 80-100 rupees, 19 (15.83%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 100- 120 rupees and 12 (10.0%) respondents belong to the daily income group of 120 and above rupees.

Thus, it indicates that majority (53.33%) of respondents is in the daily income of 60-80 rupees and lower number (10.00%) of respondents is in the daily income of 120 and above rupees group. It means that migrant has been there connected with 60-80 rupees daily income group.

**Working Days (in a month)**

Facts about working days are presented in the following table.

**Table 10: Working days (in a month) of Daily Migrant Wage Labourers**

<b>Working Days (in a month)</b>	<b>No. of Respondents (%)</b>
6 –10 days	16(13.33)
10 -15 days	23(19.17)
15 -20 days	37(30.83)
20 -25 days	25(20.83)
25 and above days	19(15.83)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120 (100%), there are 16 (13.33%) respondents belong to the working day group of 6-10 days, 23 (19.17%) respondents belong to the working day group of 10-15 days, 37 (30.83%) respondents belong to the working day group of 15-20 days, 25 (20.83%) respondents belong to the working day group 20-25 days, and 19 (15.83%) respondents belong to the working day group 26and above days.

Thus, it indicates that large working day group of (30.83%) respondents are the day of (15-20 days) and the lower number of (13.33%) respondents are the working days group are 6-10 days. It means that migrant has been there connected with 15-20 working group.

**Causes of Migration**

There are several factors which are responsible for daily migration. Following table presents some causes of migration of daily migrant wage labourers.

**Table 11: Causes of Daily Migrant Wage Labourers**

<b>Causes</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
Non- Availability of work	24
Less wage	16
Seasonal cause	45
Conflict in family	21
Any other (hesitation, ego, Problem)	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that out of 120, 24 respondents are migrating due to non-availability of work in their villages, 16 respondents are migrating due to less wage in the villages, 45 respondents are migrating due to seasonal lack of work, 21 respondents are migrating due to conflict in family and 14 respondents are migrating due to other problems.

Thus, the above facts show that majority of respondents (45 out of 120) are migrating due to non-availability of work in the villages. Other causes are numerically lesser but still important e.g. less wage, seasonal unemployment and family conflict.

**Village Wise Respondents' Views on Measures to Eradicate Poverty**

Villages	Assured Irrigation, Watershed Development and Crop Diversification	Multiple Cropping and Dryland Techniques Use During Drought	Development of Activity Diversification through Women Self Help Groups	Self-Employment Generation through Anti-poverty Programmes	Promotion of non-farm Employment through Rural Industrialization	Total
Aalathur	4(3.33)	7(5.83)	4(3.33)	9(7.50)	6(5.00)	30(25.00)
Melapattu	7(5.83)	6(5.00)	7(5.83)	5(4.17)	5(4.17)	30(25.00)
Ariyalur	8(6.67)	2(1.67)	8(6.67)	9(7.50)	3(2.50)	30(25.00)
Pakkam	8(6.67)	4(3.33)	7(6.67)	5(4.17)	6(5.00)	30(25.00)
Total	27(22.50)	19(15.83)	26(21.67)	28(23.33)	20(16.67)	120(100.00)

Source: Field Survey

In these study respondents 23.33 per cent of them suggest that poverty can be eradicated through self-employment generation with the help of anti-poverty programmes. Out of the total 120 respondents 21.67 per cent of the respondents' suggest that poverty could be eradicate through development of activity diversification with the help of women self-help groups.. Moreover, 16.67 per cent of them view that poverty can be eradicated by promoting non-form employment through rural industrialization.

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that the respondents suggesting self-employment generation through poverty alleviation programme in the first order, the second, practicing multiple cropping and dryland farming development of activity diversification through women self-help groups the third, creation of having assured irrigation, watershed development along with crop diversification the fourth and promotion of non-farm employment through rural industrialization to eradicate poverty the last. In general creation of irrigational infrastructure and employment generation are the common view among the respondents of dry villager.

**Village Wise Respondents' Problems of Employment and Livelihood**

Variables	Aalathur	Melapattu	Ariyalur	Pakkam	Total
Long hours of working	3.75	3.9	2.75	2.65	3.26
Lack of bargaining power	4.05	4.11	3.95	3.87	4.0
Working during hard summer season	3.15	3.22	2.55	2.69	2.9
Low wage rate	3.91	3.86	2.55	2.66	3.24
Child labour practice	3.44	4.05	3.96	4.05	3.87
Low wage to women labour	4.11	4.22	3.97	3.88	4.05
Lack of organized labour union	3.88	3.99	2.75	2.65	3.32

Inadequate availability of local employment	4.11	4.22	3.97	3.88	4.16
Migration in search of employment	3.75	3.50	2.42	2.56	3.05
Social discrimination	3.75	3.90	2.59	2.87	3.27
Lack of alternative employment opportunities	4.11	4.15	3.95	3.87	4.02
Inadequate income to meet the household needs	3.11	2.49	2.69	3.15	2.86
Difficult to education children	4.21	4.33	3.75	3.65	3.98
Difficult to take adequate food	3.42	3.56	2.79	2.66	3.10
Increase in the price of essential commodities	4.15	4.26	3.59	3.6	3.34
Inadequate supply of essential commodities through fair price shop	2.76	2.65	2.44	2.52	2.59
Non availability of protected drinking water	2.26	2.52	1.96	1.89	2.15
Difficult to get benefit from the government scheme	3.49	3.89	2.67	2.45	3.12
Repayment of household debt.	3.75	3.90	4.21	4.33	4.04
Liquor consumption habit reduces household expenditure	4.21	4.31	4.44	4.26	4.60
Exploitation of land owning class	3.99	3.78	4.22	4.31	4.07
Inadequate days of availability of employment through National rural employment guarantee act	3.79	3.52	2.89	2.49	3.17
Lack of skill to start industries	4.12	4.15	3.97	3.89	4.03
Lack of training to do nonagricultural work	3.9	3.87	3.55	2.49	3.45
Total	3.72	3.76	3.27	3.22	3.47

*Anova*

<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Rows	29.6125	23	1.2875	10.93437	1.686896
Columns	5.873588	3	1.957863	16.62756	2.737494
Error	8.124613	69	0.117748		
Total	43.6107	95			

A study of data in table indicates the village wise respondents' problems of employment and livelihood. It can be assessed with the help of 24 factors on a 5-point rating scale. These include liquor consumption habit reduces household expenditure, inadequate availability of local employment, exploitation of land owning class, low wage to women labour, repayment of household debt, lack of skill to start industries Lack of alternative employment opportunities, lack of bargaining power, difficult to education children, child labour practice, lack of training to do nonagricultural work, increase in the price of essential commodities, lack of organized labour union, social discrimination, long hours of working, low wage rate, inadequate days of availability of employment through national rural employment guarantee act, difficult to get benefit from the government scheme, difficult to take adequate food, migration in search of employment, working during hard summer season, inadequate income to meet the household needs, inadequate supply of essential commodities through fair price shop, and non-availability of protected drinking water.

Out of the chosen 24 problems of employment and livelihood the respondents rate first order problem of liquor consumption habit that reduces household expenditure as their secure mean score is 4.16 on a 5 point rating scale. This shows the highest level of problem of employment and livelihood. The respondents rate second problem employment and livelihood in terms of inadequate availability of local employment. In this perception, they secure a mean score of 4.07 on a 5-point rating scale. The respondents rate third order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of Exploitation of land owning class as they secure a mean score of 4.60 on a 5 point rating scale. In general, respondents rate fourth order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of Low wage to women labour as they secure a mean score of 4.05 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate fifth order employment and livelihood in terms of Repayment of household debt as it secures mean score 4.04 on a 5 point rating scale.

Regarding, Lack of skill to start industries, the respondents' secure a mean score of 4.03 on a 5 point rating scale. It occupies the sixth order problem in employment and livelihood. The respondents rate the seventh order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of Lack of alternative employment opportunities as their secure mean score in 4.02 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents secure 4.00 as mean score on a 5-point rating scale with respect to their problem of employment and livelihood in terms of Lack of bargaining power. It is the eighth level problem of employment and livelihood. The respondents rate the ninth order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of difficulty to educate children as they secure a mean score of 3.98 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate tenth order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of child labour practice as they secure a mean score of 3.45 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate eleventh order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of lack of training to do nonagricultural work as they secure a mean score of 3.45 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents secure a mean score of 3.34 on a 5 point rating scale with respect to their problem of employment and livelihood in terms of increase in the price of essential commodities and it occupies the twelfth order of priority of employment and livelihood. The respondent rate the thirteenth order priority to the problem of employment and livelihood in

terms of lack of organized labour union as they secure mean a score of 3.32 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate fourteenth order priority to the problem of employment and livelihood in terms of social discrimination as they secure a mean score of 3.27 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate the fifteenth order of problem of employment and livelihood in terms of long hours of working as they secure a mean score of 3.26 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate the sixteenth order priority to the problem of employment and livelihood in terms of low wage rate as it secures a mean score of 3.17 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents rate seventeenth order priority to the problem of employment and livelihood in terms of inadequate days of availability of employment through National rural employment guarantee act as it secures a mean score of 3.17 on a 5point rating scale. The respondents rate eighteenth order of problem of employment and livelihood towards difficulty to get benefit from the government scheme as it secures a mean score of 3.12 on a 5-point rating scale. The respondents give nineteenth order employment and livelihood in terms of difficulty to take adequate food as it secures a mean score of 3.10 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents give twentieth order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of migration in search of employment as it secures a mean score of 3.05 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents secure 2.90 mean score on a 5 point rating scale with respect to their problem of employment and livelihood in terms of Working during hard summer season. This problem is rated as the twenty - first level. The respondents rate twenty second order of problem of employment and livelihood in terms of inadequate income to meet the household needs as they secure a mean score of 2.86 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents' rate twenty third order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of inadequate supply of essential commodities through fair price shop as it secures a mean score of 2.59 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents give twenty fourth order problem of employment and livelihood in terms of non-availability of protected drinking water as it secure mean score 2.15 on a 5 point rating scale. It is interesting to observe among the chosen villages that the respondents of Melapattu village occupy the first position with respect to their overall realization of problems of employment and livelihood as they secure a mean score of 3.76 on a 5 point rating scale. The respondents' of Aalathur village occupy the second position with respect to their overall realization of problems of employment and livelihood as they secure a mean score of 3.72 on a 5-point rating scale. The respondents' of Ariyalur village come to the third position in their overall realization of problems of employment and livelihood as they secure a mean score of 3.27 on a 5-point rating scale. The respondents of Pakkam village occupy the last position with respect to their realization of problems of employment and livelihood as they secure a mean score of 3.22 on a 5-point rating scale.

The Anova two ways model is applied for further discussion. At one point, the computed Anova value is 10.93, which is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, there is a significant variation among the chosen Villages with respect to respondents' realization of all problems of employment and livelihood. At another point, the computed Anova value is 16.62, which is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, variation among the attributes relating to respondents' views on problems of employment and livelihood is statistically identified as significant. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that the respondents give high-level problems of employment and livelihood. The high level problem means the variables, which secure 4 and above mean score on a 5 point rating scale. These include liquor consumption habit reduces household expenditure, inadequate availability of local employment, exploitation of land owning class, low wage to women labour, repayment of household debt, lack of skill to start industries and lack of alternative employment

opportunities. The respondents rate moderate problems of employment and livelihood to some of attributes. The moderate rating denotes secured means score in the range of 3 – 4. These include difficult to education children, child labour practice, lack of training to do nonagricultural work, increase in the price of essential commodities, lack of organized labour union, social discrimination, long hours of working, low wage rate, inadequate days of availability of employment through national rural employment guarantee act, difficult to get benefit from the government scheme, difficult to take adequate food and migration in search of employment. The respondents rate low order problems of employment and livelihood with respect to some attributes. The low rating indicates the respondents secured mean score below 3 on a 5-point rating scale. These include working during hard summer season, inadequate income to meet the household needs, inadequate supply of essential commodities through fair price shop and non-availability of protected drinking water

### Conclusion

- ❖ The majority (45.00%) of respondents is in the age group of 25-35 years and lowest number (4.17%) of respondents is in the age group of 55 years and above. It means that more migrants are of younger (25-35 years) age group which is the most productive age group.
- ❖ The majority of the male respondents' (61.67%) live in the thatched houses, whereas, majority of the female respondents' dwell in the sheet form of houses.
- ❖ The large majority (64.16%) of respondents belong to Hindu religion and lower number (16.67) respondents belong to christian religion.. It means that largely migrants are Hindus.
- ❖ The large segment (32.50)of the respondents belong to the MBC caste and lower number (2.50) each of the respondents belong to FC. It means that migrant in majority belong to MBC caste.
- ❖ The majority (32.50)of respondents are SSLC and very small number (2.50)of respondents have any other education. It means that migrants largely SSLC or very less educated.
- ❖ The largest segment (33.33)of the migrants come from 10 to 20 Kms distance and smaller number (16.67%) of the migrants come from 20 to 30 Kms, 16 and above Km. It means that larger number of migrants come from nearby (10 to 20 Km.) distance.
- ❖ The majority (53.33)of respondents have daily income of 60 to 80 rupees per day and smaller number (10.0%) of respondents have daily income of 120 rupees and above. It means that large majority of migrants get less wages i.e. 60- 80 rupees daily.
- ❖ The large number (30.83)of respondents gets work for 15 to 20 days per month and the smaller number (13.33) of respondents get work for minium 6-10 working days. It means that larger number gets work for 15-20 working days.

### Causes of Migration

- ❖ The majority of respondents (45 out of 120) are migrating due to Seasonal cause of work in the villages. Other causes are numerically lesser but still important e.g. less wage, seasonal unemployment and family conflict.
- ❖ The majority (24 out of 120) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in the village belong to the age group of (25-35) years which is the prime working age.
- ❖ Due to the migration of labourers to urban areas, villagers have kept labourers from other backward areas for their work who also reside with them and thus are more useful.
- ❖ Due to migration of labourers mostly the farmers are compelled to do their work on their own also.
- ❖ Now the farming is also done through tractors and new tools, thus not much regular labour is required and thus labour work is not regularly available in the village.
- ❖ Due to migration of labourers only few labourers are left behind in the village the benefit of which is that they are getting wages according to their will.

The findings of the respondents' views on persistence of poverty indicate the following facts. The respondents rated first in order of low development of non-farm sector as reasons for persistence of poverty in their village, crop failure and drought the second, low wage rate and seasonal employment the third, lack of alternative employment the fourth and poor performance of land reforms the last. The sex wise analysis reveal that lack of alternative employment is a major reason for persistence of poverty in the villages and female respondents state it as stat it as low development of non-farm sectors. The findings of the respondents' views on persistence of poverty indicate the following facts. The respondents rated first in order of crop failure and drought as reasons for persistence of poverty in their village, low wage rate and seasonal employment the second, lack of alternative employment the third, poor performance of land reforms the fourth and low development of non-farm sector the last. The crop failure and occurrence of drought is a major problem in Kaeavalli and bellukurichi villages. The education wise analysis reveals that lower primary level educated respondents state that persistence of poverty in their village is due to prevalence of low wage rate coupled with seasonal employment and also crop failure in consequence of drought. The caste wise analysis reveal that scheduled caste respondents are mainly wage labourers that is why they life more on prevalence of low wage rate couple with crop failure and drought in persistence of poverty in their village. The sex wise analysis reveal that male respondents state that crop failure and drought as main reason of persistence of poverty in their village. The findings of the respondents' views on measures to eradicate poverty indicate the following facts. The respondents suggesting self-employment generation through poverty alleviation programme in the first order, the second, practicing multiple cropping and dryland farming development of activity diversification through women self-help groups the third, creation of having assured irrigation, watershed development along with crop diversification the fourth and promotion of non-farm employment through rural industrialization to eradicate poverty the last. In general creation of irrigational infrastructure and employment generation are the common view among the respondents of dry villager. There is no migration from those who belong to the FC community, since all migrants belong to the non-FC

communities. Moreover, the highest share of migrants come from the socially marginalised segment of SC and ST communities, followed by MBC and BC communities.

### Suggestions

On the basis of the analysis made and the information gathered from the respondents during the field survey, the following suggestions are made:

Migration of the rural population, especially that of agricultural labourers takes place mainly due to the poor condition of the agricultural sector. Thus, it becomes paramount to improve the condition of the agricultural sector, as still it forms the basis rural development.

The greater dependence on open well irrigation in the study area severally cripples the extent of cultivation and also the cropping pattern. Thus, the adoption of advanced irrigational methods like drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation should be encouraged among the farmers and also, necessary institutional credit and subsidy facilities should be extended for the same.

The small and marginal farmers should be encouraged to come out of the practice of cultivating only the crops like paddy, jowar, bajra and groundnut. Instead, they should be educated and encouraged to cultivate high value crops like horticultural and floricultural crops and for this purpose, agricultural extension services should be reinvigorated and made more effective and efficient.

The introduction of MGNREGP has certainly improved the rural employment scenario to a considerable extent, though it has not helped in totally alleviating rural poverty and thus, the number of days of employment provided under the Programme needs to be increased considerably, to make it more effective.

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