

## Internal Migration and socio-economic conditions of Construction Women- a study in Visakhapatnam City Andhra Pradesh

1. Dr. Sivasankar Mandal Baidya, HOD, Assistant Professor, Value Education cell, KL deemed to be University, Vaddeswaram, Guntur.
2. PUJARI JHANSI LAKSHMI, MATERS IN EARLY INTERVENTION(NIEPD), LECTURER AT SIRDS, SANGAREDDY
3. Pratima Reddy Sambam, Batchlor's in Physiotherapy (BPT) and Masters in Development Studies, (MADVS)
4. B.P.Raju, Assisstant Professor in Economics, St. Ann's College for Women, Malka Puram, Visakhapatnam
5. Prof. Peri. JAYALAKSHMI, Former HOD, Dept. of Economics, St. Joseph's College for Women, Visakhapatnam

---

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Patterns of Migration have always fascinated demographers. Elaborate theories have been formulated on the subject and policy interventions designed to reduce or take care of the effects of migration. Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination. The results of Census 2011 will reveal the contours of migration in the last decade. In India, migration has been considered as way of life where the people migrate from place to place due to political Socio-economic and demographic reasons. Rural-Urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization, urbanization and economic growth. Rural-Urban migration eases inter-sectoral factor mobility and plays a vital role for structural changes. Moreover, migration has also been a key livelihood and survival strategy for many below poverty groups across the developing world, particularly in India. In many development research studies, it is proved that rural-urban migration leads to industrialization and economic growth taking into account the experiences of the developed world in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rural-urban migration reduces the pressure of population in the rural areas and thereby should improve economic conditions and reduce rural poverty. . The main **objectives** of the study is 1.to describe lives and livelihoods conditions of female migrants 2. to study the impact of migration on the income earned by the migrants. 3. It also devises how supportive information and its strategic sharing contribute for safe migration. 4. To analyze the changes of the per capita expenditure of the migrant households. **Methodology:** The study depends on primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through interview and questionnaire (both qualitative and quantitative). **Materials and Methods:** This paper was attempted to study the migrated women workers in construction industry in the city. The total sample for the study was 100 from four zones (East, West, North and South) of the city. Pretested multiple choice questionnaire applied. The migrants should have been in the place of city at least for a period of two years. **Hypothesis:** The hypothesis tested in the study was migration transform lives and livelihoods through enhance the income of the migrants and leads to a decline in the poverty level and debt burden among sampled group. Not only improve their living standards but savings also possible. **Conclusion:** The major findings of the study are migration has been a long livelihood strategy in India, has considerable impact on individual households. Research survey in the city findings show that migration has significantly raised the income, savings and decline the debt burden. In brief, migration has transferred the lives in terms of improving their income and standard of living and facilitated a significant decline in poverty of respondents in the study. Rural urban migration reduces the pressure of population in the rural areas and thereby should improve economic conditions and reduce rural poverty. This might be occurred due to the accelerated pace of rural urban migration.

**Key words:** Migration, Livelihoods, transforming, Strategy, Poverty,

---

Date of Submission: 02-08-2023

Date of Acceptance: 12-08-2023

---

## **I. Introduction:**

Historically, information on migration has been collected since 1872. It was confined to seeking information only on place of birth till 1961. The scope of collecting information on migration was enlarged by including the rural or urban status of the place of birth and duration of residence at the place of residence in 1961. Since the 1971 census, data is being collected on the basis of place of last residence, in addition to the question on birth place. Question on reason for migration was introduced in 1981. There are different streams of migration generally relating to the degree of economic and social development in the area of origin as well as area of destination. As per 2001 census in 1991-2001 about 5.3 crore persons migrated from one village to another to another. The number migrants from villages to towns was about 2.1 crore. The trend indicated in census 2011 would be valuable to tweak existing schemes and also to formulate new programmes to prevent rural-urban migration economic opportunities close to their place of residence. It would also provide an empirical basis for better urban planning.

Migration and mobility continue to attract much interest, but also growing concern. Rural to urban migration is a response to diverse economic opportunities across space. Migration primarily occurs due to disparities in regional development. The causes of migration are usually explained by using two broad categories, namely, push and pull factors. Studies conducted in the sphere of migration in India found that poverty, job searching and influence have been the main push factors for out-migration, while availability of employment opportunity, prior migrants and availability of better educational facilities have been identified as the key pull factors behind migration. In India, particularly, poverty is still considered to remain push factor for illiterates and moderately educated migrants from rural to urban. As per the economists and social development experts- migration is essential for development and it is a desirable phenomenon; but leads to problems in urban areas.

**Objectives:** The broad objective of this research paper is internal migration and the socio-economic conditions of female construction workers in Visakhapatnam city, Andhra Pradesh, India. The specific objectives are;

1. To study the socio-economic and working conditions of migrant women in construction industry
2. To study the impact of migration on the income earned by the migrants of construction women
3. To analyze the problems of the migrant households
4. To observe the reasons for migration and awareness about Labour laws in construction industry

## **II. Methodology;**

In this study, descriptive analysis has been followed. This study works to descriptive the internal migration and social – economic conditions of construction female workers in Visakhapatnam city. This study is used case study to analyses the qualitative data and survey method is for quantitative data. Construction work place of Gajuwaka, Simhachalam, Seethammadhara, P.M palem, Akkayya palem, Marripalem, Beach road etc .in the city are selected for the study. All the women workers are selected from construction industry. The study depends on primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through interview and survey with the structured questionnaire. In this study the sample size is 100 samples of migrant households in Visakhapatnam city. The migrants should have been in the place of city at least for a period of 2 years. Various statistical methods are used to analyze the data like percentages, chi-square test. SPSS & MS-Excel software is used as a technique of data analysis.

## **III. Review of Literature:**

**Thadani and Todaro (1984)** were among the first to propose a conceptual framework for female migration in developing countries and delineate the structural forces that account for female migration patterns. The most common cause for female migration in India is considered to be marriage, as custom has required the movement of the bride to the parental household of her spouse.

**Giddens (1992)** study explains that the time spent and the involvement, by gender, and place of residence of female workers. Unsafe conditions is another problematic condition of construction work place.

**Giddens (1992)** study also reveals that a highly competitive labor markets demands regular and timely participation that often becomes different for women to fulfill. Moreover, the greatest obstacle women face in the informal sector is their low access to resources. They lack the capital required for building the permanent structure of the enterprise labor saving tools to ease domestic burden and raw materials and improved machineries needed to increase productivity in construction sector. In addition, to say that the lack of cheap, safe transportation harassment by employers and police, problems with middlemen etc. are the other constraints faced by women in the construction work place.

**Findley and Diallo (1993)** In societies where there are strong normative pressures against the independent migration of women, it is likely that poorer families will experience economic need so severe as to violate these norms.

**Y.Haberfeld et al (1999)** examine both the determinants and impact of seasonal migration. Detailed information was gathered from all members of 624 households, thus enabling analyses at both individual and household levels. The findings indicate that seasonal migration among rural laborers is wide-spread. Rural households in India use migrant labor offered by their members to improve their well-being by both reducing the impacts of inferior conditions and by raising household's income levels.

**Curran and Saguy (2001)** Community-level influences such as economic integration gender and age structure as pertains to labor demand and the prevalence of migrant network also play a key role in female migration both women's propensities to move their experiences as migrants, and their adherence to societal norms, such as expectations to remit or otherwise provide support to origin households.

**J.R.Rele (2002)** the trends in the extent of internal migration and urbanization in India are analyzed in this paper, in the context of the development process within the country. The economic significance of these population movements is discussed.

**Afsar (2003)** in his study he found that women are more disadvantaged than men in terms of access to health care in construction workplace. Unlike most countries of the world, life expectancy of Bangladesh is slightly lower than men. Women family members are less likely to receive modern medical care and they generally rely on traditional and cheap methods of health care in construction work place. So health condition is problematic for female workers in construction work place.

**Mariapia Mendola (2006)** Labour migration is a pervasive feature of economic development. People mobility for temporary or permanent labour purposes is a routine part of agricultural activity. There are very significant migration flows in some developing areas, with considerable impacts on individuals, households and regions at origin.

**Hossain (2009)** his study found that the proportion of female casual labourers increased significantly in urban areas and in all areas self-employment increased but situation with regard to minimum wage and women wages in the construction sector.

**Arjan De Haan (2011)** this paper discusses the relationship between labour migration and poverty in India. The study focuses on the migration patterns of deprived social groups, analyze whether migration form a route out of poverty, and what specific policies for these groups exist or should be recommended. The paper first discusses general findings on the links between poverty and internal labour migration. This paper also discusses the implications of these insights for a notion of inclusive growth, and concluding that there is a need to address the invisibility of migrants and to review common policy aspirations to reduce migration. The conclusion reflects on the analysis of migration and policies to enhance migrants well-being and ability to participate in India's desexualizing growth.

## Results and Analysis:

Table-1  
Age of the respondents

Sl. No.	Age	Freq	%	Cumulative %
1	25	2	2.0	2.0
2	27	4	4.0	6.0
3	28	10	10.0	16.0
4	29	10	10.0	26.0
5	30	14	14.0	40.0
6	31	2	2.0	42.0
7	32	6	6.0	48.0
8	33	8	8.0	56.0
9	34	4	4.0	60.0
10	35	8	8.0	68.0
11	36	4	4.0	72.0
12	37	2	2.0	74.0
13	38	2	2.0	76.0
14	39	4	4.0	80.0
15	40	8	8.0	88.0
16	42	6	6.0	94.0
17	45	4	4.0	98.0
18	48	2	2.0	100.0

The sample size in the study is 100 Female workers are considered. Among the sample size (100) the migrant female workers are classified according to their age. Out of 100 sample 2% of 25 Age, 4% of 26 age, 10% of 28 and 29 age, 14% of 30 age only 2% of 31 age, 6% of 32 age, 8% of 35 age, 4% of 36 age, only 2% of 37 and 38 age, 4% of 39 age, 8% of 40 age, 6% of 42 age, 4% of 45 age, only 2% of 48 age.

**Table- 2**  
**Socio-Economic conditions of Respondents**

Sl.No.	Item	Description	Freq	%	Cumulative %
1	Educational qualification of the respondent	Illiterate	34	34	34
		Primary	38	38	72
		Secondary	28/100	28/100.00	100
2	Marital status	Married	43	43%	43
		Unmarried	06	0.6%	49
		Divorced	27	27%	76
		Widow	24/100	24%	100
3	Reasons for migration of the respondents	National or	18	18%	18
		.....crop	32	32%	50
		disorders. More	17	27%	67
		money earning	28	28%	95
		social problems	05/100	5%/	100
4	Salary of the respondent per day	300		9%	9%
		350		15%	24%
		400		46%	70%
		450		24%	94%
		500		06%	100%
5	Salary system of the work	Per day		73	79%
		Per work		27/	100%
6	Overtime facility of the respondent	Yes		74%	74%
		No		26%	100%
7	Overtime payment per day No overtime	50-60-32		32	32%
		60-80-19		19	51%
		80-100-23/74		23	64%
		26		26	100%
8	Break in working hours	30 mts- 64		64	64%
		1 Hr -22		22%	86%
		2 Hrs - 14		14%	100%
9	Working Hrs.	8-67		67%	67%
		9-21		21%	88%
		10-12/100		12%	100%

Out of 100 respondents 34% are illiterate, 38% are completed primary education, and only 28 % are secondary level educated. Among the total migrated women construction workers 43% are married, only 6 per cent are unmarried, 27 percent are divorced 24% are widows. In the case of internal migration here we observe that reason of natural calamities, lack of 365 days work, crop disorders, seeking high salaried work and social problems workers migrated to Visakhapatnam city. According to data, highest 32 per cent of the respondents are migrated due to lack of year long work in the existing place, 28 per cent are seeking higher salary 18 per cent natural calamities, 17 per cent are crop disorder purpose, only 5 percent are migrated due to social problems.

Regarding the study of salary to say that, 9 per cent of female workers get salary Rs. 300, 15% are getting Rs. 350/-, 46% are getting Rs. 400/- and 24% are getting Rs. 450/-. Only 6 % are getting Rs. 500/-. Among the female workers 73% get salary per day and 27% are getting salary per work. Among the total respondents of the salary 74% of workers are having overtime facility and 26% of female workers do not get overtime facility. The remuneration of per hour of overtime period have also found that Rs. 50-60 per hour are take 19% of female are take Rs. 60-80 per hr. 23% of female take 80-100 per hour. But 26% of female do not take overtime facility.

Among the total respondents here we see that 64% of female workers get 30 mnts. Off time and 22% of respondents are getting 1 Hr. off time, the remaining 14% of respondents get 2 Hrs. off time. These respondents feed their month's babies at work place.

**Table 3**

S.No	.Item	Frequency		%	Cumulative
1	Get nutrient of the respondent	Egg	6	6.0	6.0
		Fish	8	8.0	14.0
		Vegitable	16	16.0	30.0
		Don't get	70/100	70.0	100 %
2	Get pure water of the respondent	Yes	59	59.0	59.0
		No	41	41.0	100%
3	Primary Medical facilities at work place of the respondent	Yes	14	41.0	41%
		No	86	86.0	86%/100%
4	Facing accident of the respondent	Yes	64	64.0	64%
		No	36	36.0	36%100%
5	Sanitation facility of the respondent at work place	Good	6	6.0	6.0%
		Medium	22	22.0	22.0%
		Bad	78	78.0	78.0% 100%
6	Facing sexual harassment of the respondent	Yes	60	60.0	60
		No	40	40.0	100
7	Satisfaction about health of the respondent	Yes	14	14%	14
		No	86	86%	100

In the above table-3 show that the health conditions of female respondents. In the study of food expenditure, here we see that 6% of respondents get egg as a nutrient, 8% of female workers get fish as a nutrient, 16% of respondents get vegetables as a nutrient and 70% of the respondents don't get any nutrient. Here, we observe that 59 per cent of respondents are get pure water and 41 per cent of respondents don't get pure water in the constructing work place. In this study, among the total sample respondents, primary medical facilities at work place are available at 14 per cent and not available 86 per cent of the work places. From the survey data we found that 6 per cent of sanitation system is good, 22 per cent of sanitation system is medium and 72 per cent of sanitation system is bad in the construction work place. In the analysis of sexual harassment here we see that 60 per cent of female workers facing sexual harassment and 40 per cent of female worker don't face sexual harassment in the construction work place. In the analysis of health conditions here seen that 14% of the respondents are satisfied about health care facility and 86 per cent of the workers are not satisfied about the health care facility.

The Indian Labour Law is the main weapon for the protection of workers in the organized sector. The Law states that every employer is obliged to provide compensation to workers in the case of injury, disability or death, due to work place accidents. The Law also states that the family of a deceased worker resulting from a work place accident, will receive compensation to the respondent.

In the analysis of in-equality in work place here we observe that 70 per cent of workers said yes and only 30 per cent said no. This construction work is purely manual work skills are not necessary so large number of migrated women prefer this and entry is very easy. The Indian Government has passed various Acts to ensure equal pay and equal treatment at work palce. These acts are as follows: Women's compensation Act 1923, Minimum Wages Act 1948, Contract Labour Act, Equal Remuneration Act of 1976. Act was enacted keeping in mind the unequal physical and sociological burden a woman faces at the time of child bearing and rearing as well as cordial political and Social relations developed under the expanding global trade in liberalised environment.

**Table -4**  
**Problems faced by the migrant women in construction Industry**

SNo	Problem	Zone-I 25	Zone-II 25	Zone-III 25	Zone-IV 25	Total 100	X <sup>2</sup>
1	Sexual harassment	5(20)	15(60)	5(20)	1(4)	26	20.73
2	Health problem	2(8)	15(60)	5(20)	-	9	13.3
3	Wage discrimination	-	1(14)	6(24)	7(28)	11	28.80
4	Job risk	1(4)	1(4)	3(12)	1(4)	12	12.78
5	Sanitary problems	5(20)	8	2(8)	-	14	7.87
6	Poor safety measures	3(12)		3(12)	3(12)	23	12.3
7	Job insecurity	4(16)	-	4(16)	2(8)	16	9.93
8	Lack of skills	-	-	4(16)			

Figures in paranthesis percentages )  $x^2 = 7.81$

Significant at 5% level

Relationship between major problems faced by migrant women in construction industry in Visakhapatnam city.

The Table-4 shows that the major problems faced by the migrated female workers in construction industry. The major problems are health problems, sexual harassment problem, wage discrimination, poor safety measures, job insecurity, and lack of skills etc. The factors caused to these problems were, lack of education, training skills and other employment opportunities. Family burden, debt problems etc. Significant relationship was observed between major problems faced by migrated women workers in construction industry in Visakhapatnam.

**Table -5**  
**Observations from Field Survey**

S.No.	Reasons	Response	
		Yes	No
1	Awareness of Govt. Initiatives about construction works	43%	57%
2	Awareness on the Labour Acts and its enactments	37%	63%
3	Opinion about the awareness on where to file a case about discrimination, abuse and violence	72%	28%
4	Opinion about the confidence on Govt. policies about women welfare in construction industry	65%	35%
5	Opinion about the migration enhance their incomes	73%	27%
6	Opinion about the migration improve their standard of living and reduction of debt burden	74%	26%
7	Opinion about participation in welfare activities for social empowerment	66%	37%
8	Opinion about the satisfaction in construction works because easy entry	67%	33%
9	Opinion about the problems facing in the following issues		
	(a) Skills and education	53%	47%
	(b) Social development	77%	23%
	(c) Health & Hazards in work place	81%	19%
	(d) Sexual harassment in work place	61%	39%

From the above information it is clear that the awareness levels are low when it comes to the initiation of Government and the problems faced by migrant women in construction works is clearly representing that there is still lot of work to be done to improve the quality life of migrated women.

### References:

#### Research Articles and Books;

- [1]. Amitabh Kundu(2009) "Exclusionary Urbanisation in Asia: A Macro Overview", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 44, No. 48, pp.48-58.
- [2]. Biswajit Banerjee(1983) "The Role of the Informal Sector in the Migration Process: A Test of Probabilistic Migration Models and Labour Market Segmentation for India." Oxford Economic Papers, New Series, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Nov., 1983), pp. 399-422.
- [3]. **Deshingkar P. (2008)**, "Circular Internal Migration and Development in India" Overseas Development Institute, London. [Online] available
- [4]. **Grau H.R and Aide T.M. (2007)**, "Are Rural-Urban Migration and Sustainable Development Compatible in Mountain Systems?" Mountain Research and Development, 27(2):119-123. 2007. [Online] available
- [5]. Jacob Mincer (1995) "Economic Development, Growth of Human Capital, and the Dynamics of the Wage Structure" Journal of Economic Growth, 1: 29-48 (March, 1995)
- [6]. Jim Bentall and Stuart Corbridge(1996) Urban-Rural Relations, Demand Politics and the 'New Agrarianism' in Northwest India: The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) New Series, Vol. 21, No. 1 (1996).pp. 27-48.
- [7]. Mariapia Mendola(2006) "Rural out-migration and economic development at origin", Sussex Migration Working Paper No 40.
- [8]. Peggy Levitt and B. Nadya Jaworsky (2007) "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Developments and Future Trends", Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 33, pp. 129-156.
- [9]. Priya Deshingkar and Shaheen Akter(2009) "Migration and Human Development in India", United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports Research Paper
- [10]. Ravenstein E. G. (1885). "The Laws of Migration"[Online] available: Robert E.B. Lucas (2007) "Migration and rural development", electronic Journal of Agricultural and Development Economics, Vol. 4, No. 1, 2007, pp. 99-122.
- [11]. Srivastava, R. and Bhattacharya, S. "Globalization Reforms and Internal Labour Mobility; Analysis of Recent Indian Trends, paper presented at the seminar on Labour Mobility and Globalising world; Conceptual and Empirical Issues. Sep 18-19
- [12]. Todaro M.P. (1980). "Internal Migration in Developing Countries: A Survey" University of Chicago Press. [Online] available:
- [13]. Vinay Gidwani and K. Sivaramakrishnan(2003)"Circular Migration and the Spaces of Cultural Assertion", Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 93, No. 1, pp.186-213.
- [14]. Y. Haberfeld et al (1999) "Seasonal Migration of Rural Labor in India", Population Research and Policy Review, Vol. 18, No. 5 (1999), pp. 473-489.
- [15]. www.google.com

#### Magazines:

- [16]. Yojana-2010,2011,2012
- [17]. Kurushetra-2012,2011,2012
- [18]. Economic and Political weekly-2010,2011,2012