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A STUDY ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF MIGRANT WORKERS EMPLOYED IN GARMENT INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TIRUPUR DISTRICT

V. DHIVYA KEERTHIGA RESEARCH SCHOLAR AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE & HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN COIMBATORE

ABSTRACT

The current study has found that the main reason of migration is for the development of the family which is very much necessary for the development of the economy. And the migration is mainly taking place for improving their family status and getting good employment opportunity. And even though the migrants are having better living condition while compare to that at their place of origin their quality of life index is not satisfactory. So it is alarming situation for the policy makers to see for the improvement in the quality index of migrant workers.

KEYWORDS

Tirupur District, migrant workers, garment industry.

INTRODUCTION

uman migration entails movement of people from one locality or location to another, sometimes over long distances and in large groups. Migration of people occurs for various reasons: exodus during ethnic conflict, natural disaster, political instability, economic hardship as well as search for economic and social improvement, betterment of livelihood and so on. Migration is not a recent phenomenon. For centuries, even during pre-historic times, there are evidences of people moving from one region to other. People moved across length and breadth of a country, at times across borders for social economic and political reasons. The developed/ developing areas have created a demand for labourers and the rural and backward areas have become the supplier of labourforce. Majority of migration is labour dependent on agriculture for work and income. The non-seasonal migration flows from the areas of limited economic opportunities and retarded social development to fast developing areas providing higher wages to improve people's socio-economic status. (Economic and Statistical Organization, 2009). Migrants are those who move away for short or long periods from their usual place of residence. The main motive behind migration is to improve the quality of life of migrant.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The term 'Quality of Life' that is QOL is been framed by the UAS during the period of their post-war. This term was used for mentioning the effect of the material which affluence the people's life and also effect the education, health and welfare, economic and industrial growth and also the defense of the 'free world'. And in the socio medical literature quality of life is a term which is been associated with that of the terms such as life satisfaction, self-esteem, wellbeing, happiness, health, value and meaning of life etc. (Carr.A.J.2001).

In a study by (John Grieve & Ulrike Weinspach 2010) they mentioned that QOL is a function of people's life and their circumstances which has a dimension in their economic condition and also which affects the social networks on which they are been depending. It is been considered to be the environment where factors of well-being are been augmented.

In a study by WHOQOL-BREF (2004), they mentioned that Quality of Life is a measure of an individual's ability to function physically, emotionally and socially with their environment at a level of consistent.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As we know our economy is now a day's moving very fast in order to become developed county. In this fast movement of growth industrialization is been developed everywhere. Agriculture is given very less preference. And due to various reasons workers are forced to migrate both voluntarily and involuntarily from their place of origin to other places. Workers are forced to migrate from their native place because of lack of employment opportunities, lack of development, inadequate agricultural land, caste discrimination, law wages, mounting debts and poor economic development of their family. With migration the migrants face many problems in adapting to the environment, changes in language, difference in culture, food and tradition. These migrants find their shelters mostly in private unorganized sectors.

At present internal migration is increasing fastly. Mainly in Tirupur district a large number of migrants are finding their employment easily. So, a large people from Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar. Orissa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh are migrating to Tirupur. And even in the unorganized sector prefers these kinds of migrant workers because they prefer to work for low wages. Understanding the Quality of Life of those kind of migrant workers is necessary in order to know the needs and wants of them in having good standard of living.

OBJECTIVES

The following are the objectives of the study A study on Quality of Life of Migrant Workers Employed in Garment Industries with Special Reference to Tirupur District

- 1. To identify the reason for migration.
- 2. To find out the living condition of migrant workers
- 3. Study the quality of life of migrant workers.

DATE SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

To achieve the above objectives, the researcher conducted a study through interview method covering 100 sample workers employed in Garment Sector of Tirupur District. The study was conducted in the month of April 2016 as part of research work. The collected data are used to find out the results of the study using SPSS software version 19.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Historically migration has been in existence from time immemorial and its incidence and cause have varied depending upon the various dimensions of situations that has been prevailing at a particular place at a given point of time. The factors influencing the decision to migrate are varied and complex, from one country to another or from one religion to another within a country depending upon socio, economic, demographic and cultural factors of the origin on one hand and upon the conceptualization of migration process and the scale of investigation on the other. Hence, in the current study, the migrants were asked to state the reasons which made them to migrate which are given in the following table 1.

TABLE 1: REASONS FOR MIGRATION							
S. No	Reasons	Number	Percentage				
1	For family development	25	25				
2	To earn additional income	19	19				
3	For environmental reasons	18	18				
4	To raise standard of living	16	16				
5	For social security	15	15				
6	To remove poverty	7	7				
	Total	100	100				
Source: Drimon, data 2016							

Source: Primary data, 2016

It is clear from the table that larger portion (25 percent) of the respondents migrated for 'family development', 19 percent of them reported that they migrated in order to earn additional income, and 18 percent for environmental reasons. It is also to be considered that 16 percent had migrated to improve their standard of living, 15 percent for social security and only 7 percent to remove poverty. The above facts are depicted in the following diagram. The reason for migration was associated with economic 'pull factors', reported by 67 percent of the selected sample migrants.

LIVING CONDITION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE PLACE OF DESTINATION

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION

The type of accommodation in which the migrants live were analyzed and the collected data are given in the following table.

TABLE 2: ACCOMMODATION DETAIL OF MIGRANT WORKERS							
S.No	Accommodation	Number	S.No	Accommodation	Number		
1	House		6	Bathroom			
	Rented	100		Within the house	32		
	Owned	0		Outside the house	45		
	Total	100		Away from the house	23		
				Total	100		
2	No. of rooms		7	Details of latrine			
	1	80		Within the house	32		
	2-3	6		Outside the house	45		
	>3	14		Away from the house	23		
	Total	100		Total	100		
3	Type of floor		8	Type of latrine			
	Mosaic	65		Pit latrine	13		
	Cement	23		Independent	12		
	Tiles	12		Shared	75		
	Total	100		Total	100		
4	Type of roof		9	Drainage facility			
	Asbestos	43		Open	65		
	Terrace	37		Closed	35		
	Tiles	20		Total	100		
	Total	100					
5	Type of lighting		10	Drinking water			
	Electrified	100		Within the premise	32		
	Non-electrified	0		Near the premise	22		
	Total	100		Away from the premise	46		
				Total	100		

TABLE 2: ACCOMMODATION DETAIL OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Source: Primary data, 2016

From the above table it is found that all the sample respondents (100 percent) live in rented houses. The table also shows that a majority of 80 percent of the sample units live in single room house while the remaining 20 percent live in 2-3 rooms and in rented houses with more than 3 rooms. When analyzed on the flooring of the houses of the respondents most of them (65 percent) reported that they have mosaic flooring, followed by 23 percent living in cement flooring and only 12 percent of the migrants live in tiles flooring houses

When an analysis was made on the availability of basic amenities, such as bathroom a majority of 45 percent reported that they have bathroom outside the house, 32 percent stated they have bathroom within the house and 23 percent stated that they have bathroom away from their home.

The study also finds the details of latrine available to the respondents in their place of destination. It reveals that a majority of 75 respondents are sharing their latrine. It is followed by pit latrine by 13 percentage and 12 percent of respondents have independent latrine facility.

The next analysis was on the drainage system, in which a majority of 65 percent of the respondents stated that they have open drainage system in their accommodation and only 35 had closed drainage system.

There was also question related to the availability of drinking water, where a majority of 46 percent stated that they have to go away from their premises for getting pure drinking water, 32 percent had drinking water facility within the premise and 22 percent stated that they had water facility near their premise.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

The term quality of life is often discussed in broad terms as satisfaction of needs, feelings of well-being, good or bad working conditions, and other indicators such as their educational level, occupation, income levels, nutritional status, and living conditions and so on. The current study made an attempt to measure QLI of the selected migrant garment industry workers using five indicators. The five indicators are grouped under three headings as shown below.

1. Social status: Literacy level of the head of the household

2. Income status: Occupation of the female members in the household.

3. Annual per capita income of the household.

4. Housing: Type of house and

5. Number of rooms per person.

To construct the quality of life index table; the actual values of five indicators are converted into a seven-point scale of 0 to 6. The minimum score that an indicator could get is 'zero', and the maximum is 'six'. Range and points for each subdivision are fixed arbitrary. The chief criterion is to include the full range of data in the survey. In some case the points represents the data proportionality. In others the interval between the adjacent two points may not be proportionate to any other two points in that division.

The Government of India, in collaboration with the UNDP spelt out in the Urban Poverty Removal Strategy that poverty has a social dimension-viz-poor quality of housing and living environment viz lack of access to basic services like clean water, education etc. With all these issues, the Quality of Life Index (QOL) has been computed for the study based on the methodology followed by Gomathi (2012). Table gives the quality of life index table constructed with five indicators for the sample households.

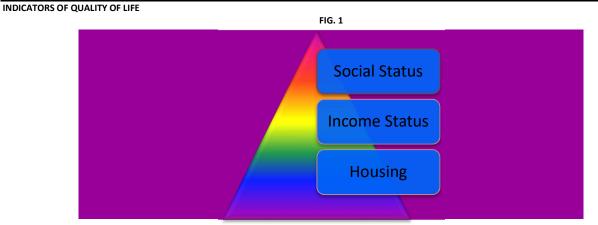


TABLE 3: QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX TABLE

Card a	0	1	2		4	F	C
Scale	0	T	2	3	4	5	6
Indicator							
Education	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	High School	Higher	Undergraduate, Di-	Post Graduate
		(Class I-V)	(Class	(Class IX-X)	Secondary	ploma	And Others
			VI-VIII)		(Class XI-		
					XII)		
Occupation of	House	Casual La-	Servant	Agricultural/Non-Agricultural La-	Self-Em-	Employed In organized	Government
the female	Wife	boures		boures (Regular Workers In Unor-	ployed	sectors of public or pri-	service
				ganized Sector)		vate	
Annual percapita	4050	4051-	5001-	5401-6750	6751-	10801-21600	Above 21,600
income (₹)		5000	5400		10800		
Percentage ex-	80 And	75-79	70-74	65-73	60-64	45-59	<45
penditure on	Above						
food							
Type of house							
Roof	Rubber	Leaf	Leaf	Asbestos	Tiles	Tiles	Concrete
Wall	Sheet	Leaf	Mud	Leaf	Leaf	Bricks	Bricks
Floor	Leaf	Mud	Mud	Cement	Cement	Cement	Cement
	Mud						
No. of rooms per	0	.25	.5	1	1.25	1.5	>1.5
person							

Source: Constructed

The average quality of life index calculated for the migrant garment industry workers based on the above quality of life index table is given in the following table.

TABLE 4: A				

QLI	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number	0	0	11	85	4	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2016.

About 85 percent of the migrant have their average quality of life index lying between 2.5 to 3.5. The average quality of life index was estimated to be 2.876. This implies the less privileged quality of life of the sample units even after migration.

CONCLUSION

The current study has found that the main reason of migration is for the development of the family which is very much necessary for the development of the economy. And the migration is mainly taking place for improving their family status and getting good employment opportunity. And even though the migrants are having better living condition while compare to that at their place of origin their quality of life index is not satisfactory. So it is alarming situation for the policy makers to see for the improvement in the quality index of migrant workers.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- > Ensuring hygienic living conditions with proper drinking water, toilets, drainage, sanitation both at workplace and living place must be improved.
- > Provisions can be made for affordable medical facilities at work place.

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