



## Work and Life of Interstate Migrant Construction Workers: Current Issues and Situations

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### Abstract

*On recent years in India, the growth rate of labour movement both within the country and out of the country has been increased due to various situations. The concepts of labour migration happen when their expectations and requirements are mismatch with the existing opportunities in their native they decided to move out. Still these movements have not been registered by any mode of records. Since they are invisible workforce and are most welcomed sources for construction industry, this is because of the complex nature of employment activity and the requirement of labor is huge in construction sites. This situation grabbed the attention of many migrants to these vulnerable employment activities. Thus the researcher has made an attempt to study the present situation of interstate migrant workers in construction site in Trichy. The main objective of the study is to know the problems of working and living conditions of interstate migrant workers in construction industry. The design adopted for the present study is descriptive in nature. The study is based on both the primary and secondary data for fruitful investigation. Snowball sampling method is used for selecting the respondents. The Self-prepared interview schedule was used for collecting the data from the respondents. The translator has been appointed to communicate with respondents to collect data. The primary data has been collected among the Interstate Migrant workers through interview schedule and the secondary source of information has been collected through internets, previous research studies, published articles and magazines for supporting information. The findings of the study reveals that the plight of interstate migrant workers in the construction site.*

**Keywords:** Employment activity, Construction site, Interstate Migrant Workers, Vulnerable employment, invisible workforce.

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### Introduction

Labor refers to employment whereas the employment is a foundation for the national economy. India holds the second position on strength of workforce which is around 487 million workers was contributed to National GDP (2014 est. The World fact book). On recent years in India, the growth rate of labour movement either within the country are out of the country has been increased due to various causes like overwhelming of population, failure of agriculture, some of the regions are failed to support their peoples regarding livelihood, poverty, betterment of life and so on. To weigh these issues the government introduces a new economic policy like globalization and liberalization to develop the national economy, in the sense the requirement of labour remains augmented in highly work potential urban areas. People in all ages have shown interest to live in urban areas because of economic opportunity which is the base for all cities. The concept of labour migration is happen when their expectations and requirements are mismatch with the existing opportunities in their native they decided to move out.

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These migrated labours are extremely absorbed by unincorporated private industries for instance construction sites, small industries or individual owned private enterprises. Migrant labours are exactly fit in the hand of gloves and also the employment nature is too disseminated. The implementation of labour laws, Social security measures are hopeless. Thus the paper attempts to highlight the issues of Interstate migrant workers and the scope of employment opportunities in urban areas.

On recent decades the peoples from other state have involving employment activity in TamilNadu have increased especially in the highly work potential areas (NSSO, 2001). For these populations construction industry is the main cradle of employment. Construction sector gives work on time by its mother nature comparing with other sectors the construction market has easy malleability of labor. Therefore the researcher has put an effort to study the present employment situations of Interstate migrant construction workers and the asses the problems faced by them in their working spot.

### Review of Literature

Jesudoss (1990) concentrated on the "Wages and working states of development laborers in Madurai city in India" findings of the study shows that, welfare measures were legitimately executed the standard of

work picked up naturally. These labours are employed for cheap wage rate and the availability of those labours is also enormous.

**Suresh & Ramesh (2012)** found that working and living states of migrant workers in Kalikampatti town and encompassing zones. Almost 50 respondents were selected; interview schedule was utilized for information accumulation. The real finding of the study shows that larger part of transient laborers particularly youngsters have poor training offices, 60 percent of the respondents demonstrates that they are confronting issues in the work place. The study depicts that the real purposes behind these moves was falling of farming part because of absence of water, unemployment, debt and so on. Mostly the people from the other states have more complicated than the intra state migrants because they are more vulnerable. Based on the above reviews and literatures the researcher found a research gap, that only very few studies have published regarding the problems and situations of Interstate migrant construction workers and also Tiruchirappalli which is center part of Tamilnadu and the growth of construction sector is increasing day by day. Thus the researcher made an attempt to study the work life of interstate migrant construction workers current issues and situations which has not been under our control.

**Dimitri & Germidios** study (as cited in Ramakrishna, 2010) was proof that the development of construction industry is rely on upon the development of improvement in state of work and modern connection in building industry on Mexico were great.

**Materials and Methods**

**Research Design**

The present study primarily describes the socio demographic profiles of the interstate migrant construction workers in Tiruchirappalli City Corporation in detail. It shows the present work life issues and situations of migrant workers in the informal

construction sector. Further the study assesses the working and living conditions, future plans of migrant labors and describes the work life issues and situations of those workers. Thus the researcher has adopted descriptive research design for the present study.

**Population and Samples**

The person who has been engaged in employment activity in construction sites in Tiruchirappalli, from other than the state of Tamilnadu comprises the population; the figures of population cannot be measured at a time, because of non-availability of data. Therefore, the researcher has to go for a non-probability sampling method, using these method the size of the sample has been chosen the respondents were selected by their willingness to response only so that the researcher has adopted purposive sampling method, who is willing to respond are only taken for information accumulation. The size of the sample is 54 respondents across 27 construction sites in Trichy corporation limit.

**Tools for data collection**

The information is collected through self-prepared interview schedule. It consists of five parts viz., demographic profiles, working conditions, rationale behind migration, living condition and future plan. Translator, who has familiar with both the language of researcher and the respondents has been appointed to communicate with the respondents, the site supervisor translated the question into their language which is familiar to the respondents.

**Results and Discussions**

SPSS version 16.0 was used to analyze the data and explain through simple frequency tables. The below table explains the various dimensions of variables for work life of interstate migrant construction workers issues and current situations.

**Table I.** Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency (n=54)	Percentage
<b>1. Age</b>		
15-25	3	5.6
26-35	37	68.5
36-45	30	18.5
46-55	4	7.4
<b>2. Educational Qualification</b>		
5th-9 <sup>th</sup>	14	25.4
SSLC	24	44.4
HSC	23	24.1
Others	3	5.6
<b>3. Marital Status</b>		
Married	33	63.1
Unmarried	21	38.9
<b>4. Designation</b>		

Mason	23	42.6
Painter	6	11.1
Tiles Fitter	2	3.7
Helper	23	42.6
<b>5. Mother Tongue</b>		
Marathi	4	7.4
Bengali	22	40.7
Hindi	25	46.3
Telugu	3	5.6
<b>6. Local Language Known</b>		
Know	3	5.6
Not Know	20	37.0
Know little bit	31	57.4

The table I shows the Socio-Demographic characteristics of selected samples of interstate migrant construction workers in Trichy city corporation, It indicates the age wise distribution of migrant workers, found that majority (68.3) of them belongs to the age group of 25-35years, a small percentage (18.5) of the respondents are in the age group of 36-45 years and very few percentage (7.4) of respondents are in between the age group of 46-55 years and minuscule percentage of respondents are in the age between 15-25 years. Educational status of respondents reveals that nearly less than half percent (44.4) of the respondents have completed SSLC, one fourth (25.4) of the respondents have completed their studies in between 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> standard of education, another one fourth of the respondents have completed their studies up to HSC and very few percentage of the respondents have showed in the others category in that two of the respondents are doing MBA in distance mode, one of the respondent have completed diploma in electrical engineering. It found that there is no,even a single respondents who are illiterate. With respect to marital status, majority (63.1) of the respondents is married and rest 38.9 percent of

respondents are unmarried. Among the samples selected for the present study reveals that there is equal proportion (42.6) of workers represent the masonry grader work and other portion of respondents are unskilled workers, very few(11.1) of them are working as painter, remaining 3.7 percent of respondents are tiles fitter. The mother language of the respondents depicts that less than half of the respondents having Hindi as mother tongue, they are migrated from the state of Bihar, another less than half of the respondents are having Bengali as the mother tongue hawl from West Bengal, among the samples very few (7.4) of the respondents are from Maharastra their local language is Marathi and (5.6) percent of the respondents speak Telugu people and migrated from Andra Pradesh. Among the migrants, the study reports that nearly more than half (57.4) of the respondents are partially know the local language, where they are engaged in the employment activity one third of the respondents are not familiar with the local language, very meager percent (5.7) of respondents were familiar with local language. It isevident that from the above table all migrant workers have different colors and unique social characteristics.

**Table II.** Work Nature

Variables	Frequency (n=54)	Percentage
1. Work experiences (years)		
0-3		
3-5	29	53.7
5-8	21	38.9
	4	7.4
2. Job refer by		
By own	27	50.0
Referred by relatives	8	13.8
Referred by friends	7	14.0
Referred by contractors	11	20.4
3. Previous job		
Agriculture		
Own business	5	9.3
Same work	16	29.6
No work	6	11.1

Others	17	31.5
	10	18.5
4.Hours of work		
8 hrs	5	9.3
9 hrs	16	29.6
10 hrs	26	48.1
More than 10 hrs	7	13.0
5. Work days in month		
26 days	11	20.4
27 days	5	9.3
28 days	7	13.0
29 days	7	13.0
30 days	24	44.4
6. Major problems that you face at your work place		
Health	13	24.1
Psychological	6	11.1
Communal	6	11.1
Economical	29	53.7

Table II indicates the working condition of selected samples of migrant labours in construction sector found that majority (53.9) percent of interstate migrant workers have been working 0-3 years in Trichy, almost one quarter (38.9) of respondents are working 3-5 years in Trichy and very few (7.4) percent of labours are working 5-8 years. With respect to finding a job, exactly half of the respondents 50 percent of the respondents found their job by own interest, nearly (20.4) percent were identified by the contractors; very few of the workers are got their job by their friends and relatives. Employment activity on home town depicts that (31.5) percent of respondents are not involved in any employment activity in their native place, nearly one third of the selected samples were doing own business in their home town, average (18.5) number of respondents assist their parents, very small percent of labours are engaged in same type of work. Findings of working condition of interstate migrant construction worker depicts that; nearly half of the respondents mentioned that they are working for more than 10 hours in a day, 44.1 percent of respondents shows that they working for all the days in a month, more than half (51.1) percent of the respondents are daily wagers, half of them reported that they are not getting their wages at time and another half of them reported that they are getting proper wages at time, More than half (55.6) of labours are mentioned that they are getting more wages than in their respective native places, majority (69) percent of the respondents are having proper drinking water in the work place and (66.7) percent of the respondents are using bore water for drinking purpose. The study depicts that more than half (53.7) of respondents are suffering from economical problem, nearly 24.1 percent of the respondents are suffering from health problem and very few percent of respondents suffer from communal and psychological

problems.

The present study found that majority (63) percent of migrant population are migrated by voluntary motivation, almost one fourth of population informed that livelihood is the reason behind migration, majority (68.5) percent of migrated workers are not achieving the real cause of migration, majority (68.5) percent of constructions are staying at workplace, all of the respondents informed that they employer is providing proper sanitation facilities, Vast majority of migrant of this study have not migrated with their families, more than half (53.7) of the respondents go to the government hospital in case of sickness except the unfortunate accident in the work place, in case of accident at working spot the employer has to take the responsibility to admit them in nearby hospital, all the respondents showed that they are provided with proper toilet and power facilities, majority of them (59.3) have celebrate Ramzan as their major festival that depicts that majority of population are Muslims, nearly 51.9 percent of respondents further it celebrate their festival with their family members at their native place, Nearly half of the respondents (46.3) are spending his leisure time with their colleagues by playing games like cricket and almost one quarters of the respondents are going out with his colleagues to spent his leisure time, half of the population found that they approach the local authorities to find a solution for their problems, 53.9 percent of the respondents depicts that they usually go to their native place once in a year, vast majority of population indicates that they are willing to settled in their native place.

### Suggestions

On recent times the government of Tamilnadu turns their attention towards these populations after the two major incidences which happened earlier in Chennai.

The present study provides few suggestions in the way to found a solution to the current issues and problems of interstate migrant workers in construction sector. Nowadays the Government is strict on the identity procedure for those employees, who have been working in the construction sites and must enroll their registration at Commissioner of Police Office, but most of them are not having any identity like Aadhar card or ration card, the government may issue the identity card to those labours. The governments have to take necessary steps to maintain one register or book of records about these populations and movement every year by appropriate authority. There is a need for legislative measures to make important moves to locate a suitable answer for their present issues and circumstances, because most of the low level construction companies are excluded by the laws. Like the organized sector, the employers who are admitting these kinds of labours may be contractor or builder has to show responsibility among them. Many research studies have been confronted to highlight these issues for betterment of these populations.

### Conclusion

Migrant is simply not movement, it become the way of life to many. Since they belong to the weaker section, they are profoundly helpless against abuse. These populations are faceless; they are working to solve their daily requirements. The government has to take necessary steps to find a suitable solution for their present issues and situations. The society has also showed some responsibilities towards this population. Social activist has to concentrate on these issues to make aware these communities regarding their rights and responsibilities.

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