MIGRATORY CHARACTERS OF WOMEN SLUME DWELLERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

According to the central government's estimates, part of its response to a petition filed by activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Harsh Mander in the Supreme Court, around 1.03 million people are residing in relief camps. But this might be an underestimation because the information was not captured from all the shelter homes. Additionally, at least 1.5 million workers are being provided shelter by employers across the country. "Workers in the unorganised sector, which is about 90 per cent of our workforce, have been left in the lurch because they have lost their source of income as businesses have come to a halt. Their savings are meagre and the companies cannot step in to help as they have also been impacted. The government should provide a helping help to them by transferring them minimum wages," Bhardwaj said. They travelled miles on foot to reach their villages. Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers are still living in shelter homes set up by various state governments in India, while the rest are under quarantine facility before they are allowed to meet their families. The growth of slums can also be attributed to absence of effective urban planning and failure of urban governance, often accentuated by interference by local and influential leaders. In order to help administration to have better understanding of the problem of slums in its entirety and enable the authorities to initiate appropriate steps to mitigate the hardships of the slum dwellers. Data on various aspects of slums is collected by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and the Registrar General of India and the Census Commissioner of India. National Building Organization (NBO) is the nodal agency that develops a statistical system on housing, slums and urban poverty. In this paper lights through upon migrants characters of slum women dwellers a sociological perspectives.

Key words: Migrants, Slums, Urbanization, Women slum dwellers characters

INTRODUCTION

It is paradoxical situation that on the one hand slum dwellers provide all services to urban population and on the other hand, they cannot meet their own needs. However, over a period of time, slum-dwellers are beginning to see themselves, as citizens contributing to the economy and, therefore, deserving their own place in the sun . It is the slum and pavement

dweller, who provides the vast network of services that the middle and upper classes enjoy at cheap rates. These services include the entire food supply network (vegetables, milk, eggs, butter, bread, meat, poultry, as well as restaurant services), clothing, laundry, vending and sales, transport, conservancy, communication, construction and domestic services for homes, and offices. The slum dwellers, if united, have the power to bring to halt the entire urban system, so powerful is their role in urban economy. Majority of the slum dwellers are immigrants of villages or towns and then migrated to slums or another form of low income urban housing .They move to the place after the migrant has established himself/herself in the city with a job, a network of friends and some sort of understanding of the political and bureaucratic structure of the municipality.

However, this pattern of movement from rural to slum is a very common one. Some move permanently and some others may be on temporary basis. This usually happens when a migrant already has a well established network of relatives and friends living there. Some of the migrants come not only from rural areas but also from other urban centers of the country. A few migrants never settle permanently in the city but stay only long enough to take advantage of the economic opportunities available before returning to their place of origin.

The employers of the migrant workers closed shop. The workers were also driven out of their rented shelters on the ground that they would not be able to pay the rent. Their paltry savings also were to dwindle soon. The fear of hunger forced the workers to opt for unimaginable journeys of hundreds of kilometres as all modes of transport had been suddenly closed down. Their choice was between the devil and the deep sea, between starvation and pandemic. India had not witnessed anything like this mass migration across the plains of the country without food or a night's place of stay for sleep since the days of the Partition of the subcontinent. More than 85% of respondents in India and China are experiencing a significant decrease in revenue, and India reported the highest number of respondents who stated that revenue decrease would be critical (70%). This is severely affecting the garment, footwear, construction and agriculture sectors.

Table No.1 Subsector-wise Industrial Employment Trends in India

Sector	Number (Million)	Percentage
Manufacturing sector Food and beverages, tobacco products	9.2	16.3

Textiles, wearing apparel	18	31.9
Leather, wood, paper products, printing	5.8	10.3
Petroleum products, chemical products	1.5	2.7
Rubber and plastics, non-metallic products	5.1	9.0
Basic metals, fabricated metals	4.6	8.2
Machinery equipment, electric and electronic machinery	4.0	7.1
Motor vehicles and other transportation	1.5	2.7
Furniture, recycling, jewellery and sports goods	6.8	12.1
Manufacturing total	**56.4**	100.0
Non-manufacturing sector		
Mining and quarrying	2.0	3.4
Electricity, water, gas	2.8	4.8
Construction	54.3	92.2
Non-manufacturing total	**58.9**	100.0

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017–2018. Employment numbers are based on the estimates reported by Mehrotra and Parida (2019).

Table No. 2 show that the around 115.3 million people are engaged in industrial employment, of which the manufacturing sector employment accounts for 56.4 million, while the remaining 58.9 million are in the non-manufacturing employment. In the manufacturing sector, the largest proportion of employment is in textiles and wearing apparel (31.9 %), followed by food and beverages. A large majority (92%) of those who are working in non-manufacturing employment are engaged in construction work respectively.

Though migration is the main contributor to growth of slums, it cannot be ruled out that some of the poor inhabitants of non-slum areas in the urban centres also shift to these settlements at some point of time due to worsening poverty conditions or loss of property etc. People keep coming to these settlements, add to the congestion and further deteriorate the living conditions and environment. Quite often, such settlements may develop near industrial areas or close to commercial areas where employment is available to the slum dwellers. Hill slopes, canal bunds, river beds, and railway yards are some of the common sites of slums. Many of these inhabitations are environmentally fragile. They are dangerous zones prone to landslides, floods and other disasters.

Though cities are considered to be reservoirs of talent, capital and work force which enable them to generate wealth and income for the nation, it is to be recognized that large sections of poor population live in cities. Most of them are slums dwellers. That is why

inclusive growth of cities has now become a critical issue in public policy. There is focus on developing smart cities. So as to avoid mushrooming of slums, the basic problems of the urban poor including the slum dwellers, need to be effectively addressed while planning for urban growth. In fact, it is very much necessary to remember that slum dwellers offer the human resource and play a key role in the process of the economic development of cities. Their number is so large that even a small increase on their productivity will mean a lot in terms of contribution to GDP. That is why focus of poverty shifted from villages to towns and cities, not only in India, but also all over the developing world.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In countries like India, population is growing by leaps and bounds and the provision for infrastructure persistently lacks behind the demand. Most of the Indian slums do not have access to sanitary connections, access to water and access to power supply. These factors will result in the dangerous unsanitary environment and this triggers the outbreak of certain epidemic diseases which plagues majority of the people living in the slum areas. Many urban areas comprising cities and towns have a very limited financial resources and the critical constraint facing infra structure investment is the chronic lack of capital to finance the urban housing projects. Slums are generally characterized by the high rates of unemployment , poverty and urban decay. The slums are commonly termed as the breeding grounds for social problems such as alcoholism , crime, high rates of ill-health and other socio-pathological disorders. The prevalence of high rates of diseases are due to malnutrition, unsanitary conditions and lack of basic health care and these factors mainly effect the women community at large in the society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

ILO (2018): As per there are over 30 million Indians overseas, with over 9 million of the Indian migrants concentrated in the GCC region (now known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf). Over 90 per cent of Indian migrant workers, most of whom are low- and semi-skilled workers; work in the Gulf region and South-East Asia. The contribution of migrant workers, both highly skilled and low skilled, has led to India becoming the top recipient of remittances in the world, with over US$62.7 billion received in 2016 (ILO, 2018).

Arun Kumar Ghosh (2008) in his study on relocation of slum dwellers observes that the movement of inhabitants from a squatter settlement to a resettlement colony can be perceived as a rise in the status of the slum dwellers. The legal recognition given to

the resettlement colonies makes it mandatory for the government to ensure better infrastructural facilities such as metalled roads, concrete paved lanes, water, sanitation, schools parks and open space. The majority of the households live in pucca houses. The better housing condition of slum dwellers of the resettlement colonies is a direct consequence of security of tenure. However some researchers comment that evictions and forced relocations destroy peoples lives by removing them from their areas of work, cutting off their social networks and destroying the housing and infrastructure they have built up with their savings. The occupational structure of the slum dwellers also changes when they move to relocated colonies. However. Some of them who are in permanent employment and who are not capable of changing the occupation, continue to work in their past occupations travelling long distances .

Benerjee (2005) suggests that change in spatial mobility from a squatter settlement to a resettlement colony can be perceived as a change in livelihood pattern in terms of employment and income, A larger percentage of the population in slums (squatter settlements) is dependent on daily wage employment where earnings are both low and irregular.

Mukhopadhyay and Dutt (2000) study the occupational pattern of slum dwellers living in the Tangra slums of Calcutta. The study finds that the main earners of the slum households are working in various places while some are also found working at home. About one-fourth of the earners are found to be self-employed having their own business. Carpentry and shoe-making are found to be the occupations of many earners. Shoe-making is done at home while earners engaged in other occupations are working in Tangra or places nearby. Only 20 per cent of the earners were casual laborers. They do not have stability in their income or job. 53.3 per cent of the heads of the households are illiterate and 40 per cent have primary education. Most of the Tangra slum dwellers are engaged in such occupations most of which do not require much education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the Migrant characters of Women Slum Dwellers in the study area.
2. To suggest certain Policy Measures for improving Women Slum Dwellers in the study area.

SELECTION OF SAMPLE SIZE

The women living in the slum areas are marked as the sample units in the present study. Simple Random Sampling technique was applied to select the sample respondents

from the study area. The sample households in the study area were identified from the existing households in that particular slum locality. From the existing total households in the sample area, 10 percent of the sample households were identified on the random basis and from the identified study areas. Thus, 508 sample households were identified accordingly and hence the sample size for the study is 508.
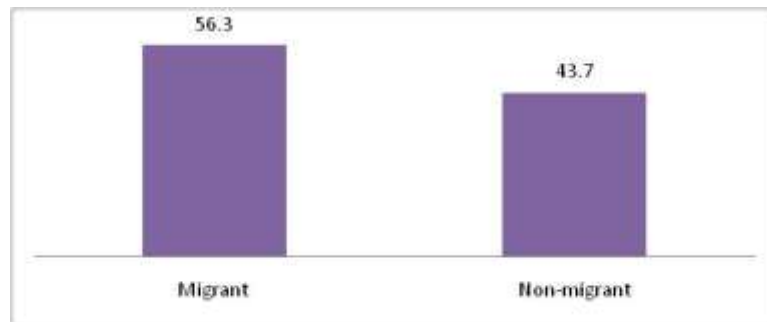
DATA ANALYSES OF THE STUDY

Table No.1 Details of the respondents by their migratory character

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Migrant	286	56.3
Non-migrant	222	43.7
Total	**508**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig. No.1 Details of the respondents by their migratory character


The table no 1. shows the migratory character of the respondents in the study area. It shows that 56.3 percent of the respondents are migrants and 43.7 of the respondents are non-migrants. The result shows that majority (56.3%) of the respondents in the study area are migrants from other areas. It can be inferred from the study that most of the slum dwellers are migrated from different places especially from the rural areas to urban and semi-urban areas. It can be further inferred from the study that the aspects of unemployment and poverty in the rural sector are acting as the triggers for the migration of rural population to urban areas. The increased growth of industrialization and urbanization had further fuelled to the cause of migration and the spreading of slum dwellings in the urban areas.

Table No. 2 Details of the respondents by the nature of their migration (N=286)

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Temporary Migration	90	31.5
Permanent Migration	196	68.5
Total	**286**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig. No. 2 Details of the respondents by the nature of their migration
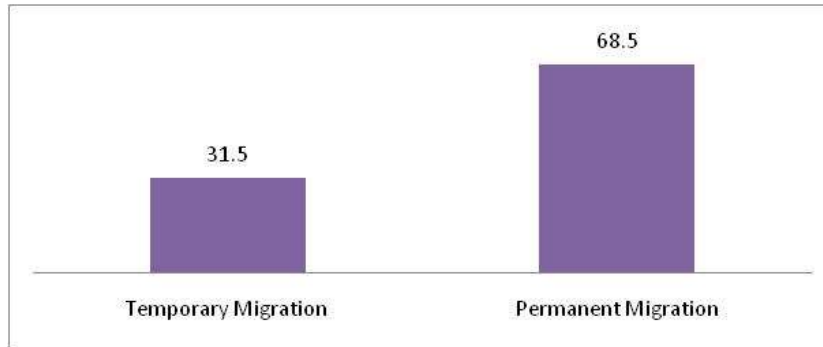
The table 2. shows the details of the migratory respondents by the nature of their migration in the study area. It shows that 31.5 percent of the respondents had temporarily migrated for various reasons and 68.5 percent of the respondents had migrated permanently.

The result shows that majority (68.5%) of the migratory respondents had migrated permanently in search of their livelihood. It can be inferred from the study that aspects like natural calamities, seasonal employment and drought factors in the rural areas may cause the rural people to migrate temporarily and the chronic aspects of poverty, unemployment and other social reasons may act as the reasons for the rural population to migrate permanently into urban areas.

Table No.3 Opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for migration (N=286)

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	52	18.2
Poverty	119	41.6
Natural Calamaties	12	4.2
Family problems	33	11.5
Loss of property	21	7.3
For better employment and opportunities	24	8.4
Children Education	19	6.6
Other reasons	6	2.2
Total	**286**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig. No.3 Opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for migration
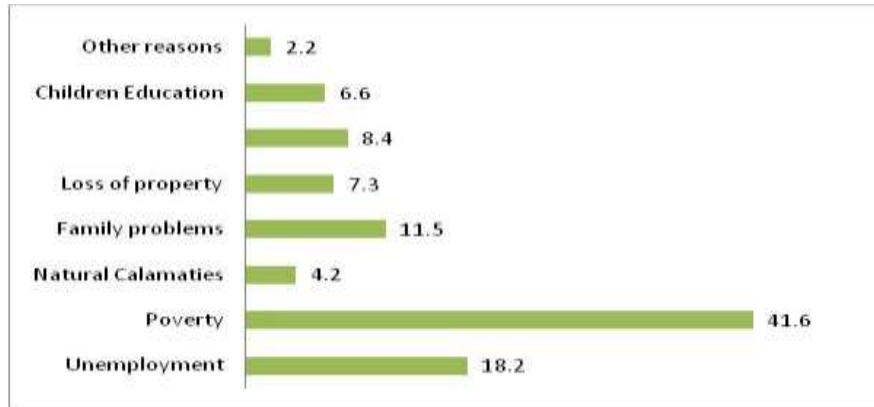
The table no 3 shows the opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for their migration. It shows that 18.2 percent of the respondents had opined that unemployment is the reason for their migration, 41.6 percent of the respondents had cited poverty, 4.2 percent of the respondents had cited natural calamity, 11.5 percent of the respondents had cited family problems, 7.3 percent of the respondents had cited loss of property, 8.4 percent of the respondents had cited better employment and opportunities , 6.6 percent of the respondents had cited children education and 2.2 percent of the respondents had cited other reasons for their migration.

The result shows that majority (59.8%) of the respondents in the study area had migrated due to poverty and unemployment. It can be inferred from the study that the push and pull factors of migration has a significant impact on the migratory character of the slum dwellers living in the urban and metropolitan areas.
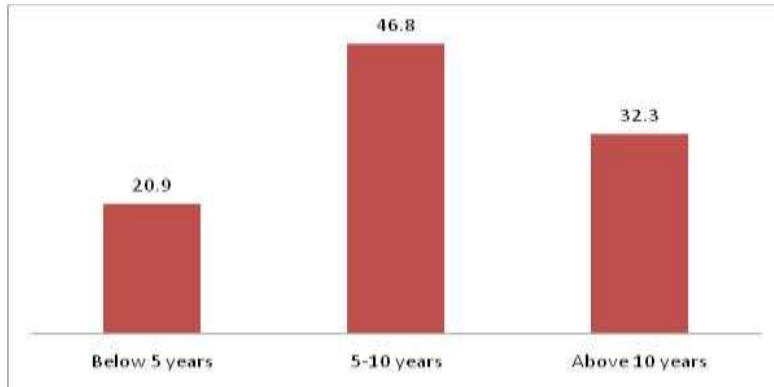
Table No. 4 Details of the respondents by their length of stay in the present place

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Below 5 years	106	20.9
5-10 years	238	46.8
Above 10 years	164	32.3
Total	**508**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig. No. 4 Details of the respondents by their length of stay in the present place
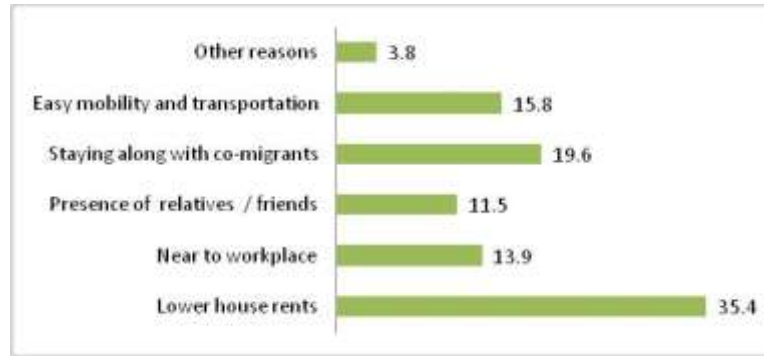

The table no 4 shows the details of the respondents by their length of stay in the present place. It shows that 20.9 percent of the respondents are residing in the present place for a period of   below 5 years , 46.8 percent of the respondents are residing in the present place for a period of 5-10 years and 32.3 percent of the respondents are residing in the present place for a period of above 10 years. The result depicts that a major chunk (46.8%) of the respondents in the study area are residing in their present place of stay for a period of 5-10 years.

Table No.5 Opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for staying in the present locality

(N= 286)

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Lower house rents	101	35.4
Near to workplace	40	13.9
Presence of relatives / friends	33	11.5
Staying along with co-migrants	56	19.6
Easy mobility and transportation	45	15.8
Other reasons	11	3.8
Total	**286**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig. No.5 Opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for staying in the present locality

The table no 5 shows the opinion of the respondents towards the reasons for their staying in the present locality. It shows that 35.4 percent of the respondents had opined lower house rents, 13.9 percent of the respondents had opined near to work place, 11.5 percent of the respondents had opined presence of relatives / friends, 19.6 percent of the respondents had opined staying along with co-migrants, 15.8 percent of the respondents had opined easy mobility and transportation and 3.8 percent of the respondents had cited other reasons for their stay at the present locality. The result shows that a major proportion (55%) of the respondents had opined that lower house rents and staying along with co-migrants act as the main reasons for their stay in the present locality.

Table No.6 Details of the respondent families by their nature of employment

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Employment in organized sector	11	2.2
Employment in unorganized sector	276	54.3
Seasonal employment	42	8.3
Self employment	64	12.6
Agriculture and allied activities	88	17.3
Others	27	5.3
Total	**508**	**100**

Source : Primary Data

Fig No.6 Details of the respondent families by their nature of employment

The table no 6 shows the details of the respondent families by their nature of employment. It shows that 2.2 percent of the respondent families are employed in organized sector , 54.3 percent of the respondent families are employed in unorganized

sector, 8.3 percent of the respondent families in seasonal employment, 12.6 percent of the respondent families in self employment , 17.3 percent of the respondent families are involved in agriculture and allied activities and 5.3 percent of the respondent families are involved in other activities.

The results denotes that a major chunk (54.3%) of the respondents in the study area are employed in unorganized sector. It can be inferred from the study that the slum dwelling populations will engage in the unorganized sector employment and most of them will work on daily basis or periodical basis of wage payments. Generally, the service sector will absorb more labour particularly, the women community and this makes the women labour to employ themselves in the unorganized sector.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. It shows that 56.3 percent of the respondents are migrants
2. The result shows that majority (68.5%) of the migratory respondents had migrated permanently in search of their livelihood
3. It shows that 18.2 percent of the respondents had opined that unemployment is the reason for their migration, 41.6 percent of the respondents had cited poverty
4. The result depicts that a major chunk (46.8%) of the respondents in the study area are residing in their present place of stay for a period of 5-10 years.
5. It shows that 35.4 percent of the respondents had opined lower house rents
6. The results denotes that a major chunk (54.3%) of the respondents in the study area are employed in unorganized sector. It can be inferred from the study that the slum dwelling populations will engage in the unorganized sector employment and most of them will work on daily basis or periodical basis of wage payments

SUGGESTION

❖ The Non - Governmental Organizations shall extend their helping hand for the slum dwellers in the process of eradicating illiteracy, superstitions and social evils which have been acting as the bottlenecks for the development of slum dwellers.

❖ The Non - Governmental Organizations shall initiate the awareness campaigns among the women slum dwellers in order to increase their knowledge on different health , hygiene and nutrition problems.

❖ Integrated planning strategies are essential for the eradication of slum areas.

❖ Regional development plans shall be prepared in order to conserve, optimize and utilize the natural resources of the state.

CONCLUSION

The present study further investigates the empirical linkage between the increase in average income levels of the migrant households before and after their migration and it was found significant. The study   analyzes the health factors and hygienic conditions of the women slum dwellers in the study area and it was found that majority of the women slum dwellers are facing with occasional or   frequent   health problems. The study further measures the significant association between the socio-economic profile of the respondents and their health conditions and   it was found statistically significant. The study empirically verifies   the association between the socio-economic profile and the   social welfare and security aspects of the women slum dwellers and it was found statistically significant.

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