

Impact of Migration on Economic and Social Empowerment of Women: An Inclusive Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to study the impact of migration on economic and social empowerment of women. Women empowerment is very much necessary for intensifying the pace of economic development of the nation. The massive changes caused by the era of women empowerment have been witnessed in the shift of women status from traditional level to modern level. Apart from male migration, the female migration is also taking place an account of education, job, marriage etc. In this paper, we study empowerment of women in families which have experienced the migration of female members and examined whether women have witnessed any change in their freedoms or not.

Women's empowerment is being assessed based on five indicators namely educational attainment, decision-making powers, income levels, restrictions placed on them and their mobility. To find out the relationship between migration and women empowerment, two villages in Pavagada taluk of Tumkur district in Karnataka state is selected and primary data is gathered from female respondents from each village of the migration. Authors found that there is a significant difference in the opinion of women respondents before and after migration. Chi-square results showed that there is a positive growth in the women empowerment due to migration. Authors also found that the search of employment is the major reason for migration of women in study area. **Key words:** Empowerment, Household, Decision making, Sustainability, Social change

I. INTRODUCTION

“Migration can be both a cause and consequence of female empowerment” Hugo (2000). Migration is becoming a very significant subject at present for the life of human beings to find a better life. Big cities are attracting large number of people due to the existence of huge opportunities and attractive life style. Migration is a way to move from

one place to another in order to live and work. Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job, shelter or some other reasons is called migration. Migration from rural areas to urban areas has increased in past few years in India. Nowadays, many people decided to migrate to have a better life. Employment opportunities are the most common reason for migration followed by lack of opportunities, better education, construction of dams, natural disaster and crop failure.

People who move from one place to another in search of work or shelter are called migrants. Most of the times migrants people are not skilled or educated therefore they usually employed as daily wagers. Daily wagers do not get enough money for the survival of their families and suffering from many problems such as shortage of food, shelter, lack of sanitation and hygiene etc.

Migrations are caused by a variety of factors including economic, social and political factors. They are briefly described as under.

1. Marriage

Marriage is a very important social factor of migration. Every girl has to migrate to her in-law's place of residence after marriage. Thus, the entire female population has to migrate over short or long distance.

2. Employment

People migrate in large number from rural to urban areas in search of employment. Agricultural sector is unable to create employment opportunities in the rural areas. Even the small-scale and cottage industries of the villages fail to provide employment to the entire rural folk. Contrary to this urban areas providing vast employment opportunities in industries, trade, transport and services sector. About 14.7 per cent of migrants migrated for employment in 2011.

3. Education

Rural areas, by and large, lack educational facilities, especially those of higher education and rural people have to migrate to the urban centres for this purpose. Many of them settle down in the cities for earning a livelihood after completing their education.

4. Lack of Security

Political disturbances and interethnic conflicts drive people away from their homes. Large number of people has migrated out of Jammu and Kashmir and Assam during the last few years due to disturbed political conditions.

People also migrate on a short-term basis in search of better opportunities for recreation, health care facilities, and legal advices or for availing service which the nearby towns provide.

5. Pull and Push Factors

Urban centres provide vast scope for employment in industries, transport, trade and other services. They also offer modern facilities of life. Thus, they act as 'magnets' for the migrant population and attract people from outside. In other words, cities pull people from other areas. This is known as "pull factor".

People also migrate due to 'push factors' such as unemployment, hunger and starvation. When they do not find means of livelihood in their home villages, they are 'pushed' out to the nearby or distant towns.

Millions of people who migrated from their far-off villages to the big cities of Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore did so because these cities offered them some promise for a better living. Their home villages had virtually rejected them as surplus population which the rural resources of land were not able to sustain any longer.

IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

Migration has many positive and negative impacts. The important positive impact of migration includes reduction of unemployment and better job opportunities to people. Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people. It helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which help to improve brotherhood among people. Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region. Children get better opportunities for higher education due to migration. The population density is reduced and the birth rate decreases as the migration increases.

The negative impacts of migration include the loss of a person from rural areas which has an impact on the level of output and development of rural areas, the influx of workers in urban areas increases competition for the job, houses, school facilities etc. Having large population puts too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services in densely populated areas. It is difficult for a villager to survive in urban areas because in urban areas there is no natural environment and pure air. They have to pay for each and everything. Migration changes the population of a place therefore the distribution of the population is uneven in India. many migrants are completely illiterate and uneducated therefore; they are not only unfit for most jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills. Poverty makes them unable to live a normal and healthy life due to migration. Children growing up in poverty have no access to proper nutrition, education or health. Migration increased the slum areas in cities which increase many problems such as unhygienic conditions, crime, pollution etc. Sometimes migrants are exploited. Migration is one of the main causes of increasing nuclear family where children grow up without a wider family circle.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment is empowering the women to take their own decisions for their personal dependent. Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions etc. by leaving all the social and family limitations. It is to bring equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. Women empowerment is very necessary to make the bright future of the family, society and country. Women need fresh and more capable environment so that they can take their own right decisions in every area whether for themselves, family, society or country. In order to make the country fully developed country, women empowerment is an essential tool to get the goal of development.

Women empowerment means emancipation of women from the vicious grips of social, economic, political, caste and gender-based discrimination. It means granting women the freedom to make life choices. Women empowerment does not mean 'deifying women' rather it means replacing patriarchy with parity. In this regard, there are various facets of women empowerment, are mentioned below:—

Human Rights or Individual Rights: A woman is a being with senses, imagination and thoughts; she should be able to express them freely. Individual

empowerment means to have the self-confidence to articulate and assert the power to negotiate and decide.

Social Women Empowerment: A critical aspect of social empowerment of women is the promotion of gender equality. Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. **Educational Women Empowerment:** It means empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. It means making women aware of their rights and developing a confidence to claim them.

Economic and occupational empowerment: It implies a better quality of material life through sustainable livelihoods owned and managed by women. It means reducing their financial dependence on their male counterparts by making them a significant part of the human resource.

Legal Women Empowerment: It suggests the provision of an effective legal structure which is supportive of women empowerment. It means addressing the gaps between what the law prescribes and what actually occurs.

Political Women Empowerment: It means the existence of a political system favouring the participation in and control by the women of the political decision-making process and in governance.

Current Scenario on Women Empowerment: Based on the ideas championed by our founding fathers for women empowerment, many social, economic and political provisions were incorporated in the Indian Constitution. Women in India now participate in areas such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sector and science and technology. But due to the deep-rooted patriarchal mentality in the Indian society, women are still victimized, humiliated, tortured and exploited. Even after almost seven decades of Independence, women are still subjected to discrimination in the social, economic and educational field.

MIGRATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The success of women plays an important role in the efficient organization of the family. The success of women depends on various factors like availability of education, employment, good married life and societal status etc. Most of the women are migrating to various places in search of these factors. When the women get these factors it can be said that they have freedom of decision making, freedom of mobility without any

restrictions and ultimately the women are said to be empowered.

Migration can be empowering for women, allowing women to access employment and education, improve gender equality and norms, and strengthen agency—the ability to make independent decisions to achieve desired outcomes. Conversely, migration may also exacerbate vulnerabilities, including abuse and trafficking, particularly when migrants are low skilled or irregular. Understanding the intricacies of gender and migration can result in better programs and policies that enhance the benefits and decrease the costs for female migrants.

With the empowerment of women gender equality can be achieved in the society which is essential for inclusive growth. Inclusive growth is a concept that advances equitable opportunities for economic participants during economic growth with benefits incurred by every section of society. Inclusive growth of approach takes a longer term perspective, as the focus is on productive employment as a means of increasing the incomes of poor and excluded groups and raising their standard of living. In the same way the empowerment of women helps to increase the economic and societal independence of women which leads to raising their standard of living.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the importance of migration on women empowerment.
2. To analyse the impact of migration on women empowerment in Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is an analytical research which is verified by the collected primary data. The present study was carried out in Pavagada taluk of Tumkur district to know the impact of migration on women empowerment. The primary data was collected through scheduled questionnaire indicating the five parameters to analyse the impact of migration on women empowerment namely educational attainment, decision making power, income levels, restrictions placed on them and mobility of women. Simple Random sampling technique was used to collect the primary data from 50 women who have migrated from two villages of Pavagada taluk namely Bommatahalli and Nagalamadike. The secondary data required for the study were collected from books, journals, magazines and websites etc. The collected primary data were analysed by using statistical techniques

namely percentage, average and chi square test with the help of SPSS statistical package.

II. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Personal Profile of the respondents

Table 1: Personal Profile of the respondents

Demographics	No. of respondents	Percentage
Age of the respondents		
20 – 30 years	14	28
30 – 40 years	22	44
40 – 50 years	7	14
More than 50 years	7	14
Educational qualification of the respondents		
Illiterates	8	16
Primary	11	22
Secondary	19	38
Degree +	12	24
Occupations		
Student	13	26
Government	7	14
Private	11	22
Self	10	20
House wife	9	18
Type of family		
Nuclear	29	58
Joint	21	42

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the details of the demographic profile of the women respondents. Out of 50 respondents majority of the respondents (44%) belonged to the age group of 30 – 40 years,

majority of the respondents (38%) have completed secondary education, majority of the respondents (26%) are students and majority of the respondents (58%) live in nuclear families in the study area.

Reason for the migration of women

Table 2: Reason for the migration of women from the study area to other areas

Sl. No.	Reason for Migration	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Marriage	9	18
2	Educational attainment	13	26
3	Employment	18	36
4	Lack of security	0	0

5	Recreation	0	0
6	Healthcare facilities	2	4
7	Legal advices	0	0
8	Availing services in nearby towns	8	16
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 2 shows the reasons for the migration of women from the study area to other areas. As per the opinion received from respondents 18% of the respondents have migrated to other areas due to marriage, 26% of the respondents have migrated for educational

attainment, 36% of the respondents have migrated for employment purposes, 4% of the respondents migrated for meeting healthcare facilities and 16% of the respondents have migrated for availing the services in nearby towns.

Before and after effects of migration of women

Table 3: Before and after effects of migration of women

Si. No.	Particulars	Before Migration			After Migration		
		High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
1	Decision making	12 (24%)	11(22%)	27 (54%)	32 (64%)	13 (26%)	5 (10%)
2	Economic freedom	5 (10%)	8 (16%)	37 (74%)	23 (46%)	16 (32%)	11 (22%)
3	Educational Status	7 (14%)	24 (48%)	19 (38%)	33 (66%)	9 (18%)	8 (16%)
4	Occupational status	8 (16%)	18 (36%)	24 (48%)	26 (52%)	16 (32%)	8 (16%)
5	Social status	12 (24%)	26 (52%)	12 (24%)	32 (64%)	13 (26%)	5 (10%)
6	Restrictions	31 (62%)	11 (22%)	8 (16%)	9 (18%)	12 (24%)	29 (58%)
7	Mobility	3 (6%)	15 (30%)	32 (64%)	38 (76%)	8 (16%)	4 (8%)

Source: Primary data

Table 3 exhibits the before and after effects of migration of women in the study area. It is clear from the table that there is an increment in the high opinions of respondents after migration. Before migration there is 45.42% low opinion about the seven parameters of women

empowerment is observed which has reduced to 20% after migration. At the same time the study recorded 55.15% of high opinion about the seven parameters after migration which was only 22.29% before migration.

Table 3.1: Opinion * Migration Cross tabulation

		Migration		Total	
		Before Migration	After Migration		
Opinion	High	Count	78	193	271
		Expected Count	135.5	135.5	271.0
	Moderate	Count	113	87	200
		Expected Count	100.0	100.0	200.0
	Low	Count	159	70	229
		Expected Count	114.5	114.5	229.0
Total		Count	350	350	700
		Expected Count	350.0	350.0	700.0

Source: Primary data

Table 3.2: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	86.770(a)	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	89.290	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	83.534	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	700		

(a) 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 100.00.

Table 3.2 shows the calculated value of Chi-square is 86.770 with 2 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance. It indicates that there is a significant difference in the opinion of respondents before and after migration and clears that there is a positive growth in the women empowerment due to migration.

III. FINDINGS:

1. The major reason for migration of women in study area is search of employment. 36 percent of the respondents have migrated from Bommathahalli and Naganamadike villages of Pavagada taluk to other areas for the purpose of employment.
2. In study area 16 percent of the respondents are illiterates, 22 percent completed primary school, 38 percent of the respondents completed secondary school education and 24 percent respondents completed degree or more.
3. There is an increment in the high opinions of respondents after migration. Before migration there is 45.42% low opinion about the seven parameters of women empowerment is observed which has reduced to 20% after migration. At the same time the study recorded 55.15% of high opinion about the seven parameters after migration which was reduced to only 22.29% before migration.
4. A chi-square result indicates that there is a significant difference in the opinion of respondents before and after migration. Therefore, there is a positive growth in the women empowerment due to migration.

IV. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Empowerment of women who migrate from one place to other place needs the utmost security. Hence, the government and the concerned authorities have to take necessary steps to provide

security to women who migrate from one place to other for education and employment purposes particularly. Migration has become the need of the hour for inclusive growth which helps in attaining sustainable development. Whether it is man or woman it is important for them to be mobile to meet the various requirements of life. Migration is one of the options through which the women are gaining the independence of decision making in the social and economic affairs of their lives and thus it can be said that they are empowered to lead their lives and family lives successfully through migration.

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