Study on Migration of Workers from Bihar to Maharashtra: Problems and Measures

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Abstract
Serious disparities in income and unemployment in India forces the workers from poor states to go or migrate to developed states for employment or work. As against this, due to the fear of losing jobs local workers from such developed states do not co-operate with such migrated workers. Although the constitution of India allows workers migration anywhere in India, local workers and their unions harass and pressurize migrated workers. The study examines the perceived and actual causes of migration of workers form Bihar to Maharashtra, with special attention to the city of Pune, analyze their problems, and suggest measures to reduce migration, or peaceful co-existence. The article bases on the data from 200 Bihar workers, in Pune city. The study shows that the majority of workers migrated from Bihar were not to improve the social status and education, or to enjoy the facilities of the city, but were moved due to 'development deficit' in Bihar. The study suggests the politicians, union leaders, community workers, to come forward to find a peaceful solution to this issue. If this issue is not resolved or delayed, there is fear that local workers would face 'jobs deficit' in the near future.

Key words: Migrant workers, Bihar, Pune, Local workers, Migration

1 Introduction
Migration is a human phenomenon that has historical roots and a larger effect on the social and economic life of the country. Since beginning the search for source of survival, blessed life, continue to inspire migration in the country or abroad. Migration is also an important feature of human civilization. It represents man's struggle to survive in the most testing conditions, both natural and artificial. Migration in India has existed throughout history, but in the context of globalization, it is of particular importance to
the country and the society. In effect, there are serious disparities in income, agricultural problems, unemployment, growth of the informal sector, uneven economic development in India which has led to mass migration of Bihar workers seeking employment in more developed states in India like Maharashtra, North East states, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. However, local workers fear that due overdose of Bihar workers they would lose the jobs / unemployment in near future. Actually it is not the problem with workers only in Maharashtra, but in all other states. Though, they migrate to earn money and to improve their economic situation, they have to face racism, discrimination and violence in other states. In fact, many workers from Bihar are killed in the anti-Bihari violence in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, etc and thousands have been internally displaced. This is done even though India's constitution allows labor migration anywhere in India. Therefore the issue has become very complicated.

The present study examines the perceived and actual causes of Bihar laborers that migrate to other states in the country, especially Maharashtra, with special attention to the city of Pune, analyzes their problems, and suggests measure for reducing such migration, or peaceful coexistence.

2 Definitions
The term ‘migrant worker’ has different meanings and connotations in different parts of the world. In United Nations, it is the people working outside their home country. In some countries migrants are referred as expatriates. Many countries have millions of migrant workers, and also the illegal immigrants. Frequently used definitions of the term ‘migrant worker’ are as follows:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families defines the term migrant worker as ‘a person who is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national’.
2. According to B. K. Sahu, in economic parlance migration is perceived as, when a person is engaged or likely to engage in a remunerative activity in a place of which he is not a native or national.
3. According to Dr. B. D. Karhad, the term migrant workers refer to an individuals who migrate within their own country or to any other country (legally or otherwise), in order to pursue job, work or any other economic activity.

3 Objectives
Objectives of the study are:
1. To study the perceived and actual causes of migration of Bihar workers to other states in the country.
2. To study and analyze the problems in migration of Bihar workers.
3. To study the problems by Bihar workers in the cities of migration.
4. To make suggestions for reducing migration and peaceful co-existence with Bihar migrant workers.

4 Hypothesis of the Study
Null Hypothesis (Ho): Development Deficit in Bihar is not the major cause of migration of Bihar workers to other states in India.
Alternative Hypothesis (H1): Development Deficit in Bihar is the major cause of migration of Bihar workers to other states in India.

5 Research Methodology
1. This study is descriptive in nature.
2. Primary data is collected with the help of questionnaire and also by interviewing migrant Bihar workers in Pune city.
3. Apart from primary data, secondary data is collected from text, newspaper, books, journals, and internet.
4. Sample size taken is 200 migrant Bihar workers.
5. Sample is selected by using convenience sampling method.
6. The research is conducted in Pune city.
7. Scope of the study is limited to Pune city only.

6 Review of Literature

Sri B.K. Sahu (2011) in his article titled ‘Migrant Workers - Present Position and Future Strategy towards Social Security’ studied the causes and magnitude of migration, condition of migrant workers, problem of gender discrimination, and legal provisions relating to migrant workers. In the study, He observes that problem of migrant workers is huge and requires cooperation and coordination between the government and other social factors including the trade unions. NGO’s having skilled manpower and resources can provide research and background for dealing migration problem. Trade unions with their organizational structures, organizing skills can take on the employers, policy makers and governments for a better deal for migrant workers and contribute for social harmony and sustainable growth.

Dr. W.N. Salve (2009) made an attempt to study the concept of decent, rights of labour, labour standards, labour rights and standards for migrant labour in India, and protection of the migrant labors in India. During his study, He found that after independence, India has adopted various labour policies in order to improve working conditions of workers in the unorganized sector. However, its implementation is mostly ineffective. He observes that migrant workers and workers in the un-organized sector are struggling for their rights and to implement the provisions of various labour laws as per International labour standards, since long period, but they are unsuccessful. Therefore, he insisted that government of India should ratify all the relevant international covenants that respect the dignity of labour.

Mohd Mazammil Hussain (2012) wrote an article which examines ‘The problem of migrant work force and protection of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir State’. He also examined the efforts made to explore the geographical location of the Jammu and Kashmir State, and its four types of unique cultural blend that differentiate it from the rest of the country. He suggests that keeping in view the gravity of the problem of migrant workers’ plight; especially in J&K, the government should take every step to effectively implement the Act, of 1979.

7 Data Analysis And Interpretation
Primary and secondary data collected in arranged in two groups for the purpose of its analysis and interpretation i.e. Primary data - under actual causes of migration, and secondary data – under perceived causes of migration.

### 7.1 Actual Causes of Migration

The respondents were asked about the actual cause of migration from Bihar to Pune. The responses are recorded in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>No. of respondents</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Migration to urban area is a tradition among villagers.</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>92.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Linkage in obtaining shelter, food etc during the period of unemployment.</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>71.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Easy availability of unskilled work</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>61.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Social facilities of towns</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>60.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Easy to move in any city, when required</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>54.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Easy information to family members, relatives and friends.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>43.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other reasons for selecting a particular city</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>33.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Easy and cheap transportation service</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>21.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data

It is observed from table 1 that -

1. First most important cause of migration to urban areas is a tradition among villagers. Bihar is not an exception to this. This is agreed by 92.00% i.e. 184 out of 200 respondents.
2. Second important cause of migration is a linkage in obtaining shelter, food etc during the period of unemployment. This is agreed by 71.5% i.e. 143 out of 200 respondents.
3. Third important cause of migration of Bihar people to Pune city is easy availability of unskilled work. This is agreed by 61.50% i.e. 123 out of 200 respondents.
4. According to 121 out of 200 i.e. 60.5% respondents, social facilities of towns is the cause of migration.
5. As per 109 out of 200 i.e. 54.5% respondents, easy to move in any city, when required is the cause of migration.
6. According to 86 out of 200 i.e. 43% respondents, easy information to family members, relatives and friends is the cause of migration.
7. According to 67 out of 200 i.e. 33.5% respondents, they have selected a Pune city due to various other causes than above.
8. According to 43 out of 200 i.e. 21.5% respondents, easy and cheap transportation service is the cause of migration.
7.2 Perceived Causes of Migration

Commonly perceived causes of migration are:

1. **Low GDP rate:** In 2011-12, Bihar had a low GDP growth rate i.e. 9.58% as compared to the previous year’s 14.95%.

2. **Big family size / number of dependents:** Due to least family planning in Bihar it has highest population growth rate (2.1 % per year).

3. **Overpopulated state:** Bihar is India’s third-most populous state after Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Bihar is 10.3 crores, that is about 8.58% of the total population of the country. In last 10 years, Bihar has witnessed a 25% growth in population. Bihar also has the highest population density of 1,106 people per sq km, which is higher than national average 382 per sq km.

4. **Literacy rate:** Bihar has a total literacy rate of 63.82% (75.7% for males and 55.1% for females), recording a growth of 20% in female literacy over the period of a decade. However, recent survey by Pratham rated the absorption of their teaching by the Bihar children better than those in other states.

5. **Dependent on agriculture:** Bihar has significant levels of production of mango, guava, pineapple, eggplant, cauliflower, bhindi, and cabbage. Despite the leading role in food production, investment in irrigation has been inadequate. Historically, sugar and vegetable oil industries were thriving sectors of Bihar. Until the mid-1950s, 25% of sugar production in India had come from Bihar state.

6. **Low per capita income:** Bihar has the lowest per capita income of only Rs. 24,681/- in the year 2012-13.

7. **Poverty:** The headcount poverty ratio in Bihar was 33.74 % in 2011-12. Its per capita consumption level is among the lowest states. At present Bihar is 4th in poorest states in the country.

8. **Sex ratio:** The sex ratio of only 916 women per 1000 men in the state of Bihar is much below the national average of 940 females per 1,000 males. However, the child sex ratio of 933 in the state of Bihar is better than the national average of 914 girls per 1000 boys.

9. **No work / employment:** As per the CAG report, Centre-sponsored MNREGA is suffering from many irregularities, financial and corruption problems in Bihar. It is observed that, only 35 percent of the 1.34 crore registered households got work between the years 2007 and 2012. Among the employed, only 28 % were women, against the stipulated target of 35 per cent. The MNREGA could succeed in providing employment to just 1 % to 7 % households only, for 100 days, in 2012.

10. **Low Per capita consumption of electricity:** Dadra and Nagar Haveli have the highest per capita consumption of electricity in the country at 11,863.64 kWh while Bihar has the lowest at 122.11 kWh for 2009-10. In another study, per capita electricity consumption in Bihar is reported at 76 units per year.

11. **Low wage rate:** MGNREGA wages are linked to the consumer price index by the central government and revised on April 1 each year. However, MNREGA wage rate is lower than the minimum wage rate in Bihar.

**Child Malnutrition:** According to Statistics of South Asian Children and Women (UNICEF), published in 1997, among all states, Bihar was a home to highest percentage (70%) of children who were under-weight and similarly with stunted growth (61%). It’s hard to believe that even today, 46.3%
of children of below three years of age, in India are malnourished. In Bihar, alarming numbers of 58% of malnourished children is observed, with 4% of which are classified under acute malnutrition.

12. High Crime rate: According to NCRB report, state of Bihar, is second highest in incidences of violent crime in the country, after UP. Bihar accounted for 10.1 percent (26,003) of the total violent crimes (2, 56,329) in the country.

13. Low Standard of living: Bihar has the people with lowest standard of living in India, and has the worst performance with child schooling.

14. Lack of Housing facilities: About 35.5 percent of households in rural areas live in kuccha houses as opposed to 10.3 percent of the urban population. Overall, nearly 32.7 percent of the state’s population lives in kuccha houses.

15. Small Land holding size: Bihar has one of the lowest average sizes of land holding in the country at 0.58%. Average agricultural productivity is also below the national average in key cereal crops.

16. Other: there may be some other personal causes too, for migration of workers from Bihar.

8 Findings
The majority of workers from Bihar did not migrate to improve the social and educational status or to enjoy the city facilities, but the migration was due to ‘development deficit’ in Bihar. They migrate for the purpose of raising funds to upgrade their economic status. From the above analysis, it can be concluded that ‘development deficit’ of Bihar, is the main cause of migration of Bihar workers to other states, including Maharashtra.

9 Hypothesis Testing
Based on the information collected during the research and analysis, that ‘development deficit’ in Bihar is a major cause of the movement of workers in Bihar to other states of India, has been proven. Thus Null hypothesis (HO) is rejected, and Alternative Hypothesis (H1) has been accepted.

10 Suggestions
General suggestions for reducing migration of Bihar people to other states are given below:
1. Improve the investment environment for foreign projects in Bihar, as it has been recognized as a state difficult to do business,
2. Implement measures to control the population.
3. Increase the number of schools and provide a free education for children from poor families.
4. Increase the employment opportunities in sectors other than agriculture.
5. Implement programs to fight poverty in villages.
6. Stop abortions of girl child or killing them immediately after their birth, stop honor killings, dowry killings etc.
7. Increase the number of primary health care centers, offering extensive facilities at the center for female patients.
8. Increase the wage for unskilled labor and manual.
9. Offer housing facilities for the poor for free or for a reasonable price.
10. Provide a continuous power supply for industrial and agriculture purpose.
11 Conclusion

Most of the workers migrated from Bihar, migrate not to improve their social status and education, or to enjoy the facilities of the city, but migrate due to 'development deficit' in their state. In simple words, they migrate to raise money and to improve their economic situation. However, it is found that they have to face racism, discrimination and violence in other states. In fact, many workers from Bihar are killed in the anti-Bihari violence in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, etc and thousands have been internally displaced. Political leaders accuse these migrants as they are found to ruin the culture of their city and state, or do not mingle with them. This has made the issue complicated and needs immediate solution. I think the discussion of this issue with the politicians, union leaders, society, and workers, is needed to find a peaceful solution. If this issue is not solved or delayed, the local workers would face ‘work deficit’ in near future.

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