Abstracts

Flows of migrant resources, both tangible and intangible, to developing countries are believed to influence processes of economic and social development. Such resources enter the home villages and towns of migrants through transnational social fields, with diverse implications for local economies, social structures, politics, and cultural orientations. In recent years, Kerala is experiencing an unprecedented flow of migrant labours from different parts of India. Higher wages, large employment opportunities and shortages of local labourers make Kerala a profitable job market for workers from outside the State. The present study focus is placed on migrant labourers contributions to the state of Kerala. There has been little analysis of the migration and development nexus in relation to the contributions of migrant workers to host economies. The economic, social benefits and value added by migrant workers to host economies is particularly pressing in the context of growing scenario. The people in the state of Kerala usually seek out white collar jobs in profession such as banking, engineering or management leaving the state scarce of conventional/traditional labour. The present study is proposed on the dynamics of labour scenario and their contribution to the state soil.

Keywords: Economic Development, Inbound migrant, Migrant workers, Migrant experience.

Introduction

Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location for different reasons. The conditions under which a migrant enters a receiver population can have broad implications for all parties involved. The expression migration experience refers to the fact that different causes for migration will produce
different outcomes observable from an economical and sociological perspective. In general, migration is a process in which an individual or a group shifts their residence from one place to another. Apart from its spatial dimension, migration also implies the disruption of work, schooling, social life, and other partners. A migrant is someone who breaks off activities and associations in one place and reorganises their daily life in another place.

Globalisation has increased the demand for workers from other countries and states in order to sustain national economies. Known as "economic migrants," these individuals are generally from impoverished developing countries migrating to obtain sufficient income for survival. This income is usually sent home to family members in the form of remittances and has become an economic staple in a number of developing countries. There is extensive debate on the factors that cause populations to shift, from those that emphasise individual rationality and household behaviour to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development. Moreover, numerous studies show that the process of migration is influenced by social, cultural and economic factors and outcomes can be vastly different for men and women, for different groups and different locations.

**Statement of the problem**

It is since more than a decade now, an increasing number of migrants from different neighboring states temporarily or permanently in search for jobs and life security, causing an increase in the labor supply in the state of Kerala. The wages paid to these workers are known to be lower than those for Kerala workers, which might have contributed economic benefit to the state in terms of their ‘cheap’ labor cost. Although the positive contribution of these migrants are not yet clearly known, discussions among policymakers and various stakeholders involved increasingly focus on the negative impacts these migrants might have caused, especially on the unskilled workers in Kerala and on the costs to the government to provide basic rights to these migrant workers. The statistics reveals that nearly 25 lakhs migrant labours were working in the state of Kerala having a population of 3.33 crore and their numbers are growing at an incredible pace of 10 per cent annually. The Kerala labour market needs at least 5 lakhs workers more to maintain the balance between demand and supply. The increase in migration of labourers creates more economic benefit and commercial value addition in the state of Kerala. The present study is attempts to establish the present labour market dynamics, their involvement in developing the state and local exchequer of the state.

**Inbound Migrant Labour – A Preview**

In India, permanent shifts of population and workforce co-exist with the circulatory movement of populations between lagging and developed regions, and between rural and urban areas, mostly being absorbed in the unorganised sector of the economy. Most demographers argue that migration must involve an essentially permanent territorial shift in residence to be distinguished from mobility. Kerala has now become a lucrative job market for workers hailing from various parts of India. Attracted by comparatively higher wages, a large number of workers mainly from north India are here in Kerala, and it seems they have plenty of job opportunities in the construction sector,
hotels, shops and casual work. Migrant workers were given fewer wages than what is prevalent here for Kerala workers, and treated as “second class citizens” by the employers and the general public. In other words, this migration has twisted the Kerala labour market to the past conditions of low wages and low respect.

Migration often involves longer working hours, poor living and working conditions, social isolation and poor access to basic amenities. Migration affects markets, lowering the cost of labour. Migration also affects the labour market at the place of origin. Migrant earnings affect income, expenditure patterns and investment and changes relations at household and community levels. While there seems to be some positive impact on incomes and investment, the major function of migration is to act as a safety valve in poor areas.

**Review of Literature**

There are several state-level studies such as the periodic Kerala Migration Surveys on Kerala. It may be noted that most of these studies remained at the macro level, to the neglect of micro level studies, exploring the subjective and local ramifications. None of the work has been conducted in this area for developing a new strategic development model that portrays the inbound migrant contributions to the host state. Some of the recent work has been done on this topic is presented as follows:

**K.C. Zachariaet.al (2002)** examined various aspects of the impact of migration on Kerala’s economy and society. The study concluded that the families of emigrants, those which became single or two members, or woman headed, or with young wives removed from their husbands were serving their self-interests; but there was also a considerable spinoff effect which served the interests of the state. They brought in remittances, expertise, contacts with the outside economy etc. They have a right to receive help from the community when they needed it. The panchayats and the other local government organisations should be sensitised about these problems. They should develop local level policies and programmes to deal with them.

**Srivastava and Giri (2003)** analysed the migration in India perceived that the internal and international migration, both of which are large scale, has impacted on the economic growth and poverty reduction in many regions of the country. They are of the opinion that remittances are the main benefit of external migration, providing scarce foreign exchange and scope for higher levels of savings and investments.

**Narayana and Venkaiteswaran, (2013)** found that migration is an aggregate phenomenon in both macroeconomic and social demographic perspective. The state of Kerala do have issue of migrants in many dimensions such as social, economical, legal, demographical and psychological. Earlier, migration to Kerala was mostly from the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and the migrants were mostly seeking employment in manual work and unskilled work.

**Mukherjee (2017)** has studied the flow of Social Remittances in the context of Barkas in Hyderabad, giving emphasis on the economic remittances from the Gulf. It is interesting to note that the author has identified that the majority of the migration remittances in India were used for
renovation of the houses, buying property, purchasing land and education of the next generation invested with the hope of future economic security.

**Objectives of the study**

1. To analyse the socio-economic benefit derived from inbound migrants working in the state of Kerala.
2. To identify spending pattern of inbound migrant labours in the state.
3. To investigate the role of migrant labours in promoting economic development of the state.

**Database and methodology**

The present study was designed as an empirical and exploratory nature based on survey method. The researcher visit and interacts with migrant labours and local community in various places in the state of Kerala. The researcher conducted the present study in four different phases viz, Review of literature, Pilot study, Data analysis and model development.

**Sampling design**

Migrant workers were selected from threesectors; Industry, construction and Agriculture. Samples were selected from twomunicipalities and fourGramapanchayaths in Kollam and PathanamthittaDistricts in Kerala. Data was collected from a sample of 100 migrant workers employed in different selected sectors in Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts. Local Malayalees were also selected from among Labourcontractors, Representatives of local bodies, Health workers, Police officials,shopkeepers, co-passengers and neighbours of the migrant workers from the same area. Based on the data collected and analysed the present study identify the socio-economic status of migrants, their spending pattern and the role of migrant labours in promoting the host state economic development.

**Results and Discussions**

The socio-economic status, spending pattern and role of migrant labours in Kerala were analysed with the help of One-way ANOVA. The result of analysis reveals that the mean score of different variables contributing migrant labours role in economic development of the state is presented in the Table 1.01.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New commodities and products</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>0.547</td>
<td>0.575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance and abuse</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>0.625</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
The mean score of sales growth is 4.00, which shows that increased sales resulted in increase in the income of the state. The F-ratio of the mean score of variables contributed economic development equals 0.575 and its associated p-value (sig.) is greater than 0.05. The null hypothesis is accepted that there is no significant difference in the mean score of variables contributing economic development of the state of Kerala.
The analysis of different contributing factors for economic development variables were presented in the Table 1.02. The means of economic development of the state is homogeneous subset are presented in the table. The result of the Ryan-Enoit-Gabriel-Welsch Studentized Range (R-E-G-W-Q) test informs that Sales growth of the state is increased due to increased flow of migrant labours in the state of Kerala.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Bank</th>
<th>Subset for alpha = 0.05</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New commodities and products</td>
<td>3.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance and abuse</td>
<td>3.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and hygiene</td>
<td>3.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales growth</td>
<td>3.661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of job market</td>
<td>3.750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on migrant labours</td>
<td>3.750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrating with society</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig.</td>
<td>0.840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

Conclusions

Value addition is more competitive in the present scenario. The state of Kerala is witnessing a large inflow of migrant labour from different parts of the country in the recent years. The people compelled to migrate due to two factors development; driven factors and distress factors. The economic, social benefits and value added by migrant workers to care economies is particularly pressing in the context of growing scenario. The inflow of migrant workers in receiving state is that increases unskilled labor supply, which in turn keeps economic benefit to the host nation.
References


