Unorganised Labour Migration in India with Special Reference to Changing Pattern of Socio-Economic Conditions in Colonial Epoch

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Abstract: Unorganised labours in India are classified in different clusters. Historian, social scientists and economists mainly have followed that the majority portion of the Unorganised working people are migrating permanently or temporarily inter-state, inter-district, within districts during a specific time of the year searching better opportunities. Various Acts for the benefit of workers of the organized sectors has been introduced time to time by the Government but unfortunately large populations of the working community who are belonging to the unorganized sectors have not come to the focus in true sense light of the Acts in the context of socio-economic conditions.

Keywords: Informal Sector Migrated Labour, Marginal Labour, Bonded Labour, Social Security Act, Landless Labour, Seasonal Labour.

Introduction

Labour migration in India as well as other developing countries was not a new reflection on labour related serious analysis but increasing trend of migration is arising serious question on working class related study. In this connection the focus of ESF conference on 14-16 may 2001, in Lunda, Sweden was a breach mark discussion on the labour migration as major part of Unorganised sector. The intentions of the workshop was clear to bring in a platform a number of European and Asian scholar who are working on labour migration on different way.

To discuss in to micro level of Unorganised labor and their migration, we have got a close relationship with each other. Not only india it’s a Global trend of Unorganised sector to be habituated migrated life for searching better options. In India a countable number of migrated labour has been coming from agricultural field. Before migration most of them has worked as marginal labour or land less labour in the village due to lack of working facility in whole year they were migrated One place to another place to search another works in nearby town. Having several type of measurement to protect working class in India but true sense application was not maintained.

The Economic condition of migrated labour was not radical changed. They were engaged as unskilled construction labour, tower labour, brick filed worker etc. From long past a marked percentage of Unorganised workers has been migrating from One country to another country to follow Government rules most of the workers is semi skilled labour. They have enjoyed better opportunities with new job. But interstate migration of the Unorganised labour in India has been bearing lot of bitter experiences. I have tried to analyse almost all every aspect of Unorganised labour in India.

Socio Economic Conditions of Migrated Unorganised Labour in India

In the process of migration a major role has become by the receiving state or districts which receive the migrated workers from urban area. On the perspective of migration receiving and sender place both are important in life of workers. Inter district migration is occurring popularly only for seasonal labour, they come from urban areas to the other districts only for few months in the year.
In the village, most of the workers are engaged as agriculture labour, bonded labour, land-less labour, marginal labour. Poverty is a common problem of that labour. A limited time in the year they were actively involved in farming due to natural causes which varies according to the geographical conditions. Rest of the time there are no left over employment in urban areas so the workers face unemployment which causes critical problems for the workers’ family.

They have not able to meet up day to day family needs. For this reason, for earning they migrate to the district town or another State. Such as low productivity of agriculture products is one of the causes of seasonal migration of India. Excessive seasonality of employment has been occurring in most of the state of India as well as lower wages, poor working conditions; absences of social security measure are increasing the migration trend. Labour migration was a continuous process in colonial India.

Local and Regional Trends of Labour Migration in Unorganised Sectors

Recently many of the papers looked at the magnitude and trends in inter-state migration patterns in India. To understand trend of migration that influenced by a combination of macro and micro factors and political and economic transformation is essential factor in the sending and receiving end. Generally, unorganised labour is being migrated whether rural to rural, rural to urban or urban to rural.

Inequality and demand of workers between different areas in a nation is come to as focused on scholarly amylase labour migration. Unorganised urban workers near about 44% workers in construction industries. But despite their large numbers, they are not marked as national economy. No agencies have able to compute the contribution of unorganised workers to the national economy.

Problem and Welfare Measures

Unorganised labour and their problem had come to discuss various way in this regard the ‘Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihood in the Unorganised Sector Report’ is very important. The study says that the government commitment to implement truly the Social Security Act for the Unorganised workforce whose working conditions and living standards are far worse than organised sector. Though unorganized workers’ contributions to the economy of the country are remarkable. The Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008 was a great effort to fighting against increasing problems of this sector. The government attempts to change the situation with the introduction of the ‘Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act of 2008’. India Exclusion Report 2013-14 clarifies the act was enacted to help the working poor. This legislation was aimed to attain the poor working class and to secure their continued existence.

There are some key steps to improve the condition of unorganised workers in the Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act of 2008. The unorganized workers have been increasing from the time of pre-independence period. So its utmost importance to follow the proper implementation of government rules after post independent period.

Around 52% of unorganized workers were engaged in agriculture and allied other sectors. Ministry of Labour of India time to time took several policy related to workers’ welfare to think insufficient labour Law, true sense social security, implementation of social security, slight discussion on bonded labour, child labour, women worker and workplace harassment, vulnerable disease, low income etc.

In this context the following Social Security Schemes are notable, such as, the National Family Benefit Scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Schemes, Handloom Weaver’s Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Pension to Master Craft persons, Handicraft Artesian Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Janshree Bima Yojana, National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension etc. Unfortunately, workers in the unorganised sector have enjoyed benefits of such Schemes neither during migration nor after migration.

Conclusion

Questions are raised in several ways and in several times that increasing unorganized working people in India have got the light of social security which was offered by the government of India. Job security and stability of mode of work, minimum wage and
living conditions of the working class of informal sector is the prime need in the framework of the socio-economic circumstance. In this connection, if we consider the book of “Women and Labour in Late Colonial India: The Bengal Jute Industry” by Samita Sen where she questioned how social constructions of gender shaped their lives.

Dr Sen demonstrates the way, in contrast to the experience of their male counterparts, the long-term trends in the Indian economy devalued women's labour, establishing patterns of urban migration and changing gender equations within the family. It’s came to as clear picture that working Women’s fighting in every aspect of our socio-economic condition.

The discuss among the 93 % of Unorganised labour in India of total working people are categorized as Unorganised employees and self-employment people (survey 2007-08). Introducing labour welfare policy and trying to making governmental decision, it was essential to categorize the Unorganised works force on nature of employment, occupation, service categories and specifically the distress categories.

In the content of Indian socio-economical periphery, it had been spotless that in one hand Unorganised worker social Act 2008 and another side a countable number of workers who are mentioned as home base workers, self-employed worker or a wage worker in various part of India, they have not been facilitated by this governments scheme as true sense.

Natural death compensation, accidental relief, pension for unemployment during off-season, support for children of higher studies is to be considered seriously. The government schemes are to be implemented carefully and continuous study of unorganized sectors’ day to day problems through micro-level research on socio-economical structure. The States as well as the Central government is expected to work together in implementing the specific schemes to support the unorganized workers to meet their real necessities.

References


