

INVISIBLE FACTORS OF MIGRATION: A FIELD OBSERVATION FROM THE STREETS OF NAVI MUMBAI

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Abstract

Migration is one of the major issues in India and it is increasing day by day. The major reason for migration is lack of livelihood. People are migrating permanently or seasonal to fulfill their basic needs. The migration impacts the economic, social and political situation of the region. On the other hand there are various policies and programs but still migrants are facing various challenges such as language, access to basic facilities, social exclusion etc. Therefore it is important to highlight the invisible challenges of the migrants. The paper has highlighted observation of the trainee social worker on factors of Migration and issues of Migrants. The information was collected through observation and group discussion with Migrants.

Keywords - Migration, Invisible factor, Issues of Migrants, Field Work, and Trainee Social Workers.

INTRODUCTION

Field work is an important part of social work in India. It provides an opportunity to gain field based knowledge by using methods, techniques and theories of Social Work. It also helps to improve the skill and attitude of the trainee social worker.

India is a leading country of origin of international migrants with about 17 million emigrants according to the latest estimates released by the United Nations (2019). The Economic Survey (2017) estimated that an average of 5–6 million Indians migrated annually between 2001 and 2011, leading to an inter-state migrant population of “about 60 million” and an inter-district migrant population “as high as 80 million” Migrants’ main places of origin have traditionally been the densely populated and less urbanized states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, with major receiving states being the more industrialized and urbanized states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala (Government of India 2017a)

There are two important reasons for rural labor migration: (1) migration for survival and (2) migration for subsistence. The rest indicates the severe social and economic hardships faced by rural laborers, a situation where migration becomes necessary to stay alive. The second reason for migration is also rooted in subsistence and arises because of the need to supplement income in order to fill the gaps of seasonal employment. Such communities often migrate for shorter periods and do not ordinarily travel very far from their homes. (Ankit Kr Mishra, 2011).

The information was collected through the migrants in Mumbai who migrated from various places in India. Mumbai and Navi Mumbai are considered the hub of the commercial capital of India. Navi Mumbai is an extension of Mumbai. It is home to educational institutions as well as business. There are various reasons for migration such as those who are looking for a job. It is also found in many studies that poor people come to Mumbai in search of Livelihood. Majority of Migrants belong to the scheduled caste and Schedule tribes, those who are socially and economically deprived. They stay wherever they get a place; they do whatever they get for work.

METHODOLOGY

This article is based on the fieldwork observation of the MSW trainee social worker by using an interview and group discussion method for collecting and understanding the migration issue, the trainee social worker collected the data from the urban street slums in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. The data was collected to understand the reasons and factors of the migration, difficulties faced by the migration etc.

AREA OF STUDY

The field work of MSW trainee social workers is placed in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. The area has all the access to the market, road transportation etc



Kharghar is in Navi Mumbai. It is a suburb under Panvel Municipal Corporation and situated at the northern side of Raigad District of Maharashtra. The city is developed by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO).

Objective

- To highlight the observation of the trainee social worker from the street of Navi Mumbai

Finding / Observation

The finding of the study is observed by the trainee social worker of MSW (Masters of Social Work) during his part of Field work. **The observations are following:**

Background Information

The families are migrating from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The study found that the majority of people belong to the Nomadic and Denotified tribal community namely *Paradhi, Banjara, Nandiwale*. It is also found that some of the families belongs Muslim community. The Nomadic and Denotified communities migrate from one place to another in search of livelihood. They speak both the languages including their mother tongue and their own language such as Gujarati, Marwari, Hindi, Marathi etc.

Occupation

The traditional occupation of the community was very different from their current occupation. Currently, they are dependent on various occupations such as people from Rajasthan (Banjara) selling Rajasthani clothes, handmade animals of clothes. Some of the people come with their own van with Aurvedic medicines (*Jadi Buti*). They park their van in the common place (*Chauk*) and people use to come to them for treatment on various health issues such as back pain, knee pain etc. They keep following patients and do the necessary treatment.

The trainee social worker came out with a very interesting story about the *Nandiwale* community. The *Nandiwale* community basically belongs from the Solapur district of Maharashtra. They came with their *Nandi Bail* and entertained the people in the city by visiting their home. They also tell the future of family members with the help of Nandi Bail. They receive money or gains from the people for giving the service to the family. They are nomadic tribes so they always find a new place to leave. This community is a seasonal migrant who came to Navi Mumbai after the rainy season. They considers Nandi as their family god, they believe that if Nandi died while wandering in any place, that place is considered as god's place.

As mentioned in the family background, some families are belong to Muslim community. The occupation of Muslim community is to collect west, sell the local drugs such as whitener. The female from the community are

engaged as sex worker. The situation of this community shows that they are very isolated and very vulnerable from other families.

The study also found that the majority of adolescent girls with their small kids, siblings who are begging on the street and in front of the hotels and fulfilling their and families hunger.

One community is from Andhra Pradesh. They work as construction workers. The contractor brings them to town. They live under the metro bridge at Kharghar. There are about 20 to 25 families. Only 2-3 families go to the village every year. They have to live in unsafe and unsanitary places in the fear of insecurity at work .

Education

The majority of people are illiterate due to a number of reasons. The trainee social worker has noted down a few reasons while interacting with the youths, children from the community. The children have to earn food, money for them and their family for daily survival. Parents take them with their work for help, they insist they beg on the street, sell some household things, clean the cars on signal, collect the garbage, and take care of the siblings. The concept of education is very far away from their thoughts as they are struggling to fulfill their basic needs on a daily basis. They did not have the required documents so the school authority did not allow the children to sit in the school.

Difficulties faced by the migrants

The community is located near the metro bridge in Kharghar. Also people are staying on the footpath, street etc. They have temporary houses which are made from the waste material collected from the roads such as old clothes, pipes, woods, plastics etc. They wear used or thrown clothes given by the people. They eat food which is given by the people and sometimes prepare it on their own. The majority of children get food in beg as they are engaged in begging on the street or on signals.

As observed by the Trainee Social Worker, Due to their condition of house, they do not have strong walls to protect them from the heavy rains, sun in summer. It is not safe especially for the children as they are staying just near the street. They have to be very alert especially at night time as they always have fear of some accident, murder etc. If we look at safety from a health angle, the people especially pregnant women and children do not have proper bathroom, water facilities which can directly impact on their health. They are more exposed as they are staying in vacant places.

They live around the stream that flows in Kharghar. People wash clothes and utensils in that stream. They use the stream as a toilet place and eat the fish found from the same stream. They get sick constantly due to the huge mosquitoes that breed in the stream. In summer, this stream subsides. At that time they have to depend on shopkeepers for water.

For the drinking water, they depend on a municipal tap on the street that they use illegally. When they use the tap no one is opposed to them, they give a small bribe (haphat) to the local governing body.

The majority of youths are working as labor but they are not getting work on a regular basis. They are cleaning drainage (*Gatar, Nale*) in the city especially in summer time. The children are selling flowers, plastic bags, *Nimbu* and *Mirchi* on the signals. While working they do not get proper treatment from the people. They always get comments from people like *Bhikari, Gande Bacche* which shows that it is very easy for people to comment and go but the children are living with feelings of ignorance and no respect from the society in their life. On the other hand they are very used to people's comments, ignorance as they continuously start asking something or to buy things from their such as plastic bags.

CONCLUSION

Trainee social workers have observed the overall socio, economic, political situation of the Migrants. The study found various factors which are impacting on the life of Migrants. Migration is part of the system, no one is bothered about their issues and development such as they are vote banks for local governments, cheap laborers for businessmen, criminals for the mainstream society. On the other hand, all the factors which are directly or indirectly affecting not only on their life but also on their behavior. They are behaving very aggressively with other people in the city, they demand things without any fear from the people on the street. On the other hand, the attitude of Migrants is noticeable. They have accepted the way of their life. They stay separately on the street. They are using common land for staying but they do not interfere with each other. They have their own rules and norms which they follow in daily life. They do not share any information and allow external people in the community without their leader's permission.

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