

# Migration of Labour in Punjab (2010-2011)



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## Abstract

In today's world, it can be easily said that Punjab has become a state which is considered as the foreign country for those people who are shifted or we can say are the migrants of Punjab. Now the people of Punjab totally depend upon them. The influx of seasonal as well as permanent labour from outside has led to various socio-economic problems in Punjab. The reason for their migration has been revealed that better income and employment opportunities at the destination place where the major factors responsible for migration.

The intensity and pattern of migration in Punjab has changed. The proportion of migrants has approximately doubled and has become widespread. Besides this, the nature of migration has changed from short term to long term. This is attributed to the fact that now workers constitute nearly two- third of the total migrants. The people of Punjab have some issues with their status so they don't wish to do manual job and for that they hired migrants as their workers. This also lead to increase the migrants in Punjab.

In spite of these, the reason for rapidly increase of migrants is that it's culture, socio-religious impact; wages and industrial lead down. The status of living organism in Punjab too has its own impact. Today migration is characterized by temporary, poor working conditions and at times physical and verbal abuses and human rights violation migrants. Thus the migration of labour in Punjab has its own trends and the trends of its are changing rapidly and the growth of its is too increasing day by day.

**Keywords:** Destination, Wide Spread, Socio Religious Impact, Organism.

## Introduction

Migration is such an event in which people move from one geographical area to another geographical area. When people leaving their place from residence go to live permanently in another area then it is called migration. The movement of people in different states and regions with in a country from one place to another is called internal migration. On the other hand, external or international migration refers to the movement of people from place to another. For a large country like India, the study of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamic of the society better. At this junction in the economic development in the country especially when many states are undergoing faster economic development. Particularly in areas, such as manufacturing, an information technology or service sector, data migration profile of population has become more important.

## Review of Literature

This article examines a large no of labours from the poor states of Bihar and Uttarpradesh have been migrating to Punjab ever since the advent of the green revolution in agricultural sector of Punjab. The empirical findings of the study confirm that migration is an important source of survival for these poor peoples across the country but while working in the field of Punjab the majority of them lose their social and cultural identity.

Sidhu, S.S., Rangi, P.S., and Singh, K. (1997). A study on Migrant Agricultural Labourers in Punjab. Research Report, authors discuss the problems of migrant labourers, how can it solve by the government.

## Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to suggest the suitable measures for government to ensure migrants decent living conditions, working conditions, proper contract system, providing health care migrants families and education opportunities.

Migration is not a recent phenomenon of centuries, even during pre historic times. There are evidence of people moving from one region to other region. People moved across length and breadth of a country. At times across borders, for social, economic and political reasons. The development/developing areas have created a demand of labourers and the rural and the backward areas have become the supplier of labour. Majority of the migration is labour dependent on agriculture for work and income. The none seasonal migration flows from the areas of limited economic opportunities and retarded social development for fast developing areas providing higher wages to improve people's social economic status.

Migration of people occurs for various reasons: exodus during ethnic conflict, natural disasters, political instability, economic hardship as well as economic and social improvement, betterment of livelihood and so on.

Punjab is primarily an agriculture state. The state has recorded highest yield per hectare of wheat, rice, cotton and bajra. The per capita milk and egg production is highest in India. Consolidation of land, holdings and subsequent advent of the "green revolution" through the introduction of high yield varieties, use of fertilizers by hard working peasantry resulted in soaring productivity levels. Punjab was the first state to translate agriculture technology in to the green revolution and had the highest growth rate in food production. From a minor producer, it emerged as a major rice producer providing the impetus for the "White Revolution" during "Operation Flood" it was Punjab which had the highest per capita availability of milk.

The issue of migration is not a recent phenomenon in Punjab. The out migration of Punjab is to other states and foreign countries as also their successes especially in transport sector are example to other states. Today Punjab is one of the most sought after destinations from poor backward states unskilled rural population. In this context, please to the following data:-

#### **Estimation of Interstate Migrant Labour in Punjab in Late 1990**

S.No.	Activity	Migrant labour in Punjab
1	Agriculture	7 Lakh
2	Brick Kiln	2 Lakh
3	<b>Manufacturing Industries</b>	
i.	Textile	4 Lakh
ii.	Sports and Other Industries	2 Lakh
iii.	Sugarcane Industry	15,000
4	<b>Service Industries</b>	
i.	Loading/Unloading workers in industries	1.5 Lakh
ii.	Rickshaw Puller	1 Lakh
iii.	Domestic workers	(50,000) 1 lakh including local and migrant

5.	Construction Industry	
i.	Power, immigration and Multi- Purpose Projects	1.5 Lakh
ii.	House/Building Construction	1.5 Lakh
iii.	Stone Construction/Road Construction	15,000
	Total	21.65 Lakh

**Sources-** Estimates drawn from diverse sources and different studies

Punjab is divided in to three region majha, malwa and doaba, as Punjab is considered as rich in agriculture and industrial perspective. So the migrants are also increasing or get attracted towards Punjab. As Punjab has recorded highest yield per hectare of wheat, rice, cotton and bajra. The per capita milk and egg, the production highest in the country. Further a large quantity of surplus agriculture produce is available for agro based industries. The impact of migration is not a recent phenomenon. The out migration of Punjab is to other states and foreign countries as also their success/entrepreneurship especially in transport sectors are example to other state. During the green revolution of 60 today Punjab is one of the most sought after destination from poor backward state, unskilled rural population. Most of seasonal migrants of the state are for agriculture purposes.

People migrant for different reason and these are as follow

1. Effect of low- wage migrant labour on Ludhiana
2. For the survival
3. Living condition in Punjab
4. Urbanisation
5. Social status
6. Ethnic conflicts
7. Political instability
8. Natural disaster
9. Lack of work facilities
10. The most important factor is poor economic condition

Based on the NSS 64 round survey this paper estimated the number of migrants workers in Ludhiana and described the profile of migrants workers in urban areas of Punjab. More than a half of workers in urban area of Ludhiana are migrant workers. It is noticed that interstate migration to Punjab increased during the 1990s and the gap between the supply of local labour and demand in industry was fulfilled by an influx of young and less educated migrant workers from outside Punjab. Ms Sidhu head of the department of sociology and economics, at the Punjab agriculture college in Ludhiana. In 2007, Sidhu's department estimated that four lakh seasonal workers visit Punjab during the paddy season every year.

#### **Problems Faced by Labour Migrants**

1. Increase in crime
2. Drug abuse
3. Increase in area population
4. Unhygienic environment and diseases cause
5. Reduction in resources
6. Creating competition

## 7. Reduction in wage rate

In Bihar the number is 0.65 per family which represent unskilled labourers working previously in the state of Punjab and Haryana. But with increasing population, the issue of migration still remains unrested.

1. Based on research conducted 2010-2011, the report states that 4.42 million people from Bihar migrate every year to various states of India and the migration has actually gone up.
2. Around the paddy transplantation season, more than five lakh labourers arrive from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
3. The sources said that the farmers are ready to offer nearly the wages to attract them their fields. In Punjab the number of male out- migrants is less than female out migrants. As a result the net migrants in to Punjab is only 0.33 million. The sex ratio stocked highly in favour of Punjab.

The Punjab government also focuses on the following issue,

1. Implementing the rights to education for migrant children.
2. Inclusive urban development.
3. Employment and food security.
4. Ensuring basic entitlements and social security.
5. Enforcement of labour laws and enactment of comprehensive laws.

At last we can say that government flagship various schemes but the trend of migration still growing. The trends keep on changing. They migrate from rural to urban, urban to urban, urban to rural, male, female, children all including in this. The trends indicates in census 2011 would be valuable to tweak existing schemes and also to formulate new programmes to prevent rural-urban migration by creating economic opportunities closed to their place of residence. It would also provide an empirical basis for better urban planning.

**Conclusion**

A large number of migrate in rural and urban areas of Punjab. They are considered as floating

population. These labours face social and economic discrimination various housing policies, schemes and programmes were formulated in the past, but these policies never addressed housing issues of floating population who has a short period of stay at their destination which worsened their situation creating unhygienic living conditions certain inclusive policies and schemes could be put forward such it would help in bringing labourers in to mainstream and also create a management system that can solve the issue regarding their identity.

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