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Socio-economic implications of migration on migrants' family

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Abstract

Migration and remittances are treated as a promotion of a livelihood strategy, it may have positive, negative or neutral impact on the household or communities. Present study entitled Socio-economic implications of migration on migrants' family was conducted with the objectives to study the impact of migration on the migrants' families and the relationship between socio-economic implication and income of migrants as well as their families. For conducting the study migrant labourers from Bihar were selected and interviewed in Ludhiana and their corresponding households in Bihar were also interviewed. Purposive sampling technique was used to select migrant labourers in Ludhiana who were resident of any of the three districts of Bihar namely Nalanda, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur. From each district 40 households were selected making a total of 120 households in Bihar and 120 respondents in Ludhiana. The data was collected with the help of specially structure interview schedule. Results revealed that highest impact of socio-economic implications was seen on the increase in family income. It was also observed that with the improvement in basic facilities, stress also increased. Correlation among socio-economic implications and income of migrants and their family showed that due to migration, there was improvement in almost all of the basic facilities.

Keywords: Correlation, income, migration, remittances, socio-economic implication

Introduction

Migration has several positive impacts on the household as well as sending societies. People from rural regions of the country migrate to the cities gaining better qualifications for employment. They also gain experience and skills for particular task which makes them more capable for having better jobs. The lifestyle of people improves due to increase in income. Ultimately they are capable to have better food, housing and education. This not only improves the migrant's household but has greater impact on the sending societies. Migrants creates source of income for others in the same place benefiting several more household. Migration also has demographical and political benefits. Migration of workers prevents the overcrowding and over population at the rural or deprived areas having limited resources due to which the availability of resources to the left behind people improves. The unemployment in the sending societies decreases due to mobilization of unemployed population to the cities. The social benefit of migration is that it brings cultural diversities. Traditions from different corners of the country can be brought to the cities. Traditional recipes of different states can be used as a source of employment for the migrants by opening traditional restaurant. There are several economical benefits to the migration. Migrant labourers willingly gets hired even with harsh working conditions like, low wages, long working hours, dirty jobs and no working insurance. In the context of livelihood promotion strategy, migration and remittances may have positive, negative or neutral impact on the household or communities. Impact may also vary with time. For example, in the beginning there may be lack of labourers in household as well as rural economy but in the long term, remittances received by the household improves productivity by creating assets and generating income at the household level (Deshingkar and Start 2003) [1]. The present study was done with the following objective:

- To study the impact of migration on the migrants' families.
- To study the relationship between socio-economic implication and income of migrants as well as their families.

Methodology

In the present study, purposive sampling technique was used to select 120 industrial migrants from Bihar, who migrated to Punjab prior to 2011 i.e. the migrants who were staying in Punjab

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for at least five years. The household belonging to the selected migrants in only three districts of Bihar state namely Nalanda, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur, 40 from each district were selected. Thus making the total sample of 240 (120 migrants from Ludhiana city and their corresponding 120 households in Bihar where they were sending the remittances). Specially structured interview schedules, one for migrants in Ludhiana and another for their head of households back in Bihar were constructed. The data was analysed with the help of mean score and correlation analysis.

Results and discussion

Socio-economic implications of migration were studied on the migrant’s family by assessing the impact in fulfillment of different basic needs. Table 1 gives the overview of impact of migration on the basic needs of migrant’s family. It is clear from the table that highest impact was seen on the increase in family income (mean score-4.45). It was also observed that with the improvement in basic facilities, stress also increased (mean score-3.98). The main reason for increasing stress was the extra burden on the family due to non-availability of the migrated member. Other improvements were observed in clothing (mean score-3.94), relationship with relatives/neighbours (mean score-3.93), food quality (mean score-3.92), communication (mean score-3.91), social participation (mean score-3.75), health status (mean score-3.63), mode of transportation (mean score-3.62), housing (mean score-3.58), children’s education (mean score-3.57), leisure (mean score-3.45) and knowledge/skills (mean score-3.05).

Since, the migrant labourers came from village to city hence; they learnt the better way to live. Improvement was observed in all the aspect of life i.e. clothing, relationship, food quality, communication, social participation, Health status, mode of transportation, housing, children’s education, leisure time and knowledge/skill. Improve in clothing was due to the modernization of clothing pattern as clothes of new trend were sent by the migrated members to the families. Due to increase in family income, migrant’s family was more willing to help their relatives and neighbours by cash or kind which improved their relationship with relatives and neighbours. Migration had also improved the quality of food by increasing the variety and intake of different food groups in their diet which has improved the health status of migrants and their families. Health status also improved due to increase intake of supplements and awareness to visit better health care centers and take medicine when necessary. Improvement in communication was due to availability of low cost smart phones with cheap internet facility which connected the family members through social media. Social participation improved due to celebration of different festivals and special occasions with relatives and neighbours. Due to increase in income migrant’s family started using several public and private vehicles instead of walking which improved the mode of transportation. Increase in family income due to migration had attributed to the improvement in various aspects of housing. The kuchha houses were replaced with pucca houses, the number of rooms increased due to extra construction, furniture and furnishing items also increased which lead to the improvement of house. Children were either shifted to better school or were provided with extra tuitions which improved their grades. Due to increase in family income family members did not needed to do extra work which gave them leisure time for family. Migrant’s family members had learnt the use of banks and ATM for transacting the money sent by

migrated member. They had also learnt several skills like parlour, stitching and making decorative items. In a similar study it was reported that all the migrants respondents in Ludhiana have changed their dressing pattern and love to wear Punjabi dresses (Singh and Kaur 2006) [3]. Another study also confirms that remittances have several positive impacts on their livelihood as it is used in loan repayment, used for agriculture production, food, education, electricity, traveling, social function, clothing, house maintenance and medical purpose (Kaur 2014) [2].

Table 1: Socio-economic implications of migration on migrants’ family n=120

| Implications | Mean scores | Rank |
|---|-------------|------|
| Increase in family income | 4.45 | I |
| Increase in stress | 3.98 | II |
| Improved clothing | 3.94 | III |
| Improvement in relationship with relatives/ neighbours | 3.93 | IV |
| Improvement in quality of food | 3.92 | V |
| Improvement in communication | 3.91 | VI |
| Improvement in social participation | 3.75 | VII |
| Improvement in health status | 3.63 | VIII |
| Improvement in mode of transportation | 3.62 | IX |
| Improvement in housing | 3.58 | X |
| Improvement in children’s education | 3.57 | XI |
| Increased time for recreation (leisure time) of homemaker | 3.45 | XII |
| Improvement in knowledge/skills | 3.05 | XIII |

1- Strongly disagree, 2- Disagree, 3-No opinion, 4- Agree, 5- Strongly agree

Correlation of socio-economic implications, remittances and expenditure with income of migrants and their families

The relation of migrant’s income and total family income on the socio-economic implication, remittances and expenditure was studied with the help of correlation. Correlation among socio-economic implications and income of migrants and their family are presented in Table 2. It was observed that communication, clothing, family income, mode of transportation, health status, relationship with relatives/ neighbours, housing, children’s education and quality of food were significantly correlated with income of migrants and total family income. Whereas, leisure time of homemaker, stress and social participation were non- significantly correlated with income of migrants and total family income.

Table 2: Correlation between income and socio-economic implications of the migrant’s family

| Socio-economic implications | Income of migrants | Total family income |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Communication | 0.87** | 0.73** |
| Clothing | 0.86** | 0.66** |
| Family income | 0.74** | 0.57** |
| Mode of transportation | 0.69** | 0.53** |
| Health status | 0.58** | 0.43** |
| Relationship with relatives/neighbours | 0.57** | 0.41** |
| Housing | 0.33** | 0.23* |
| Children’s education | 0.29** | 0.21* |
| Quality of food | 0.27** | 0.30** |
| Knowledge/skills | 0.15 | 0.06 |
| Leisure time of homemaker | 0.11 | 0.03 |
| Stress | 0.01 | 0.07 |
| Social participation | 0.00 | 0.07 |

*significant at 5% level of significance
 **significant at 1% level of significance

Conclusion

It can be concluded for the study that the highest impact of socio-economic implications was seen on the increase in family income. It was also observed that with the improvement in basic facilities, stress also increased. Other improvements were observed in clothing, relationship with relatives/neighbours, food quality, communication, social participation, health status, mode of transportation, housing, children's education, leisure and knowledge/skills. Correlation among socio-economic implications and income of migrants and their family showed that communication, clothing, family income, mode of transportation, health status, relationship with relatives/ neighbours, housing, children's education and quality of food were significantly correlated with income of migrants and total family income.

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