

A Study Of Changes In The Standard Of Living Of The Labourers Due To Migration

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Abstract: In India, rural people are facing the problems of unemployment, less wages, not availability of the work around whole year etc. So, they are showing a tendency to migrate to the urban and industrially developed areas. Many times it becoming fruitful to the migrant labourers, as they are getting higher wages, good amenities are being made available by them to their family members, which were not possible in rural areas. So, according to this, standard of living of them is improving. In present paper, an attempt will be made to assess such kind of changes in the standard of living of migrant labourers.

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Key words: Labour migration; standard of living; India; rural

Introduction:

Nanded is one of the developing cities in Maharashtra state of India. The industries like construction, oil mills, steel industry, brick kilns, ginning and other factories are situated around Nanded city, where the people can get the employment opportunities for their bread and butter. But in the rural areas of Nanded district, employment other than in agricultural are rarely available. The agricultural employment gives fewer wages to workers, for which they have to work for long hours. But the employment in city, industrial area gives good wages with less effort than the agriculture. So, rural people are migrating to the urban areas for employment.

The employment in rural area of Nanded District, in all the days of year is not available. So, the rural people migrate towards the city and other industrial area of the district. Generally, rural people migrates towards the urban and industrialized areas, because of the appealing poverty, unbearable unemployment, low and uncertain wages, uneconomic holdings, poor facilities for education, health, recreation and other services etc. So, urban industrial development attracts them to come into the urban area. In the same way, due to above causes, the poor people of rural area in Nanded district also come towards the city and industrial areas to get the employment opportunities and better living. Migrant labourer gets better employment opportunities in urban area with regular and higher wages, fixed working hours, better amenities of living, facilities for education, medical facilities etc.

1.1.1 Migration:

The word 'migration' has been derived from Latin word '*Migratio*'. It means to change one's residence. Literally its meaning is to settle or shift of

an individual or a group of individuals from one cultural area or place of habitation to another place for less or more time, permanently or temporarily. The definition of migration has been given in *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences* as, 'the relatively permanent movement of persons over a significant distance.'

1.2 Research Problem:

This research has been conducted to find out the reasons for rural to urban labour migration. The research problems, studied were, Is the migration beneficial for them? It helps to improve their living standard or not? The research work helped to find the answers of these questions.

1.3 Objectives of the study:

The present study entitled, 'A Critical Study of Labour Migration in Nanded District' has been carried out for following objectives.

1. To know the changes in standard of living of labourers due to migration.
2. To assess the socio-economic status of the labourers during the prior and post migration.

1.4 Hypotheses of the study:

Following hypotheses were formulated for the present study.

1. Labourers are migrating from villages to city to earn the money.
2. Living standard of labourers is improving due to migration.

1.5 Research Methodology:

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, following research methodology has been used by the researcher. The locale of the study is the Nanded district in Maharashtra state of India. The sectors like **construction, brick kilns, industries, hotels, shops, household work, Hawkers & Porter Business and**

Transport business etc. provides employment to the most of the migrant labourers in Nanded district. For sample selection, the researcher has used Purposive Sampling Technique from Non-probability Sampling methods. In this way 25 samples were picked from each of the employment sector. **So, total 200 migrant labourers are selected as samples for the purpose of study.**

1.5.3 Data Collection & Analysis:

Data on several aspects of respondents, viz. the migrant labourers will be collected through interview schedule for achieving research objectives. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected from two main sources: Primary and Secondary.

Study of changes in standard of living of migrant labourers:

In the following way data have been collected from the migrant labourers to analyse the changes in their standard of living and economic conditions.

Table 1. Respondent Migrant Labourers working in various Employment Sectors

Labourers Working in	Male	Female	Total Respondents
Construction	16	09	25
Shops	20	05	25
Hotel	23	02	25
Brick Kilns	17	08	25
Industry	19	06	25
Household	10	15	25
Hawkers	24	01	25
Transportation	25	00	25
Total	154 (77)	46 (23)	200 (100)

Source: Interview of respondents

(Figures in parentheses represent percentages)

Table 1 shows the design of sample. The convenient sampling method is used for selection of samples. According to this, 25 samples were selected conveniently from *Construction, shops, Brick Kilns,*

Various industries, Household workers, hawkers including the porters and transportation sector. These all employment sectors provide employment to most of the migrant labourers.

Table 2. Previous employment or works done by the Respondent Migrant Labourers

Previous works Labourers Working in	Agro-based works		Unemployed		Other works		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Construction	09	05	06	03	01	01	25
Shops	12	03	06	02	02	00	25
Hotel	09	02	10	00	04	00	25
Brick Kilns	07	03	07	05	03	00	25
Industry	08	03	08	01	03	02	25
Household	04	08	04	06	02	01	25
Hawkers	13	00	09	01	02	00	25
Transportation	10	00	11	00	04	00	25
Total	72 (36)	24 (12)	61 (30.5)	18 (9)	21 (10.5)	04 (2)	200 (100)

Source: Interview of respondents (Figures in parentheses represent percentages)

When the researcher have asked to migrant labourers about their previous employment, following facts were been observed. The maximum labourers i.e. 72 males and 24 females, who were working previously in agro-based works, have migrated in Nanded city to get employment. Beside this, 61 unemployed males and 18 females have got the

employment after migration. The migrant labourers doing other kind of miscellaneous work were migrated in the number of 21 males and 4 females. This analysis reveals that, unemployed people are getting employment after migration, so they have a chance to improve their economic condition and standard of living.

Table 3. Problems faced by the Respondent Migrant Labourers at their Native Place

Problems	1 st Problem		2 nd Problem		3 rd Problem		4 th Problem		5 th Problem		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Construction	07	03	04	04	01	00	03	02	01	00	25
Shops	10	02	04	02	02	00	03	00	01	00	25
Hotel	06	01	07	01	03	00	02	00	05	00	25
Brick Kilns	10	04	06	04	00	00	00	00	01	00	25
Industry	02	02	04	00	06	02	04	01	03	01	25
Household	02	02	00	04	02	00	02	03	04	06	25
Hawkers	12	00	08	01	00	00	03	00	01	00	25
Transportation	09	00	13	00	00	00	02	00	02	00	25
Total	58 (29)	14 (7)	46 (23)	16 (8)	14 (7)	02 (1)	19 (9.5)	06 (3)	18 (9)	07 (3.5)	200

Source: Interview of respondents (Figures in parentheses represent percentages)

1. Insufficient wages
2. No regular employment
3. Not useful job for improvement of self
4. Extra hours of work
5. Too hard work

When a labourer faces any problem of the above, then generally he thinks about migration. Major problems rural labourers were insufficient wages or

non-availability of regular employment. Some of the migrant labourers also responded that, the work done by them rural area was not good to improve their financial condition and skills also. As usual extra work hours and too hard work in rural area are also the problems faced by the labourers. Most of the labourers were told the financial reasons. So, it can be said that their financial conditions was not good in rural areas.

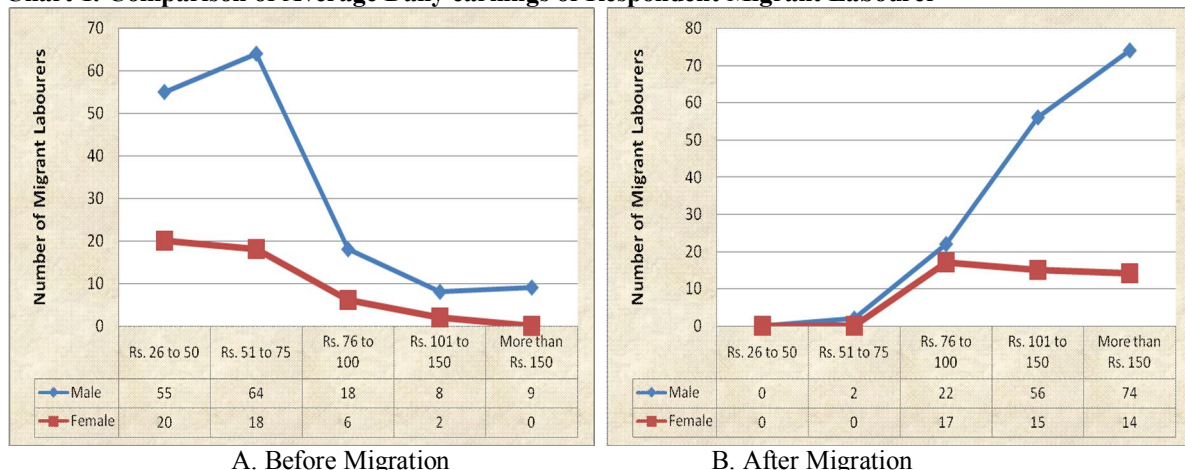
Chart 1. Comparison of Average Daily earnings of Respondent Migrant Labourer

Chart 1 focuses on the most important thing, i.e. average daily earnings of the labourer before migration. Average earnings are, Rs. 26 to 50, Rs. 51 to 75, Rs. 76 to 100, Rs. 101 to 125 and more than Rs. 125. These rates of wages were also observed by researcher while collecting information from respondents in villages.

'Part A' of the chart shows that, the curve of number of both male and female migrant labourers is sloping down as the average daily earning of the labourers were increasing. 'Part B' of the chart shows

that, the curve of number of both male and female migrant labourers is climbing up as the wages are increasing in chart 2.

Analysis of both charts reveals that, before migration, labourers earn less wages. Whereas after migration their income is rising. The analysis also tells that, the object of labourers to come city i.e. to earn money is becoming successful after migration, because they are earning more money as compared to rural employment.

Table 6. Monthly Saving Pattern of Respondent Migrant Labourers at their native place before migration

Monthly Saving	Rs. 0 to Rs. 500		Rs. 501 to 1000		Rs. 1001 to 1500		More than Rs. 1501		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Construction	09	05	04	03	02	01	01	00	25
Shops	11	03	06	02	03	00	00	00	25
Hotel	17	02	05	00	01	00	00	00	25
Brick Kilns	10	06	06	02	01	00	00	00	25
Industry	12	03	04	02	03	01	00	00	25
Household	09	13	01	02	00	00	00	00	25
Hawkers	18	01	06	00	00	00	00	00	25
Transportation	20	00	05	00	00	00	00	00	25
Total	106 (53)	33 (16.5)	37 (18.5)	11 (5.5)	10 (5)	02 (1)	01 (0.5)	00 (0)	200

Source: Interview of respondents (Figures in parentheses represent percentages)

The male and labourers earn less wages in rural areas, by that they could run their bread and butter only. So, they could not save in large amount.

According to this, 106 male labourers and 33 female have said that they could have saved money only up to Rs.500 p.m. before the migration. Higher savings amount than previous, is Rs. 501 to 1000, which was saved by 37 male and 11 female labourers before migration. The weaker number of labourers can be seen, those who were saving more than Rs. 1001. Only 10 male and 02 female labourers have saved money Rs. 1001- to 1500 p.m. at their native place before the migration. Mere 01 male labourer have saved money more than Rs.1501. Any female labourer

can't succeed to save more than Rs. 1501 at native place employment before migration.

Table 6, mainly puts the light on a thing that, the monthly saving of the migrant labourers before migration, was very low i.e. up to Rs. 500 and up to Rs. 1000 as compared to today's inflation. The labourers with little higher investment were very few, because their income is also less at their native place before migration.

Less amount of saved, is not useful to improve financial position of the labourers at rural areas. So, low saving becomes a reason for migration of the labourers towards urban areas.

Table 7. Monthly Saving Pattern of Respondent Migrant Labourer at their working place after migration

Monthly Saving	Rs. 0 to Rs. 500		Rs. 501 to 1000		Rs. 1001 to 1500		More than Rs. 1501		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Construction	02	00	03	02	04	03	07	04	25
Shops	00	00	04	01	07	02	09	02	25
Hotel	00	00	02	00	08	00	13	02	25
Brick Kilns	00	00	03	01	06	03	08	04	25
Industry	00	00	05	00	03	02	11	04	25
Household	00	00	01	03	02	02	07	10	25
Hawkers	00	00	06	00	07	00	11	01	25
Transportation	00	00	03	00	09	00	13	00	25
Total	02 (01)	00 (00)	27 (13.5)	07 (3.5)	46 (23)	12 (06)	79 (39.5)	27 (13.5)	200

Source: Interview of respondents (Figures in parentheses represent percentages)

The number of male labourers is only 2 who were saving money less than Rs. 500 p.m. after migration. No any female migrant labourer was saving money up to Rs. 500. Higher savings i.e. Rs.501 to Rs. 1000 were shown by 27 male migrant labourers and 07 female migrant labourers.

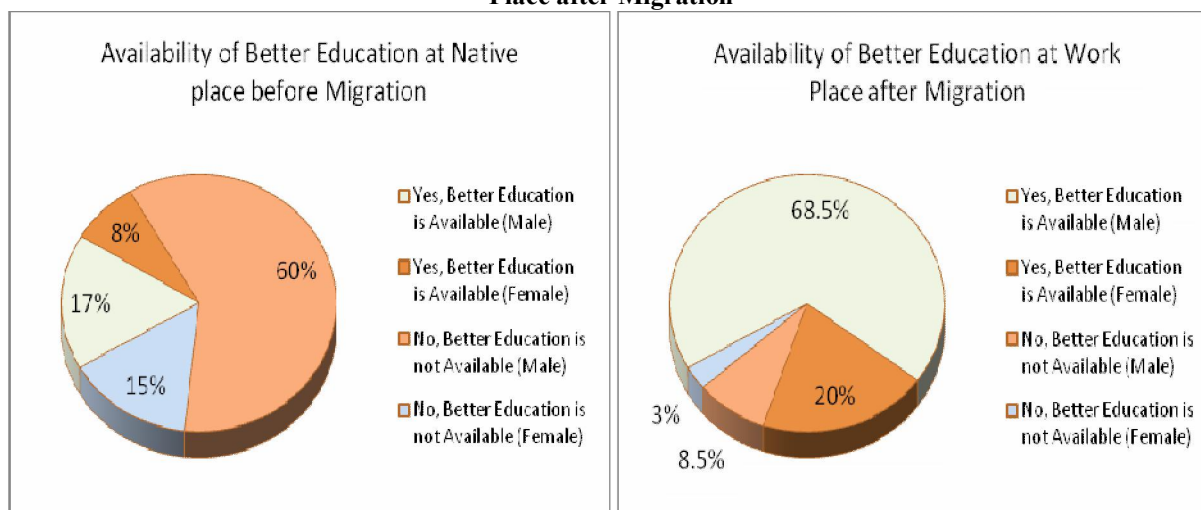
Quick rise is been observed in the saving pattern of Rs. 1001 to Rs. 1500. The 46 male labourers and 12 female labourers have saved money between these two amounts at working place after migration.

The labourers are migrating to Nanded city to earn money, means to save money. So, the monthly saving of 79 males and 27 female migrant labourers is increased as compared to others after migration. They are saving more than Rs. 1500 p.m.

Table 7, mainly puts the light on a thing that, the monthly saving of the migrant labourers after migration, is rapidly increasing. The number of male and female migrant labourers with higher investment were very strong as compared to number of labourers with high saving in villages. This is, because their income is increasing after migration at the cities for the work.

Therefore, increased saving in urban areas after migration shows that, the economic conditions of the male and female migrant labourers are improving after leaving their native places i.e. after migration to the urban area. According to comparison of Table 6 and Table 7, it could be concluded that, the chances to increase the savings i.e. ultimately improving financial positions, male and female labourers are migrating.

Chart 3. Comparison of Opinions about Better Education at Native Place before Migration and at Work Place after Migration



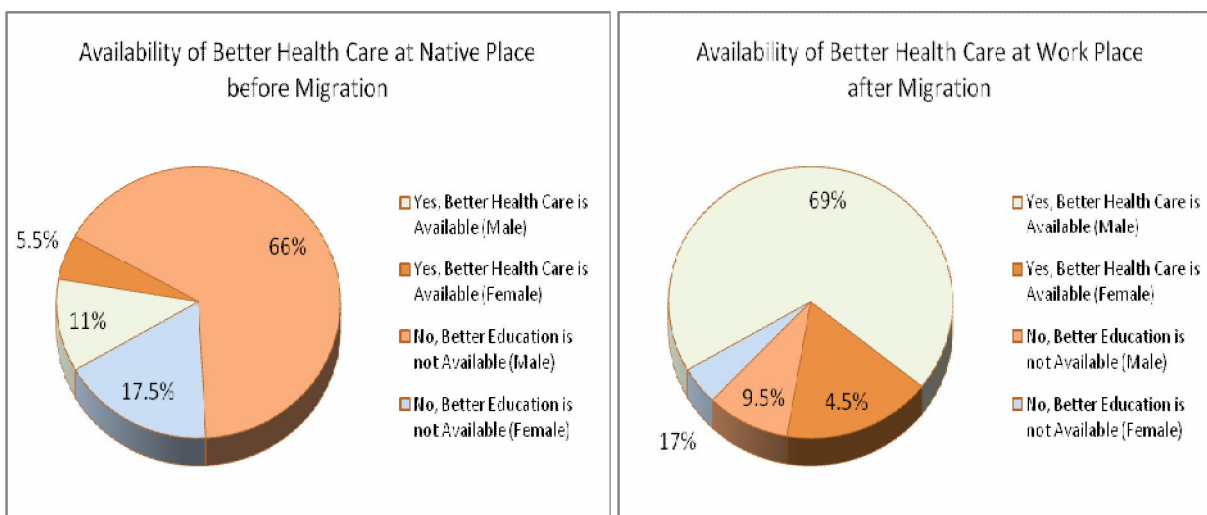
The comparison of these two pie-charts clearly reveals the difference between opinions about the quality of education in rural area and in urban area. 60% male labourers were telling that, no better education was available in rural area, which was supported by 15% female migrant labourers. But, 17% male and 8% female labourers were of opinion that good education is available in rural area.

Opinions about good education in city, are favourable of 68% males and 20% female migrant.

Only 9% males and 3% female migrant labourers were telling no good education is available in urban areas.

As most of the labourers were telling, good education is available for their children in urban area, the labourers were also migrated with the hope, to impart their children with additional knowledge, English medium coaching, extra classes and extra education facilities for better future.

Chart 4. Comparison of Opinions about Better Health Care Facilities at Native Place before migration and at Work Place after migration



The comparison of these two pie-charts explicitly shows the difference between opinions about the health care facilities in rural area and in urban area. 66% male labourers were telling that, no better healthcare facilities were available in rural area, which was supported by 17.5% female migrant labourers. But, 11% male and 5.5% female labourers were of opinion that good health care facilities were available in rural area.

Favourable opinions about good health care facilities in city, were given by 69% males and 17% female migrant. Only 9.5% males and 4.5% female migrant labourers have responded that, no adequate health care facilities are available in urban areas.

According to opinions of most of the migrant labourers, better health care facilities were available for their family in urban area. Some of the labourers were migrated with the hope; make available best health care facilities to their family, whenever required. It was observed by researcher, the migrant labourers with negative opinion were living in little far distance from the hospitals and they yet have not gone in the hospitals.

Conclusions:

1. It was revealed that, due to scope of higher wages, rural male and female labourers were migrating to the Nanded city. The analysis also shows that, the object of labourers to come city i.e. to earn money is becoming successful after migration, because they are earning more money as compared to

rural employment.

2. The paper puts light on a thing that, the monthly saving of the migrant labourers after migration, is rapidly increasing. The number of male and female migrant labourers with higher investment were very strong as compared to number of labourers with high saving in villages. This is, because their income is increasing after migration at the cities for the work.

3. As most of the labourers were telling, good education is available for their children in urban area, the labourers were also migrated with the hope, to impart their children with additional knowledge, English medium coaching, extra classes and extra education facilities for better future. Hence, some of the labourers were migrated with expectation of good wages and better education for the children. Hence, some of the labourers were migrated with expectation of good wages and better education for the children.

4. Better health care facilities were available for their family in urban area. Some of the labourers were migrated with the hope; make available best health care facilities to their family, whenever required.

5. According to total analysis, it can be said that the living standard of the migrant labourers is improving after migration. Migrant labourers were getting a better living place, medical facilities and education facilities as compared to the villages. So, they say that, their standard of living is improving.

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