CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"A person cannot be great unless he moves to another village"

- A Chinese Proverb

The process of economic development involves the utilisation of physical resources of a nation by the labour force of a country so that productive potential in a country is realized. In the words of Adam Smith; the father of economics, "The annual labour of every nation is the fund which originally supplies it with all the necessaries and conveniences of life". But, it is true that rapidly growing population retards the process of development. Rising population is accompanied by a rise in the labour forces of the community. For many poor people around the world, migration is a way of life and it can reduce poverty, inequality and contributes to overall economic growth and development. The interrelationship between migration and economic development is universally recognized (Rao, 1996, Deshingkar, 2006, Awasthi, 2010). It is in the context that migration shifts the human resources from the areas where their social marginal products are assumed to be zero or negligible to the place where their marginal products grow rapidly as a result of capital accumulation and technological progress (Joshi and Lobo, 2003, Mishra and Reddy, 2005).

Migration is a universal phenomenon and it is not of recent origin (Gill, 1998, Chand et al., 1998, Naik et al., 2009, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008, Awasthi, 2010). Man was moving here and there in search of good environment and settlement without any interruption since from the first day of human appearance on this planet. Migration makes the human beings to think and lead a normal and problem free life, depending upon the previous experiences of human living in different parts (Singh and Kaur, 2007, Halemani and Shashikala, 2009, Naik et al., 2009, Lamani, 2009).

From the demographic point of view, migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the others being fertility, mortality
But, whereas both fertility and mortality operate within the biological framework, migration does not. It influences size, composition and distribution of population. More importantly, migration influences the social, political and economic life of the people (Singh, 1998). Through migration, people move from a permanent place of residence to another more or less permanent one for a substantial period of time (Singh and Kaur, 2007).

Migration can benefit poor people in developing countries and its role in economic development is widely recognized (Rao, 1996). For individual and families, migration can increase income, lead to new skills, improve social status, build assets and improve the quality of life. For a country, migration can relieve labour market and political pressures, result in increased trade and direct investment from abroad, lead to positive activity such as remittances, promote social and political change and lead to the eventual return by successful migrants who invest in their country of origin (International Development Report, 2007).

Migration is characterized by enormous economic and social diversity spanning socio-economic variables such as caste, land holding size, age, sex, education, family size and composition, activity, consumption levels and more (Srivastava, 2005). The exodus from rural areas is gaining significance day by day because of the complexity of the labour migration process and fast changing socio-economic conditions of migrant labour (Korra, 2009).

Migration is a form of social interaction by which regions of varying levels of economic and social development and rates of development are connected by streams of persons changing their residence and work place from one region to another. The direction and volume of migration has considerably changed over the years. Migration flows are pronounced from economically backward or stagnating regions to prosperous or dynamic regions. Migration is normally viewed as an economic phenomenon (Murugan and Lakshmi, 2010).
There are a host of definitions on the term 'migration'. Dictionaries generally refer to migration as a change of residence from one place to another (Kaur, 2008). According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of English, migration means "move from one place to another (to live there)".

According to Weinberg (1975), "Human migration is the changing of the place of abode permanently or, when temporarily, for an appreciable duration as e.g in the case of seasonal workers, it is used symbolically in the transition from one surrounding to another in the course of human life".

Lee (1966) defines migration, "As a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. No restriction is placed upon the voluntary and involuntary nature of the act, and no distinction is made between external and internal migration".

According to Indian Census (2001), a person is considered a migrant, if birth place or place of last residence is different from place of enumeration. The National Sample Survey Organisation of the Government of India defines a migrant as 'a member of the sample household who had stayed continuously for at least six months or more in a place other than the place of enumeration. In short, a migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one politically defined area to another similar area. Thus, the concept of migration involves implicitly imposition of boundary lines which must be crossed before a movement is counted as migration (Joshi, 1999).

Labour migration may be defined as a form of labour mobility towards districts or states or outside where industry and employment are expanding. In other words, migration may be the phenomenon of the flow of the people over shorter or longer distances from one origin to a destination either for temporary or permanent settlement (Tripathy, 1997, Halemani and Shashikala, 2009).

On the basis of nature, migration can be categorized as internal or international. Internal migration refers to migration from one place to another place within a country, whereas external migration or international migration
refers to migration from one country to another. Internal migration tends to be undertaken by students, service holders, farmers, skilled and unskilled workers, informal petty traders, businessmen, service providers, politicians, social workers, displaced persons and others. International migrants include settlers, migrant workers, highly skilled workers, students, asylum-seekers and businessmen. Such migrants originate in both rural and urban areas and their destination are normally urban centres (Tiwari, 2008).

The terms 'in-migration' and 'out-migration' are related to internal migration whereas 'immigration' and 'emigration' are related to international migration. 'In-migration' refers to migration to a place from another place within the same country and 'Out-migration' refers to migration from a place to another place within the same country. The term 'Immigration' refers to migration into one country from another country and 'Emigration' of one country is immigrants of another country.

According to International Development Report (2007), the number of international migrants was estimated as 214 million in 2010. If this number continuous to grow at the same pace as during the last 20 years, it could reach 405 million by 2050. However, the internal migration is much more powerful as compared to the international migration (Hussain et al., 2004). Internal migration does not change the size of population of the country as a whole, but influences the social, economic, cultural and demographic characteristics of the people in both the places of origin and destination (Agrawal and Nangia, 2005).

Internal migration is an integral part of the development process (Srivastava, 1998, Chandra, 2002, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008) and it has greater potential for poverty reduction, meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and contributing to economic growth in developing countries than international migration. This is because of four things. First, internal migration stems from a broader base where smaller sums of money are evenly distribution to specific areas and poor families through remittances. Second, it is likely that internal migration will continue to increase at a faster rate than international
migration. Third, internal migration involves poorer people from poorer regions and has a strong role to play in achieving the MDGs. Fourth, it is an important driver of growth in many sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services (Deshingkar, 2006)

Migration is an important livelihood strategy in India and Indian history is full of migratory movements within the country as well as outside it (Sundari, 2005, Deshingkar, 2006). Indian Constitution provides basic freedom to move to any part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choice (Singh, 1998, Sundari, 2005). Thus, migrants are not required to register either at the place of origin or at the place of destination (Bhagat, 2005). There has been a steady increase in the country in the number of migrants. The census of India reveals that in 2001 the total number of persons that has internally migrated across the states of India is almost double of that of 1971 (Chandra, 2002, Bhagat, 2009). The proportion of internal and international migrants in India is depicted in Table 1.

### TABLE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Internal Migration</th>
<th>International Migration</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Migrants to Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>548.1</td>
<td>159.6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>659.3</td>
<td>200.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>814.3</td>
<td>220.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1028.6</td>
<td>307.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 1971-2001
Table 1 reveals the growing higher proportion of internal migration as compared with international migration. The number internal migrants have doubled since 1971. On the other hand, the proportion of immigrants’ shows declining trend since 1971 and it constitute only 5.1 million in 2001.

When a person is enumerated in Census at a different place than his / her place of birth, she / he is considered as a migrant. It also happens that many return to their place of birth after staying out. To capture such movements of population census collect information on migration by last residence to understand the current migration scenario better. In India, as per Census 2001, about 307 million people have been reported as migration by place of birth. The data on migration by last residence in India as per Census 2001 shows that the total number of migrants has been 314 million.

Internal migration is classified in to three types namely, intra- district migration, inter- district migration and inter- state migration. Movement of population within the boundary of a district is defined as intra- district migration, whereas the movement out side the district but within the state is known as inter- district migration, and the movement beyond the state and union territory but within the country is termed as inter- state migration (Bandyopadhyay and Chakraborty, 1995). Table 2 shows the size and growth rates of migrants by migration type.
Table 2 shows that majority of migrants are intra-district migrants (62%). The share of inter-district and inter-state migrants is 24 and 13 per cent respectively. It may be noted that the growth rate of inter-state migrants has been very high (54%) during 1991-2001 compared to previous decades.

Depending on the origin and destination of a migrant, the internal migration in India is classified into rural to rural migration (53.3 million), rural to urban migration (20.5 million), urban to rural (6.4 million) and urban to urban migration (14.3 million) (Census of India, 2001). The distribution of migrants by migration streams is generally associated with the degree of economic and social development.

Rural-rural migration plays a dominant role in total migration scenario followed by rural-urban migration. The extent of rural-rural migration is relatively high for ‘economically backward states’ (e.g. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh).
Pradesh). One of the most striking features of internal migration pattern in India is that developed states attract migrants not only from their own rural parts but also from the rural parts of other states which are relatively backward. The extent of net migration of the developed states is found to be much higher than that of backward states (Srivastava, 1998, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008).

Another aspect of the internal migration study in India is the duration of the residence of the migrants in the destination area. Duration of residence refers to continuous stay in the village or town where the person is enumerated (Bhagat, 2005). In terms of the duration of migration, Census of India 2001 has estimated that 98.3 million were short term migrants (0-9 years). Out of which, the rural out-migrants constituted the majority of 75.80 per cent, while the urban migrants were 21.17 per cent. In this rural out-migration, rural to rural migration is quite high (53 million) in comparison to from rural to urban areas (21 million).

There are various reasons for migration as per information collected in Census 2001 for migration by last residence. Most of the female migrants have cited 'Marriage' as the reason for migration, especially when the migration is within the state. For males, the major reasons for migration are 'work/employment' and 'education'. Table 3 shows the percentage of migrants for different reasons.
TABLE 3
REASONS FOR MIGRATION BY LAST RESIDENCE
WITH DURATION (0-9 YEARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for migration</th>
<th>Percentage to Migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work / Employment</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>43.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved after birth</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved with households</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 2001

From Table 3 it is clear that out of 98.3 million migrants by last residence with duration of last residence as 0-9 years, 'work or employment' was the most important reason for migration among males (37.6 %) whereas 'marriage' was the most important reason for female migration (64.9 %).

According to the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) 55th round report (2001), employment related reasons were 1) in search of employment 2) in search of better employment 3) to take up employment or better 4) transfer of service or contract and 5) proximity to place of work. The remaining reasons were 6) for studies 7) for acquisition of own house or flat 8) to overcome the housing problem 9) social or political problems 10) health 11) marriage 12) migration of parents or other earning members and 13) others including natural calamities and the like.

Large number of migrants were found in agriculture and plantations, brick kilns, quarries, on construction sites and fish processing. These attracts to the considerable scale of such migration, especially among Scheduled Tribes and
Scheduled Castes. The bulk of this migration is rural- rural, ranges from a few weeks to a few months and takes place in unorganized industry, mining and agriculture. Although males predominate in most labour migration streams, both men and women together for work. Migrants are concentrated in different types of work in rural and urban areas. According to NSSO 55th round report (2001), in rural areas, self- employment is the predominant activity for both male and female migrant workers followed by casual workers.

Migration is a multi dimensional phenomenon which has both positive and negative consequences for migrants and their families. Migration can have many positive effects, because it expands the opportunities for productive work and leads to a wider perspective on many social issues among migrants and the population of host countries. Labour out- migration may speed up qualitative changes in existing labour relationships in rural areas through changes in attitudes and awareness of migrant labourers and return migrants. This may pushed up levels of wages in rural areas. According to NSSO 55th round report (2001), remittances are a kind of resource flows occurring in regions as a result of migration and it is a major source of livelihood of the migrants. Remittances are mainly used for such purposes as consumption, repayment of loans and meeting other social obligations. Investments by migrants in housing, land and consumer durables are common and migrant's income is also used to finance working capital requirements in agriculture (Oberai and Singh, 1983, Krishniah, 1997, Rogaly et al., 2001). Thus, rural out- migration provides some ability to poor migrant households to acquire small surpluses and strengthen their productive base and bargaining strengthen in the rural economy (Rogaly et al., 2001, Yakapur and Khan 2010, Boto, 2011).

On the other hand, migrant labourers, whether in agricultural or non-agricultural activities, in rural or urban areas, usually live in deplorable conditions with inadequate provision of drinking water and basic conditions. Seasonal migrant labourers live in open spaces or make shift shelters. Apart from seasonal migrant workers, those who migrate to the cities in search of work live
in parks and on the pavement, in squatter settlement or slums. As labour migrants are not registered and have no access to Public Distribution System and temporary ration cards, they have to spend more on food and other living necessities. Obliged to work and live in harsh and unhygienic conditions and exposure to dust at the work site, their children suffer from various health problems. Moreover, they have no opportunity to obtain education either in their original place of residence or where their parents work. Employers rarely honour their responsibility to provide other than wage subsistence requirements to migrants (Srivastava, 2005, Yakapur and Khan 2010).

The pioneering work on migration began with the theorization on migration by Ravenstein (1885). According to his "Laws of Migration", migrants move from areas of low opportunity to areas of high opportunity. The choice of destination is regulated by distance with migrants tending to move to nearby places. He, further observed that incidence of migration increases with growth in the means of transport and communication and is positively related to the expansion of trade and industry.

Lewis (1954) developed the first model on rural to urban migration. This model was further extended by Fei and Ranis (1961). This model based on the idea of dual economy consisting of a rural agricultural sector characterized by under employment and an urban industrial sector having better employment opportunities. The model suggests that migration is an equilibrating mechanism which brings wage equality by transferring people from the labour surplus and low income rural areas to the labour deficit and high income urban centres.

Sjaastad (1962), in his theory treats the decision to migrate as an investment decision involving an individual's expected costs and returns over time. The probability of migration is directly related to the present value of the expected income gain and is inversely related to the cost of relocation.

Lee (1966) developed a general conceptual framework by formulating a number of hypotheses. He divided the forces exerting an influence on migrants' perceptions in to 'push' and 'pull' factors. The push factors are negative factors
tending to force migrants to leave origin areas, while the pull factors are positive factors attracting migrants to destination areas with the expectation of improving their lot. These conditions at the area of origin and destination are governed by personal characteristics which affect individual thresholds and facilitate or retard migration.

In recent years, most of the empirical research on rural to urban migration has been influenced by the model developed by Todaro (1969) and its later extension by Harris and Todaro (1970). This model is basically an extension of Human Capital Model of Sjaastad. There are essentially four basic propositions derived from Todaro's migration model: 1) Rural-urban migration is stimulated primarily by rational economic considerations. 2) The decision to migrate depends on expected rather than actual urban-rural wage differentials and the probability of obtaining employment in the urban sector. 3) The probability of obtaining an urban job is inversely related to the urban unemployment rate and 4) High rates of urban unemployment are the results of the serious imbalances of economic opportunities between urban and rural areas.

Further, Stark and Bloom (1985), remarked in their new economics of migration that migration decision is not by individual decisions but by households and other family members in which they try to maximize their expected income and to minimize the risk involved in migration. Within this context of theoretical framework, many studies have been undertaken in different perspectives.

Migration research has typically been studied at two levels of analysis, the micro and the macro. The two main secondary data sources on population mobility in India are the Census and the National Sample Survey (Srivastava, 1998, Narashimhan and Chandra, 1998). It is to be believed that these macro surveys underestimate some types of migration flows due to both empirical and conceptual difficulties. Moreover, reliance on macro-economic data may not reveal the true motives and the consequent effect of migration, since it broadly specified the causes of migration such as employment, marriage, etc. Thus, many of the concerns can only be handled by micro-surveys which have
their own set of conceptual problems. The survey based studies can bring out the in-depth analysis of the deeper process at work to explain the migration phenomenon. The findings of such micro studies and the primary data collected are of much importance for framing policies and programmes for planning and development. Against this background, the present study aims to fill the gap in research on rural- rural migration taken place from the plain area to hill area.

The present study has tried to find out the socio- economic profile of the sample migrant labourers who were residing during the study period in the study area. The relationship between the socio- economic variables and the attitudes of the migrants towards their migration were also been studied. The factors involved in the migration of the migrants from the study area, pattern of migration and remittance sending were analysed in detail. The study further examined the impact of migration with regard to the economic status of the selected migrants by taking changes in the variables such as size of land holdings, income, expenditure, savings, investment and debt of the migrants after their migration.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study, "Rural Labour Out - Migration in Theni District: Determinants and Economic Impact among Migrant Workers in Cardamom Estates" has the following objectives:

1. To study the socio- economic profile of the migrants and to examine the association between the socio- economic variables and their attitude towards migration.

2. To identify the determinants of migration.

3. To analyse the remittance sent by the migrants to their native place.

4. To assess the economic impact of migration.

5. To explore the problems faced by sample migrants due to migration.
HYPOTHESES

The study has analysed the following hypotheses:

1. The attitude of the respondents towards their migration does not differ on their socio-economic status.

2. The role of economic factors is not significant in migration.

3. There is no significant change in the economic status of the respondents after their migration.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is based on primary data, so it has got its own specific limitations. The researcher had chosen only the cardamom migrated labourers and the other workers migrated to other places from the study area had been left out. Hence, this research work might not be so in-depth in highlighting the various characteristics, features with regard to the problems related to migration. The respondents also had their own limitations in giving correct information. The particulars on income and the asset position might not denote exact figures. Since the migration of workers is determined by economic, socio and psychological factors, the findings of one region may not be applicable fully to the other regions also. Inspite of all these limitations a sincere effort had been made to study the migration behaviour of workers in cardamom estates.