SUMMARY

1. THE PROBLEM

Five specific objectives have been undertaken in the study of "Daily migrant wage labourers in Meerut: A Sociological Study" these are the following:

(1) What is the social background of daily migrant wage labourers?
(2) What are the causes of their migration from village to town?
(3) How far they are aware about labour law and their rights?
(4) What are the consequences of the migration for the rural areas?
(5) What are the changes that have taken place in the nature of employment of the daily migrant wage labourers?

➢ The first issue focuses on the social background of migrant wage labourers which includes, age, religion, caste, education, distance (from place of living), nature of job, size of family, type of family, daily income, working days (in a month) of labourers.

➢ The second issue focuses on the causes of daily migration e.g., non-availability of work in the village, less wages, seasonal work, conflict in family, any other reason like hesitation, ego problem and others which might push the daily migrant wage labourers to come out from the village.

➢ The third issue focuses on the awareness of labour law among the labourers and awareness about their duties and rights.
The fourth issue aims to find out the consequences of migration on rural areas of their habitation.

The fifth issue takes into account the change if any on daily migrant wage labourers which means change in availability of work, wages etc., change in recent years has been noted.

2. CONCEPT/TERMS

Migration:

The term migration has been understood in a number of ways. Literally, it means the settlement or shifting of an individual or a group of individuals from one cultural area or place of habitation to another, more or less permanently. Migration may be the phenomenon of the flow of people over shorter or longer distances from one origin to a destination either for temporary or permanent settlement. A distinction is also made between external migration (between countries) and internal migration (between region) (Marshall, 1998: 415).

In the present study migration is temporary on daily basis has been used.

Migrant Labourers:

Workers who move out of their place for seeking and engaging in seasonal or temporary employment without becoming residents of the areas in which they work, are called 'Migrant Labourers'.

Migrant labour is also seasonal labour. Such seasonal work (labour) is a feature of the unorganised sector (Joshi, 1987: 13).
The migrant labourer who comes out daily from his village to the nearby town in search of work and thus earns livelihood from the daily earning in the city, has been considered as daily migrant wage labourer.

3. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE

Migration: Meaning, Concept, Characteristics and Types

Meaning and Concept:

The term 'migration' is reserved for those changes of residence to involve the complete change and readjustment of the community affiliation of the individual (Bilsborrow, 1984: 34).

Migration involves the permanent movement of individual or group across symbolic or political boundaries into new residential areas and communities. Sociological studies of migration are diverse and usually form part of large problems in research into kinship, social networks or economic development. It is conventional to distinguish push from pull factors in the analysis of migration. The former (for example high rates of unemployment in the area of origin) are usually viewed as inducing migration of a conservative, security-maximizing nature, while the latter (economic expansion in the host country or region) are said to encourage risk taking and income-maximizing migration. A distinction is also made between external migration (between countries) and internal migration (between region) (Marshall, 1998: 415).

Characteristics of Migration

The characteristics of migration are considered in terms of age, marital status, region and caste, educational attainment, current
activity, industrial affiliation, occupation and income etc. of the migrants.

**Age Composition:** Age composition is the first factor which is taken into account to trace the characteristics of migrants. Most migrants first leave village at early working age. This is probably because the longer a migrant's remaining working life is the greater area in both the number of years over which he can earn return from work after migration and the intermittent periods of leisure in which such extra return can be enjoyed. Younger people may also be particularly like to migrate owing to their limited integration in the village social system. Khan (1986:84), Singh (1986:135) and many others found that young adult predominate among migrants. They have reported information about the age of the migrants along with the marital status and educational attainment at two points of time i.e., at the time of out migration and at the time of investigation. The excess of adolescent and young adult generally are observed among migrants. Age of the migrant at the time of out migration shows that more than half of the out-migrants left village at the age 15-24, another one-third at the age of 25-34.

**Marital Status:** Khan (1986: 87) finds in his study that a little less than three-fourth of the out-migrants were married and rest were unmarried at the time of out migration. The proportion of married rose considerably after migration which shows that migration has not effected the marriage of the out-migrants. The proportion of widower among migrants was nil.
**Religion and Caste:** Caste occupies a very significant place in rural society. Even now it represents socio-economic condition of the people. It would be however interesting and worth while to study the characteristic of migrants in terms of religion and caste. There are a number of studies which have analysed caste structure of the migrants in India. They sometime present similar, sometimes contradictory results. Pal (1994: 236) and Khan (1986: 92) found that the lower caste are more migratory. The members of schedule castes are more likely to migrate than the members of other castes. The reason is that they are generally landless and poorest in the rural areas.

**Educational attainment:** Education is one of the most important characteristics of the migrants. Education in itself stimulates out migration as it raises the level of aspiration and of unsatisfied needs in the population of rural area. Individuals having attained a high level of education in rural areas or smaller centres may have difficulty in finding position corresponding to their skill and are thus more prone to migrate. Besides, one may also expect that better educated are better informed about opportunities as they make greater use of formal and informal channels of information thus they are more prone to out migrate (Khan, 1986: 84-95).

**Types of Migration:**

There are predominantly three types of migrants observable which are almost inseparable– Step, Stage and Chain migration. Step migration refers to the process of successive moves by one migrant. Stage migration refers to a social pattern, a process by which some groups move from the countryside to other villages or small towns,
others from villages to large cities. This image derives from one of Ravenstein's famous 'laws of migration': "....There takes place consequently a universal shifting or displacement of the population. Which produces "currents of migration", setting in the direction of the great centres of commerce and industry which absorbs the migrants (Bilsborrow, 1984: 52-53).

Chain migration can be defined as that movement in which prospective migrants learn of opportunities and one provided with transportation and employment arranged by means of primary social relationship with previous migrant (Bilsborrow, 1984: 52).

**Causes of Migration:**

The causes of high rate of migration in villages are extreme backwardness and poverty. The overall economic conditions are such that migration is the only way of survival for a large section of poor villagers (Khan, 1986 : 82).

People migrate to urban centre for a variety of reasons, such as availability of better job opportunities, higher wage rates and better educational facilities etc. (Rao, 1996 : 25).

**Consequences of Migration**

The consequences of migration for individual migrants were characterized by a pessimistic view about the opportunities of migrants in their places of destination. Difficulties in adjusting to an urban environment and culture, economic disadvantages compared to the native population, inability to move occupationally upward in the cities, and anomie and frustration were commonly cited. The migrants
have been able to increased their welfare as a result of migration in spite of adjustment difficulties and urban unemployment. The effects of migration on areas of origin and destination depend on both the volume of migration and types of migrants that dominate the migration flows—e.g., characteristics affecting labour productivity such as age, education, and place of origin, as well as intentions to stay and actual length of stay. The place of origin influences the ability of the migrant to adopt. Migrants who intend to remain in the destination area may have more of an impact on the destination area than those who are not sure. Conversely, those who do not remain may have acquired urban ideas and aspirations that influence socio-economic changes in their origin communities when they return. These are economic and demographic effects, though there may be many others as well. These can be conveniently divided into five categories—the effects on wages, income, and employment; on technological change; on income distribution; on fertility and demographic structure; and on the availability of amenities (Bilsborrow, 1984:21).

Rural fertility is effected in several ways by migration. Because migration affects the level and distribution of rural income, which is expected to influence migration. Second large-scale out-migrants of unmarried adult males or females lead to an imbalance in the sex-ratio, making it a stupendous task to settle marriages. Third, heavy emigration and married males in search of employment opportunities can have adverse effects upon family structure, even contributing to family dissolution. In any case, segregation of husbands from wives
especially, during life-cycle phase when couples are fertile may lower fertility, at least temporarily. Fourth, the decisions to migrate and to start a family tend to occur at about the same stage in the life cycle. Thus, migration may lead to postponement of marriage. Fifth, in the case of rural-urban migration, increased contact with more modernized sectors may alter the value system of individuals, in rural communities leading to lower fertility norms (Tripathy, 1997: 124).

**Migrant Labours: Concept, Labour Laws and Select Studies:**

**Meaning and Concept of Migrant Labourers:**

Workers who more out of their place for seeking and engaging in seasonal or temporary employment without becoming residents of the areas in which they work, are called 'Migrant Labourers' (Joshi, 1987: 13).

**Labour Laws Related to Migrant Labourers:**

There are laws which provide for the wages and welfare of migrant labourers. According to the inter-state migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) ACT, 1979 (30 of 1979) The wages welfare and others facilities to be provided to inter-state migrant workmen. According to the above act some important provisions are as follows:

Section–13. Wage rate and other conditions of service of inter-state migrant workman.

Section–14. Displacement allowance

Section–15. Journey allowance
Section–16. Other facilities

Section–17. Responsibility for payment of wages

Section–18. Liability of principal employer in certain cases

The Inter-State Migrant Workmen Central Rules, 1980: Wage Base Rules:

Rule – 25. Rate of Wages

Rule – 26. Wage period

Rule – 27. No wage period shall exceed one month

Rule – 28. Payment of wages

Rule – 29. Payment on termination

Rule – 30. Mode of Payment

Select Studies on Migrant Labourers:

D.S. Pal (1994:233-43) has dealt with three objectives related to the rural-urban migration: (1) To explore the various causes of rural-urban migration in the study area, (2) To examine the socio-economic characteristics of the migrants, (3) To explain the consequences of the migration over the societies of the both rural areas and urban centres. The study is based on the primary data collected from the migrant households residing under the limits of municipal board of Auraiya town, through a questionnaire schedule. Out of the total migrants only hundred have been selected randomly as sample migrants for the interview. The observation related with the various socio-economic characteristics of the migrants were analysed in the break-ups of four social groups (upper caste, backward caste, schedule castes and
others) of the migrants. The results show that more than half of the total migrants have been migrated in the decade 1970 to 1980. Distance base: 68 percent and the total migrants are within the distance of 20 km. from the town. Education base: half of the migrants of scheduled caste and others are illiterate followed by the backwards 33 percent and upper caste 22 percent. Occupation base: the highest number 80 percent of the upper and backward castes migrants were farmers while the 75 percent of the scheduled caste migrants were engaged in labour work at their native place. Annual Income base: 95 percent of the scheduled castes migrants are falling under the lowest income group. This study explored that there are four main causes of migration in the town i.e. business, service, security and in search of job.

It is worth noting that in the most of the migrants (82.5%) of upper castes and backward castes (73%) migrated to this town in search of job (labour work) for their livelihood. The above observation reveals that the one sided flow of population has not only created the spatial imbalances in the population distribution but also has adversely effected the rural areas and urban centres. Brain of the rural areas which is prepared by the villagers through their own limited source of income by doing hard work, drain to wards the town because, there is no use of their brain in the rural areas. Economically sound persons of the villages also move towards the town due to insecurity, lack of proper educational, medical and other basic facilities and to earn more and more money. In the same way the skilled and unskilled labour force of the village also moves towards the town for their livelihood.
because they did not have the job opportunities in their native villages. Thus the rural areas losing their money, mind and manpower.

Harishwar Dayal and Anup K. Karan (2003:223-57) have studied the causes and consequences of migration of both the tribals and non-tribals of Jharkhand Region. The study is based on primary data collected from 12 villages of the state of Jharkhand selected from three clusters of the state. Data were collected in two rounds from these villagers. In the first round a census level survey were conducted in each of the twelve selected villages then twenty five percent of the sample were selected from further and detailed investigation. In all these villages participatory Rural Appraisal were also conducted covering some important aspects of the village economy in general and migration in particular. The incidence of migration is high in Jharkhand. A large number of the migrants engaged in short period migration. The nature of migration differs on the basis of the socio-economic class of the migrants. The main reasons of migration from Jharkhand are found economic in nature. The main purpose of migration for most of the people is to earn money for improving their well-being or to fight against their deprivation. Migration has wide-ranging consequences on both the migrants and those who stay behind. In has caused increase in income and expenditure of the migrating households. As a result a large number of them feel improvement in their economic condition. They have improved their standard of consumption, the condition of housing and sanitation and increased expenditure on social occasions. Migration has motivated the migrants to acquire skill and to educate their children. They have
learnt better methods of cultivation also because of migration. There are some adverse impacts of migration as well. Increase in workload, increase in the incidence of disease, neglect of children and their education, loosening of family ties and the incidence of desertion of family are some among them.

K.K. Sharma (2003) finds in this exploratory study that the skilled and unskilled labour force of the village also moves towards the town for their livelihood because they did not have the job opportunities in their native villages. The daily migrant labourers come from very short distance from rural to urban area and do not become a part of industrial hierarchy, the argument is that different patterns of migration are characteristics of workers in public and private sector factories, and at different levels of the industrial hierarchy.

4. AREA OF STUDY:

The present study has been conducted in Meerut City. Meerut district is one of the most important districts of North Western region of the state of Uttar Pradesh which lies between the holy river Ganga and Jamuna and it is very close to the national capital Delhi. Meerut district has been a centre of varied activities throughout the course of history. Meerut leapt into international prominence during the revolt of 1857, known as the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, also known as First War of Independence against East India Company's efforts of building up the British Empire in India.

According to the 2001 census, the total population of Meerut district was 29,97,361. The rural and urban population were 18,35,645
and 11,61,716 respectively. Urban population is divided into two parts – Meerut Mahapalika and Cantonment Board. There are many nodal points in Meerut City namely: L-Block Shastri Nagar, Jail Chungi, Kaseru Buxer Mawana Road Chopla, Begum Bridge, Shah Ghasa, Old Baghpat Stand, Kanker Khera, where daily migrant labourers reach from nearby villages (total identified nodal points/places are seven). Five areas of Meerut City namely: L-Block Shastri Nagar, Jail Chungi, Begum Bridge, Shah Ghasa, Old Baghpat Stand have been selected as the area for study. Considering where a sizable number was coming regularly.

5. UNIVERSE, SAMPLE, RESPONDENTS:

We have found seven major nodal places where daily migrant labourers reach from nearby villages in Meerut City. These places are L-Block Shastri Nagar, Jail Chungi, Kaseru Buxer Mawana Road Chopla, Begum Bridge, Shah Ghasa, Old Baghpat Stand, Kanker Khera. On the basis of exploratory observations approximately 500 daily migrant labourers are reaching daily at these five nodal places in Meerut urban area. Out of these total daily migrant labourers, two hundred labourers have been selected randomly from these 5 places. 40 daily migrant labourers from each place have been selected from these five areas for the purpose of the present study. Thus making a total of 200.

6. METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS
Observation and case study methods have been specifically used for collecting first hand data at the first stage. Primary data from approximately 200 respondents have been collected by using personal interview and by using an interview guide/schedule.

The facts collected initially through case studies and observations about social and economic condition of daily migrant wage labourers have been analysed qualitatively. Data collected with the techniques of interview and interview schedule from 200 respondents have been analysed quantitatively in terms of single variate and bivariate tables

7. FINDINGS:

On the basis of the analysis of the facts collected from 200 respondents we have arrived at the following findings:

Social Background:

- The majority (53.5%) of respondents are in the age group of 26-35 years and lowest number (3.0%) of respondents are in the age group of 56 years and above. It means that more migrants are of younger (26-35 years) age group which is the most productive age group.

- The large majority (92.0%) of respondents belong to Hindu religion and lower number (8.0%) of respondents belong to Muslim religion. It means that largely migrants are Hindus.

- The large segment (48.5%) of the respondents belong to the Chamar caste and lower number (1%) each of the respondents
belong to Lodhi and Kevat caste. It means that migrant in majority belong to Chamar caste.

- The majority (55.0%) of respondents are illiterate and very small number (1.5%) of respondents have any other education. It means that migrants largely illiterate or very less educated.

- The largest segment (40.5%) of the migrants come from 6 to 10 Kms distance and smaller number (10.5%) of the migrants come from 11 to 15 Kms, 16 and above Km. It means that larger number of migrants come from nearby (6 to 10 Km.) distance.

- The majority (79.5%) respondents are doing the wage labour work and small number (9.5%) of respondents are doing the thekedar work. It means largely (majority) migrants doing unskilled wage labour works.

- The majority (56.0%) respondents are of the medium (5-9) size families and small number (17.0%) of respondents are from large family size (10 and above) group. It means that majority of migrants belongs to medium size families.

- The majority (65.5%) of respondents belong to joint family type and smaller number (34.5%) of respondents belong to nuclear family. It means majority of migrants belong to joint families.

- The majority (79.5%) of respondents have daily income of 60 to 80 rupees per day and smaller number (3.0%) of respondents have daily income of 121 rupees and above. It means that large majority of migrants get less wages i.e. 60-80 rupees daily.
- The large number (46.5%) of respondents gets work for 11 to 15 days per month and the smaller number (3.0%) of respondents get work for maximum 26 working days. It means that larger number gets work for 11-15 working days.

**Causes of Migration:**

- The majority of respondents (129 out of 200) are migrating due to non-availability of work in the villages. Other causes are numerically lesser but still important e.g. less wage, seasonal unemployment and family conflict.

- The majority (70 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in the village belong to the age group of (26-35) years which is the prime working age.

- The majority (117 out of 129) of the respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in village belong to Hindu religion. But this is same for Muslims as well. Thus religion does not have much impact on daily migration.

- The majority (68 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in the village belong to Chamar caste.

- The majority (78 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in the village belong to illiterate category.

- The large segment (58 out of 129) who migrate due to non-availability of work come from a distance of 6-10 km.
• The majority (106 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work are wage labourers. It further suggests that these are less employed in semi skilled jobs.

• The majority (102 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work in village belong to joint families. Less wages and family conflict appear to be the causes of respondents from nuclear family.

• The majority (106 out of 129) of respondents who migrate due to non-availability of work earns 60 to 80 rupees per day that means earning is not very much and it is less than the statutory provision.

**Awareness of Labour Law and Rights:**

• The majority (174 out of 200) of respondents are not aware of the labour law and their rights.

• The large number of respondents (17 out of 200) become aware (what so ever) about the law through the thekedar (contractor) under whom they work.

• The majority of respondents (11 out of 17) who are informed by thekedar, belong to (36-45) years age group.

• The large number of respondents (13 out of 17) are informed by thekedar (contractor) belong to Hindu religion.

• The large number of respondents (4 out of 17) informed by thekedar belong to both Brahmins and Chamar castes.

• The large number of respondents (6 out of 17) informed by thekedar belong to illiterate group.
• The majority of respondents (16 out of 17) informed by thekedar belong to the group of wage labourers.

• The majority of respondents (13 out of 17) informed by thekedar belong to joint family.

• The majority of respondents (16 out of 17) informed by thekedar, earn 60 to 80 rupees as daily income.

Consequence of migration on rural area:

• Due to the migration of labourers to urban areas, villagers have kept labourers from other backward areas for their work who also reside with them and thus are more useful.

• Due to migration of labourers mostly the farmers are compelled to do their work on their own also.

• Now the farming is also done through tractors and new tools, thus not much regular labour is required and thus labour work is not regularly available in the village.

• Due to migration of labourers only few labourers are left behind in the village the benefit of which is that they are getting wages according to their will.

Change during the last 5-10 years:

• Mostly the labourers say that a lot of change is seen in last 5-10 years. Now new machines are used for the work, which was earlier used to be done by 10-15 labourers is now completed by 5-7 labourers only.
Now unemployment has increased a lot unlike few years before, lesser work is available in the city and if they get work then contractors do not pay them on time.

Mostly the migrant labourers say that now new machines and techniques are used for building houses, bridges, roads etc. under Nagar Nigam due to this also lesser work is available.

Mostly the migrant labourers say that the strength of Bihari labourers is continuously increasing so they are getting less work as Bihari labourers who are ready to work on lesser wages also.

Mostly the migrant labourers say that now it is not easy to get work as due to increasing unemployment educated people are also ready to work on wages to earn their bread.

Thus we see that impact of globalization is seen on migrant labourers largely in depriving their conditions.

8. BEARINGS OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH:

After framing the above questions and arriving at findings we may look into the change and causes of migration on daily migrant wage labourers. From the earlier studies we may observe the trends and look at the similarities and variations. D.S. Pal (1994) finds in his study that there are four main causes of migration to the town i.e. business, service, security and search of job. Most of the migrants of backward castes migrated to the town in search of job (labour work).

The occupation base: Mostly 75 percent of the scheduled caste migrants were engaged in labour work at their native place. Annual Income base: Mostly 95 percent of the scheduled castes migrants are
falling under the lowest income group. The present study also suggests that majority of wage labourers are from the lowest income group. Anup K. Karan (2003) finds that workers from lower caste and class are largely illiterate and or less educated and are absorbed in low quality occupations in urban informal sector. The present study also suggests the same condition. Arjan de Haan (2003) finds in his study the impact on the inhabitants of rural areas who move to the city-whether by force or by push factors, or attracted to the better wages and perhaps even the 'city light' of Calcutta. K.K. Sharma (2003) finds in this exploratory study that the skilled and unskilled labour force of the village also moves towards the town for their livelihood because they did not have the job opportunities in their native villages. The daily migrant labourers come from very short distance from rural to urban area and do not become a part of industrial hierarchy, the argument is that different pattern of migration are characteristics of workers in public and private sector factories, and at different levels of the industrial hierarchy. The present study also suggests the same condition in this city at the present.

9. LIMITATION OF STUDY/GAPS IN RESEARCH:

The present work has taken into account only one aspect of migration i.e. Rural to Urban. Since migration is a large issue it cannot be confined in the four walls of rural-urban scenario. The horizon of migrational studies can be extended to the following pattern i.e. Rural-Rural migration, Urban-Urban migration, State to other state migration, country to other country migration, women migrant
labourers, seasonal migrant labourers etc. to have a better appreciation of the situation.

10. DIFFICULTIES/LESSONS FROM RESEARCH

There field work is an essential part of a sociological inquiry to complete. So it was in this study the scholar faced numerous hardships like to sort out the migrant labourers from local labourers and the unavailability of migrant labourers next day whose interview has been conducted earlier. The scholar also faced the problems like to find the exact number of migrant labourers on a certain place in a day. The numbers of migrant labourers on a certain place on a day. For interviewing establishing rapport is necessary which was missing at times. That how some respondents were left new on were taken.