MIGRANT’S STATUS AND PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF VEGETABLE MARKET IN ROHTAK (HARYANA)

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ABSTRACT

Migration plays a vital role in the economic activities both at the place of origin as well as at the place of destination. Normally people migrate when they think that the place of destination is more useful to them as compared to the place of origin. Migrants in Haryana are mainly engaged in Agriculture, Brick Kiln, Manufacturing Industries, Construction and in selling Fruits and Vegetables. A large number of these kinds of labour are engaged in Rohtak vegetable and fruit market also. So, we wanted to study the migrant’s status (Duration of Stay) and participation in economic activities in vegetable and fruits market in Rohtak city. The major objectives of the present study are, to understand the push and pull factors, network relationship, process of replacement of the locals by the migrants and level of assimilation with local population in the vegetable and fruits market. The study was conducted in new vegetable and fruits market of Rohtak (Haryana) city. The data was collected from 213 respondents with the help of interview schedule, observation and informal discussion.

On the basis of the present study we can conclude that rural area was playing an important role as a push factor in migration it may be because in rural area people had low employment opportunities, low wage rate, problem of saving money and feel of shame for adopting new occupation at the place of origin, therefore, people in large scale try to migrate to urban areas. Pull factors attracts the migrants at the place of destination due to better job opportunities, high wage rate, better saving because they have to spend their earning for family members and therefore, their earning is consumed by the family, hence no saving and a sizable number of the respondents
came because at the place of destination a person can adopt any new occupation depending upon the high wage rate and in new situation a person does not feel a shamed for adopting new occupation because of anonymity.

Networking plays an important role because senior migrants provide training and economic help to the new migrants to start their work at the place of destination. Illiteracy acts as a barrier in increasing the present occupation of the migrants at work place. It is because working in vegetable and fruits market does not involved huge investment and calculations for selling the products are also not very different as compare to other occupations related to commercial or business activities.

Mobile/cell phone facility plays an important role in decreasing the visits of migrants, because they can solve many problems by discussing the issues on mobile / cell phone. So their duration of stay at the place of destination became longer. The work load requires round the clock services, but local people can provide services only for about 9-10 hours and they press for more leave because they have lot of family responsibilities. But since, migrants migrate individually, so they do not have many responsibilities at the place of destination and they are able to provide full time services. A local person has fixed vegetable shop but migrants attract the customer by taking vegetable products at the door of customers on wheels. This practice become very successful and migrants began to earn more money. Similarly the employer began to replace local workers with migrants because they can be hired on low wages and they work hard also. It was noted that the migrants still prefer to confine themselves to their cultural identity by making use of modern technologies. It was noted that the status of the migrants improve with the duration of stay at the place of destination because of their improved economic conditions and development of cordial relations with the local people. Lastly it can also be concluded that the process of Sanskritization play an important role in encouraging migration because lower castes try to adopt the occupations of upper castes and during this process there is scope for the migrants to adopt these occupations at the place of destination, which were left by the lower caste people in the urge to improve their status.

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