CHAPTER V
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

One important facet of study on population is the study of migration arising out of various social, economic or political reasons. For a large country like India, the study of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society better. The interrelationship between migration and economic development is universally recognized. Migration has notable feedback effects on the place of origin as the migrants maintain different kinds and degrees of contact. Thus migration as a component of population change has significance well beyond its impact on the changing population size and composition of a human settlement.

Migration is generally known as the movement of people from one residence to another permanently or temporarily for a substantial period of time. According to Census 2001, a person born at a place other than the village or town of enumeration is considered as migrant.

Migration can benefit poor people in developing countries. For individual and families, migration can increase income, lead to new skills, improve social status, build assets and improve 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.

Labour migration is an important factor affecting the course of socio-economic development in India. Accelerated movement of people originating mainly from the rural and backward areas in search of employment has been one of the most important features of the labour market scenario in India. There has been a steady increase in the number of migrants in the country. The Census of India 2001 reveals that the total number of persons that has internally
migrated across the states of India is almost double to that of 1971 (from 159.6 million to 307.2 million).

Internal migration based on the place of birth and the place of census enumeration may be classified into three migration streams: 1) intra district migration- movement of people outside the place of enumeration but within the same district 2) inter district migration- movement of the people outside the district of enumeration but within the same state/ union territory and 3) interstate migration- movement of the people to the states/ union territories in India, but beyond that of enumeration. Further, based on the rural or urban nature of birth place and the place of enumeration, internal migration in India as classified above can also be classified in to four migration streams: rural- rural, rural- urban, urban- rural, urban- urban. Among this, rural- rural migration (53.3 million) plays a dominant role in total migration scenario followed by rural-urban migration (20.5 million).

There are various reasons for migration as per information collected in Census 2001 for migration by last residence. Most of the female migrants cited 'Marriage' as the reason for migration (64.9 %). For males, the major reasons for migration were 'work/employment' (37.6 %). According to the NSSO, 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.

The pioneering work on migration began with the theorization on migration by Ravenstein (1885). In his theory, he stated that migrants move from low opportunity areas to nearby high opportunity areas which depend on the means of transport and communication. Lewis (1954) dealt with the rural- urban migration and he explained that the 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. According to Sjaastad (1962), migration is related to the present value of the expected income gain. The division of factors such as 'push' and 'pull' were stated by Lee (1966).

Most of the recent migration development studies were based on the idea of Todaro's migration model (1969) which has four basic propositions: 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. 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.

Most of the existing literature on migration both from place of origin and place of destination takes in to account common demographic characteristics of the migrants (Suresh et al., 2007, Naik et al., 2009, Chandra, 2002, Sidhu et al., 2003, Lamani, 2009), factors (Devi et al., 2009, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008), remittances, occupational mobility and rural- urban link (Sharan and Dayal, 1996, Santhapparaj, 1996, Sahu and Das, 2010). Some studies were made on the consequences of migration from the place of origin (Kumar et al., 1998, Korra, 2009) and in destination place (Singh and Kaur, 2007). Few studies focussed on the migration from the hilly and tribal areas to urban areas (Sah, 2009, Awasthi, 2010). But not many of the studies were made on migration from the plain area to hill area. Thus, the present study, "Rural Labour Out - Migration in Theni District: Determinants and Economic Impact among
Migrant Workers in Cardamom Estates” aims to fill the gap in research on rural-rural migration taken place from the plain area to hill area with the objectives to study the socio-economic profile of the migrants and to examine the association between the socio-economic variables and their attitude towards migration, to identify the determinants of migration, to analyse the remittance sent by the migrants to their native place, to assess the economic impact of migration and to explore the problems faced by sample migrants due to migration.

Based on the objectives, the researcher framed the following hypotheses:

1. The attitude of the respondents towards their migration does not differ based on their socio-economic status.
2. Economic factors do not play a significant role in migration.
3. There is no significant change in the economic status of the respondents after their migration.

Theni district is one of the most important districts in Tamil Nadu and there has been a significant agricultural development. Labour migration from the rural areas of Theni district to the cardamom estates has been a regular feature in the recent past. A total of 571 cardamom migrant labourers were selected based on the multi-stage sampling method.

The study was based on primary data which were collected by using the personal interview method. The relationship between the socio-economic variables and the respondents' attitudes on their migration were studied with the help of chi-square test. The determinants of migration of the respondents in the study area were found with the help of factor analysis. To analyse the economic impact of the migration of the sample population, t-test was applied. To find out the significant difference in the attitude of the migrants on remittance and infrastructural facilities in the destination place f-test was applied. The reasons for visiting to the native places of the migrants Garrett Ranking technique was used.
MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The main findings of the study are briefly presented below:

• Majority of the migrants in cardamom estates were in younger age groups (i.e) group I and group II (68.3 %) and the percentage of male migrants are higher in all the three age groups namely group I (77.56 %), group II (81.08 %) and group III (75.14 %). The overall picture of education status showed that 46.06 per cent of migrants have got only primary education. Most of the respondents were married (82.31%) belonged to backward community (33.98 %) and lived in joint families (68.30 %) and had one to four dependents.

• The analysis of employment status of the respondents before migration revealed that a majority of them (67.78 %) were employed before their migration which indicates that unemployment was not a main factor for migration from the study area. Among the employed, a major proportion of the migrants were agricultural labourers in their natives before migration (62.03 %). They were pushed out of their natives due to lack of continuous employment and unviable land holdings. After migration, 62 per cent of them were working in cardamom field work and they had one to ten years of experience. The remaining were working as cardamom factory workers (29.77 %) and supervisors (8.06 %).

• The calculated chi-square values of socio- economic variables such as age (30.812), gender (23.696), community (39.712), education (68.120), size of the family (16.441), family type (50.606), working status (35.433) and nature of work- before migration (15.882) of the respondents were found to be statistically significant which indicates that these variables were significantly influenced the level of attitudes of the migrants towards their migration. Hence, the hypothesis framed was rejected.

• As regards the factors of migration, 20 push factor statements have been reduced in to six factors such as 1.Lack of employment opportunity, 2. Un-
viable land holding, 3. Low income, 4. Indebtedness, 5. Social conflicts and 6. Family conflicts. These factors account for about 74.98 per cent of variance in the data which determines that 74.98 per cent of the total variance is explained by the information. The first factor 'lack of employment opportunity' provides maximum insights of migrating decision of the respondents in the study area since its eigen value (4.841) is higher than the other factors. The analysis of the relationship between push factors and the overall migrating decision behavior of the migrants revealed that 81 per cent of the variation in the migratory decision was explained by all the six independent variables since, its co-efficient of determination ($R^2$) was 0.810. Among six push factors, four factors such as lack of employment opportunity, unviable land holding, indebtedness and family conflicts were significantly influenced the migration decision of the respondents.

Fifteen pull factor statements were reduced in to five factors such as better employment opportunity, higher wages, nature of job, security of job and skill of work and these factors account for about 63.95 per cent of variance in the data. Among these five pull factors, better employment opportunity in the destination place provides the maximum insights of migrating decision of the respondents in the study area. The $R^2$ value of 0.726 indicated that 73 per cent of the variation in the migrating decision of the respondents was due the identified pull factors. Factors such as better employment opportunity, higher wages and security of job were significantly influenced in the migration of the respondents. Hence, it is to be concluded that economic factors played a significant role in migration of the study area.

The two group discriminant analysis was applied to study the discriminating push and pull factors of migration among the classified age groups. The analysis was made firstly between group I and group II, then between group II and group III and between group I and group III on the basis of push and pull factors. The result of the group I and group II reveals that among six push factors, lack of employment opportunity in the native place has more
relative contribution in total discriminant score (63 %) and the mean score of group I of this factor is high which implies that the lack of employment opportunity in the native place was the main reason for migration among the group I than the group II. The important discriminating factor for migration between group II and group III was 'unviable land holding' since the relative contribution of that factor was more (59. 35 %) and more number of group II migrants were pushed out because of that factor. The analysis between group I and group III showed that more numbers of group III migrants were pushed out because of the factors 'family conflicts' and 'indebtedness' since their relative contribution to the total discriminant scores were 60.55 and 24.62 per cent.

The result of the discriminant analysis among group I and group II with regard to pull factors were explained that the important pull factor of migration among them was 'better employment opportunity' since it has more relative contribution on total discriminant score (43.49 %). It was found that the above said factor was an important discriminating factor between group II and group III also and it has 79.36 per cent of relative discriminant power on total discriminating score. Factors such as 'higher wages' and 'security of job' has more relative discriminating scores between group I and group III. It is to be noticed that 'better employment opportunity' in the destination place was said to be the major reason for the migrating decision by group II and group III and 'higher wages' and 'security of job' was played a major pull factor among group I migrants.

The analysis reveals that the size of the land holdings of the sample migrants was decreased after migration. The average acre of both irrigated and un-irrigated land of the migrants was significantly decreased after migration. This was due to the fact that there was no continuous cultivation in their lands due to inappropriate irrigation and most of them sold out the lands after their migration because of improper maintenance. But the average income from agriculture of the migrants was significantly increased, because some of
them were still maintain their agricultural lands in their native places with the help of their family members. The average monthly wage income of the migrants’ family was significantly increased by 121.27 per cent after their migration since they had continuous job in the destination place. Moreover, the estate owners increased their wage at regular intervals. Some of the migrants had income from other sources also such as interest on money lent, income from self run chit funds, rent from their lands in the native places and so on and it increased from N 297.06 to N 838.24 after migration and it is statistically significant also.

• There had been an increment of 100.98 per cent in food expenditure after the migration of the respondents and its statistical value of 34.46 indicates its significance. Expenditure towards rent of the migrants revealed that they spent N 334.88 per cent before migration, but it was increased to N 530 per month and it was significant also. This is due to the reason that the destination place is lacking in providing adequate housing for migrants, so they have to pay more rent for even small house. The migrants’ expenditure on electricity also significantly increased after their migration. Some of the migrants frequently visited their native places and some of them had to travel for their working places. Thus, their expenditure towards travelling also significantly increased by 45.49 per cent after migration. The sample migrants spent on an average of N 379.25 for medicines after their migration. It was an increase of N 714.76 per cent and this increase is statistically significant. Expenditure on education, interest payment and other expenditure also significantly increased after migration.

• The analysis of the average savings of the migrants before and after migration shows that cash on hand of the migrants is significantly increased during the post migration period since the destination place had no proper sources of savings. Migrants having savings bank account in commercial banks had comparatively more after migration. The average monthly savings in banks before and after migration increased from N 223.83 to N 557.05 and it
was significant also. There had been an increase of 56.56 per cent in post office savings and 153.36 per cent of chit fund savings after migration. It should be noted that the percentage of chit fund savings is more than the post office savings since there was no adequate number of post offices in the destination place.

- The analysis revealed that the average investment on land of the migrants was ₹12877.19 before migration and ₹44824.56 after migration. It is an increase of 248.09 per cent which is also statistically significant. This indicates that migrants were very much interested in investing on land either in their native place or in their destination place itself. After purchasing of land, they wanted to build a house since the destination place did not provide proper housing. So, investment on house also shows a significant increase after their migration. There has been an increase of 163.44 per cent in housing investment.

- Debt position of the migrants before and after migration shows that there was a significant increase of 32.84 per cent of debt on house or land after the migration of the respondents. It is to be noted that the amount of borrowings against their Jewellery was decreased from ₹10756.10 to ₹8524.39 after their migration and calculated ‘t’ value of 3.835 indicates its significance. The borrowings against other assets also decreased after migration but it was not statistically proved.

- Fifty per cent of the total migrants got their job immediately after their migration and among the remaining migrants, 43.51 got it within a week especially group I migrants (65.35 %) and only 3.86 per cent of the total migrants were found the job after a month. The main source of information about the job was ‘friends and relatives’. 58.84 per cent of total migrants got the job through their friends and relatives. Majority of the respondents migrated from the study area during 1991-2000 (64.1 %) which is in accordance with report of Census 2001.
Almost all the migrants maintained their contact with their native place, 42.38 per cent of them visited their native place at least once in a month. The major reason for their visit was 'to see parents and children’ since it ranks 1 among the other reasons. A greater percentage of total migrants (53.07 %) left their 3-5 family members (children and parents) in their native place since their family size was large. The main reason for that was 'accommodation problem' in the destination place and 39.05 per cent of them kept their children in their natives for giving better education to them.

It was found that majority of the total migrants (58.14 %) who left their children and parents in their native place were sending remittances in the range of N 1000-3000 once in a month regularly. Among the total migrants, group II has given high total mean score for the reasons for sending remittance to their native place (18.034). The highly perceived factors of remittance were 'supporting family' (4.229), education of the children' (3.829) and 'construction of house' (3.488).

The infrastructural facilities in the destination place were studied since the destination place is a hill area. Group II migrants gave more score on the accommodation in the destination area (20.206). All the three age groups showed higher attitude on 'clean drinking water' and the mean score given by the migrants were significantly differed on six variables of accommodation. The high total mean scores were given by group III on health and sanitation (16.152) and among the mean score of six variables related to health and sanitation, five were not significantly differed. Group III showed high attitude on communication in the destination place (16.039). Among the six variables, high mean score was given to 'bus and vehicles' by all the age groups and four variables had significant difference on their respective mean score. All the migrants gave low mean score on education facilities and the mean score of all the variables of education were significantly differed. Since the destination place is a hill area, entertainment is also lacking so that it has low
mean score. Among the three variables, one has significant different mean score.

• The study also analysed the problems such as social losses, health problems, difficulty in giving education to their children, increase in family expenditure, attending family ceremonies and other problems of sample migrants and the results revealed that most of them were having health problems due to the climate in the destination place especially in the case of group III migrants. Majority of group II migrants reported that they were not able to look after their parents and children who were in their native place and they felt that it is very difficult to provide better education to their children due to migration. Since the destination place of the respondents is a hill area, sometimes they have lack of communication problem also.

CONCLUSION

The rural out- migration in the context of economic development has emerged as a prominent field of enquiry and investigation. Both causes and consequences of rural out- migration have enormous and in fact overwhelming economic importance. In the words of John Kenneth Galbraith, 'Migration is the oldest action against poverty'. The present study indicates that Theni District has gained more from rural out- migration to cardamom estates. The broad patterns of migration have much to do with decision making process of the migrant's themselves. This decision making process is in turn influenced by 'push' and 'pull' factors, which are basically economic phenomena. It was also observed that the influence of 'push' and 'pull' factors on the migrants was determined by the socio- economic conditions of the household of origin. The migrants who were 'pushed' came from poorer households with low income and low landholding status, tended to be less educated and unskilled. Better employment and higher wages as the crucial variables in attracting rural people to the place of destination. This rural out- migration brought out significant changes in the economic status of the migrants in terms of higher income and savings. Most of the rural migrant households enjoyed a higher economic status in the village
which was mainly due to remittances that they received at various points of time. Remittances were mostly used by members of the households for consumption and to support education. Overall, rural out-migration in Theni District has made a major contribution towards the economic emancipation of the migrants, the rural migrants' households and the rural areas.

However, the findings also revealed at the same time that some adverse implications of such migration process cannot be ruled out. Though migration has solved the problem of unemployment among rural households in the study area, it has failed to improve the quality of life of the migrants. In spite of massive economic contribution, migrant workers are not adequately protected at the workplace as well in the residential area. The living conditions of the migrants in the destination place are highly deplorable. The study exhibits that housing condition, access to safe drinking water and hygienic toilet facilities, proper electric supply, road conditions, medical facilities are more critical for survival in the destination place. Moreover, migrants have to bear the pain of separation from their children, relatives and friends, social and family ceremonies and they have more health problem due to migration to hill area.

Though it has been accepted that out-migration from the rural areas improves the standard of living of the people in the origin, it also involved a sizeable transfer of human capital which have adversely affected all sectors of development. A consequence of this is a comparative shortage of people in the productive age group and a higher dependency ratio in the region. Migration under distress conditions is obviously not a positive sign for economic development of the country. So, to reduce the outflow of migrants from their place of origin, there must be a continuous institutional support by the concerned authorities for the people in rural areas. Until and unless there is an improvement in the rural poor's economic status and resources and agriculture becomes profitable and viable, there can be no stopping of migration to other regions in search of employment.
SUGGESTIONS

• Rural development and agriculture should be given high priority in planning and government programmes in order to reduce migration.

• More investment in the traditional sector in industrially poor regions is the greatest need, not only for development but also for employment creation. In India, some current plans, programmes and policies for economic development lay considerable stress on the employment objectives but in most it is regarded rather as a byproduct of development. Useful labour intensive activities might be promoted through more labour intensive methods of cultivation, the development of small scale industries in villages.

• Unemployment and poverty alleviation programmes should be converted into self-employment programmes. If this would become possible, each and every country men of member of the labour force would obtain gainful productive employment at their native place. Therefore the rate of migration would automatically decline.

• Low economic development in general and inequality in the development of the villages and the adjoining areas in particular are the most important reasons of high incidence of migration from this region. The solution for this lies in rapid economic development of the state. Massive efforts are required for the development of the region in general and its villages in particular.

• Appropriate policy measures are to be undertaken to augment productivity in the agricultural sector. The agricultural labourers have to be provided with financial support and technical assistance at subsidized rate of interest to make them efficient and self employed.

• Lack of irrigation facilities acts a significant push factor for rural out-migration. To abate the unbalanced flow of rural population, high priority must
be given to provide irrigation facilities in rural areas. Water harvesting system should be taken up for increasing the ground water level.

- There is a need to generate employment opportunity in the villages of this region. Development of small and cottage industries in the rural areas, promotion and protection of traditional artisan works and handicrafts will also create employment opportunities in the villages and thus reduce migration. Effective and extensive implementation of government measures for creating employment for rural poor like Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and the like will also reduce migration by creating additional employment opportunity for the perspective migrants. The NGO's through promoting SHG’s can also work in this direction.

- There must be provision for alternative non-agricultural employment opportunities in the rural sector. Cottage industries with improved machines should be introduced in rural areas to solve the problem of migration of rural population. Training should be given to the women in rural areas in cottage industries and government should finance them to start cottage industries in their areas. Further, the government should also take appropriate steps to see that the products of the cottage industry shall be marketed through its agencies from the rural area.

- Employment generating activities should be introduced in the off season periods. In addition, road laying work, village minor irrigational schemes and other development activities should be implemented in the villages by employing the 'sons of the soil' with government assistance particularly in off-peak periods.

- Out migrants are potential assets which can be tapped for the benefit of the native places. The remittances of out-migrants and savings are at present largely used for consumption, social ceremonies, house repair and construction which are non-productive activities. If properly channalised, the
funds generated by out-migrants can effectively contribute towards the commercialisation and industrialisation of the region. An active institutional framework is needed to encourage the transfer of migrants’ savings through financial intermediaries and investors. The government, financial intermediaries and small-scale industrial/investment corporations can do more to channelise these savings into productive investment, including setting up of their own business. This could be preceded by entrepreneurial training programmes.

- Better infrastructure for migrants is needed in the destination place, for example better transport for movement to centres and service provisions such as access to health services. In addition to this, mobile health care, child care for female workers, temporary settlements and security in residence as well as in working areas are also needed.

- When the parents migrate they have to keep their children in their native places in order to give them higher education. To avoid this, proper facilities for the care and education of children of the migrants should be created at the destination of migration.

- The first and foremost requirement is the creation of a reliable information system for labour migration. At the origin of migration a record should be maintained about the prospective migrants and the process and destination of their migration. The villages level functionaries and organisations such as Village Panchayats or NGO’s can be sought for this purpose. Such records will help in keeping a track of the well being of the migrant workers. The migrants should be also informed about the legislation meant for them and their rights.

- The results suggest that the migratory process cannot be interpreted in terms of a few and narrow socio-economic variables and that a broader perspective and a multi-dimensional approach are required for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.
AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. A comparative study on rural and urban, male and female, migrants and non-migrants, inflows and outflows of migration in terms of extent, adoption, pattern, wage differentials, impact and so on can be undertaken.

2. A study can be made on the issues at the place of origin resulted by rural out-migration so that the divergent consequences will be examined.

3. A migration study which can cover all the blocks of the Theni districts will give more reliable results than the study made on only four blocks in Theni District.

4. Theni District has a large scale production as well as marketing of cardamom. Thus a study can be made on the above segments.

5. Out-migration from rural areas to urban centers is more prevalent in Theni district in recent years. Therefore, a study on rural-urban migration in different activities is the need of the hour.