2. METHODOLOGY

Migration, in developing countries like India, has acquired special significance in the agriculture development and social change in rural areas. Migration affects the population composition of the place of origin as well as the place of destination. It is also known that migration of labourers gives rise to certain problems regarding wages, recruitment and housing etc. In the present work, which is aimed at studying the socio-economic characteristics of migrant farm workers, the causes and consequences of their migration to Yellapur Taluk of North Kanara district of Karnataka State, an attempt has been made, by selecting a sample, composing of two categories of respondents, viz., the immigrant labourers and the local employers. This chapter deals with the methodology adopted for this research work.

The first part of the chapter deals with a review of studies which have laid a theoretical foundation for this study of migration and the latter part describes the methodology adopted.

2.1 Theoretical framework

Theories on migration seem to have appeared first in the 19th Century. Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834), William Farr (1807-83) and Earnest George Revenstein (1834-1913) were eminent scholars of population studies who framed theories on migration. Also, theories put forth by Stouffer (1940) and Todaro (1971) are considered as important contributions which have been later referred to by scholars for various studies on migration.
Revenstein's theory (1889) states that:

1. Most migrants move only for a short distance, while long distance migration is motivated by special cases like a specialised job, technical education or for better opportunities etc.

2. The volume of migration increases with the development of industry and commerce.

3. The direction of migration is mainly from agricultural to industrial areas.

4. Most of the long distance migration is to the major industrial and commercial centers.

5. Migration occurs in a series of stages.

6. Each migration current outflow has a counter current.

7. Females are more migratory than males especially over short distances.

8. Females are predominant in internal migration and males in international migration.

9. Migrants are more likely to have a rural rather than urban origin in most of the developing countries.

10. The major causes of migration are economic.

Stouffer's Theory (1940) describes the following factors which influence the decision to migrate and the process of migration:

1. Factors associated with the place of origin are both positive and negative.
2. The factors which are associated with the place of destination include both plus and minus.

3. Intervening obstacles and

4. Personal factors.

"In each and every area there are countless factors which act to hold people within area or attract people to it (+), and there are others which tend to repel (-) or push migration. There are some factors which affect people in the same way, while other affect different people in different ways. Hence, a favourable climate is attractive while a bad climate is repulsive to nearly every one. Migration are positively selected when they respond to the plus factors at the destination. In case, the migration respond to the minus factors at the source region they tend to be negatively selected. In case of biomodal selection of migration the degree of positive selection increases with the difficulty of the intervening obstacles. The propensity to migrate will be greater at certain stages of life cycle but the migrant’s characteristics will be of the intermediate type in between the place of origin and destination”.

Todaro’s model of migration (1971) proposes a model that refers to rural to urban migration. It states that:

1. The migration is stimulated primarily by rational economic considerations.

2. The decision to migrate depends on urban - rural wage differentials and probability of success in obtaining employment in the urban sector.

3. The probability of obtaining an urban job is inversely related to the urban employment rate.
4. The migration rate in excess of urban job opportunity growth rate, is not only possible, but is rational and is even likely in the face of wide urban - rural ‘expected’ income differentials.

Thus, it is clear that:

Ravenstein (1889), while studying the phenomenon of migration using census data, has highlighted the economic factors as the major cause of migration. In his law of migration he takes into consideration the distance and the direction as determining the volume. He also states that the process occurs in stages, that there exists a counter current, and also that there is predominance of gender. However, Yadav and Singh (1981) opine that in the case of India, due to a lack of balanced development between the urban and rural areas the above mentioned counter-current is not true.

Stouffer (1940) proposes a similar theory in which he states, that the decision to migrate depends upon: i) factors associated with the place of origin, ii) place of destination, iii) personal reasons and iv) intervening factors. Kayasta and Prakash (1971) and Zacharaiah (1968) while designating migration as a contagious process, emphasise that migration takes place in a definite direction, continuously, until serious obstacles arise. Singh and Yadava (1981) hold the view that often a continuous flow may be due to the help from early migrants, who appear to be brokers for new migrants to get jobs, homes etc. Rao (1974) states that they act as a bridge for migrants between the place of origin and destination.

Todaro (1971) proposes a model that refers to rural - urban migration. He emphasises the economic aspect as the main motivating factor. He explains, that migration occurs in response to difference in expected, rather than actual, earnings. Gosal (1961), Rango Ro et.al (1977), Sen Gupta (1968), Burkhart (1978) and Zacharaiah (1964) have ascertained the relation between the distance and volume of migration and observe that
as the distance from place of origin to the destination increases there is a decrease in the volume.

Revenstin (1889) observes that females appear to be predominant among short-journey migrants. Hansalcelavathy (1970), Emes (1954), Joshi (1957), Emes & Schwab (1964) and Connell et.al (1976), feel that occupation and caste are also important factors in inducing migration. Sandesara (1964) opines that migration picks up the more vital, the more vigorous and the more enterprising among the population.

It is clear that migration is influenced by both economic and non-economic factors. Bogue (1959) and Mortar (1967) opine that the "Push and Pull" hypothesis is made use of for listing or differentiating the factors effecting migration. Singh and Yadava (1981) hold poverty and unemployment as 'Push' factors while better schooling facilities and transferable jobs act as "pull" factors. They point out that unemployment is the most important "Push" factor.

Bose (1978), Emes and Schwab (1964), Bulsara (1965), Barnwale (1971) Gare (1973) and Lakhamaih (1974) hold that most of the out migration in India is generally due to "Push" factors, while Piplai and Mujumdar (1969) have observed that the "Pull" factors are more important in rural to urban migration. Agarwala (1968) states that, in case of male migration, the "Push" factors are more important, but, in the case of female both push and pull factors are equally significant because most female migration is caused by marriage. Lakdawala (1963) is of the view that the "push" from the village for an individual may be operative because of a "pull" from the town (Aurora 1967).

From a review of the above studies and theories, one can ascertain certain aspects of push or pull factors. In most cases they are complimentary and do not act in isolation (Sovani 1966 and Sen Gupta and Bhattacharya 1966). There could be some more factors which indirectly control or influence migration. Personal reasons and individual motivations are important during the early phase of migration.
It should be noted, that there are certain important factors which activate migration and act as catalysts. Therefore, it becomes appropriate as opined by Schwarzweller (1979), to start with certain basic questions such as:

- Who are the migrants?
- Why do they migrate?
- Where do they migrate? and
- What are the eventualities?

A general theory of migration cannot be developed unless the elements of migratory systems are pointed out. Important variables related to migrants, as well as non-migrants and that of the place of destination, are to be studied in detail. Thus, the present study dealing with migrant agricultural labourers, tries to understand the process of migration and the process of adjustment through a systematic analysis of socio-economic and cultural aspects which have been earlier found to be important characteristics for migration study by various scholars.

2.2 Aims and objectives

The present study attempts to understand the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of immigrants settled in Yellapur taluk of North Kanara district and the causes and consequences of their migration.

The study has been carried out with the following broad objectives:

- To explicate the socio-economic characteristics of immigrants,
- To identify the causes of their migration,
- To study the method of recruitment and mode of payment of wages,
To understand the relationship of immigrants with their place of origin and destination among themselves and
To analyse the nature of adjustment and settlement.

While the above mentioned are the main objectives, the following hypotheses have been identified to be tested in the course of the study:

- The social characteristics of migrants such as age, literacy, marital status and caste have some association with migration,

- Economic factors such as small land holding, low income, unemployment/underemployment and zeal to gain better economic status make people to migrate,

- Migration generally leads to improvement in the socio-economic status of people,

- The duration of stay of migrants in the destination has a bearing on the adjustment of the migrants with the new set up and

- The attitude of the host community towards the immigrants determines the effectiveness of the migration and harmonious relations between the two.

2.3 Scope of the study

The importance of migration in developing countries like India cannot be underestimated. The rapid development and commercialisation in the agricultural sector in recent years and the consequent rural-rural migration on the whole, has a very important role in the eradication of rural unemployment. The process of settlement of migrants in a new locality, though in the earlier stages might be viewed as beneficial to the host region, it remains to be tested whether similar treatment, facilities and support
and overall harmonious human relationship, which once existed, continues over a period of time.

The present study is concerned with the rural immigrants from the coastal part of South Kanara district into Yellapur Taluk of North Kanara District. Though the two regions viz., the origin and the destination are not too far from each other, the migrants are from a totally different socio-economic, cultural and climatic set up. The process of migration has now almost stopped and most of them have settled down permanently.

Therefore, the present work envisages the study of various aspects such as causes of migration, migration time particulars, present socio-economic characteristics, the process of adjustment and acculturation and opinions of locals (employers) regarding immigrants besides housing. Also, the working conditions like recruitment and wages etc.

2.4 Methodology of investigation

2.4.1 Nature and sources of data

This study is based mainly on primary data, although it has relied on secondary data for certain general information regarding Yellapur Taluk and North Kanara Districts etc.

- Primary Data

As the study needed information on the earlier movements of migrants, their occupational history, the causes of migration, present socio-economic status, the adjustment, settlement, and relationship with the locals or opinions of locals towards immigrants and so on, these have been regarded as primary data.
Therefore it was necessary to generate this primary data directly from the field by contacting both the immigrants and the employers personally.

- Secondary Data

However, data on certain general aspects of the study was readily available from some secondary sources. Such secondary information was collected from census reports, district handbook, district Gazetters, printed books, booklets, published articles and so on of the region under study.

2.4.2 Selection of the field

Yellapur taluk has been taken as the field of the present study, from which samples have been drawn. For the sake of convenience and easy identification, the taluk has been divided into different parts, based on the existing Mandal Panchayat (An administrative part of a taluk comprising of several villages) boundaries.

2.4.3 Universe

The universe of the present study is the migrant population from South Kanara district that is settled in Yellapur taluk of North Kanara district. There are 583 families or households of migrants in the taluk. The list of migrant labourers was prepared with the help of the local mandal panchayat offices. It was found that out of 583 families, only 450 families or heads of the respective families, had actually migrated to Yellapur taluk. Another list was also prepared for the selection of employers from different parts, similar to that of the migrants.
2.4.4 Selection of samples

The random sampling method was followed in the present study. The samples were drawn on the basis of Mandal Panchayat area and also the number of migrant families available in each mandal. The taluk is comprised of 9 Mandals, among which one is an urban area, which was not considered as this study is concerned only with migrant agricultural labourers.

The distribution of the immigrant population in Yellapur Taluk was taken into consideration while selecting the sample. It was found that the migrants are concentrated more in the southern part of Yellapur taluk, more specifically in three mandals viz., the Ummachgi, the Kundaragi and the Kampli mandals. Therefore, the total field i.e., Yellapur taluk was divided into four parts for the sample selection as follows:

i. the Ummachgi mandal,
ii. the Kundaragi mandal,
iii. the Kampli mandal and
iv. Yellapur including the remaining part of the taluk (except Yellapur urban area).

It is found that among 450 immigrant families, 169 are settled in Ummachgi mandal, 109 in Kundargi mandal, 129 in Kampli mandal and the rest 43 in Yellapur mandal. A sample of more than 50% is drawn from each of the above mandals which is proportionate with the number of families living in particular mandal. In all, 250 samples of migrant labourers have been taken for the study (Table 2.1).
Table 2.1 Distribution of sampled immigrants/respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandal</th>
<th>No. of immigrant families in mandals.</th>
<th>% of immigrant families in mandals.</th>
<th>% to Total families in taluk.</th>
<th>No of samples selected</th>
<th>% of Samples selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Umachagi</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>57.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kundargi</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>51.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampli</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellapur</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>55.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employers sample distribution

Information from employers in four mandals was collected from 100 samples. The 100 samples were proportionately 1:2.5 to the labourers' samples. Thus, 40 samples from Ummachgi, 25 from Kundargi, 25 from Kampli and 10 from Yellapur mandals has been considered.

2.4.5 Tools of data collection

A pre-coded structured schedule was used as the major tool for data collection. For preparing the schedule a pilot study was conducted with test schedules (separately for migrant labourer and the local employer) containing important questions. This study included the interview of 30 immigrant respondents and 10 respondents of employer's category. The pilot study, with the test schedule/proforma, was conducted in Sirsi taluk which is adjacent to Yellapur taluk so as to avoid revisiting of the same respondents. Based on the pilot study the final interview schedule, aiming at collecting responses/information from the migrant labourer as well as the local employer, was finalised.
2.4.6 The interview

Since most heads of the migrant families seemed to be incapable of independently answering the questions in the questionnaire / proforma prepared to gather the data due to illiteracy, the author personally visited the migrant respondents and requested them to provide answers to the questions (as enumerated in the schedule). Thus, the schedule was administered to the heads of the families included in the sample. An informal interview was also conducted to obtain more information regarding the social life, religious beliefs etc. of respondents which were not covered in the schedule.

A prior appointment with the respondents was taken before visiting him/her. The interviews were conducted at their residence. The normal duration for the immigrants interview was about 70-80 minutes and for the employers it was 30-40 minutes. The questions were asked by the author in the Kannada language (local language). Information was also collected through discussion and observation. Most of the respondents were illiterate, while all local (employers) respondents were literates. A good rapport with the respondents was established so that, they felt that the researcher was not only trying to ask questions but also was a local person sharing their experiences and opinion. The interviews were conducted by the researcher during the period September to December 1995.

2.4.7 Limitation of the data

As the present work is based on a sample study of migrant families and employers, it is bound to be limited in its scope. One such limitation arises from the fact that the respondent himself/ herself might not have got certain facts right or, he/ she might have forgotten certain points regarding his past owing to his/her prolonged stay away from the place of origin. In such cases due care has been taken to assess the reliability of the information, and it has been finally recorded after careful processing, scrutiny and verification from other sources.
2.4.8 Editing, classifying and tabulating the data

After the fieldwork was completed, the schedules were subjected to careful scrutiny. Among other things, they were scrutinised for their completeness in all respects, consistency of responses and accuracy of factual information to the possible extent. As the researcher himself conducted all the interviews there was no in editing the data.

The editing was followed by classification of data. A computer was used for the purpose of classification, tabulation and analysis of data.

2.4.9 Data analysis

All the information derived from the personal interview with the immigrant respondents were categorised and simple statistical analytical methods such as average and percentage have been adopted for the classified data.

The relationship between different parameters and the variables are clear from the average and percentage values obtained from the analysis. However, since the causes of migration have been (as derived from the interview) only five and the dependent variables are many, factor analysis (one of the important methods in multivariate analysis) was performed on these variables.

2.5 Information collected

The schedule prepared to collect information from the respondents was divided into three main sections corresponding to main theme of the work as follows:
The Socio-economic characteristics of immigrants

The important socio-economic characteristics considered for the study are: caste, type of family, size of family, occupation, age, sex, marital status, duration of stay, literacy level, assets owned, indebtedness, loan facilities availed, economic well being etc.

The details of migratory process

Under this head, particulars of the immigration time of respondents such as age, literacy, marital status, size of family, land ownership, occupation etc., the causes of migration, the preparatory stage of migration, the shift of residence, causes of permanent settlement and future plan etc. have been studied.

The process of adjustment & acculturation

In this part, public participation of the respondent and his family in the local cultural and social life, the process of settlement, communication and other amenities, contact with the native population, religious aspects, family system, neighborhood relationship etc. are considered.

The opinion of locals (employers) towards immigrants

Opinion from the local farmers/employers about the availability of labourers in the region, their preferences, causes of preferences, opinion regarding wages, efficiency of labourer, general behaviour and their attitude towards immigrants etc. was collected using a separate schedule.
2.6 Clarification of terms and key concepts

Migration

It is the spatial mobility of individuals or group(s) from one geographic area to another for socio-economic motives. The genesis of migration partly lies in relative dissatisfaction with contemporary environment. Disparity of opportunity provides the main motive force behind migration (Dasgupta 1954).

Migrants

Migrants are those people who have come to Yellapur Taluk of North Kanara District of Karnataka State from the coastal part of South Kanara District of the same State to work as agricultural labourers in rural areas. Other terms used for them in this study are - migrant labourers, immigrant farm workers; immigrant agricultural labourers and immigrants and respondents.

Locals (Employers)

Locals for this study are those people who are the original inhabitants of the villages where migrants have come to work and those who have employed them for work.

Castes

The migrant labourers belong to different castes and the same has been used for the study. According to the Karnataka State Gazetteer Part I Govt. of Karnataka (pp. 464-483) the details about various immigrant caste groups are as follows:
Shetty (Bunts)

The Bunts constitute the major portion of cultivators in South Kanara (S.K) and North Kanara (N.K.). They are mostly concentrated in South Kanara District. They were warriors in earlier times. There are two sections among them in terms of language spoken - the Nadavas living in the northern parts speak Kannada, and the others living in the Southern parts speak Tulu. They belong to three separate groups: i) Masidik bunts, ii) Nadava bunts and iii) Parivar bunts. Of late some of them have taken to hotel business. Most of these people have been following Aliyasanthana. There are several 'balis' (septs) among them. They generally cremate the dead body. Most of them worship ‘Bhootas’ or ancestral spirits.

Devadiga

Devadiga means God's musician. They are also known as Sappaliga, Moili and Sherugars. They are traditionally temple servants and musicians. Some of them are agricultural labourers. They are Vaishnavites. They worship God Venkataramana of Tirupathi. They invite Brahmin priests for their religious ceremonies. Widow remarriage is permitted among them.

Poojaris (Idiga)

The Idigas call themselves Halepaika, Devaramakkalu, Billavaru and Namadharis in different parts of the state. Halepaikaru means 'old infantry' or foot soldiers, as some of them were enlisted in the army by the native princes. Most of them have now taken to agriculture and trade. Toddy tapping is the hereditary (traditional) occupation. The term 'Billava' (as in S.K.) means a 'bow man' or hunters. The Billavas of S.K. also officiate as priests at the temple of the village deity Mariamma, hence called Poojaris. Idigas also worship Lord Venkateshwara. Widow remarriage is permitted as 'Kudike' and divorce is prevalent among them.
**Mogers (Mogaveera)**

They are generally fishermen. The traditional occupation of the Mogers of S.K. has been fishing. They have also many 'balis' (septs) and follow the custom of descent through the female line.

**Uppar**

As the name suggests the original occupation of the Uppars was manufacture of salt from sea water. They are mostly engaged in agriculture, gardening and masonry works. Some of them have been brick layers and lime burners. The caste has two linguistic divisions, Kannada and Tulu.

**Higher, middle and lower castes**

Based on the notification of the Public Service Commission, Govt. of Karnataka and the Indian Constitution Article 16(4) (u) the Amended backward groups, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes are classified as: i) all non-reserved categories (caste wise) as higher caste group, ii) all other reserved categories except scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are considered as middle class and iii) the scheduled castes and tribes as lower castes. Accordingly, the castes Shetty, Devadiga, Poojari and Bhandari belong to middle caste while the castes Moger and Uppar belong to lower caste.

**Adjustment**

According to Fairchild (1952), adjustment refers to those types of relationships between personalities, groups and cultural complexes which are harmonious and mutually satisfactory to the personalities and the groups involved. But Mitchell (1968) defines adjustment as "the process whereby an individual enters into harmonious or healthy relationship with the environment - physical or social".
The former definition emphasises interaction of the individual with the social environment, whereas the latter includes interaction with physical as well as social environment. This study follows the latter definition. As a part of physical environment, housing & settlement have been studied and as part of social environment, participation, co-operation and treatment of locals have been studied separately.

**Acculturation**

It is the process whereby an individual or group acquires the cultural characteristics of another group through direct contact and interaction (Mitchell 1968). In this study, the above definition of acculturation is taken into consideration. The indicators of acculturation included in this study are change in food habit, dress, language etc. of the immigrants after their migration into the new social setting.

**Social participation**

Social participation denotes those actions or dispositions that reflect an individual's interaction, concern or identification for an organisation, programme or group (Chandra 1970).

**Family type**

*Nuclear*- A family which includes only father and mother with their children living in a house.

*Extended*- A family which includes an elderly person who lives with his children and grand children in a house or, brothers living in a house with their wives and children.
Family system

Aliyasanta: A system of inheritance through the female line. The descent is reckoned from the deceased property holder to his sisters' son. The eldest brother of the woman becomes the head of the family and the property is inherited by sister's son. If the eldest in the family is a woman, then the next male member becomes the head (the South Kanara Gazetteer, 1975). The customary Madras Aliyasanta Act (Madras Act No.1 of 1949) which defined and amended in certain respects the law relating to marriage, maintenance, guardianship intestate succession, family management and partition applicable to persons governed by Aliyasanta system. The Act aliyasanta (Mysore Amendment Act) and 1961 (Mysore Act No.1 of 1962) made some changes in the provision of regarding partition of properties. It also provided that any male or female member of Kutumba having undivided interest in its properties should be entitled to claim partition of his to her share and the claimant should be allotted the share that would fall to him or her if a division of properties were made per capita among all the members of Kutumba.

The above acts along with certain provisions of Hindu succession Act 1955, have brought the Aliyasanta families almost on par with other Hindu families. But in villages, the Aliyasanta custom is still in vogue.

Makkala Santana: A system of inheritance through the male line (patrilineal).

Type of houses

- Kachcha House: A house built with mud walls and thatched roofing with arecanut leaves or paddy straw at a cheap cost.

- Pukka House: A house constructed with mud or bricks walls with tiled roofing.
Phases of migration (Duration of stay)

The migration of respondents to the Yellapur Taluk has taken place in 5 phases. These phases are

1) Before 1975 : I phase
2) in between 1975 - 80 : II phase
3) in between 1980 - 85 : III phase
4) in between 1985 - 90 : IV phase
5) After 1990 : V phase

North Kanara District: It is also called Uttara Kannada district
South Kanara District: It is also called Dakshina Kannada district

Table 2.2 Distribution of samples (As per caste)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandal Caste</th>
<th>Kundargi</th>
<th>Kampli</th>
<th>Ummachgi</th>
<th>Yellapur</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shetty</td>
<td>18*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devadiga</td>
<td>48*</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>56*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poojari</td>
<td>36*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>65*</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>77*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moger</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38*</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uppar</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhandari</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>109*</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>129*</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>169*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total number of respondents belonging to different caste.
Distribution of samples selected for the study of immigrants

- Kundargi: 9%
- Ummachgi: 30%
- Kampili: 22%
- Yellapur: 39%