The subject of movement of populations has occupied a prominent place in social as well as biological sciences. The shifts of physical space and their consequences – economic, social, political and biological – has been the focus of enquiry of many studies (Malhotra K.C., 1976:3). The term migration means movement of an individual, a family, a group or a community from one place to another.

The concept of migration is as old as human civilization. Migration is a process through which people move from one place to residence to another. The change in residence results in redistribution of population, both at its place of origin and place of destination. The process of migration changes the size and structure of population.

Social scientists have defined the concept of migration differently. According to Everett Lee, “permanent or semi-permanent change of residence is migration.” Tripathy and Das, define migration as the flow of people over shorter or longer distances from one origin to a destination, either for temporary or permanent settlement. Winberg (1961) defines migration as the change of place permanently or temporarily for an appreciable duration as in case of seasonal labourers.

Concept of migration has been classified in to several types namely; i) permanent or temporary migration; ii) Forced or voluntary migration; iii) External or Internal migration.

Social science studies on migration reveal that people migrate from one place of residence to another for following reasons;

1) Economic Reasons – For economic reasons such as jobs, business, trade, barter system, collection of Minor Forest Produce etc.

2) Educational purpose – For attaining higher education in cities, towns or even abroad.

3) Political Reasons – Those who elected has political representatives in the State or National Governments migrate to the capital of the State or to the country to represent the concerned Government.

4) Due to natural and manmade calamities – People migrate due to natural calamities such as earth quake, flood, eruption of volcanoes, storm, epidemics etc. and manmade calamities such as riots, wars due to development projects etc.
As aptly pointed out by Panjiar Smita (2007), while the booming Indian economy has provided tremendous opportunities of growth for the top 20 percent of its population, those at the bottom have been further marginalized. This situation has given rise to new challenges that need to be continuously grappled with. One such challenge is the rising trend of distress seasonal migration, that is, millions of families being forced to leave their homes and villages for several months a year in search of livelihood. These migrations mean that families are uprooted, and their children forced to drop out from school. At work sites migrant children are inevitably put to work. The phenomenon of seasonal migration is highly complex, largely unsearched, and more or less ignored by all- be it the Government, Academia, the development sector or the media.

In the case of Katkari brick kiln labourers and Bhil sugarcane cutters who migrate seasonally (temporarily) to place of destination, are forced due to certain push and pull factors identified through this research study. On the basis of pilot study conducted before the fieldwork and the data collected by administering 200 interview schedules and documenting 50 case studies of respondent, supported with review of literature, a conceptual model was developed and proved scientifically through the data collected analyzed and interpreted.

The child labour and child rights conceptual model is the main contribution of this study. A conceptual model has been evolved through this research, with the help of which comparative studies can be conducted on other occupational group belonging to unorganized labour. Secondly, the research study has also developed an appropriate methodology to study the concept of child labour and child rights issues of two tribal communities. Thirdly, the recommendation given in the study will surely be useful to policy makers for developing appropriate and culturally acceptable programs for the children of communities that form part of the unorganized labour.

The present research study focuses on one such un-researched area namely, “Child labour and rights issues among the Katkari brick kiln labourers and Bhil sugarcane cutters”. Emphasis of the study is to explore the socio-economic background of the Katkari brick kiln labourers and Bhil sugarcane cutters. Secondly, to unveil the impact of distress seasonal migration on the lives of the migrant labourers and their children. The child labour and rights issues of the Katkari and Bhil migrants have been explored through this research. The study also highlights the various schemes that Government and NGOs implement for the children of two tribes under study. Lastly, it
provides recommendations for the development of the Bhil and Katkari migrants and their children.

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