

Employment Pattern of Migrant Labour in Punjab State: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken with the objective to study the socio-economic profile of migrants, income, mode of migration and level of awareness of migrants for different schemes of central government. Three districts named Jalandhar, Mohali and Gurdaspur were selected. Gharuan and Bhago majra villages were selected from Kharar and Mohali blocks of District Mohali. Shahpur and Khiala villages were selected from Jalandhar and Adampur blocks of District Jalandhar. Bhumbli and Kot yograj villages were selected from Dhariwal and Kahnuwan blocks of district Gurdaspur. List of permanent and casual labourers was prepared from each village. From such list, a sample of 25 migrant labourers was prepared from each village. An interview schedule was prepared for collecting the response of migrants keeping in view of the objectives of the study. Thus the total sample comprised of 150 migrants for the present study. The findings of the study revealed that more than 3/4th of the respondents were in the age group of 0-30 years. The educational level of 79.33 per cent respondents was under matriculation. About 82.66 per cent of the respondents had family members of 5-8. More than half of the migrants were migrated from Bihar state. Out of 150 migrants, 126 were male. More than 3/4 of the respondents were completely aware of *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*. Age and awareness about *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* shows strong positive linear relationship. The mean monthly income of migrants came out to be Rs 7658, Rs 9177 and Rs 7729 in Gurdaspur, Mohali and Jalandhar respectively.

Keywords: Migrants, Labourers, Income, Socio-economic, Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

The state of Punjab is also known as Punj-aab, land of five rivers. The Punjab state is divided into three regions i.e. Majha, Malwa and Doaba. More than 70 per cent of population lives in villages, so the main occupation of people of Punjab is Agriculture. With less than 2.5 per cent population of India, this state contributes to 2/3rd of total food grain production. The Punjab state is spread over 19,445 sq miles. Due to good climatic conditions, soil profile and water availability in Punjab, the state is one of the major food producing hubs of India. Due to these qualities of state, the migration of labour started in 1990 for search of employment. Firstly, the labour was concerned with employment in agriculture only but with the increase in industries and infrastructure in some major cities of the state, the labour start moving to cities for better employment opportunities. The movement of migrants has economic and socio-cultural impact of both places of emigration and as well as of migration (Kaur, 2003). Due to lack of

sufficient labour for different farming practices, farmers of the state had to depend on migrant labour (Sidhu et al., 1997). With the adoption of rice after green revolution, the requirement of labour was increased at peak time of crop. Higher rate of wages and availability of work attracts migrants to the state of Punjab.

According to data reflected in census 2001, the labour migrated to economically better areas from poor areas. Migrants have likely moved from less developed area to high developed area (Haan, 2007). Most of the labour in Punjab state had migrated from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar etc. These migrants were poor, landless, unskilled and belong to lower class groups. Increased land productivity, good and improved transport facilities, improvement in education and knowledge, population pressure and zeal for improving standard of living added momentum to the mobility of population in India (Roy, 2011). The flow of seasonal and non-seasonal labour from limited opportunities areas to fast developing areas is provided with high wages to improve

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their socio-economic profile (Anonymous, 2009). For harvesting of wheat, farmers employ 54 per cent migrant and 46 per cent local labourer and in case of transplantation of wheat, farmers employ about 55 per cent and 45 per cent migrant and local labour, respectively, thus depicting fairly high requirement of migrant labourer in Punjab (Sidhu et al 1997). Thus, it seems imperative to have looked on income, problems and mode of migration of migrant labour. Therefore, the study has been undertaken with the objectives of studying socio-economic profile, area of origin, monthly income and awareness of the migrants.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three districts of Punjab state. Gurdaspur, Jalandhar and Mohali were selected for the study, four stages random sampling technique with district at first stage sampling unit, block at second stage, villages at third and respondent at fourth stage sampling unit was adopted. From each district, 2 blocks were selected randomly and from each block one village were selected purposely. Gharuan and Bhago majra villages were selected from Kharar and Mohali blocks of District Mohali. Shahpur and Khiala villages were selected from Jalandhar and Adampur blocks of District Jalandhar. Bhumbli and Kot yograj villages were selected from Dhariwal and Kahnuwan blocks of district Gurdaspur. List of permanent and daily wage labourers was prepared from each village. From such list, a sample of 25 migrant labourers was prepared from each village. An interview schedule was prepared for collecting the response of respondents keeping in view the objectives of the study. Pre-testing was done among respondents in the non-sample area near selected villages. The survey method was followed to collect the primary data. The data was tabulated using statistical tools such as percentage, mean and correlation to draw conclusion from analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in fig 1 indicates that age of the respondents varied from 30 and above to 60 years. About 78 per cent respondents belonged to age group 0-30 years, 16 per cent were in age group of 30-45 years and about 6.0 percent were in age group of above 45-60 years. About 19.33 per cent of the respondents were illiterate. About 79.33 per cent of the respondents had education level less than matriculation and remaining 1.34 percent were matriculation & above. It was observed that 28.67 per cent respondents were skilled labourers and 71.33 per cent were non-skilled labourers. Results revealed that 8.67 per cent of the respondents had family members up to 4, about 82.66 per cent of the respondents had family members of

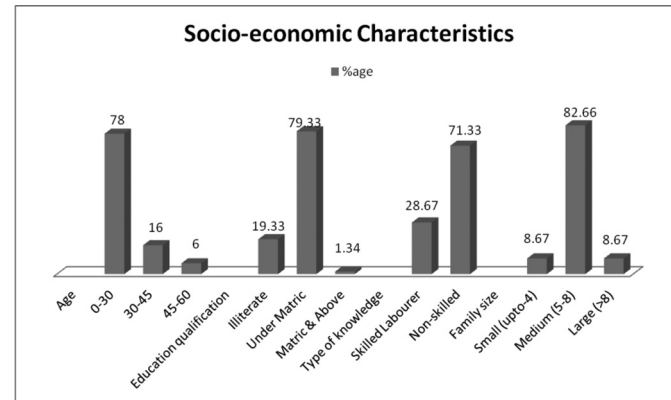


Fig. 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents

5-8 and 8.67 per cent of the respondents had family members more than 8. Same study was conducted by Jayaraman (1979), Gill (1990), Singh and Kaur (2006).

The data in fig. 2 shows that in Gurdaspur district 76 per cent migrant work in the agriculture sector, 18 per cent in brick kiln and rest 6 per cent in manufacturing. In case of Jalandhar city, 68 per cent worked in manufacturing, 18 per cent in brick kiln and 14 per cent migrants in Agriculture. In case of Mohali district, 10 per cent, 6 per cent and 84 per cent migrants working in agriculture, brick kiln and manufacturing respectively.

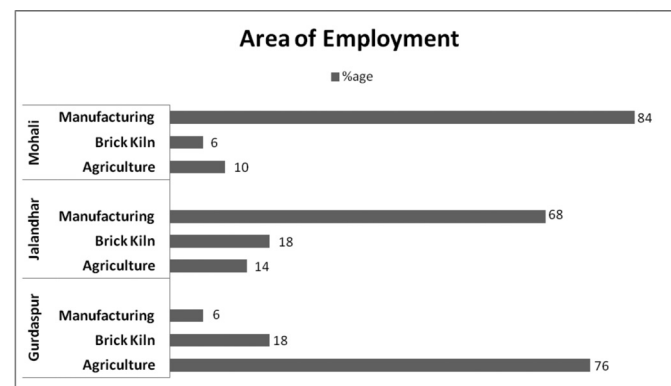


Fig. 2: To study area of employment of migrant

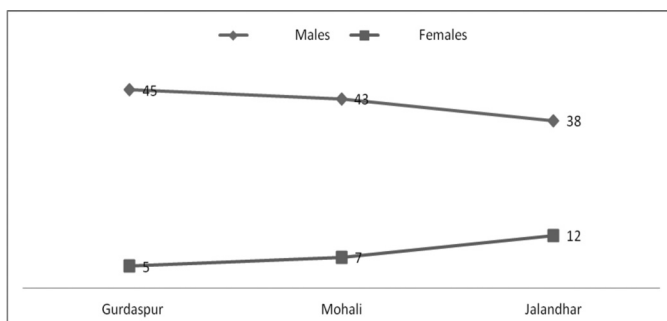
The data in table 1 shows that 32 per cent of migrants in Gurdaspur were from Uttar Pradesh, 62 per cent from Bihar, 6 per cent from Uttarakhand and no one was from Jharkhand and Rajasthan. In case of Mohali, 34 per cent were from Uttar Pradesh, more than half i.e. 58 per cent from Bihar, 2 per cent from Jharkhand, 4 per cent from Uttarakhand and rest 2 per cent from Rajasthan. In district Jalandhar, 40 per cent migrants were from Uttar Pradesh, 44 per cent from Bihar, 4 per cent from Jharkhand, 10 per cent from Uttarakhand and 2 per cent from Rajasthan. This table shows that out of 150 respondents more than half of the respondents i.e. 54.67 per cent were from Bihar.

Table 1: State of Origin of the Migrant Labour

State of Origin	Gurdaspur		Mohali		Jalandhar		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Uttar Pradesh	16	32	17	34	20	40	53	35.33
Bihar	31	62	29	58	22	44	82	54.67
Jharkhand	0	0	1	2	2	4	3	2
Uttarakhand	3	6	2	4	5	10	10	6.67
Rajasthan	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	1.33
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	150	100

Same study was conducted by Narain (2012) & Anonymous (2013).

It is clear from fig. 3 that out of 50 migrants in Gurdaspur, 45 were males and only 5 were females. In case of Mohali, 43 were male and rest were female. In jalandhar district 38 were males and 12 were females. This shows that the migration of males were more than females. Same study was conducted by Korra (2011).

**Fig. 3: Sex of the Respondent****Table 2: Income per month of the Migrant Labour**

Total Monthly Income (In Rupees)	Gurdaspur		Mohali		Jalandhar	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
3000-4000	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
4001-6000	12	24.00	5	10.00	7	14.00
6001-8000	24	48.00	7	14.00	31	62.00
80001-10000	8	16.00	21	42.00	7	14.00
Above 10000	6	12.00	17	34.00	5	10.00
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100
Mean	7658		9177		7729	

It was found from Table 2 that about 24 per cent of migrants in Gurdaspur had monthly income of Rs. 4001-6000, 48 per cent had monthly income of Rs. 6001-8000, 16 per cent had monthly income of Rs 80001-10000 and 12 per cent had income of above Rs. 10000. In case of Mohali district, 10 per cent of migrants had monthly income of Rs. 4001-6000, 14 per cent had monthly income of Rs. 6001-8000, 42 per cent had monthly income of Rs. 80001-10000 and 34 per cent had income of above Rs. 10000. In Jalandhar district, 14 per cent of migrants had monthly

income of Rs. 4001-6000, 62 per cent had monthly income of Rs. 6001-8000, 14 per cent had monthly income of Rs. 80001-10000 and 10 per cent had income more than Rs. 10000. The mean monthly income of migrants came out to be Rs 7658, Rs 9177 and Rs 7729 in Gurdaspur, Mohali and Jalandhar respectively. Similar study was conducted by Bhalla (1979), Sharma and Joshi (1993), Sidhu *et al* (2009) & Keshri and Bhagat (2012).

Table 3 reveals the major reasons of migration of these labourers to Punjab from different states of India. The most prevalent reason of migration is unemployment in their respective states. The process of migration was however significantly different depending on the district of Punjab. The percentage of labourer migrating to Punjab was highest in Gurdaspur district (40%) and least in Jalandhar district (12%). The mode of transport during migration was bus, train, truck and others. However, train was the most significant mode of transport used for migration. Similar study was conducted by Kaur (2008) & Anonymous (2014).

The data in Table 4 shows that 76.66 per cent migrants were completely aware about *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*, 18.67 per cent were partially aware and 4.67 per cent were not aware about scheme. In case of *Atal Pension Yojana*, 9.33 per cent were completely aware, 47.33 per cent were partially aware and rest 43.34 per cent was not aware about this scheme. About 2.00 per cent migrants were completely aware about *Awas Yojana*, 24.67 per cent were partially aware and 73.33 per cent were not aware about this scheme. In case of *Jivan jyoti Bima Yojana*, 14.00 per cent were completely aware, 38.00 per cent were partially aware and rest 48.00 per cent was not aware about this scheme. About 42.00 per cent migrants were completely aware about *Suraksha Bima Yojana*, 25.33 per cent were partially aware and 32.67 per cent were not aware about this scheme.

The result in Table 5 shows a strong positive linear relationship between age and *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*. It can be concluded that with increase in age, the awareness of respondents about *Pradhan Mantri Jan*

Table 3: Reasons and Process for migration

Reasons for Migration	Gurdaspur		Mohali		Jalandhar	
	f	%	F	%	f	%
Unemployment	44	88.00	45	90.00	40	80.00
Came with a spouse	3	6.00	4	8.00	8	16.00
Came for the visit and stayed	1	2.00	1	2.00	2	4.00
Others	2	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100
Process of Migration	Gurdaspur		Mohali		Jalandhar	
	f	%	F	%	f	%
Alone	20	40.00	14	28.00	6	12.00
With relatives/ Friends	28	56.00	12	24.00	29	58.00
With Contractor/ Agency	2	4.00	24	48.00	15	30.00
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100
Mode of Transportation during Migration	Gurdaspur		Mohali		Jalandhar	
	f	%	F	%	f	%
Bus	4	8.00	4	8.00	2	4.00
Train	46	92.00	46	92.00	47	94.00
Truck	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.00
Any other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100

Table 4: Awareness about different schemes of central government

S.No.	Schemes	Completely aware		Partially aware		Not at all	
		F	% age	f	% age	f	% age
1.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i>	115	76.66	28	18.67	7	4.67
2.	<i>Atal Pension Yojana</i>	14	9.33	71	47.33	65	43.34
3.	<i>Awaz Yojana</i>	3	2.00	37	24.67	110	73.33
4.	<i>Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i>	21	14.00	57	38.00	72	48.00
5.	<i>Suraksha Bima Yojana</i>	63	42.00	38	25.33	49	32.67

Table 5: Correlation between different socio-economic aspects and awareness about government schemes

Socio economic profile	Awareness about schemes	"r" value
Age	<i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i>	0.9984
	<i>Atal Pension Yojana</i>	-0.9749
	<i>Awaz Yojana</i>	-0.8239
	<i>Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i>	-0.9869
	<i>Suraksha Bima Yojana</i>	0.8348
Educational qualification	<i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i>	-0.1167
	<i>Atal Pension Yojana</i>	0.3869
	<i>Awaz Yojana</i>	-0.4165
	<i>Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i>	0.0112
	<i>Suraksha Bima Yojana</i>	-0.6859

Dhan Yojana also increases and vice versa. Age and awareness about *Atal Pension Yojana* show weak negative linear relationship. The linear relationship between age and awareness about *Awaz Yojana* was strongly negative. Age and awareness about *Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana* show weak negative linear relationship. The linear relationship between age and awareness about *Suraksha Bima Yojana* was strong positive. In case of educational

qualifications, the linear relationship between educational qualifications and awareness about *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* is weak negative. This shows with increase in educational qualification the awareness about *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* decreases and vice versa. Educational qualification and awareness about *Atal Pension Yojana* show moderate positive linear relationship. The linear relationship between educational qualification and awareness about *Awaz Yojana* was moderately negative. The linear relationship between educational qualification and awareness about *Suraksha Bima Yojana* was weak positive. The linear relationship between educational qualification and awareness about *Suraksha Bima Yojana* was moderately negative.

CONCLUSION

The study signifies that there is significant migration of labourers from different states to Punjab in search of employment. Majority of the migrants have come alone, however others have come along with their relatives or friends or accompanied the contractors. The ratio of males

was considerably higher. The wages in manufacturing and industries are more than agriculture sector so the skilled labour is moving towards big cities. The labourers were unaware about the different schemes started by the Government of India to uplift the weaker section of the society; however the awareness levels increased with increase in age in some of the schemes.

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