Trends of Tribal Migration: A Study on Bastar Region in Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to understand the emerging tribal migration patterns in five districts of Chhattisgarh and its impact on our society, culture, economic development and education. In this context, the present paper attempts to examine and it helps us to understand the current migration trend. Majority of the tribals migrate to others states due to better job opportunities, higher wages and good payment systems. The study found that economic and social factors significantly influence tribal migration. The elaboration of both primary and secondary data on tribal people migration helps us to understand the dynamics of present day mobility of tribals in Chhattisgarh.

Keywords: Tribal Migration; Migration Patterns; Migration Trend; Economic and Social Factors.

INTRODUCTION

In Bastar, reduced hunting, picking of forest produces controlled and during past years forest was encroached by industries, Maoists and CRPF camps thus rendering many tribals landless laboures and they are facing habitat problems. This reduced them to such a low social and economic status as they had never experienced.

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Unemployment increased because those who never depended upon other for their livelihood were reduced to a dependent status.

From the Bastar division (Kanker, Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts) which comprises the major chunk of the Dandankaranya region, the worst Naxal affected region in the country, reportedly over 30,000 families have crossed over to the bordering Khammam and Bhadrachalam district in Andhra Pradesh. Khammam and Bhadrachalam also 'forma' part of the Dandankarandya region which helps the migrants from Chhattisgarh to identity with the local population in these areas. Most of the migration is permanent because Chhattisgarh's agriculture is primarily rain fed and their after the kharif season, there is cyclical unemployment resulting in seasonal migration. The peasants are mostly landless and used to go out in search of alternate employment after the harvesting season

to the Rabi states like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and eastern Rajasthan, only to return when there is employment in the State. However, since 2008, the people who cross over to Andhra Pradesh don't return and search for livelihood options there.

Tribals' habitations are in forest/plain/hilly areas where their survival rate is higher but uprooting from their habitation resulted lots of health, economic and socio-cultural problems. Migration decisions are influenced by both individual and household characteristics as well as the social matrix which is best captured in social anthropological studies. Therefore, research study on tribal migration is necessary to solve tribals' problems to control migration.

The nature of the migration is influenced by various factors like pattern of development (NCRL, 1991), social structure *(Mosse et al., 2002)*. The National Commission on Rural Labour, focusing on seasonal migration, concluded that uneven development was the main cause of seasonal migration. Along with inter regional disparity, disparity between different socio-economic classes and the development policy adopted since independence has accelerated the process of seasonal migration. In tribal region, intrusion of outsiders, the pattern of settlement, displacement and deforestation also have played a significant role. The landless poor people, who mostly belong to lower caste, indigenous communities, from economically backward region, migrate for survival and constitute a significant proportion of seasonal labour flow *(Singh, D.P., 1998)*.

Rogaly et al. (2001) stated that absence of non-farm employment, low agricultural production has resulted in a growth of seasonal migration. As well lots of factor such as age, education level, wealth, land owned, productivity and job opportunities influence the participation of individuals and household in migration *(Habereld et al., 1999; Rogaly et al., 2001; Mosse et al., 2002)*. Sometimes friends and relatives act as a network and the job market is highly segmented based around people of the same caste, religion and kinship *(Mitra and Gupta, 2002)*. Social network provide initial income support, information, accommodation and access to job. However, parts of the urban unorganized sector may also be characterized by a high degree of organised migration in rural areas *(Mazumdar, 1983; Das Gupta, 1987; Mehta, 1987; Piore, 1983)*. In this way a continued existence of a large mass of unorganized workers would eventually shift from the traditional to the modern sector *(Breman, 1996)*.

Objectives of the Study

In Chhattisgarh there are many of reasons for out migration especially in southern regions of the State but the tribal migration is huge question for the Government. Hence the objectives of the study are:

• To find out the actual status of migration.

• To find out responsible factors of migration.

• To find out the socio-cultural and economical survivility problems after uprooting from original habitation or place and it may be measured by socio-cultural changes, occupational changes and economic deprivation in unknown areas.

• To find out the psycho-physical health status of migrants people and their families.

• Derives policy level recommendation to control tribal migration in the State.

METHODOLOGY

Research Tools of Data Collection

Schedule

A structured interview schedule was prepared for the respondents. Through this tool the respondents were elucidated their feelings about the migration. While collecting the information on prevalence of migration.

Focused Group Discussions

The investigator conducted one focused group discussion in each village. Certain issues such as factors of migration, impact on life and other implications were discussed and the opinions of the members were elicited. More over the investigator focused on causes and consequences of migration, factors affecting migration on their livelihoods among Tribes. All the members actively participated and contributed their knowledge.

Observation

The investigator had an opportunity to spend with the respondents and their families. The responses that were given by the respondents were observed and their body language, home environment and the surroundings were observed to inter link the information to that of actuality. The investigator spent minimum one hour with each respondent and family members. Eventually, the

investigator inquired about Government providers help and assistant, causes and consequences of migration.

Sampling Frame

It is understood that in order to avoid the obvious bias in sampling based on Government records, it is necessary to look at migration pattern at community level. For the purpose of identification of respondents, the investigator followed snow ball sampling method where in the respondents were identified with the help of other respondents. Only after ascertaining that the respondents fit into the sampling frame they were selected. As the study took place in 50 villages, stratified and random sampling method was followed. As such 2110 households were selected for the purpose of study (in table 1).

Data Processing and Analysis

After collection of data through the primary source it has been coded and a code book was

Table 1: Study areas with qualitative and quantitative data

Name of the State	Name of the Districts	Name of the Blocks	Name of studied Villages	Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data	
				No of Studied HHs	FGDs	Case Study
Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur	Narayanpur	5	225	5	6
		Orchha	5	225	5	5
	Dantewada	Dantewada	5	200	5	6
		Kowakonda	5	200	5	6
	Kanker	Narharpur	5	169	5	5
		Charama	5	190	5	5
	Bijapur	Bijapur	5	226	5	5
		Bhairamgarh	5	225	5	6
	Sukma	Sukma	5	225	5	5
		Chindgarh	5	225	5	5
Total			**50**	**2110**	**50**	**54**
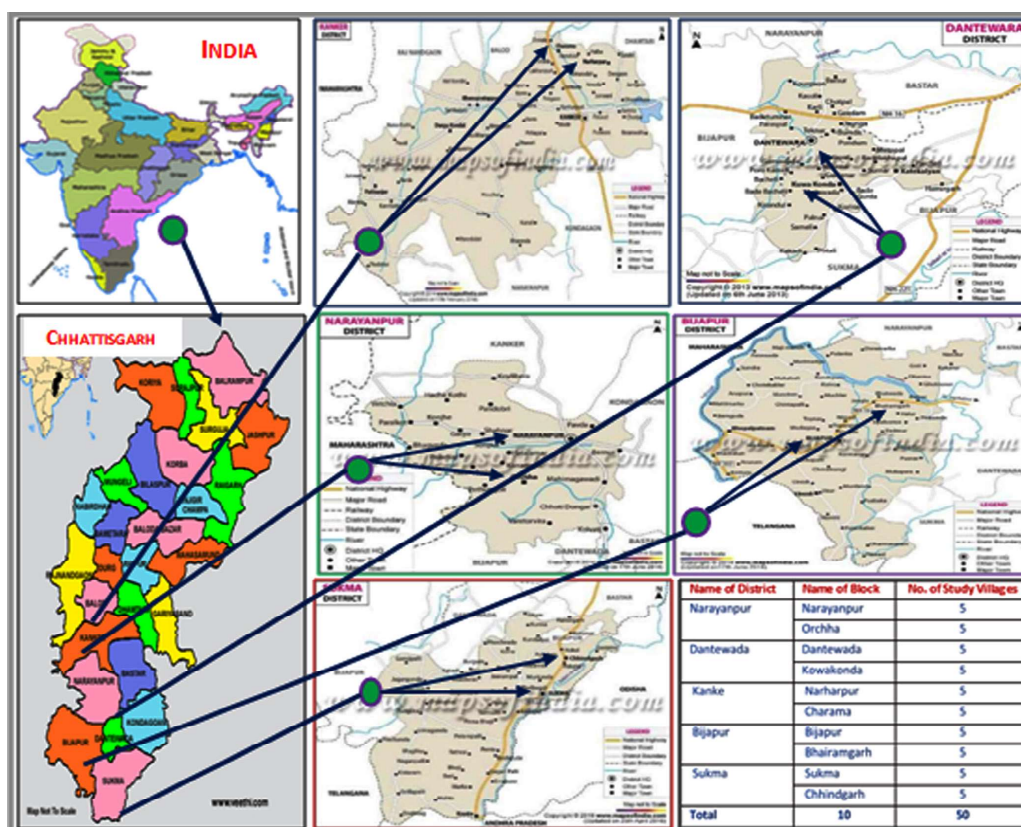
Location of study area (***Source:*** www.mapofindia.com)

prepared. The data were entered into a master chart very meticulously. There after, it was processed into the compter through MS Excel package. Later, the computerized data was taken in print form and the same was cross checked with the master chart to find out error(s), if any. After getting the processed data, percentage and other statistical measurements were derived.

Period of Study

The investigator had to spend three months to collect the data. The investigator has visited village frequently and measured the situation of migration rate with the help of local leaders Sarpanch, Sachiv and also some Govt. officials like School teacher, Potowari, Post master, Anganwadi workers and ANMs. Moreover the investigator established strategic relations with Government officials of Collector Office to complete the study.

Need of the Study

Inspite of various socio-economic development programs, migration rate is very high at tribal regions of Bastar division. The majority of the tribal communities are agriculturist and labourers. Poverty and illiteracy are the major factors which influence migration rate but after uprooting from their birth place they are facing lots of problem and

this kind of population increases urban slum in the town or any other city where they migrated. The pattern of migration is permanent and temporary as well in the State. So, this research study would be helpful for minimization of tribal migration rate in Chhattisgarh.

Limitations of the Study:

- The study is confined to those who were from Tribes.
- The findings of the study are confined to the 50 villages those respondents are living.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 reveals that out of total surveyed population (N=4273) 498 persons were migrated either permanently or temporary from their villages. Regarding this ratio assumption has been calculated which indicated that out of total tribal population 122609 number of people were migrated from the all five districts by 2016-2017.

Tribal population comprised high percentage of population amongst all the selected districts where Dantewada has 76.88 percent tribal population and it is 80 percent in Bijapur, 83.47 percent in Sukma, 77.36 percent in Narayanpur and 55.38 percent tribal population has been found in Kanker district.

Table 2: Status of migration in selected districts and surveyed population

Districts	Total Population	ST Population	Percentage of ST Population	Selected Village Population	Surveyed Villages Population	Number of Migrants in Villages (per 1000)	Number of Migrants in Districts (2011-16)
Dantewada	533638	410255	76.88	4939	752	100	41026
Bijapur	255230	204189	80.00	6637	755	131	26749
Sukma	250159	208797	83.47	6025	767	133	27770
Narayanpur	139820	108161	77.36	3229	1095	93	10058
Kanker	748941	414770	55.38	2935	904	41	17006
Total	**1927788**	**1346172**	**373.09**	**23765**	**4273**	**498**	**122609**

Source: District Statistical Hand Book-2018 and Primary Data - 2011 to 2016.

Table 3 reveals that, out of total migration, high rate of permanent migration is found in Sukma and Dantewada district where as seasonal temporary migration is very common among poor tribal people. Out of them temporary migration (N=226) and migration from rural areas to urban areas are commom (N=331) in all the districts.

The region is facing severe problem of environmental imbalance. Removal of large number of trees for timber has completely changed

the climate. The impact of all these is clearly seen in the rise in temperature and fall in rainfall in the last 60 years.

Though the general belief remains as if the shortage of rains is the sole reason behind the creation of such conditions it is not so. After carefully examining the nature of migration it becomes very clear that a big chunk of population which has to migrate in search of livelihood are due to marginalization of peasants and landlessness,

fragmentation of land holdings, lack of irrigational facilities resulting in less production and non-availability of employment opportunities for about 2/3 of each year, non-accessibility to forest and forest produces etc. In addition, deforestation, a well-known reason for irregular monsoons contributes significantly to the process.

Naxal Movement is the biggest threat and hurdle in between of development in the tribal dominated areas of the Chhattisgarh. Tribal people are displaced in the name of safety from Maoism, development and establishment of CRPF camp at forest and tribal areas. But uprooted people generally migrate to cities and take shelter.

Table 3: Migration for Livelihood/Employment

Attributes	Status	Dantewada (N=75)	Bijapur (N=99)	Sukma (N=102)	Narayanpur (N=102)	Kanker (N=37)	Total (N=415)
Place of Migration	Urban	72	72	78	78	31	331
	Rural	3	27	24	24	6	84
Pattern of Migration	Permanent	6	39	69	69	6	189
	Temporary	69	60	33	33	31	226

Source: Primary Data-2011 to 2016

With different kind of migration, Table 4 shows that the data also reveals that 41026 persons from Dantewada, 26749 from Bijapur, 27770 from Sukma, 10058 from Narayanpur and 17006 from Kanker were migrated to other neighboring states from 2011 to 2016. It is pertinent to note that all the selected districts are situated in the border between Chhattisgarh and other States, so it is easy to cross

Table 4: Year wise Migration in Selected Studied Districts

Districts	Years			
	1996 - 2001	2001 - 11	2011 - 16	Total
Dantewada	68961	8184	41026	118171
Bijapur	370	2152	26749	29271
Sukma	12459	457	27770	40686
Narayanpur	112	425	10058	10595
Kanker	12	591	17006	17609
Total	**81914**	**11809**	**122609**	**216332**

Source: Strengthen Harmonize Research and Action Migration (SHRAM), 2014, an initiative supported by Sir Darobji Tata Trust and the Allied Trusts

the land of their own habitat for any reasons.

Table 5 indicates that education migration is higher in Sukma district amongst all selected studied districts i.e Dantewada, Bijapur, Narayanpur and Kanker in the Chhattisgarh. The lowest educational migration had been analysed in Kanker and Dantewada districts. It is found that higher migration rate for education has been noted between 15 to 20 years aged of youths. Generally

below 14 years educational migration is seen either within the block, within district or within state and it is very high at tribal villages of the district especially in Bastar division but above 14 years migration is frequently higher from mother State to neighboring State or any other place. Sukma is one of the examples where villagers do not want that their children reside and study at village or any neighbour village because of Maoist activities and

Table 5: Educational Migration, 2011-2016

Age Group	Dantewada	Bijapur	Sukma	Narayanpur	Kanker	Total
< 10	21	12	8	19	11	71
11 to 14	14	14	18	17	15	78
15 to 20	8	20	96	15	13	152
20 +	1	16	42	7	2	68
Total	**44**	**62**	**164**	**58**	**41**	**369**

Source: Primary Data-2011 to 2016.

lack of teachers.

Many educated and uneducated villagers opined various responses against educational migration. First major factor is; the education is not good in village. As per direct field observation and aspirants' point of view, infrastructure facilities at villages' school are very poor where residential Ashram school is providing all necessary needs to poor students for educational development. So they move where they opting seat for school whether neighbouring villages or blocks.

Short distance migration is more evident than over longer distances. Surveys have shown that young people mainly migrate to nearby towns (intra district) for employment and education. All the selected districts (Dantewada, Bijapur, Sukma, Narayanpur and Kanker) are situated on the border of Chhattisgarh and for this reason migration is very easy to other states. However willingness to migrate to other metrocities is negligible. Similarly between men and women, they have a larger

The phenomenon of migration in the state of tribal dominating districts broadly follows four different patterns, i.e.

- Rural to urban migration of skilled as well as unskilled labourers from villages in districts.
- Rural to urban migration to urban centers within Chhattisgarh; found common in village.
- Migration to towns in north India and eastern India, mainly to livelihood sites and towns in the northeastern states, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab.
- Migration confined to nearby towns and wealthy areas within the state border or out of state into neighboring states.

tendency and more prone to migrate to other part of the state.

Suggestions

1. Increase financial and human resources in migration prone areas.

2. Promote public private partnership for promotion of safe internal migration.

3. Providing banking facilities for migrants to enable safe and secure transfer of remittances.

4. More focus in national development plans (Five Year Plans, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and City Development Plans).

5. Establishment of a universal national minimum social security package covering minimum wages and labour standards and incorporating portability of benefits in all government social protection schemes and public services.

6. Design special outreach strategies for migrants within public services and Government programmes.

7. Adopting development strategies such as sustainable livelihood opportunities, food security programmes and creating opportunities for access to credit.

8. Revise the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (1979).

CONCLUSION

Migration is an important population phenomenon. Individual behaviors produce a population outcome, and that outcome provides the selection acting back on individuals. Although migration can be defined only for individuals (behavior, syndromes), it can be described in terms of population outcomes.

Although not all aspects may be present in any one migrant, experiments should still distinguish migratory from other types of movement behavior by revealing the suppression of responses to resources. We do not minimize the methodological difficulties in performing such analyses, but neither do we apologize for the complexities presented by migration. Students of migration need to focus more on migration as a behavioral, ecological, and evolutionary phenomenon rather than as an event that occurs in a particular taxon.

Our final observation is that the field needs to recognize that there may be different kinds and degrees of migration. Investigations of migratory adaptations that seem less complete than these (or in which migration is facultative rather than obligatory) might prove particularly revealing. Such studies might, for example, allow examination between migration and alternative strategies.

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. People move in search of employment, better educational and health facilities etc. The male migration constitutes the highest level of migration in Chhattisgarh as well as India due to employment purpose. The female usually

migrates as accompanists of males through several other factors like after marriage or family transfer. More people migrate to urban areas because small land holding, low income, low living standard, less agricultural productivity compels them to migrate in urban areas where diversification of economy and urbanization provides a lot of jobs opportunities. But over crowding in cities causes many environmental problems such as land, water, and air pollution, over utilization of resources. So, there is a need to provide employment facilities in rural areas to minimize the rural to urban migration and to prevent to move to cities. A large percentage of the tribal population in our study area should be able to make decent living through non-agricultural occupations. All basic amenities like roads, electricity, safe drinking water, health facilities (health centers), job opportunities in business and service sectors should be develop by the Government in all the above mention tribal dominated five districts in Chhattisgarh.

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