



THE STATUS OF MIGRANT SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

Migration is a form of geographical mobility or special mobility between geographical units. In India migration is increasing in the past three decades. The survey, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2007 – 08 shows that there is a marked improvement in migration from rural to urban and urban to rural areas. It was 1, 43, 578 households (79, 091 in rural areas and 64, 487 in urban areas) in 2007 – 08. In terms of migrant person, it was 5, 72, 254 persons (3, 74, 294 in rural and 1, 97, 960 in urban areas) in the same year. The objective of the study is to analyse the status of migrant SC women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. Very particularly, the study was conducted in a backward district, namely Villupuram district. The study also discusses the factors contributing towards rural and urban migration. The study is descriptive and also explorative in nature. Snow ball method was used to identify SC women migrant entrepreneurs in the selected district. Pre-tested, structured interview schedule was used for the study. As such a survey was conducted with 50 SC women entrepreneurs. Lack of employment opportunities, low wages, lack of infrastructure facilities and landlessness are the major reasons for entering into entrepreneur's activity. The study found that the migrant SC women entrepreneur income level has increased after entering into the enterprise activities and they are leading to a better life now. The study concludes that the SC women have to work hard to compete with the male dominated entrepreneurial world.

Key Words: Migration, Women, SC, Entrepreneurs and Households.

Introduction

Migration is a form of geographical mobility or special mobility between geographical units. In India migration was increasing in the past three decades. The survey, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2007 – 08 shows that there is a marked improvement in migration from rural to urban and urban to rural areas. It was 1, 43, 578 households (79, 091 in rural areas and 64, 487 in urban areas) in 2007 – 08. In terms of migrant person, it was 5, 72, 254 persons (3, 74, 294 in rural and 1, 97, 960 in urban areas) in the same year. Migration in the Census of India is of two types – Migration by Birth place and Migration by place of last residence. When a person is enumerated in Census at a place, i.e., village or town, different from her/his place of birth, she/he would be considered a migrant by place of birth. A person would be considered a migrant by place of last residence, if she/he had last resided at a place other than her/his place of enumeration.

Concept Definition

Migration of persons are considered as a product of social, culture, economic, political and or physical circumstances in which individuals and societies find themselves. On the whole, migration is a response of human being to social, economic, political and demographic forces at work in societies (Hans Raj 1998 and Rajendra K Sharma 1991).

The migrant is a person who moves from one administrative unit to another. In Indian control these administrative units are generally village in rural areas and town in urban areas. Thus, a person move out from one village or town is termed as migrate provided his or her movement is not purely temporary in nature, on account of casual leave, visit, etc. Sometimes migrants are also called as movers, thus at any given time total population of a place or region may be divided into migrants and non-migration or mover and non-movers (Farida Shah 1998).

Review of Literature

Jayaseelan (2007) made a study on micro finance and the promotion of micro enterprises and the emerging challenging. It is an empirical study undertaken in two districts of Tamil Nadu. It reveals that the majority of the respondents has taken up economic activity as an individual activity (96 per cent) and family support also helped the women to start the enterprise. One - fifth of the respondents managed to control the micro entrepreneurs by themselves, whereas 50 per cent of the respondents sought the help of their husband to manage the units. About 49 per cent of respondents were not used to maintain business records and 79 per cent of the respondents had no strategy of their own. It was found that 70 per cent of the units employ 2-5 person in their units, 43 per cent of the respondents underwent training. About 48 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 18-35 years and SC/ST coverage were very low at 17 per cent. Around 43 per cent of the respondents have not brought in margin money, however, used for their business. The choice of micro enterprises was not



based on the demand but based on the training they received. Lack of product and process innovation was witnessed, as it was contributed by lack of capital.

Dhanalakshmi (2010) carried out a study on women entrepreneurship in small scale industries in Chennai city. The study was an empirical research based on survey method and on primary data which were collected through interview schedule. Chennai city has been purposefully selected for the study since it is the industrial hub of small, medium and large size industries of all types. Chennai city comprises five industrial estates situated in Guindy, Ekathuthangal, Ambathur, K. K. Nagar and Sriperumpudur. As the population form could not be defined properly, a sample size of 500 was considered as reasonable. Hence, selected 100 respondents from each industrial area. Totally 500 respondents were contacted on convenient sampling method. After editing for truth and accuracy, the analysis was confined to only 375 respondents. Statistical tools such as percentage analysis, ranking technique, chi-square analysis, ANNOVA, discriminate analysis and multiple regression analysis were used for the analysis. The study found that a majority of the respondents age is 40 years and 62 per cent of the respondents are married. Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women constitute 11 per cent to the total sample size of women entrepreneurs. 50 per cent of the financial service of the respondents are self-service. The growth of women entrepreneurs is 94 per cent. The study found that lack of finance is identified as one of the major problems of women entrepreneurs. Hence, the government should provide financial assistance to the entrepreneurs. Lack of self-confidence was another major problem of women entrepreneur as revealed in the study. Nearly half of the respondents are selling their products within the state. Marketing of products was another major problem of women entrepreneurs. Therefore, the government should lend a helping hand by buying the product directly from women entrepreneurs.

Reji (2011) study examines the empowerment impact of microfinance programme of Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) in Kerala and was based on primary data collected from 200 respondents in 30 NHGs functioning in 11 Gram Panchayats in Nilambur block in Kerala. The study revealed that apart from providing savings and credit to its members, NHGs were instrumental in bringing desired social change among the members. The study found that 12 per cent of SC/ST were benefited from micro financed entrepreneurs through the NHGs enables empowerment of its members. The ability to contribute to household income as a result of the credit access and increased income from income generating activities helped the members to get respect in their family and community as well. The study further provides that women are empowered through participation in the microfinance programme.

Gurusamy et al. (2012) study deals with women entrepreneurs in Indian textile industry. The aim of the study it's to identify the scope and opportunities in the textile industry, to identify subsidies and special provisions for category of entrepreneurs belonging to schedule caste and schedule tribe women. The study indicates that interest charged to schedule caste, schedule tribe and women entrepreneurs would be provided at the rate of five per cent for a period of five years without any maximum limit and irrespective of the category of the district. Small scale industries set up by SC/ST and women entrepreneurs in advanced districts would be given investment subsidy at the rate of 15 per cent of fixed capital investment to a maximum of Rs.5 lakhs. Maximum limit of investment subsidy on fixed capital investment for small scale industries setup by the SC/ST women entrepreneurs would be Rs.6 lakhs, Rs.12 lakhs and Rs.17.50 lakhs in backward, 'A', 'B' and 'C' category of districts respectively.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio - economic status of the migrant Dalit women entrepreneurs in Villupuram district;
2. To analyses the reasons for migration and scope for sustainability and
3. To document the problems faced by Dalit women entrepreneurs in the study areas.

Methodology

The study was carried out with 50 sample Dalit women entrepreneurs in Villupuram district, who were identified through snowball method. The study is descriptive – cum - explorative in nature. Dalit women entrepreneurs were selected purposively. Primary data were collected for the present study from Dalit women entrepreneurs in the study area.

Villupuram district boundaries are Bay of Bengal and Pondicherry on the east, Dharmapuri and Salem district on the west, Kancheepuram and Tiruvannamalai district on the north and Caddlore district on the north. It is spread over an area of 7194 Sq. Kms. It comprises of four Revenue Division, eight Taluks and Twenty two Blocks. Out of 22 Panchayat union, five Panchayat union was selected for the study, namely Villupuram, Dindivanam, Vikravandi, Kolianur and T.V. Nallur. The total population of the district is 34,58,873. Male and Female 50:50 per cent constitute 17,40,819 (50 per cent) male represent and 17,18,054 (50 per cent) female represent. Total Dalit population in the district is 10,90,575 (32 per cent). Of which male are 5,48,439 (16 per cent) and female are 5,42,136 (16 per cent). Density of the district was 481 per sq.km. The literacy rate



is 72 per cent. Here Dalit women migrate to other places for doing enterprise activities and also to improve their economic conditions. They mainly engaged in agro - based and allied activities, vegetable vending, herbal medicines, animal husbandries, food articles, pickles and tailoring.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

This section presents the comprehensive discussion and analysis of data collected from SC women entrepreneurs from five blocks in Villupuram district, namely, Villupuram, Dindivanam, Vikravandi, Koliyanur and T.V. Nallur. The data was obtained with the help of a well structured interview schedule. The data was analysed with help of simple statistical tools.

Table 1: Block - wise Distribution of Respondents

S. No	Name of the Blocks	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Villupuram	12	24
2	Didivanam	14	28
3	Vikravandi	9	18
4	Koliyanur	6	12
5	T.V. Nallur	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the block wise distribution of respondents in the study area. More than 50 per cent of the respondents do their business either in Dindivanam or Villupuram. Remaining respondents live in Vikravandi, Koliyanur and T. V. Nallur.

Table 2: Age - wise Distribution of Respondents

S. No	Respondent Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	25 – 35	14	28
2	36 – 45	27	54
3	Above 45	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 2 shows age-wise distribution of the women entrepreneurs in the selected district. Of the 50 respondents, 28 per cent of them falls in the productive age group of 25 years to 35 years. 54 per cent of the respondents belong to the age group of 36 years – 45 years. However, 18 per cent of the respondents are falling under more than 45 years category. The study found that a majority (54 per cent) of the migrant SC women entrepreneurs age fall in the age group of 36 years to 45 years.

Table 3: Religion of the Respondents

S. No	Religion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	43	86
2	Christian	7	14
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 3 indicates the distribution of respondents by religion. 86 per cent of the respondents come under categories of Hindu religion and only 14 per cent of the respondents belong to Christian. The study found that a majority of the respondents (86 per cent) belongs to the Hindu religion.

Table 4: Marital Status of the Respondents

S. No	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	41	82
2	Unmarried	6	12
3	Widows	3	6
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondent according to their marital status. 82 per cent of the respondents are married, 12 per cent of the respondents are unmarried and remaining six per cent of the respondents are widows. Thus, a majority of the respondents (82 per cent) is married either unmarried or widows.



Table 5: Educational Status of the Respondents

S. No	Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	10	20
2	Primary School Education	16	32
3	Middle School Education	12	24
4	High School Education	7	14
5	Above Higher Secondary	5	10
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 5 shows that distribution of respondents according to their educational background. 20 per cent of the respondents are illiterate, 32 per cent of the respondents had attained primary education, 24 per cent had attained middle school education, 14 per cent of them have reached high school education and only 10 per cent of the respondents have elevated to high school education. As such a majority (70 per cent) of the respondents has completed upto school education.

Table 6: Housing Pattern

S. No	Housing Ownership	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Own	34	68
2	Rented	16	32
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 6 shows the ownership pattern of houses owned by migrant SC women entrepreneurs in the study area. 68 per cent of the respondents are living in their own house and 32 per cent of the respondents live in a rented house. Thus, nearly one-third are living in rented houses.

Table 7: Type of Enterprise Activity

S. No	Type of Enterprise	No. of Respondents	Per cent
1	Manufacturing	10	20
2	Business	32	64
3	Service	8	16
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

The selected entrepreneurs are doing different types of enterprise activity, namely manufacturing/ textile based, business/ trade based and service based activity. Table 7 explains types of enterprise activity carried out by the selected respondents. Out of 50 respondents, 64 per cent are doing business or trade activity. 20 per cent of the respondents are engaged in manufacturing and 16 per cent of them are doing in service activity. Thus, a majority (64 per cent) of the respondents are doing business / trade activities in the study areas.

Table 8: Annual Income of the Respondents (Income at Rs.)

S. No	Respondents Income	No. of Respondents	Per cent
1	25,000 – 50,000	9	18
2	50,001 – 75,000	23	46
3	75,001 – 100,000	18	36
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 8 indicates the annual income of SC women entrepreneurs in the study area. A majority (46 per cent) of the respondents is earning an annual income between Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 75,000. Similarly, 36 per cent of the SC women entrepreneurs are earning an annual income between Rs. 75, 001 – Rs. 100, 000. Nearly one-fifth of respondents are earning an annual income of Rs. 25, 000 – Rs. 50, 000.



Table 9: Reasons for Entering into Enterprise Activity

S. No	Reasons	No. of Respondents	Per cent
1	Poverty	11	22
2	Lack of Employment	35	70
3	Poor Income	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data.

Table 9 indicates the reason for the SC women entering into enterprise activity in the study area. A majority (70 per cent) of the respondents migrated one place to another place for want of lack employment in their native place. 22 per cent of the respondents migrated to new place due to poverty and remaining eight per cent of the respondents came to this occupation due to poor income. The study found that a majority of the respondents (70 per cent) migrated and occupied in enterprise activity due to lack of employment.

Table 10: Satisfaction Level of Dalit Women Entrepreneurs

S. No	Opinion	No. of Entrepreneurs	Per cent
1	Satisfied	36	72
2	Dissatisfied	10	20
3	No opinion	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 10 shows the satisfaction level of Dalit women entrepreneurs in the study area. A majority of the respondents (72 per cent) is satisfied with their present occupation. In fact, 20 per cent of the respondents are dissatisfied. However, five per cent of them have not perceived any satisfaction in their enterprise activities.

Table 11: Problem Faced by the Dalit Women Entrepreneurs

S. No	Type of Problem	No. of Respondents	Per cent
1	Marketing problem	16	32
2	Financial problem	11	22
3	Lack of support from family members	5	10
4	Inadequate training and skills	8	16
5	Lack of identifying available resources	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Primary data

The above the Table 11 shows the problems faced by the selected migrant Dalit women entrepreneurs in the study area. 32 per cent of the entrepreneurs are facing marketing problem for lurching in the market. Lack of marketing awareness, high competition, high rate of interest, globalisation and liberalisation, lack of transport facilities, lack of storage capacity are the reasons for marketing problems. 22 per cent of the respondents faced a financial resource problem. Lack of formal financial accessibility, too much, delay in loan sanction process, high rate of interest, rigid loan repayment scheduled, heavy processing fees for loan borrowed, margin money requirements, insisting on the collateral and ignorance of bank loan have added the reasons for financial problem. Ten per cent of the women respondents felt a lack of support from their own house, lack of elders support, absence of husband and children support for enterprise activities and monetary management by the male members. 16 per cent of the women entrepreneurs were faced inadequate training and skill in the study area, 20 per cent of the women entrepreneurs were faced lack of identifying available resources in the study area. As migrant Dalit women live with poor literacy level, they are unable to manage and upgrade their skills. Thus, lack of awareness and lack of accessibility and utility of resources are also considered as a major problem for migrant Dalit women in the study area.

In addition, the migrant Dalit women have also faced the problem of lack of self confidence. Women entrepreneurs in the study area depend on male and don't have much confidence and courage due to fear of business to migrant place. The caste they belong is one of the major barriers for the lack confidence and gender disparities.

Migrant Dalit woman's entrepreneurs' family and personal obligations are a great barrier for succeeding in business careers. Only a few women are able to manage both home and business efficiently, devoting enough time to perform all their responsibilities in proper manners.



Recommendations

1. Enterprise awareness should be given through non-formal education to the people belong to the SC / ST community.
2. Provide easy loan facility with subsidy and flexible repayment period through the financial institutions to SC women entrepreneurs.
3. Create more marketing facilities access for women entrepreneurs.
4. Provide sufficient training to the SC women entrepreneurs by Centre as well as State Government.

Conclusion

The study reveals that the migrant Scheduled caste women entrepreneurs have occupied the enterprise activity due to lack of employment, poverty and poor income. Now, they provide more employment opportunity to others and earning sufficient income from the enterprise activity, which leads them improved economic living conditions.

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