

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 INTRODUCTION
- 6.2 THE NATURE OF MIGRATION
- 6.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
- 6.4 ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT
CONDITIONS
- 6.5 HOUSING HEALTH AND EDUCATION
- 6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION :

It may be worthwhile to conclude this study by emphasizing some points emerging from the study. The analysis in this study is mainly based on a socio-economic survey of immigrant workers in brick making industry against the background of the theory of labour migration. The major aim of the survey was to examine basically a limited range of questions concerning the rural to rural and rural to urban migration; pattern of migration; the causes of migration and the present socio-economic conditions.

6.2 THE NATURE OF MIGRATION :

The causes of migration are generally studied in terms of push and pull factors. If migration is the result of a deterioration in the level of income; employment opportunities; working and living conditions in the villages (place of origin) the workers are as it were pushed to the place of destination. On the other hand if migration is the result of an improvement in the level of income and employment opportunities the workers are as it were pulled to the place of destination. The push factors seem to be dominant rather than pull factors. This study proves that 99.29% of the total sample workers migrated because of push factors.

Migration necessarily involves movement of some workers over certain distances and in certain directions. We have, in this study, presented a simple picture regarding pattern of migration and extent of migration of immigrant workers in brick making units under study. Pattern of migration is given in terms of intra-district, inter-district and inter-state movement of labour. Extent of migration is explained in terms of range of distances covered and averages of such distances. This study shows that in case of brick-making units under study the migration pattern is mainly divided in two categories - a) inter-district, b) inter-state. It is seen that extent of migration in case of inter-district (intra-state) migration can be greater than in case of inter-state migration. In other words, it is not only the distance which matters for the full extent of migration but other factors like socio-cultural background and relative economic conditions of the workers in the place of origin and destination are more important factors which determine migration.

The present study clearly shows that the compelling reasons for the migration of rural labourers are low income and unemployment. This can be due to various reasons i.e. inadequate land to cultivate, drought prone area, insufficient rains, declining hereditary occupations and low fertility of local soil coupled with absence or lack of adequate efforts at increasing productivity by cooperative farming and/or employing, scientific

machinery. This shows that the immigrants mainly belong to economically backward classes. The second important feature is that urban attraction and miscellaneous causes (as pull factors) are not significant factors for migration.

6.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS :

Our main findings regarding the demographic background of the migratory labourers are as follows :

6.3.1 The sex ratio of migratory labourers in brick making industry is 103 : 37 i.e. for every female there are 3 male migratory labourers.

6.3.2 As regards the age structure of migratory labourers 87.13% belong to the age group 16-55 years. This number indicates that the immigrant labour force in this industry is generally young, 85% of the immigrant labourers are married. The rest are unmarried or widows or widowers.

6.3.3 The survey clearly shows that 72.86% of immigrant labourers are illiterate. Those who are literate, have mainly some years of primary education only. 17.15% are near literate.

6.3.4 As regards the mother tongue of the labourers 57.14% are Marathi speaking, 27.86% labourers' mother tongue is Kannada but most of the labourers speak workable Marathi because they come from areas of Karnataka touching the border areas of Maharashtra.

6.3.5 As regards the castewise distribution of the immigrants, we found that 45.71% belong to Harijan categories, 12.15% to Lingayat, 9.29% to Maratha, 1.43% to Kumbhar, 8.57% to Kaikadi/Beldars, 17.7% to Muslim community and 12.14% to other sub-castes.

6.3.6 The cumulative frequency of families having more than 3 children is almost 50% of the sample families. Only 28.57% of the sample families reported 2 or less than 2 children.

6.3.7 Majority of the immigrant households (64.49%) reported family membership between 3 to 6.

6.3.8 A large proportion of immigrant families are multi-earner families, the modal picture being a family of more than 2 earners.

6.3.9 Majority of the immigrants (85.72%) are staying at the place of destination for more than 3 years. An insignificantly small proportion of immigrant workers expressed a desire to go back to the place of destination after retirement. Almost more than 40% of the immigrant workers have severed all their connections with the place of destination. From these observations, we can say that for a large number of the immigrants, nature of migration is permanent and for the rest, it is semi-permanent.

It is to be noted that 36.43% of the immigrant workers have not visited and do not wish to visit their place of origin at all. This is a clear proof of permanent nature of migration. Another piece of evidence in this regard is the fact that 53.57% of the immigrants show positive preference for setting in the area of destination in the post-retirement period.

6.3.10 More than 63.57% of the immigrant households report 3 earning dependents in the family and in case of 22.14% of the immigrant households, the number of earning dependents is between 1 and 2.

6.3.11 80% of immigrant families have 1 to 2 non-earning dependents. In case of remaining 9.28% households, the number of non-earning dependents is more than two. There are some immigrant families (10.71%) who have no non-earning dependents. 65% of the immigrant families have no non-earning dependents at the place of origin. In case of remaining immigrants old parents and school going children are non-earning dependents at the place of origin. Higher proportion of the former category having no non-earning dependents at the place of origin, can again be considered as an evidence of near permanent migration of the majority of immigrant families.

6.3.12 As regards the source of information and mode of employment, it is clear from the data that 83.57% of the immigrant workers get information about employment from native

villagers and close relatives and 85.71% of the immigrant workers get recruited in the brick-making units through the agency of their close relatives and villagers. We, therefore, can say that migration of the sample workers is mainly of chain migration type.

6.3.13 As regards the nature of migration it is seen that majority of immigrant workers have migrated with their wives and minor and major children. Therefore, we can say that the nature of migration is generally that of family migration.

6.4 ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS :

The average per capita income of the immigrant workers is Rs. 142-22 per month for an average family of 5.8 members with 3 to 4 earners in the family. This information is collected with reference to month of November, 1983. Therefore, the analysis of this part should be read keeping in mind this limitation.

6.4.1 The immigrant workers in brick-making units tend to spend more on consumption. 50% of the immigrant households possessed ration-cards. Since food consumption accounts for 67.44% of consumption expenditure, any increase in food prices will have an adverse effect on the level of consumption which is already very low.

6.4.2 Almost all immigrant households in the sample reported indebtedness. The higher level of indebtedness is found in the case of only 8.57% families and the highest extent of indebtedness ranging between Rs. 2500/- to 3000/- is reported in the case of 6.43% immigrants only. A large bulk of labourers (47.85%) is indebted to the extent of Rs. 250/- to 1000/- followed by 32.14% immigrants indebted to the extent of Rs. 1000/- to 1500/-. The main source of loans is in the form of advances from the owners of the units. The only merciful aspect in this regard is that these advances are interest free. We found that there are various purposes for which advances are taken by the labourers. 50% of the immigrant workers take advances for meeting daily expenses during off season unemployment period and for initial expenditure. The other major reason for advances is the visits of the immigrants to their native places.

6.4.3 The mode of wage payment on all the three centres is weekly. There is nothing like a schedule of work. The actual work ranges between 9 to 11 hours. Holidays or rest intervals with pay are totally absent. Medical aid is also absent on the site of brick-making.

6.4.4 Our findings conclusively show the expected changes in working conditions. 95% of the immigrants expect security of job, higher wages and better living conditions.

6.5 HOUSING, HEALTH AND EDUCATION :

Judged by the place of living, about 74.28% of the immigrants live in huts on the employers place or Gavathan or road side and rest of the respondents live as tenants in the village (20%). Remaining 2.86% of the respondents live at their native place-home because distance involved does not exceed 2 to 5 Kms. 2.86% of the immigrants live in Gharkul schemes. Arrangements for living accommodation are self-made, in case of 72.86% of immigrants. In case of 5% of the respondents accommodation arrangements are made by employers. In case of 19.29% of immigrants, housing arrangements are made with the help of materials provided by employers.

6.5.1 As regards family planning, 82.15% of the immigrants indicated favourable attitude towards family planning. Only 7.14% of the respondents indicated unfavourable attitude towards family planning. Rest of the respondents were uncertain about family planning.

6.5.2 Regarding the social life and habits of the brick-making immigrant labourers it is seen that about 94.29% of the respondents do not read news papers. The whole sample shows total indifference towards adult education. About 20% of the immigrants visit cinema once in a month. About 42.86% of the immigrant workers take country liquor at the rate of once or twice a week. 63.57% of the immigrants are addicted to

tobacco chewing or smoking. 92.14% respondents drink tea and 64.29% take betel leaf (pan).

6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS :

The general picture regarding socio-economic conditions of the immigrant workers that emerges from this sample survey is that of economic insecurity coupled with social handicaps. Apparently we can say that the total family earnings of the immigrants are just above the poverty line. However, if we accept that it is not only the earnings which determine the welfare, but also the factors like, living conditions, working conditions, security of employment etc. also affect totality of welfare of the workers, then it is evident that there are a number of possible measures which can improve the quality of the life of these immigrant workers and add to their welfare substantially. It is in this regard that we are making certain concrete suggestions with respect to socio-economic conditions of the immigrant workers.

1) It should be made obligatory on the part of the owners of the brick making units to provide reasonably decent and adequate housing to the immigrant workers, and that also as far as possible very close to the site of work.

2) So far as working conditions are concerned, it must be carefully seen that at the work site rest shelters, safe

drinking water, creches and first aid facilities are invariably provided by the employers.

3) Care should be taken to see that the various labour laws e.g. the Payment of Wages Act 1946, the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Migration Act 1980, the Contract Labour Act 1970 etc. are strictly applied to and enforced in the brick-making industry. We are making this suggestion mainly for the reasons that in our conduct of the sample survey, we observed a total neglect or indifference in these respects.

4) The immigrant workers should be encouraged to organise trade unions, locally and federally so that their collective bargaining power improves and leads to better economic and social treatment by the employers.

5) We have a specific recommendation to make with regards to the wages of the workers in the brick-making industry.

We already stated that the fixation of wage rate for different types of work in this industry appears to be traditional and mainly under the influence of the employers. No specific and scientific wage fixation method is used as a result of which the workers suffer in the form of low rate of wages. We, therefore, recommend that the Government should appoint a Wage Fixation Committee for the workers in brick-making industry mainly of the type under study.

6) So far as educational facilities are concerned we suggest that (a) for grown-up illiterates, adult literacy classes should be started with the partial financial burden on the employers, (b) for the children of the immigrant workers primary schooling with emphasis on the mother tongue of the majority as medium of instruction, should be made compulsory for which the financial burden must be borne by the State Government concerned.

7) Another important recommendation is in respect of medical facilities to be provided to the immigrant workers. We feel that atleast one weekly visit of a registered medical practitioners to the settlement of the immigrant workers must be made an obligatory responsibility of the employers or the State Government should arrange for the periodical visits of the medical officers of the primary health centres to such settlement of the immigrant workers.

8) Child employment should be totally prohibited.

9) The employment in brick-making is seasonal by the nature and location of the industry. As a result the immigrant workers have to remain more or less unemployed during off season period. We feel that some regular and institutionalised agency for the provision of off-season employment should be started by the concerned authorities.

10) Despite the fact that a large proportion of immigrant workers seem to be permanently settled at the place of destination, we cannot neglect their need for visit to their places of origin atleast once in a year. We feel that the expenses of such a visit should be borne by the employers.

11) We have shown that more than 60% of the expenditure of the immigrant workers is spent on basic consumption items like foodgrains etc. It is, however, to be noted that almost 50% of the immigrants don't have ration cards as a result of which they have to pay higher prices for these basic consumption goods in open market. This reduces their capacity to spend on other essentials. To avoid this problem it is suggested that formation of a cooperative consumer-cum-credit society by the immigrant workers will prove to be a step in the right directions. It will also reduce the dependence of the immigrants on the employers for advances, which lead them to indebtedness.

12) We are aware that some of the suggestions made above will increase the cost of production of the brick-making units. They may argue that such increase is beyond their capacity to pay. We, however, feel that this is not really correct. Our contention is that this increase in their cost of production will amount to some reduction in their profits which at present may be considered as very high. This can be supported on the basis of the data regarding cost of production per thousand bricks given in Table No. 6.1.

TABLE No.6.1TOTAL PRODUCTION COST

(per 1000 bricks)

Items	A	B	
I) Wage Bill :			
a) Brick layers	Rs. 20-00	Rs. 20-00	Per 1000 bricks wage rate
b) Brick-kiln operator	Rs. 7-00	Rs. 7-00	
c) Clay and silt securing and transport	Rs. 7-00	Rs. 7-00	
d) Brick transport	Rs. 6-00	Rs. 6-00	
	Rs. 40-00	Rs. 40-00	
II) Code and Ash :			
a) Rs. 200-00 per tonne	Rs. 100-00 (Use tonnes)	Rs. 50-00 (Use actually tonnes)	
III) Govt.'s licence fee charge	Rs. 2-00	Rs. 2-00	
IV) Water charge	Rs. 2-00	Rs. 2-00	
V) Fixed Cost (for brick forming)	Rs. 1-00	Rs. 1-00	
VI) Land rent charges (Mali Fala)	Rs. 5-00	Rs. 2-00	
VII) Miscellaneous	Rs. 4-00	Rs. 1-00	
Total cost	Rs. 154-00	Rs. 97-00	
Average cost Rs. 125-00 per thousand bricks.			

In this table we have given cost structure for per thousand of bricks and itemwise in rows A and B. A is the costing which is recorded for purposes of accounting and based on the information given by the owners of the brick-making units. However, the information in row B gives costing which we have estimated on the basis of personal talks with different owners, some local citizens and more importantly some of the more articulate and shrewed workers. It is clear from the table that the total cost of production per thousand bricks according to the recorded documents is Rs. 154/- where as according to our estimate it is only Rs. 97/-. The causes for this difference are evident from the Table (mainly) item No. II, VI, VII and VIII). Even if we accept the average of these two as a reasonable figure, it will be Rs. 125/- per thousand of bricks. The actual price at which the bricks are sold has never be less than Rs. 250/- per thousand during last three years. In other words there is a profit margin of hundred percent. We, therefore, feel justified in making certain recommendations stated earlier, which increase the cost of production of the brick-making.