

Socio-economic status of Kuwait migrants from Andhra Pradesh: A study

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ABSTRACT

The author examines the socio-economic status of the migrant workers in YSR district, Andhra Pradesh. Analyses the demographic profiles of the migrants, reasons for migration to Kuwait, the income, consumption and savings pattern, and nature of work of the migrant workers in the YSR district. The survey has been carried out 100 questionnaires and distributed to Kuwait migrants from different parts of district. Finally 75 migrants were respondents. A total of 75 migrant workers have been interviewed by using a pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire. Findings of the study includes the 23.15% of the respondents said lack of money in my family, 22.53% of the respondents expressed their opinion migrated to Kuwait is to earn money and lack of work in native place. After returning home 32% of the respondents said that they are willing to do some business, 20% of them said that they will do practice agriculture Half 50% of the respondents said that they save money banks, 45.83% of them said that they buy gold. Study will help people who are planning to migrate to Gulf countries.

Keywords: Socio-Economic status, YSR District, Kuwait migrants, Andhra Pradesh,

Introduction

The word 'Migration' has been derived from the Latin migrate which means to change one's residence. It means the settlement or shifting of an individual or a group of individual from one cultural area or place of habitation to another, more or less permanently. Migration is a basic social process. As Durkheim has shown in the early stages of social growth, it has been the foremost factor in the division of labour and specialization of functions. Migration assumes a special significance in the context of developing societies which are in the process of renovating their social structure and where every aspect of life is undergoing change. The International Encyclopedia of Social Science defined migration as the relatively permanent movement of persons over a significant distance. Migration is geographic mobility that involves a change of usual residence between defined political or statistical areas or between residential areas of different types. In general usage, the term has been restricted to the relatively permanent change.

In terms of population, India is the second-largest nation in the world after China. India is distinguished by a population that is diverse in many ways, including literacy. India's general literacy rate is defined by a population that ranges from highly educated to illiterate, and this has an effect on the country's labour force as well. A global phenomena, international migration is expanding in breadth, complexity, and influence. Migration is a fundamental aspect of our rapidly globalising environment and both a cause and an effect of larger development processes. Migration can contribute to development when it is supported by the appropriate set of policies, even though it cannot replace it. The increase in international travel, changing migration patterns, and effects on various nations, migrants, families and communities have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community. (United Nations Population Division, Department of Social and Economic Affairs.)

Migration of Indians to Gulf Countries

In India, the trend of migration saw a significant change after 1970. The surge in oil prices in 1973 resulted in a large investment plan by the Arab nations that produced the oil as well as an increase in the need for labour. These nations that produce oil allowed foreign workers to immigrate there. Workers from India migrated in large numbers to Gulf nations as a result of this process. The expansion of the software sector between 1990 and 2000 also encouraged computer professionals to immigrate to the United States, European nations, South Asian nations, and Gulf states. According to the Government of India's 2015 Population of Overseas Indians report from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in New Delhi, there are 7 million migrant labourers in the Gulf alone. Additionally, the nation's millions of households receive financial assistance. Further, millions of households in the country receive financial support from family members working oversea. The Gulf region has enjoyed tremendously sustained growth in productivity over the last three decades. A major factor behind this productivity has been the easy availability of an educated skilled and at the same time cheap workforce.

Migrated country	No. of migrants (in Lakhs)	Percentage
Saudi Arabia	2 8,00,000	35.68
UAE	2 6,30,000	33.52
Kuwait	7, 58, 615	09.67
Oman	7, 07, 850	09.02
Qatar	6, 00, 000	07.64
Bahrain	3, 50, 000	04.46
Total	78, 46, 465	100

Source: Government of India. The population of Overseas Indians (2015), Ministry of Overseas Indian

The study examines in detail the push and pulls factors of socio-economic conditions of migrants from YSS district (Kadapa) and the socioeconomic impact of the Gulf migration on the migrants and their left-behind families. Gulf migration started in the 1970s, due to requirements of the labour force for oil production and other activities. Gulf migration has been a problem for any Government because of many reasons. In Andhra Pradesh, migration to Gulf countries occurs from Kadapa, Chittoor, East Godawari, West Godawari. The uniqueness of Gulf migration from Andhra Pradesh is that female migration is high compare to male migration. Unfortunately, in united Andhra Pradesh (Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh) or the separate state of Telangana, there is no official and authentic data of Gulf migrants. Hence the two states have not made any policy on Gulf issue. Many non-governmental organizations and voluntary organizations are exposing the problem by doing many activities still, the governments have not taken any steps towards the solution of the problem. According to the Migrants Rights Forum and Gulf Migrants Rights and Welfare Forum, there are 1.5 million Gulf migrants in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

Review of literature

Docquier, Frédéric & Rapoport, Hillel (2004) in their paper "Skilled Migration: The Perspective of Developing Countries." The authors focus on the consequences of skilled migration for developing countries. They first present new evidence on the magnitude of migration of skilled workers at the international level and then discuss its direct and indirect effects on human capital formation in developing countries in a unified stylized model. Finally they turn to policy implications, with emphasis on migration and education policy in a context of globalized labor markets.

Hamza, Sara (2015) This research explores the topic of labor migration in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states – Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates -- and seeks to determine how the subjugation of migrant laborers is initiated and perpetuated. The kafala (sponsorship) system has played a central role in the rapid economic development in the GCC states. The case study discusses how the kafala system unfolds in one of the most iconic cities in the world and seeks to articulate the lived experiences that are often omitted from modernization narratives.

Madhu, G.R. & Uma, H.R. (2016) in their study “Gulf Migration and Its Impact on Indian Economy.” Discussed about the migration is a complex phenomenon influenced by economic, social, political, geographical and environmental factors. Emigration from India to GCC countries are one of the major migration flows in the world migration flow, for different reasons people emigrate to GCC countries. This paper empirically analyses the flows and its influence on various factors. The paper found that GDP, Exchange rate, population of origin and destination countries, language, distance between origin and destination countries are the factors influencing the emigration flows India to GCC countries.

Saikia, Dilip (2016) in his paper “The Socio-economic Status of Migrant Workers in Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala, India.” Examines the socio-economic condition of the migrant workers in Kerala. We analyse the income, consumption and savings pattern, and nature of work of the migrant workers in the Thiruvananthapuram district, based on data from a sample of 166 migrant workers. While existing studies provide evidences for short distance migration to Kerala from nearby states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, we find evidence for long distance migration from states like West Bengal and Assam in recent years. Poor economic conditions in the native place and high wage rate and better employment opportunities in Kerala have been identified as the main reasons of migration to Kerala. Though there is barely any change in the nature of employment of the migrants even after migration, there has been a shift from the low-income brackets before migration to high-income brackets after migration.

Das, Rajesh & basu, Shehamanju (2017) in their paper “Migration of Labor From India to Gulf Countries: How far it Supports Sustainability?.” Explores about the India is a big country with the tag of larger contributor of labour force to the international community characterized by highly skilled technician to illiterate workers. According to information available from Ministry of Overseas Affairs, Government of India. Tamilnadu has the highest number of international migration followed by Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and so on. Thus, south India has maximum number of International Migrants as workforce. However, Goa has the minimum number of International migrant in terms of labour workforce followed by Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and so on. There is no doubt that migration of labourer to foreign soils improve their economic condition and status which impacts can be observed in form of sound Bank Deposits, Construction of houses, better education to the children and better health facilities to their family members.

Objectives of the study

- To identify the socio-economic and cultural background of the migrants.
- To study the impact of social structure is influenced by migration.
- To study the economic levels (savings, debits and credits).

Methodology

The paper is based on primary survey data on the migrant workers in the YSR district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The selection of the YSR district is based on the concentration of migrant workers in different. The survey has been carried out 100 questionnaires and distributed to Kuwait migrants from different parts of district. Finally 75 migrants were respondents. A total of 75 migrant workers have been interviewed by using a pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire. The analysis carried out in this paper is descriptive. The socio-economic status of the migrants has been explained by analysing various migration characteristics such as demographic characteristics, nature of work, skill level, wages and income level, living conditions, consumption pattern, and remittances, etc.

Data analysis

Table-1 Demographic profile of the respondents

Gender	Frequency (N=75)	Percentage
Male	29	38.67
Female	46	61.33
Age		
21-25 years	0	0.00
26-30 years	4	5.33
31-35 years	27	36.00
36-40 years	40	53.33
above 41 years	4	5.33
Religion		
Hindu	25	33.33
Muslim	31	41.33
Christian	12	16.00
Others	7	9.33
Marital status		
Married	9	12.00
Unmarried	5	6.67
Widower/Divorced/Separated	61	81.33
Mother tongue		
Telugu	52	69.33
English	0	0.00
Hindi/Urdu	23	30.67
Other Languages Known	0	0.00
Level of education		
Up to 10th standard	49	65.33
10th - 12th standard	19	25.33
Above 12 standard	8	10.67
Monthly income		
Up to Rs.5000	47	62.67
Rs.5000 to Rs.7000	16	21.33
Above Rs.7000	12	16.00

Table-1 illustrates the demographic profile of the respondents, Among 75 respondents (61.33) of the respondents are female and (38.67%) are male respondents. In case of age (53.33%) of the respondents age between 36 to 40 years, (36%) age between 31 to 35 years, (5.33%) respondents age between 26 to 30 years and above 41 years. In case of religion (41.33%) of the respondents are Muslim community, (33.33%) of them are Hindus, (16%) of them are Christians and (9.33%) are other religion. In case of marital status respondents that the majority (81.33%) of the respondents are widows/divorced/separated from the families, (12%) of them are married and (6.67%) are unmarried respondents. When it comes to mother tongue of the respondents (69.33%) of the respondents mother tongue is telugu language and (30.67%) of the respondents language is Hindi/Urdu. In case of level of education: (65.33%) of the respondents education up to 10th standard, (25.33%) respondents education between 10th to 12th standards, and only (10.67%) of the respondents studied above 12 standards. (62.67%) of the respondents monthly income up to Rs.5000 (21.33%) of the respondents income between Rs.5000 to Rs.7000 and only (16%) are getting above RS.7000

Table-2 Why are you migrated to Kuwait?

Reasons of migrated to Kuwait	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
To earn money	28	45	73	22.53
Lack of money in my family	29	46	75	23.15
Lack of work in native place	29	44	73	22.53
For children education	14	22	36	11.11
For marriage of daughter	21	19	40	12.35
Others –Specify	11	16	27	8.33
Total	132	192	324	100

It is evident from the table-2 that the (23.15%) of the respondents said lack of money in my family, (22.53%) of the respondents expressed their opinion migrated to Kuwait is to earn money and lack of work in native place. (12.35%) of them said for marriage of daughter, (11.11%) of them said for children education and (8.33%) of them said some other reasons.

Table-3 Do you regularly send money to your Family

Opinion on sending money	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Yes	27	45	72	96
No	2	1	3	4
Total	29	46	75	100

Tale-3 shows the regularly sending money to family, majority of the (96%) respondents said 'yes' they send money to their families, remaining (4%) of them said 'no'.

Tale-4 Debts while leaving your native place

Opinion on debts	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Yes	21	33	54	72
No	8	13	21	28
Total	29	46	75	100

Table-4 presents the debts while leaving you native place, most of the (72%) respondents said 'yes' and remaining of the respondents said 'no'

Table-5 Do you like to be back from Kuwait to Native Place

Opinion on debts	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Yes	25	45	70	93.33
No	4	1	5	6.67
Total	29	46	75	100

Table-6 After returning home what do you intent to do?

Work position	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Practice Agriculture	12	3	15	20
Do some Business	5	19	24	32
Start Industry	7	2	9	12
Try for some job	2	5	7	9.33
Live with Bank Interest	1	9	10	13.33
Other Specify	2	8	10	13.33
Total	29	46	75	100.00

Tale-6 illustrates the after returning home, what do you intent to do. (32%) of the respondents said that they are willing to do some business, (20%) of them said that they will do practice agriculture, (13.33%) of them said live with bank interest and some other work, (12%) of them said start industry and (9.33%) of them said try for some job.

Table-7 Do you have any savings

Opinion on debts	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Yes	26	46	72	96
No	3	0	3	4
Total	29	46	75	100

A question raised to migrants about their saving Table-7 explains that majority (96%) of the respondents said 'yes' they save money, and (4%) of them said 'no'.

Table-8 How do you utilize the money

Utilization of money	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Deposit in Bank	16	20	36	50
Buy Gold	9	24	33	45.83
Cash Certificate	1	1	2	2.78
Other Specify	0	1	1	1.39
Total	26	46	72	100.00

Table-8 shows the utilization of the money, half (50%) of the respondents said that they save money banks, (45.83%) of them said that they buy gold, (2.78%) of them said that they buy saving certificates, (1.39%) of them some other ways to save their money.

Major finding of the study

- 23.15% of the respondents said lack of money in my family, 22.53% of the respondents expressed their opinion migrated to Kuwait is to earn money and lack of work in native place.
- Majority of the 96% respondents said 'yes' they send money to their families, remaining 4% of them said 'no'.
- 32% of the respondents said that they are willing to do some business, 20% of them said that they will do practice agriculture, 13.33% of them said live with bank interest and some other work, 12% of them said start industry and 9.33% of them said try for some job
- Half 50% of the respondents said that they save money banks, 45.83% of them said that they buy gold, 2.78% of them said that they buy saving certificates, 1.39% of them some other ways to save their money.

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