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**Ipsita Pattanaik**

Lecturer, Center for Women's  
studies, U.N(auto) College of  
Science and Technology,  
Adaspur, Cuttack

## Impact of migration on women: A case study in slum dwellers in Bhubaneswar city of Odisha

**Ipsita Pattanaik**

### Abstract

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another and takes different forms. In this movement of people, women's location and spaces are defining by their positioning within the society and state. The process is not simple as it seems as migrant itself is varied ranging from 'permanents', 'semi-permanents' and 'temporary'. People can either choose to move or be forced to move. Migration have occurred throughout the past, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in east Africa to their current homes throughout the world. As the slums were rising day by day the problems of the people are increasing accordingly. Women are the victim of migration.

**Keywords:** Migration, Women, Slum Dweller, Economic

### 1. Introduction

Migration occurs in a variety of ways: migration can occur between continents, within a continent, or within a single country. Migration can ever occur when people move out of the city and into the country. The most important thing about migration to remember is that it occurs when groups of people move for the same reason. Migration is not a new thing. People have always left their homes in search of better economic opportunities, both within and outside of their own homeland. Migration is an important feature of human civilization. It reflects, human endeavor to survive in the most testing conditions both natural and manmade. Migration in India is in existence historically, but, in the context of Neo Liberal Globalization assumes special significance, for Trade Unions and Civil Society. As a consequence of the neo-liberal policies followed by the successive governments, there are serious income disparities, agrarian distress, inadequate employment generation, vast growth of informal economy and the resultant migration from rural areas to urban, urban to urban and backward to comparatively advanced regions in the most appalling conditions. Under the pressure from the International Finance Capital, Governments both Central & Provincial are further de-regulating the labour markets and further enlargement of the informal sector. In the given context Migrant Labour poses a serious threat and challenge to Civil Society in general and Trade Unions in particular.

### Reasons of Migration

In the state of Odisha, migration is frequent and involves millions of families and individuals. This is because of underdevelopment and the degree of poverty. There are various reasons for migration.

#### 1. Poor living conditions generate the urge to migrate

The term 'migrate' denotes a person living outside his or her native country. Many leave their homes because there are not enough fertile pastures and arable land, food, water, work or other fundamental requirements. The consequences of environmental catastrophes, such as; thought or floods, can also force thousands to leave their native countries. The growing gap between rich and poor is the most significant driving force for global migration.

#### 2. The population grows while economic development stagnates

The enormous rate of population growth and the poor perspectives for economic development in some regions give rise to a tremendous migratory pressure. Third world and former Soviet Union countries lack capital and know-how. In some countries debts absorb a

**Correspondence:**

**Ipsita Pattanaik**

Lecturer, Center for Women's  
studies, U.N(auto) College of  
Science and Technology,  
Adaspur, Cuttack

major part of the economic power. Falling raw material prices as well as the customs barriers and import restrictions imposed by the industrialized countries prevent the development of viable export industries. Unstable economic policy, a lack of legal stability and widespread corruption discourage investors and concerns from locating their long term industrial projects in such countries.

### **3. Violence and the abuse of power force people to flee**

The term 'refugee' is used to describe people who are persecuted on account of their race, religion, ethnic group or conviction. Persons whose freedom or lives are threatened in this sense have a right to protection by foreign countries on the basis of international conventions. 'Displaced persons' are not fleeing from individual persecution but from escalating violence threatening large part of the population in a certain region or country. Those affected by such conflicts mostly flee in large numbers to safe regions in their native land or in a neighboring country. In order to prevent unrest, hunger, disease and other problems, they are frequently accommodated in refugee camps.

### **4. The rich industrialized states are becoming more accessible**

Tourism, television and the internet all enhance the attractiveness of migration. They make the poorest aware of the wealth of rich. The growth of air travel facilitates journeys to far-away industrialized countries. So far only a fraction of those willing to consider migration have actually been able to travel to their preferred destination on other continents. But this could soon change since successful emigrants transfer a considerable share of their income to their relatives at home.

### **Globalization as a key feature shaping women's economic migration:**

Globalization shapes women's labour migration to a great extent. Global shifts in international trade and investment have had a significant impact on the geographical distribution and mobility of the workforce within and between countries. In recent decades we have witnessed a dramatic increase in international trade and investment globally. Alongside this, international and internal migration has increased. Today, large transnational corporations (TNCs) drive and control the production and trade of goods and services and technological development all over the world. Their activities have major impacts on regions, countries, communities and people in most of the world. Factories are closed and reopened in new areas or countries, natural resources and common goods are privatized, traditional knowledge is patented, agricultural production is 'modernized' through export orientation, and labour is exploited in both the formal and informal economies.

Countries create a regulatory environment to enable TNCs to operate smoothly and free of barriers all over the world, facilitated by a broad set of trade liberalisation policies at multilateral level through the World Trade Organization and by a growing number of bilateral free trade agreements. The EU, with its aggressive push to open up new markets through wide-ranging bilateral trade agreements and its ambition to

secure access to natural resources and cheap production costs, including labour, is a main player in this respect.

While women migrant workers are recruited in both skilled and unskilled jobs in many different sectors, the majority are concentrated in low-status jobs at the lower end of the job hierarchy, where work is characterised by exploitive working conditions and represents informal and insecure employment. An analysis of internal and intra-regional migration patterns shows that many migrant women find work in agriculture and export-oriented sectors, where women's relatively low wages constitute a comparative advantage. However, this is not incidental, as the hiring of (young, flexible, cheap) women workers forms an explicit strategy of governments and big corporations in the export sector. The low wages of women and women migrant workers have been fundamental to economic growth and export-oriented development strategies in many developing countries.

### **Census 2011 and continuings of India's poor migrants**

India has begun one of its mammoth census operations to count its citizens. The census operation has been relentlessly and ritualistically happening since 1872. The mandate for 2011 Census is to count its 1.17 billion citizens's living in rural, urban and difficult places. The urban homeless people too are going to be counted on 28th evening. Last ten years, India has seen a dramatic increase of population and the mobility of people has also increased due to opening up newer frontiers of employment and opportunities. Mostly our cities started growing on a rapid scale with newer infrastructure and construction booming. The cross border movement of people from rural to district, and from one state to another state and in some cases international migration has substantially gone up. During 2001 census, migrant people constitute 30% of India's population with 307 million with male migrant 90 million and women constitute staggering 216 million. Most of the women migration was registered under the category of intra-district migration which is 139 million. It outlines a significant number of women movements from their place of birth to other locations because of marriage. However, the inter-state migration reported during 2001 was 42 million and out of which men constitute 19 million and women 22 million. In both of the situation, the mobility of women was higher than male.

When we look at the same for Orissa, the total migrant during 2001 was 10.8 million. Out of which women constitute 80% of the total migration at 8.4 million. The large women migration is reported within intra-district movement which is 6.4 million. However the inter-state migration in 2001 census was reported as 0.6 million and here too the women outnumber male with 60% and the male migration was 40%. If one closely examines the 2001 census in relation to migration, it shows the trend of women mobility is more than the male. Interestingly, out of the factors like, education, employment, business, moved after birth & marriage. The number of people under marriage was 20% followed by employment which is more than 10%. However, it is quite disturbing to note the high women migration patterns being reported in the Census 2001. The actual reason of such high migration is yet to be established. The mystery can only be solved through an in-depth analysis of the migration pattern,

cause and effect of women migration. On the other hand, some micro studies and estimates pertaining to inter-state migration suggest a different story. In Orissa the out migration of labourers to other States are more in comparison to the figure stated in 2001 census. Interestingly, migrant Oriya labourers in Surat only constitute 0.8 million, and a conservative estimate of migration poor people from south, north, western and the central region of Orissa is estimated to be 1.5 million. Today, the pattern of employment opportunity for the migrants labourers are mostly available in informal sectors and the habitation and worksites are located in far flung places in urban suburbs or outskirts. The high economic growth cities of Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat, Kerala and neighboring state such as Raipur, Vishakapatnam and mining rich regions of Jharkhand has been the major hub for Oriya migrant labourers. Sectors like, construction, textile, mining, brick kiln, poultry, plantation, agriculture, stone quarries, cotton ginning, apparel, rubber plantations have been the favorite employments providers for the migrant people.

A cursory observation of the migration enumeration of 2001 suggest that the migration information could have been collected from the urban migrants who were quite accessible for survey and the poor migrant may have been excluded due to their location disadvantage, remoteness and unclassified habitations. And, it is quite challenging for the census 2011 to reach out such people and get them counted.

On the other hand, the census has made elaborate provision for counting of poor people who live on the street and unidentified location in urban locations which is a welcome step. However, the time allocated to do the enumeration seems not adequate. The census will count the poor and homeless people for couple of hours on the last day of the census, i.e on 28th February. The metro cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai followed by tier II and tier III cities is today thriving with people living on pavement and street. A couple hour devoted for their enumeration seems less and inadequate and the enumeration will exclude these people who are yet to considered as urban poor.

For inter-state migrants, the census operation should create more collaborative process among the Census Directorate of various States and bring in stake holders like labour unions, student volunteers, Aactivist and civil society organization to help the census personnel to help and locate the migrant and get them counted. The mass media life FM radio and mobile telephone can be a useful tool to reach out to the migrants for their enumeration. The migrant labourers are often excluded from various survey and enumeration simply because of non conformity of their seasonality of migration and timing of the survey. In coming days, the distress migration and opportunity migration is going to be a big challenge for the State to manage and monitor. The Census 2011 database on the poor migrants can provide a lot of insight for planning and protecting the interest of the hapless people.

### **Migration in Odisha**

The state of Odisha stands on the lowest rung of the poverty ladder among other Indian states, despite its rich natural endowments. The census of 2001 indicates that 47.15% of the rural population (or 17.35 million people) are living

below the poverty line. This situation is most prevalent in the western and southern districts of the state. There are various factors playing pivotal roles in creating this impoverished state of affairs among the rural and tribal populations. The draft report of the “people’s commission on hunger and public policy in odisha” (2008) which was co-ordinate by the supreme courts commissioners on right to food states that, “rural odisha (particularly the southern part) is largely underdeveloped and has limited livelihood opportunities. The most common destination are brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and the coastal districts of Odisha, irrigated areas within the state where a second a crop (winter) is grown, and large cities across the country where migrants can access a number of employment opportunities in activities such as construction, manufacturing, transport and services”. Migration is the only way out for many impoverished families in the rural and tribal pockets of Odisha. It has a strong relationship with desperate poverty, landlessness, unavailability of work and timely wage payment from government sources.

Displacement is also one of the important causes of distress migration in many parts of Odisha. The rich natural resources in the tribal pockets of the state make it a destination for corporations and mining companies. The establishment of these big businesses, including mining industries, large dams and irrigation projects, causes large-scale displacement without proper rehabilitation. Displacement separates poor rural people and tribal from their productive land and natural resources, which results in the need to migrate to survive. But unfortunately the promise of increased income from migration is seldom fulfilled; rather, migrants again fall into the same vicious circle of poverty and deprivation. Indebtedness is another factor for distressed migration in the rural/tribal areas. In his book ‘Dynamics of Tribal Migration’, Dr. S.N Tripathy writes that the “social customs and obligations like births, marriage, death in the family and drinking habits play an important role in forcing the poor to resort to borrowing”.

Another argument brought up by many researchers is that the tradition of drinking creates economic deprivation, which is also a cause for migration. This argument is only partially true. Tribal’s usually drink ‘handia’ (country liquor prepared from rice), ‘pendam’ (country liquor prepared from mandia), and ‘salap’ which are prepared or collected by themselves. There is little cost for these preparations and they are traditionally used only during festivals and celebrations. On the other hand, these traditions are slowly changing because of the market economy. There is a heavy decline of local brewing while, at the same time, foreign liquor is easily available in their vicinity. In addition, due to government excise policy and revenue collection, many country liquor breweries operated for a profit by outsiders are found in the tribal areas. These liquors are much more expensive than the ones prepared by tribals. When drinking becomes a habit, the tribal spend whatever they earn on liquor. Thus, handia and other self-prepared liquor should not be seen as a cause for economic deterioration resulting in migration, but rather the cultural changes in liquor consumption.

### **Slum Population in Bhubaneswar**

Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha has remained no exception of slums. As per a study on slum population by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), considerable population amounting to 2, 00,097, i.e. 30% of total population is living in slums. The slum settlements in the city can be classified into slum colonies belonging to industrial workers, common slums, population squatting on the land belonging to Indian railways and the other govt. agencies. Lack of civic services, unhygienic living conditions coupled with increase in housing stock deficit gave raise to slum dwelling and its population.

### **Some Facts of the Slums of Bhubaneswar**

1. Slum population is 30% of total city population and is distributed throughout the city.
2. The last decade has shown tremendous growth (78%) of the slum population. This is mainly due to the vast devastation caused by the super cyclone in the other parts of Bhubaneswar, which has lead due to huge migration from the rural hinterland, and other parts of the state as well as outside state in search of employment particularly in construction sector.
3. Most of the slums of the city are located an unutilized Government land/ Railway land. These Government land remained temporarily vacant where development could not be done immediately. This provides favorable opportunities to the lower economic groups specially belong to the labour classes who came to Bhubaneswar in quest of opportunities and employment facilities.
4. Slums are usually devoid of services, prone to all types of natural hazards, have poor living conditions and hence can pose severe environmental problems, including health risks. It is observed that the housing conditions in all settlement are poor. The overall socio developmental aspects are extremely poor along with low level income and productivity.
5. The increasing trend in slum population from 1991 to 2001 leads to deteriorate living condition due to the absence of planned economic activity, the ongoing urbanization can lead to economically weaker sections of the migrant population setting in slums, thereby further increasing the existing slum population.
6. The slums population initially will settle in meager jobs mainly in service sector, but if the opportunities in services sector are also not adequate enough, as tourism is an important activity of the study.
7. A study on slums conducted by the BMC reveals the following:
  - a. About 56% of the total slum populations are schedule tribes. The sex ratio is found to be 821, which indicates the selective migration in all the slum settlement. About 53% of the slum populations are illiterate.
  - b. About 39.78% of the slum-dwellers were residing in their own lands while the majority of 52.33% had built their tenements encroaching on Government lands. Rests of the households were living in rented house.

- c. 78% of the slum families lived in Kutcha houses with thatched roof and the balance 22% of households were built of more permanent materials.
- d. Slum houses had an area of 90sq ft on an average. The slum pockets are characterized by their unhygienic living conditions devoid of any basic services and amenities.
- e. 21% of the slum households could have availed of electricity facility, in case they wished to take connections. But for the rest 79% there was no facility for availing the electricity connection.

### **Impact of Migration on Women:**

The migration experience itself is highly gendered, particularly in relation to social and family relationships and employment experiences. Traditionally, most women have migrated internationally to join husbands or fathers who paved the way for them. As a result, their ability to remain in the destination country is often contingent on their familial relationship. When marriage to a citizen or permanent resident is the only, or principal, route to admission, marriage fraud may result. Further, when migrant women are dependent on their husbands or children from legal status, they may find it difficult to leave abusive situations.

Today, more women are migrating on their own as principal age-earners. Their experience is gendered as well. They tend to take jobs in what are familiar female occupations. At the lower end of the skills spectrum, women migrants pick fruits and vegetables, manufacture garments and other items, process meat and poultry, work as nursing home and hospital aides, clean restaurants and hotels, and provide myriad other services. Domestic service is a common occupation for migrant women. Women migrants from a wide range of countries provide domestic services in receiving countries in almost all parts of the globe. They may migrate through official contract labour programs that match workers and employers, or they may obtain such employment after migrating, often through informal networks. Highly skilled women also migrate. Some are in traditional female occupations, such as the health.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To assess the impact of migration on women.
2. To identify the specific factors responsible for migration of women.
3. To assess the impact of migration on women's security in the context of work, food, health, violence.
4. To study the changes in women's work due to migration.
5. To study the type of economic opportunities of the migrant women are engaged in the areas where they migrate.
6. To suggests various ways and means for improving the socio-economic condition of women and empower them.

### **Material and Methods of Study**

#### **1. Study Area**

The study "IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON WOMEN" has been carried out in the Bhubaneswar city of Odisha.

## 2. Sample

The use of sampling method has been very old in social science research. When a whole group is taken as representatives of the whole study, is called sampling. The present study is based on the sampling method. For household survey, the study adopted stratified random sampling method. After collecting a list of the existing squatter localities including the resettlement colonies resided by the urban poor in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) websites, 2 slums are selected to undertake the research. Taking into consider the slum where most of the people belongs to SC and ST are living were chosen for research place. In the second stage of sampling, around 100 people were interviewed from 2 slums of Bhubaneswar. The interview schedule is consisted around 45 number of question relating to various socio economic problem and prospect of slum dweller.

## 3. Data Collection

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative data have been collected. There were reasons of collecting both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data was collected as it would help to analyze all the aspects of life of migrated women. It provided an insight into the status of women after migration; how many hours do they work in a day, what are the socio-economic factors responsible for migration of women, what is the impact of migration on women in terms of livelihood, health and their security. Similarly quantitative data was collected to measure the impact of economic migration on women. It also helped to know the growth of the migrated women.

## 4. Tools of Analysis

In this study both primary and secondary data are needed. While adopting the primary method; the study is to rely on the field data collection. For this, major tools adopted were observation, group discussion, personal interview, and scheduled questionnaire methods. Observation was taken as the method for the purpose of cross checking or to elicit more realistic reference. The information was collected from the migrant women respondents, through the interview with Odia language speaking people. The secondary data is collected through published literature in forms of books, reports, journals, websites and government reports etc.

## Study Outcomes

Migration is an emerging topic in the current social scenario. Although may effort has been taken by Government to check rural to urban migration but the result are worthless. The cases of migration is increasing day by day, especially in the state like Odisha where the cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur are growing very fast, accordingly it has filled up with migrant people which is a major cause of the increasing numbers of slum. Different sources have been cited that around 40% of the total populations of the cities are slum dwellers. As the slums were rising day by day the problems of the people are increasing accordingly. Most of the slums were faced with the problem like lack of sanitation facilities, health facilities, proper education facilities etc.

Most of the families are not aware about the different government welfare scheme that's why they were deprived from various public facilities. The Government as well as the civil society organization was not actively participating to draw out a solution to the problems of slums. Even researchers were also not taking keen interest to work in the field due to highly complexity of the cases of migration.

In the current study it has been seen that most of the migrants are belongs to SC/ST communities and they are staying in a miserable condition. Major reason for the migration are due to communal conflicts, lack of employment opportunities, low wages and oppressed by the upper castes. Urbanization and industrialization are also other causes of migration. The people migrate to the cities to get better employment opportunities, better health facilities, and better education facilities to their children's.

Women and girls children are another victim of migration. Due to unavailability of proper environment they were facing so many problems. They were faced with different types of harassment and torture by the male member of the family. As they were left the rural environment and enter into a new environment which is totally different than the previous one they faced many type of cultural and linguistic problem. Due to illiteracy and lack of awareness they could not get a better job opportunity in the urban area. But in some cases the women were leading a good life.

Whatever may be the reason of the migration that is not a matter, the people migrate from one place to another place to enjoy a better lifestyle and it is the duty of the government to provide them all the facilities what they were getting at the earlier place.

From the study it has been derived that the migrant's people were leading a miseries life. Lack of support of the Government department and operation by the industrialists and rich people make their life more and more miserable. No doubt the migrants are poor and lower section of the society but as they are also human being like the rich they should be revamping from the worst situation. Either Government should initiate appropriate intensive programme to check the migration or new programme should be initiate to develop the situation of the migrant people. Lastly it is very much difficult to determine the volume of migration but if intensive effort taken then we must can solve the problem of the slum dweller.

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