

# Marriage Migration and Labour Market in Bangalore Slums: Scope of Social Work Intervention

Sujatha M\*

Research Scholar, Dept. of Social Work, JSS Research Centre, Mysore University, Mysore, Karnataka

Rajashekar C

Research Scholar, Department of studies and Research in Social Work, Tumkur University, Tumakuru

## Abstract

Marriage related migration is a crucial factor affecting mobility. It is interesting to note that a large number of poor women enter labour markets in urban centre at the place of destination through marriage. However, existing circumstances of the labour market in urban canters are uncongenial, unpardonable with long hours of work, low wages, and absence of job security etc. It is vital to study the existing situation of female migrants to put in place policies to improve their living and working environment. Thousands of women and girls migrate from their hinterlands in this present contest marriage migration happen usually from rural to urban city centres mainly in search of employment. They are new to the city life style and environment and find it difficult to make alteration with the changed situation and atmosphere. They have to face a number of problems in the cities they get migrated. Moreover, they are exploited both financially and sexually in the cities above all there is a need to identify means and ways to empower these women in the slum areas. At the national level, the Tenth plan suggests a sector specific three-fold strategy for empowering all women through Social empowerment. But today in India the problems are wide and psychological by nature. In the past two decades, there has been growing recognition of the prevalence of problem, in that migration is affecting young population much in our society. Moreover, it has become apparent that some individuals (Young) are at greater risk. Social workers are in a unique position to work on the issue of migration, marriage and labour market because of the diversity of practice settings and expertise in clinical practice, group work, policy development and analysis, and community organizing. The profession's commitment to social change calls on the social work profession to take a leadership role in addressing all public problems.

**Keywords:** Marriage, Migration, Labour Market and Social Work Intervention.

## 1. Introduction

Marriage related migration is a crucial factor disturbing mobility. It is interesting to note that a large number of poor women enter labour markets in urban centre at the place of destination through marriage. However, existing conditions of the labour market in urban canters are inhospitable, deplorable with long hours of work, low wages, and absence of job security etc. It is vital to study the existing position of female migrants to put in place policies to improve their living and working conditions. Thousands of women and girls migrate from their hinterlands in this present contest marriage migration happen usually from rural to urban city centres mainly in search of employment. They are new to the city life style and environment and find it difficult to make adjustment with the changed situation and environment. They have to face a number of problems in the cities they get migrated. Moreover, they are exploited both financially and sexually in the cities

## 2. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are

- To study the background of the slum women in Bangalore selected slums
- What are the factors responsible for their migration/
- To understand how do they enter urban informal sector labour market and what is their current employment status
- To examine the programmes and policies of these women

### 2.1 Methodology of the Study

Researcher was selected 50 married women who were migrants in different age group. Who were living in urban slums in Bangalore city? Researcher has used convenient sampling method for field study. In this researcher has used the descriptive method and qualitative presenting research data. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be used for the pursued.

Study Background: Researcher has selected three slums in Bangalore city those are

- ❖ Ambedkar Nagar slum
- ❖ Kasturamma Badavane slum
- ❖ Mankamma Badavane slum

### 2.2. Sample size:

Researcher has selected 50 married women who were migrated for interview.

The sample women were selected on the basis of availability of married migrant women at the slum.

Majorities of the surveyed women migrants came from the Bellary it has been shown in the table about 22.5% of them belong to Bangalore rural areas 15% to Kolar and 7.5% each to Belgaum and Chikkabalapur.

### 3 Data Analysis:

Sl.No	Occupation	Percentage
1	Bellary	43.5
2	Bangalore Rural	22.5
3	Kolar	15.0
4	Tumkur	7.5
5	Chikkabalapur	7.5
	Total	100

Table 1: District wise Distribution of the Respondents

#### ✓ Previous work Experience:

About 42.5% worked on the farms of land lords. But the wages low and the work was seasonal in nature of short duration. Consequently they faced the problem of uncertain livelihood. 8.5% Respondents of the respondents are engaging in beedi making, construction working, plastic flower making.

#### ✓ Education- wise Distribution of family size

It was found that out of these 50 migrant women, 77.5% were illiterate 12.5% were primary level, 5% were completed secondary level education.

#### ✓ Sources of information on Bangalore

In around 75% of the cases relatives living in Bangalore provided the basic information. About 15% and 10% of the respondents migrated at the instance of their friends acquaintances mainly their co villagers respectively. Married migrant women could not get jobs immediately after arrival. About 80% of them found jobs after migration.

Sl.No	Occupation	Percentage
1	Domestic servants	36.5
2	Scavengers	40.5
4	Construction workers	14.0
4	Bamboo things and Plastic flower making	10.0
	Total	100

Table 2: Present occupation of married Women

The above table shows that 40% of the married women migrants were engaged scavenging work. 36% of were engaged as domestic servants. 14% of the women going to the construction work and 10% of the respondents are doing bamboo things like brooms, baskets and plastic flower pots.

#### ✓ Caste- wise occupational distribution of Respondents

58% of the respondents belonging SC, and 28% of the respondents are ST, only 14% of the respondents belonging to the OBC

#### ✓ Age wise Occupational Distribution of Respondents

68% of the respondents between age group of 25 to 35 years. 12% of between 36-40 years. 10% of between 18-24 years and 10% of above 40 years.

#### ✓ Average monthly wages of migrant women's

The wages received by different categories of migrate women workers reveals that current wages of these migrate women are not very high. 15% of them less than 500 rupees. 14% of them received 600 -1000 Rs. 40% of received 1100-1500 Rs. And 31% of them received 1600Rs. and above per month.

### 3.1. Violence against Women:

Majority of women do not enjoy decision making respect of disposal earned by them and even freedom to socialize with others besides they have to tolerate various forms of inter-household gender discrimination and atrocities physical violence molestation abusive behaviour of the husband. Lacks of to freedom spent and socialize which all make mentally sick and subordinate to the husbands always.

### 3.2. Women's role in Decision Making:

It would be more appropriate to find out the say/role they had in the decision to migrate in approximately 50%

of cases. The crucial decision migration was taken by their spouses alone. But 35% cases women were the primary decision makers. This may be because of the fact that a household migrates after exploring the employment possibilities of women in the urban centres as a major and immediate result for family survival.

#### 4. Case Vignett

Case-1 Priya (25) is a SC landless woman. She studied 6<sup>th</sup> standard she came from Bellary. She is having 3 children according to her she had a love marriage with a man who was already married. They migrated from the native place due to their poverty and unemployment. Her husband remained unemployment. She used to earn money to run day to day life and repay the loans. Despite the fact that she did engage in paid work for six hours and unpaid work for four to five hour at home. Her husband used to drink a lot and quite after indulged in physical violence. At the time of our survey she was passing through the phase of acute mental distress as her husband took away her children and went back to his native place. When she was out for work. She was naturally missing her children. Moreover, she was earning just Rs. 740 per month by working as a domestic servant, paying rupees Rs.400 as monthly rent and was not able meet her basic requirement of food with the balance amount of Rs.340 and was at the mercy of her employers.

Case -2 Kamala (30) is a SC, from Tumakuru illiterate, landless woman having four children. Her husband used to take away the money earned by her and often indulged in physical violence so much so that he broke her bones once and then she had to go for stitches gradually his atrocities increased. He took away her children left them with her parents back home. He himself, however, came back but was having an extra marital relation was not ready to give maintenance charges.

Case-3 Malathi, a domestic servant of 40 yrs from Kolar she is illiterate and landless and migrated to Bangalore because of her poverty and unemployment. She reported to be doing paid work for eleven and half hours and unpaid household work for three hours to daily bases she was over burdened and was frustrated, as she had to bear with her unemployed husband and five unemployed sons. After doing so much for her family she either did not enjoy any freedom to spend the money earned by her nor was she allowed socializing with anybody. Moreover she had to tolerate abusive language and violent behaviour of her husband. She cried whenever she felt frustrated. She could not share her problems with her relatives back home as she visited them once in three years due to paucity of funds.

Hence many women's are migrated due to their marriage and employment purpose and suffering many problems. Policy issues and Suggestion and Scope of Social Work. Social work utilizes a variety of skills, techniques, and activities consistent with its holistic focus on persons and their environments. Social work interventions range from primarily person-focused marriage migration processes to involvement in social policy, planning and development. These include counselling, clinical social work, group work, social pedagogical work, as well as efforts to help people obtain services in the community

On an individual level, social workers provide a broad range of services and supports to that migration through marriage. Social workers are familiar with community resources such as income support bureaucracies, education/training programs and career planning, prescription drug programs and policies, short-and long-term disability programs, housing, human rights legislation, addictions services, legal services.

Team members may include a nurse practitioner, physician, pharmacist, psychologist, psychiatrist, immunologist, and a representative from public health.

In the community context, social workers continue to advocate on behalf of those living with migration marriage and labour market through community organization and policy development. They also provide education to reduce the incidence of migration through reduction and health promotion. Social workers strive to eradicate social exclusion and poverty across all fields of practice.

- Gender focused and issue pacific strategy
- Food based intervention
- Introduction and enforcement legislations
- Organisational innovative
- Role of NGOs
- Empowerment of Women

The above- mentioned pattern of female migration and the status of their work, earnings and personal well-being have their policy implication. As has rightly been observed by the National Commission on Rural Labour (1991), migration policy should not aim at supporting migrants, but should combine migration with development. Some of the major issues in this context have been summarized below.

- **Gender-focussed and Issue- Specific Strategy** Our study broadly indicates that the process of development in some of the states has been slow and uneven there and, therefore, is not sufficient enough to absorb the additional labour force productively by providing the illiterate, landless and unemployed women and other members of their households the opportunities for earning their livelihoods. It is time for these states to reorient their poverty alleviation strategies by making them

- more gender- focussed and issue- specific.
- **Food Based Intervention** Since poor migrant workers families suffer from food insecurity, there is a need to make food accessible to them through PDS. Access to food can be improved through a more effective PDS, through grain bank scheme, or through ‘food for work’ scheme
  - **Introduction and Enforcement of legislations** There is a need to recognize domestic Servants as a ‘category of workers’ as there are no legislations to protect their interests. Although certain legislations were introduced like the Domestic – Workers (Condition of Service) Bill, 1959, protection of their rights under Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The 17 House Workers (Condition of Service) Bill reintroduced in 1989 but with no concrete outcome. This asks for the need for a legislation and its enforcement so that their interests are protected
  - **Organisational Initiatives** There is also a need for organizational initiatives to mobilize and organize them. No doubt, it is an uphill task to develop group sensitivity among migrant women workers having short- term interests (i. e. earning as much as can) belonging to different communities, having distinct cultural and religious backgrounds. Further, since this sub- sector of services is dominated by women, as in case of any other female labour, the social problem of organizing them is high. Moreover, since the relationship in domestic services is largely personal, therefore, response of workers varies a lot
  - **Role of NGOs** Poor migrant women workers lack bargaining strength. Their ignorance, illiteracy, coupled with alien environment and short-term interests make them more vulnerable and prone to exploitation. Here in comes the role of NGOs. It becomes essential that more interactive sessions should be organized by NGOS with the migrant women to learn about their problems and ways of resolving them in places like Delhi where they are currently working and also to sensitize them about their rights
  - **Empowerment of Women** Above all there is a need to identify means and ways to Empower these women in the slum areas. At the national level, the Tenth plan suggests a sector specific three-fold strategy for empowering all women through Social empowerment.2) Economic empowerment 3) Gender justice. The National Policy on Empowerment of Women (2001) set its major objective to eliminate gender Discrimination on priority basis and to create a positive environment for empowering Women (GOI, Planning Commission). There is a need to effectively implement these suggestion on priority basis through good governance. Besides as has been rightly Emphasized in WDR (2004) that gender inequality is one of the several other aspects of poverty (low income, illiteracy, ill health, environmental degradation etc.), which is a multi-dimensional concept. To get rid of poverty and to promote development, we will have to make services work for people and improve their delivery. Therefore, One of the two prongs of the strategy for development (of World Bank) concerns investing in people and empowering people through the availability of basic services to all and through improving service delivery by bringing about such institutional reforms that will strengthen the relationship of accountability ---between policymakers, providers, and citizens.

## 5. Conclusion

Social workers, historically, have been and continue to be involved in work to address various problems of society of women and girls. Social workers are in a unique position to work on Marriage related migration is a crucial factor affecting mobility. It is interesting to note that a large number of women enter labour markets in urban centres at the place of destination through marriage The study also reveals that in addition to their paid work in the informal segment of the labour market, migrant women perform both as well as unpaid work for long hours in the labour market. The study also highlights some of the main issues such as complete uncertainty of work and regular income earnings which could have enable migrant women workers to societies. Hence the study suggests for a gender focused and issue based poverty alleviation strategy to be adopted by government and non government agencies.

## References

- Premi, Mahendra. K (1980), “Aspects of female migration in India” Economic and political weekly, April 12.
- Banerjee N (1982), “Unorganised women workers”, center for studies in social science, Calcutta
- Haberfeld. Y Menariaa. R. K (1999) “Seasonal migration of rural labour in India”. Population and research and policy review, 18(6)pp-47-87
- Srivastava . R. S (1998), “Migration and the labour market in India”, Indian journal of labour economics, 42(4).
- Mukhrjee, Neela (2001), “Migrant women from west Bengal:ill being and well being” Economic and political weekly june 30