Out- Migration of Paharia Tribal Labourers from Pakur District of Jharkhand: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT: *Paharia Tribe is a less known tribe of Rajmahal hills in Pakur district of Jharkhand. The tribe is listed as primitive tribe of Jharkhand who has been dwelling since time immemorial. The tribe once dwelt in deep forest and most aloof location in order to dissociate itself from other groups. But economic condition has compelled the tribe to explore other options of livelihood. Since last two decades the tribe has been migrating for work and employment opportunity in other developed regions, in towns and cities or even in rural areas of other states. The researcher is interested to know the reasons for migration and also factors that have led the tribe to decide to migrate. The paper assesses the socio and economic conditions of Paharia tribe of Pakur district of Jharkhand state in India.*
KEYWORDS - Employment, Migration, Paharia Tribe, poverty, opportunity

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I. INTRODUCTION

Internal seasonal rural out- migration is a common phenomenon in underdeveloped region of India [1]. And the internal movement of people due to work and employment opportunity is known phenomenon but there has been unprecedented increase in the mobility of population in the last two decades all over Asia. Unaccounted people are migrating either permanently out of rural areas to urban areas or migrating temporarily or circulating between villages and other destinations [2]. The movement of labourers is always from less developed region to more developed regions either industrially developed or agriculturally developed regions. In this sort of economic readjustment Paharia tribe of Pakur district is also active participant. Paharias have made migration as livelihood strategy since last two decades. Paharias of Rajmahal Hills (Hill range of Santal Parganas) are less known to the world. Paharia tribe is listed as one of the primitive tribes of Jharkhand who inhabited the area during pre Mughal emperor's reign. Paharias today are found in four district of Jharkhand namely Dumka, Pakur Godda and Sahibganj. Paharia tribe is divided into two sub- tribes namely Mal Paharia and Sauria Paharia. According to Census 2011 in Pakur district Mal Paharias are more in population as they number 29083 and Sauria Paharias are less in population as they number 8252. Thus the total number of Paharias in Pakur district is 37335 according to the census 2011.

The history unfolds that Paharias remained aloof from other group of people and did not associate with unknown groups. Mr Cleaveland (the British collector of Bhagalpur, 1779-1784) had thought that Paharias would come down the plans to cultivate some day. But even after 50 years the tribe remained averse to this invitation and remained on the hill tops [3]. The tribe remained on hill tops enjoying the fruits, honey and the sumptuous meals from the game and hunting. Paharias are good in shift cultivation. The major crops cultivated by Paharias are beans, maize, ragi (bajra) and tur (arhar) etc. Cotton trees and tamarind trees provide them with good income for the families. The situation today has very much changed with climatic change and deforestation. Mountains have bare look with patches of some scanty groves. Forest produce and cultivation are no longer sufficient for Paharias. They look for alternative opportunities for income and livelihood. The other fact is that the educational qualification among Paharia is very low. The Paharias are untrained and unskilled. Therefore employability is a remote dream for decent job than physical labour. Physical labour being their only resource Paharias migrate to unknown destinations either to rural or urban areas of other states for work.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Deogharia (2012) studied that migration is taking place among the tribals of Chotanagpur (Ranchi plateau) and Santal Parganas region of Jharkhand. Though agriculture is the main occupation of the tribals it no longer produces enough for sustenance of tribal families in Jharkhand. The land at the possession of tribals is insufficient, arid and un-irrigated. Hence the land is less productive and families are unable to support

themselves with cultivation alone. As a result tribals migrate seasonally or circularly to other destinations for extra earning. In the study of 212 households it was found that average migrants family income increased to Rs. 11,160 per year and net saving increased to Rs. 5,984 per family annually as result of migration [4].

Sinha and Mishra (2012) explained that agricultural sector in Jharkhand has not developed due to the absence of irrigation facility. Therefore a major junk of its land produces single crop a year. Thus there is six to seven months of agricultural lean period and small and marginal farmers and landless labourers remain jobless. Thus migration to brick kilns is one of the choices options for poor households of Ranchi district [5].

Kumar and Bhagat (2012) studied the volume, trend pattern and cause of out migration from Bihar. In the sixties movement was towards north western state like Punjab and Haryana and agricultural developed states. From last two decades the movement of labourers from Bihar is to cities and urban centres. The impact of remittances from migration have helped average migrant households for purchase of food and household goods and also financing for health and education [6].

Causes of migration are always referred as push and pull factors. Push factors which forces one from place of origin and pull factors are which attract one to the place of destination. Migration is a historical phenomenon and migrants move from one place to another in order to have better standard of living than the previous one [7]. The paper aims to study the migration among Paharia tribe of Pakur district of Jharkhand who migrates to other states in order to earn extra income for livelihood. The paper aims to understand the factors affecting migration among Paharias and to study both short term and long term impact of migration on Paharia community.

III. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Migration is an opportunity for labourers who are unable to get work in their own locality. It is a novel desire to get better job and better earning. This same desire impels Paharias to migrate to distance places where work is regular and wages are higher. But migration invites many problems for the migrants at destination and in households and villages at the origin. The migrants do not get dignified jobs at destinations. Most of the time migrants are employed in Dangerous, Dirty and Difficult jobs. Migrants are vulnerable to exploitations and harassment. They are paid unjust and un-fair wages and asked to work over time. Migrants face lot of hardship and difficulties. Other fact at the origin is that large numbers of outgoing labourers create shortage in agricultural labourers. And wages are pushed up because of migration though productivity is low [8]. Therefore agricultural activity is hampered because of migration. Families are also deprived of a guardian. Many children discontinue schooling and migrate. There are several problems emerging because migration of Paharias in their community and villages. There are many complex issues about migration.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Agricultural labourers are most neglected population who live in rural India. Such groups are unskilled and untrained whose income is very low and live in utter poverty. They mostly belong to Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe [9]. Without up-lifting of this society India's development would be incomplete. Paharia population in Pakur district is 48995 according to census 2011 which is 13 per cent of the tribal population of the district. Many articles are written about migration but place and context differ from one place to another. The culture and the word view by migrants differ. Social and economic standard are different therefore the study can bring new insights and find new problems affecting people's decision to migrate. The present study area is a remote region hardly an article is written because of the inaccessibility of the region and the dearth of researchers in the region. The study highlights many problems and prospects. It is significant from planner's point of view as well. The study illustrates improvement brought about through migration.

V. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The locale of the study area is villages of Litipara block of Pakur district of Jharkhand. The Block contains largest population of Paharia tribe in comparison to other districts having maximum number of Paharia villages. The study is based on the primary and secondary data. In the first stage information from district and block were collected regarding migration of Paharia tribe. Due to discrepancies in secondary data, primary data were collected from 7 villages of Litipara block namely Satia, Makropahar, Churidhari, Bichapahar, Kishbhita, Makbhita and Patuara. From each village 10 respondents were interviewed with well scheduled questionnaire. The total of 70 respondents was interviewed. The data collection was done in the year 2017 during the months October and November. Random sampling method was used to select the villages and the respondents. To analyse data SPSS 16.0 was used. Different tools used are average, percentage, correlation, and Chi- square test. Pie charts are presented to see the income difference before and after migration.

VI. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study on the "Out Migration of Paharia Tribal labourers from Pakur district of Jharkhand" was based on Primary data. Therefore the data collected from the respondents have been analysed and presented below.

A. Age of the migrants: Age of the migrants reveals the preference for migration by some age group.

Table No. 1 Age of migrants

S. No.	Interval	Frequency	Per cent
1	16-25	34	48.6
2	26-35	22	31.4
3	36-45	11	15.7
4	46-55	02	2.9
5	56-65	1	1.4
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary survey

The table displays that age group between 16-25 are more in number which is 48.6 per cent. The age group of 26-35 is second highest in order which is 31.4 per cent. The table displays that younger age groups are more prone to migrate. It proves Ravenstein's theory that younger people are prone to migrate than the older age group.

B. Educational qualification of migrants: The table No. 2 reveals the educational level among Paharia migrant Labourers which is very pathetic.

Table No. 2 Educational qualification of migrants

S. No.	Interval	Frequency	Per cent
1	1-5	16	22.9
2	6-10	21	30.0
3	12 & above	6	8.6
4	Illiterate	27	38.6
5	Total	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary survey

The table No.2 reveals that most of Paharia migrant workers are illiterate who number 27 (38.6%). There are Paharia migrants whose educational level falls between 1-5 classes such respondents are 16 out of 70 respondents which forms 22.9 per cent. The first and the fourth categories constitute more than 50 per cent of the Paharia migrant workers.
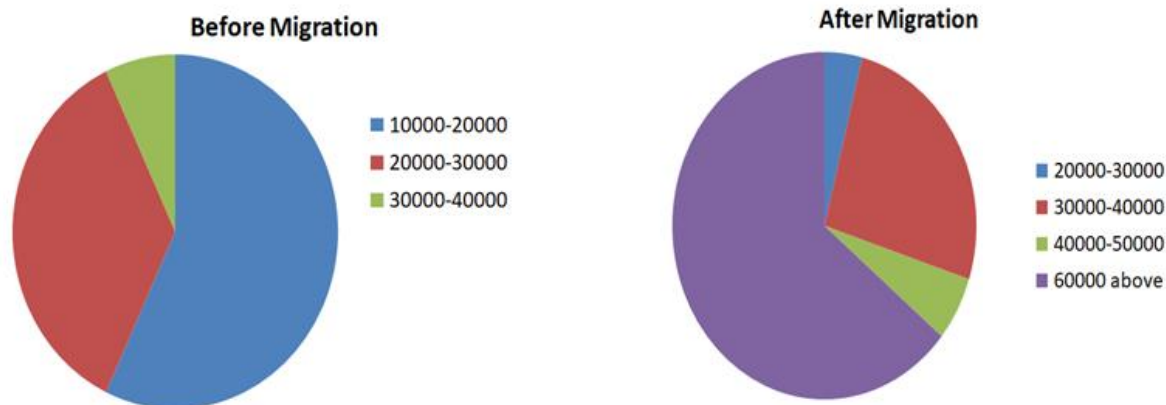
C. Income level of the Paharia Migrant workers: Income levels of the Paharia migrant labourers are presented in table No. 3 which reveals the changes in the income levels after migration.

The table No. 3 displays Annual income levels

Interval	Annual income Before migration		Annual income after migration	
	Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Percent
10000-20000	40	57.1	0	0.0
20001-30000	25	35.7	3	4.3
30001-40000	5	7.1	18	25.7
40001-50000	0	0.0	4	5.7
50001<	0	0.0	45	64.3
Total	70	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Compiled from primary source.

The Table No. 3 depicts annual income levels before and annual income levels after migration. With adaptation of migration strategy annual income levels of Paharias has increased tremendously. Before migration 40 respondents which are 57.1 per cent had their annual income level below 20000. After migration to outside their region the respondent's income level have increased. It is seen through pie diagrams that the income level of Paharias has increased after migration.

The figure 1a Income before

The figure 1b Income After

D. Testing of Hypothesis: Hypothesis testing was conducted in order to know whether the income of the migrant has increased or not.

Ho: there is no significant difference between income before and income after

Paired Sample T test result displays that the test is significant at the 0.05 level. The calculated value is 0.018 which is less than the table value 0.05 therefore Alternative hypothesis being accepted. So it can be said that there is significant difference between income level before and income level after migration.

VII.CONCLUSION

Migration is an opportunity for many Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes to migrate and earn anywhere in India. Incidence of Migration of Paharia Tribe is not an isolated story neither migration is going to end by policy measures. Migration is also an individual's choice and decision. The aim of the policy makers should be to create adequate social and institutional safeguard to protect the rights of the migrants. At the same time economic conditions to be improved in the rural and remote areas of India. This way migration may not be a compulsion but one's choice.

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