



A STUDY OF THE MIGRATION OF WORKERS IN THE MADIA TRIBES OF ETAPALII BLOCK

Dr. Atul Naubde

Lecturer (Ind. Eco), LNML MILS, Mumbai.

ABSTRACT

Human migration is as old as human history. With the evolution of the economy and society and the emergence of modern states with border controls, migration has become more complex and multilayered. All three sectors of the Indian economy namely agriculture, industry and services employ very large numbers of migrant labourers. It is widely believed that migration arises principally from economic motives, but as a matter of fact, a clear distinction exists between population mobility, which has multifaceted causes, and labour mobility, which is primarily of economic origin.



KEYWORDS : Human history, Human Migration, Indian economy, Agriculture, Industry, Services employee.

INTRODUCTION

The labour migration in India can be categorized according to various parameters. They are like, distance of migration (Intra-district, inter-district, inter-state, cross-border, etc.), source and destination of migration (rural to urban, urban to rural, rural to rural, etc.), and duration of migration (permanent, seasonal, circular, etc.)

Migration in the Census of India is of two types: migration by birthplace and Migration by place of last residence. When a person is enumerated in the census at a place, i.e., a village or town, different from her/his place of birth, she/he is considered a migrant by place of birth. A person would be considered a migrant by place of last residence if she/he had last resided at a place other than her/his place of enumeration.

The Census explains that, the concept of mobility or migration concerns the movement of people from one place to another. A considerable part of this movement is incidental to carrying on the activities of daily life: commuting to and from the place of work, shopping, visiting, and travelling for business or pleasure, to name a few.

In other words, we can say migration is the movement of people from one place to another. It can be over a short or long distance, be short-term or permanent, be voluntary or forced, intra-national or international.

The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) of India estimated that in 2007-08 there were 326 million internal migrants (i.e., 28.5% of the population) (National Sample Survey Organisation, 2010). As per the NCRL, 1991, there are two important facts about the seasonal migration in India. The first is that the majority of seasonal migrants, whether inter-State or intra-state, belong to

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes, and Other Backward classes, and the second is that uneven economic development is the major cause of large-scale migration from backward regions to developed regions, which has two major dimensions, i) inter-regional disparity in economic growth; and ii) the disparity between different socio-economic classes.

In 2001, for the first time, the census data tabulated figures for social groups such as the SCs and STs in the country. The migration level among SCs and STs indicates that about 25.3 percent of SCs and 25.4 percent of STs were reported as migrants within the same State, based on the place of last residence (PLR). Of the total migrant population within the State, more than three-fourths were reported to move within the district (intra-district: 76.9 percent for SCs and 83.5 percent for STs). An analysis of the NSSO data for the 49th round (9 January–June 1993) and 64th round (July 2007–June 2008) shows that the proportion of migrant households among ST in rural areas decreased between 1993 and 2007–2008, but the trend was the opposite in urban areas.

There has been a continuous decline in the area of forest land due to industrialization, agriculture plantations, the setting up of wildlife reserves, national parks, mining, and hydroelectricity projects initiated by the government and the private sector. The government of India has initiated several affirmative policies, schemes, and laws for the welfare, development, and protection of the tribal population. However, it is argued that in spite of these positive efforts, tribal people are still lagging behind compared to other social groups in India. In particular, the loss of forest land has most negatively affected their local livelihood opportunities, and they are either displaced or have to struggle hard for their livelihood at their native places. In the absence of enough livelihood opportunities at their native places, they were compelled to migrate out in search of work/livelihood.

Earlier, most tribal males used to migrate to nearby rural areas to work in the agriculture sector only (Mosse et al., 1997, 2005). But later on, both males and females started migrating to faraway urban areas, cities, and metros in search of work (Deshingkar & Akter, 2009; Deshingkar et al., 2006; GOI High Level Committee Report, 2014; Indu et al., 2012; Pal, 2015; Shree, 2012).

The government had designed many plans for the development of the tribes, but due to the above-mentioned causes, the tribes have been moving from one place to another for livelihood, employment, seasonally, or permanently. The Madia tribe in Gadchiroli is the oldest tribe in Maharashtra and relies on forest resources for their livelihood. Since the last few years, this tribe has noticed some changes in their living patterns and the trend of worker migration due to socio-economic activities.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the paper is to look into the migration pattern and causes of migration of workers of Madia tribes in Etapalli block of Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra state.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology of this present study is a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study makes use of primary and secondary data. The data was personally collected from two hundred families of the Madia communities in the Etapalli block. Some statistical tools, such as percentage and mean, were used in data analysis along with qualitative descriptions. The scope of the study is narrowed down to the Madia community of the Etapalli Block.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Work is defined as participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages, or profit. Such participation may be physical or mental in nature. As per the Census of India definition, main workers are those workers who have worked for the major part of the reference period (i.e., 6 months or more) and are termed as main workers. Also, it is considered that a person who works for at least 183 days in a year for economic productivity is a main worker. Marginal workers are those who have not worked for the major part of the reference period (i.e., less than 6 months) and are termed marginal workers. Also, it is considered that a person who works for less than

183 days in a year for economic productivity is a marginal worker. Marginal jobs are those that are unstable, intermittent, or in other ways outside the economic mainstream.

As per the 2011 Census of India, Gadchiroli district has a population of 1,072,942. The population of Scheduled Tribes is 415,306—nearly 38.71% of the total population of Gadchiroli district. Almost 85% of the tribals are Gonds, in particular the Madia Gonds. And the total population of Etapalli block is 81,713, which is nearly 7.61% of the total population of Gadchiroli. As seen in Table 1, the total working population of Etapalli Tehsil is divided into two groups: main working labourers and Marginal working labourers. The total working population of Etapalli Tehsil is 44701 out of its total population, which is 54.70%.

Table 1 gives the break-up of the population of Etapalli and Gadchiroli by occupation into main workers and marginal workers, i.e., farmers, agricultural labour, manufacturing, services, repairs, home industry, and other work, etc.

Table 1. Classification of Main and Marginal workers as per occupation

Place	Types	Farmers	Agricultural Labourer's	Manufacturing, Services, repairs and home industry	Other work	Total Workers
Etapalli Block	Main workers	23031	4991	583	3760	32365
	Marginal Workers	4229	5168	435	2504	12336
Gadchiroli District	Main workers	178169	130112	7473	77132	392886
	Marginal Workers	47189	117701	3848	22613	191351

(Source: District Socio-Economics review, Gadchiroli, 2022)

Fig. 1 - Classification of Main and Marginal workers as per occupation

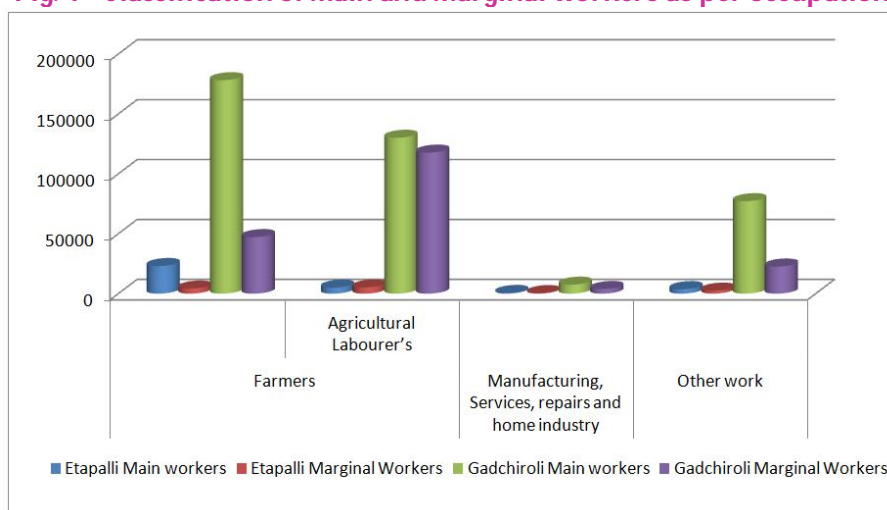


Table 1 and Figure 1 (the graphical presentation of table 1) show the categories of main workers and marginal workers in Etapalli block and overall Gadchiroli district. It is found that in the Etapalli block, under the category of main workers, there are 71% farmers, those who have their own land. 15% are agricultural labourers, 2% are manufacturing, services, repairs, and home industry

workers, and 12% are other workers. In the category of marginal workers, there are 34% farmers, 42% agricultural labourers, 4% manufacturing, services, repairs, and home industry workers, and 20% other workers. It means farmers under both categories are competitively more than agricultural labourers, manufacturing, service, repairs, home industry, and other workers. It is very necessary to understand that the percentages of labour under the manufacturing, services, repairs, and home categories are only 2% and 4%, respectively.

It's happened due to a lack of industrial development in Etapalli Block. Mainly, the labour is concentrated in agricultural and agricultural-related work. As far as the Gadchiroli district is concerned, under the category of main workers, there are 45% farmers, those who have their own land. 33.11% are agricultural labourers, 1.90% are manufacturing, services, repairs, and home industry workers, and 19.63% are other workers. In the category of marginal workers, there are 24.66% farmers, 61.51% agricultural labourers, 2% manufacturing, services, repairs, and home industry workers, and 11.81% other workers.

As far as the district is concerned, the percentage of farmers is less than that of agricultural labourers. In the categories of manufacturing, services, repairs, and home industry, the percentage of labourers is 1.90% and 2.01%, respectively, of the main and marginal workers. It is also happened due to the lack of industrial development.

Development is a crucial factor for the fulfilment of daily wishes and wants as well as the socio-economic growth of a particular region. The central government has launched some schemes for tribals to give them self-employment opportunities. Recently, the government started the "Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Mechanism of Marketing of Development of Value Chain for MFP" programme for tribal members, which allows them to produce forest goods and sell them with a minimum support price.

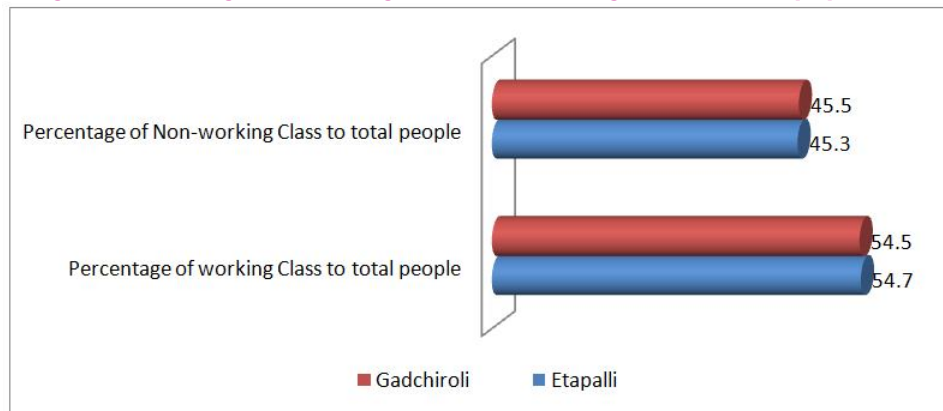
This Scheme motivates tribes to work for their livelihood and gives them the opportunity for self-employment. The Madia tribe in Etapalli block of Gadchiroli district also follows other working activities like painting, dancing, forest tourism, eco-tourism, and other extra-traditional occupational activities. There are 12% of people in Etapalli block who are engaged in the main types of working activities. On the other hand, there are total of 20% of people who rely on Marginal work. As per the table, out of the total working population, 14% are doing other activities for their survival in Etapalli block.

Table 2. Percentage of working and Non-working Class to total population

Place	Total Main & Marginal workers	Percentage of working Class to total people	Total Non-workers	Percentage of Non-working Class to total people
Etapalli	44701	54.7	37012	45.3
Gadchiroli	584237	54.5	488705	45.5

(Source: District Socio-Economics review, Gadchiroli, 2022)

Fig.2 - Percentage of working and Non-working Class to total population



In Table 2, there is a classification given about the classification of the working class of labourers. It is again classified into two groups: the main and Marginal working class and the total non-working Class. In the Etapalli block, 54.7% of people have employment for their livelihood. On the other hand, the percentage of non-working people is 45.3% of the total population who are seeking employment opportunities.

Most tribes depend on traditional occupations for their livelihood. As per the primary data, there are 85.33% of people engaged in traditional occupations, and only 10% are engaged in other activities in the Etapalli block of Gadchiroli district.

As per the primary data, In the category of labourers, most people are engaged as Farm labourers, which is 92.33% of total labourers, and the rest are engaged as brick kiln labourers, on tractor labourers, Mason labourers, salgadis, industry workers, etc. As per the data, there are 7% of people who are engaged in brick kiln labour as labourers, which is the second highest percentage of people after farm labourers. There are only 0.5% of people who are engaged in industry as labourers. These all labourers are working in their villages or in nearby villages, at the tehsil, at the district place, or some of them are migrating to other states for work. As per the data, 90% of people go to work and come back home daily. This suggests that the majority of people at the table have a regular work routine where they go to work and come back home afterward. Some people in Etapalli Block stay at their workplace for three months. It indicates that people stay for an extended period of three months. It shows that people who live at their workplace for three months are engaged in temporary types of work. Some people live at the workplace for 12 months. This indicates that there is another group of people who reside at the workplace for an entire year. This type of situation occurs when there is work for a long period of time. As per the table, only 1 person is going to work, where he has lived on site for earlier 1 year.

As per the primary data, In the Madia tribe, there are several people who are good in various types of skillsets; they have, for example, skills in the areas of construction, carpentry, bamboo work, traditional dance, literature, or musical instruments. According to data from Etapalli tehsil, there are 9% of people who possess skills in construction work. As per the data, the percentage of people who have skill in construction work is higher than the skill people have in other works like carpentry work, bamboo work, and traditional dance or music instruments. People who possess skill in bamboo work possess less skill, which is only 2.33%, than in other traditional works.

As per the primary data, in the Madia tribe, there are only 23% of people who are aware of the "Mahatma Gandhi Grameen Rojgar Yojana," and the rest of 77% are not aware of this scheme. The given data shows that nearly 47% of people in Etapalli tehsil have applied for the job under the "Mahatma Gandhi Grameen Rojgar Yojana," and on the other hand, 49.58% have not applied for the job. As per the data, there are 111 people who applied for the job under the "Mahatma Gandhi Grameen Rojgar Yojana" scheme; among these, only 93 (83.78%) people got the job, and the rest of 18 (16.22%) people didn't

get the job under the MGNREGA scheme. As per the data, 4% of people who did not apply for the job under MGNREGA gave the reason that they had not applied for the job due to having farm related work. As per the data, it is a higher percentage than other reasons for which people do not apply for the job. As per the data, only 1% of people who gave the reason why they did not apply for the job said it was because of the availability of employment, due to not getting wages as per work and work not being given by the Gram panchayat.

Table 3 : Information of the Workers Migration of Etapalli Block

No. of people who are migrating	Percentage	Location where people migrating in high percentage	Percentage	Work performing by migrants in high percentage at the place where they have migrated	Percentage
74 people	12.33%	Other state	41.89%	Construction work	41.89%

(Source: Researcher Field Survey, 2022,)

As per the data available on the migration of workers for employment for a period of time, only 12.33% of family members migrate from their native place for employment, and on the other hand, 87.67% of family members do not migrate for employment. If we look deep into the reasons for migration of workers from their native place to another place, we find that 78.37% of people are migrating because they do not get employment in their village; however, 44.59% are migrating because the wages that are being paid to the workers are comparatively low, and some job seekers also find that in their village they can't find employment according to the skills they possess. As per the data, 12.16% of people say that what they earn in the village from their employment is not enough for their livelihood, 1.35% migrate to other places in order to pay back their loans, and 2.70% migrate to other places because they find that their friends, relatives, or neighbours are migrating from their native country.

If we go in deep, in order to find out where this working population is migrating, we find that 22.97% of people are moving to the nearest village in search of employment, while 25.68% shift to the tehsil in search of employment, 8.11% migrate within the district, 6.76% migrate to any other district, and 41.89% migrate to another state in search of employment. According to the data, a large number of people are migrating to other states for work.

If we focus on the time duration of migrating workers, we find that 43.24% of people are moving for one month, 33.78% have been migrating for two months, 9.46% have been migrating for three months, and 1.35% have been migrating for four months. 2.70% for five months 1.35 % for six months, 2.70% for people migrating for more than six months, and 5.41% have not given input to the survey.

As per the primary data, if we just look into the areas where these migrating people are going to work, we find that 41.89% of people participate in construction work, while 2.70% go for work in brick fields, 37.84% go to harvest chilly, 10.81% work as farm labourers, 6.76% enrol themselves in the company in search of employment, 1.35% work as bamboo workers, and 2.70% work as borewell machine workers. This indicates that people who are engaged in construction-type work are high, and people who are engaged in bamboo making work are lower than in other types of work.

FINDING

The analyses of worker migration found that marginal workers were less than the main workers of the Etapalli Block and Gadchiroli district as well. In both categories, the percentage of farmers is higher than in the other three categories.

As far as the Manufacturing, Services, Repair services, and home industries are concerned, there is a very low percentage of labour due to the lack of industrial development. Approximately 13 percent of workers migrate from the village for employment. With this, it is found that a very small number of people migrated out of the block and district for a short period of time. The data indicates that migrant workers who are engaged in construction-type work are high, and people who are engaged in bamboo-making work are lower than in other types of work. Still, the Etapalli people believe their livelihood depends only on agricultural and forest products.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the workers migration of Etapalli block conclude that due to the reduction of the forest area the tribe's community were migrate outside the forest is not correct as per as the Etapalli block is concerned. Still the Etapalli people believe their livelihood depends on the agricultural and forest produces only. Therefore the government should provide the various scheme for local livelihood through source of irrigation, effective implementation of PESA and proactively engaging for dwelling on the available resources for income generation.

REFERENCES

1. Balwant Singh Mehta and Bharat Singh (2021): Employment and Livelihoods among Tribal in India, Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, Sage publication, Delhi
2. Directorate of Economics and Statistics (2022): District Socio-Economics review, Gadchiroli-2022, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra.
3. Directorate of Economics and Statistics (2021-22): Economic Survey of Maharashtra, 2021-22, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra.
4. Government of India. (2013). Statistical profile of Scheduled Tribes in India. Statistics Division, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
5. Government of India. (2014): Report of the high-level committee on socioeconomic, health and educational status of tribal communities of India. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. [https://www.thehinducentre.com/Tribal Committee Report, May-June 2014.pdf](https://www.thehinducentre.com/Tribal%20Committee%20Report,%20May-June%202014.pdf)
6. Government of India. (2014): Report of the High-Level Committee on Socio-Economic, 2014, under Chairmanship of Xaxa, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities in India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
7. Government of India. (1991): Report of the National Commission on Rural Labour, 1991, Ministry of Labour, Government of India.
8. www.mospi.gov.in
9. www.india.gov.in/nss-reports-publications
10. www.mahades.maharashtra.gov.in