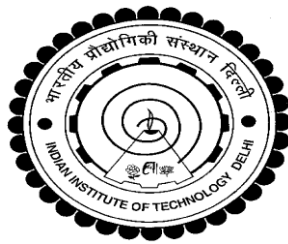


**INTER-STATE MIGRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA:
A STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN KERALA**

JAYESH M. P



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
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by

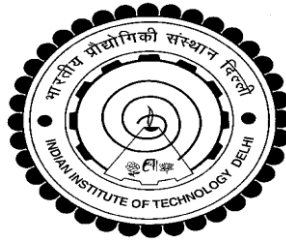
JAYESH M. P

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

to the



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

MAY 2020

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled “**Inter-State Migration for Employment in India: A Study on Construction Workers in Kerala**”, being submitted by **Mr. Jayesh M. P** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**, is a record of original bona-fide research carried out by him under my supervision. In my opinion, the thesis has reached the standards fulfilling the requirements for submission relating to the degree.

The results contained in the thesis have not been submitted, in part or full, to any other institute or university for award of any degree or diploma.

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Abstract

This thesis attempts to describe and analyse the features of and the factors behind long-distance internal migration of workers in India, in particular the migration between Indian States. The core of this thesis is based on data collected from an extensive field survey of migrant workers in the construction sector in Kozhikode district of Kerala. The analysis in this thesis has also relied on secondary data sources on population, labour market, and migration in India.

A study on internal migration of workers is important for three reasons in the current Indian context. First, evidence from various sources suggests that there has been a large increase in migration of workers, mostly less-skilled workers, in India. The general direction of this migration is from the populous States in the eastern and northern region of India to destinations, mainly, in the southern and western States. Second, some of the existing studies indicate that migration in India is typically undertaken by workers belonging to the more privileged groups. However, there are also studies providing evidence for a large scale movement of under-privileged workers, from rural to urban and semi-urban areas, on a temporary or circular basis. Third, despite the growing importance of internal migration in India's labour market, studies in this area suffer from the absence of reliable official data sources.

Given the context described above, I addressed three key questions in my thesis. They are, first, the question of who migrate for work. That is, the thesis tried to understand the social and economic background of the migrant workers who were engaged in the construction sector in Kozhikode district. Second, the thesis attempted to understand how workers shifted across sectors and regions over time, in the process of searching for their livelihoods. The thesis described the process of migration by analyzing the employment histories of the migrant workers. Third, the thesis examined the impacts of migration on living and working conditions of workers after migration.

The thesis begins with an analysis of demographic structures and key features of labour markets across Indian States, with special reference to migration (Chapter 2). We found that the working-age population (15-59) in India is increasing but its distribution is not homogenous across Indian States. Compared to the southern and western States, population in the northern and eastern States is younger. The Census data shows a large decline in the

size of main cultivators and an increase in the size of marginal labourers in India during the two decades after 1991. These changes were more marked in the eastern, northern and central-eastern States than in the western and southern States of the country. The analysis of migration tables of the Census shows that there has been a significant increase in internal migration in India, from the 2000s onwards. Migration of men was mainly on account of employment reasons, whereas female migration was mainly due to marriage.

The thesis then discusses the specific context of Kerala's economy and labour market, which created demand for inward migration of workers from other Indian States (Chapter 3). The thesis (Chapter 4) also discusses the rationale for choosing the construction sector in Kozhikode district for the study of migrant workers in Kerala. Then the chapter explains the methodology of field research and how the sample of migrant workers was chosen in Kozhikode (Chapter 4).

The thesis then examines the various factors that may have 'pushed' migrant workers to take the decision to migrate. In this chapter, we analyse the landholdings, caste, and education profiles of migrant construction workers in Kozhikode district. Further, this chapter describes the gender, age, marital status, size of family and birth position, mother tongue and other language skills of the migrant workers in the district. Our study provides evidence that significant number of workers in the sample were coming from households which were categorised as below poverty line (BPL). The thesis next explores the features of migrants' household back in villages, including the assistance received from the State and conditions of cultivation in their villages (Chapter 5).

The thesis then tried to understand the process of migration using an analysis of employment histories of the sample workers (Chapter 6). It throws light on the influence of land ownership and caste on the migration process. It describes the process of employment shifts of workers across sectors -- from agriculture and other traditional sectors to the non-agricultural sectors -- to understand the nature of migration of workers from villages to urban and semi-urban areas within and outside their States of origin. The thesis also examines the agencies at various stages that aided workers in the process of migration (particularly the agencies that provided information about and financed the cost of migration). It described the workers' movements across regions and their year of entry into Kerala. Further, it explained the specific features of circular and seasonal nature of migration, and examined the context of migration from employers' perspective (Chapter 6).

The thesis then proceeds with an analysis of the pull factors that may have aided the process of migration of workers to Kerala (Chapter 7). This chapter examined the nature of work, wages and non-wage benefits received by the sample workers in the district, hours of work, frequency and mode of wage payments, and the places and sectors in which the workers had been engaged in the preceding years. It estimated the number of days of employment available for the sample workers in Kozhikode and their native villages in the year preceding the survey, and also estimated workers' earnings and expenditures and remittances made by the workers in the month preceding the survey. It describes the living and working conditions of the workers in Kozhikode, including issues of occupational safety and health of the workers (Chapter 7).

The thesis concludes that both push and pull factors have been found to be important in the current migration of workers from the eastern and northern parts of the country to Kerala. Migrant workers in the sample from West Bengal suffered from both social and economic disadvantages. At the same time, we also find that migrant workers from West Bengal have increasingly been drawn from more regions within the State and from broader segments of that State's society. Migration remains short-term in nature and migrant workers continue to maintain strong connections with their villages. The thesis provides a nuanced understanding of the process of inter-State migration for employment in India.

यह थीसिस भारत में श्रमिकों के लंबी दूरी के आंतरिक प्रवास के पीछे की विशेषताओं और कारकों का वर्णन और विश्लेषण करने का प्रयास करती है, विशेष रूप से भारतीय राज्यों के बीच प्रवास। इस थीसिस का मूल केरल के कोझीकोड जिले में निर्माण क्षेत्र में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के व्यापक क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण से एकत्र किए गए आंकड़ों पर आधारित है। इस थीसिस का विश्लेषण भारत में जनसंख्या, श्रम बाजार और प्रवासन पर माध्यमिक डेटा स्रोतों पर भी निर्भर करता है।

वर्तमान भारतीय संदर्भ में तीन कारणों से श्रमिकों के आंतरिक प्रवास पर एक अध्ययन महत्वपूर्ण है। सबसे पहले, विभिन्न स्रोतों से सबूत बताते हैं कि भारत में श्रमिकों के प्रवासन में बड़ी वृद्धि हुई है, जिनमें से ज्यादातर कम-कुशल श्रमिक हैं। इस प्रवास की सामान्य दिशा भारत के पूर्वी और उत्तरी क्षेत्र में आबादी वाले राज्यों से लेकर मुख्यतः दक्षिणी और पश्चिमी राज्यों में है। दूसरा, कुछ मौजूदा अध्ययनों से संकेत मिलता है कि भारत में प्रवासन आम तौर पर अधिक विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त समूहों से संबंधित श्रमिकों द्वारा किया जाता है। हालांकि, अस्थायी या परिपत्र आधार पर, ग्रामीण से शहरी और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में, कम-विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त श्रमिकों के बड़े पैमाने पर आवागमन के लिए सबूत प्रदान करने वाले अध्ययन भी हैं। तीसरा, भारत के श्रम बाजार में आंतरिक प्रवास के बढ़ते महत्व के बावजूद, इस क्षेत्र में अध्ययन विश्वसनीय आधिकारिक डेटा स्रोतों की अनुपस्थिति से ग्रस्त हैं।

ऊपर वर्णित संदर्भ को देखते हुए, मैंने अपनी थीसिस में तीन प्रमुख प्रश्नों को संबोधित किया। , सबसे पहला , सवाल है कि कौन काम के लिए पलायन करता है। अर्थात्, थीसिस ने उन प्रवासी श्रमिकों की सामाजिक और आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि को समझने की कोशिश की, जो कोझीकोड जिले में निर्माण क्षेत्र से जुड़े थे। दूसरा, थीसिस ने यह समझने का प्रयास किया कि समय के साथ श्रमिकों ने अपनी आजीविका की खोज की प्रक्रिया में क्षेत्रों विभागों और क्षेत्रों की ओर कैसे स्थानांतरण किया है। थीसिस ने प्रवासी श्रमिकों के रोजगार इतिहास का विश्लेषण करके प्रवास की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन किया। तीसरा, थीसिस ने प्रवासन के बाद श्रमिकों के रहने और काम करने की स्थिति पर प्रवास के प्रभावों की जांच की।

थीसिस की शुरुआत जनसांख्यिकी संरचनाओं और भारतीय राज्यों के श्रम बाजारों की प्रमुख विशेषताओं के विश्लेषण से होती है, जिसमें प्रवासन (अध्याय 2) का विशेष संदर्भ होता है। हमने पाया कि भारत में काम करने वाली आबादी (15-59) बढ़ रही है, लेकिन इसका वितरण भारतीय राज्यों में समरूप नहीं है। दक्षिणी और पश्चिमी राज्यों की तुलना में, उत्तरी और पूर्वी राज्यों में जनसंख्या कम है।

जनगणना के आंकड़ों में मुख्य कृषकों के आकार में भारी गिरावट और 1991 के बाद दो दशकों के दौरान भारत में सीमांत मजदूरों के आकार में वृद्धि को दिखाया गया है। पश्चिमी, उत्तरी और मध्य-पूर्वी राज्यों में इन परिवर्तनों को देश के पश्चिमी और दक्षिणी राज्यों की तुलना में अधिक चिह्नित किया गया था। जनगणना की माइग्रेशन टेबल के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि 2000 के दशक के बाद से भारत में आंतरिक प्रवास में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है। पुरुषों का प्रवास मुख्य रूप से रोजगार के कारणों के कारण था, जबकि महिला प्रवास मुख्य रूप से विवाह के कारण था।

थीसिस में केरल की अर्थव्यवस्था और श्रम बाजार के विशिष्ट संदर्भ पर चर्चा की गई, जिसने अन्य भारतीय राज्यों (अध्याय 3) से श्रमिकों के आवक प्रवास की मांग पैदा की। थीसिस (अध्याय 4) केरल में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के अध्ययन के लिए कोझीकोड जिले में निर्माण क्षेत्र को चुनने के औचित्य पर भी चर्चा करता है। फिर अध्याय क्षेत्र अनुसंधान की कार्यप्रणाली और कोझीकोड (अध्याय 4) में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के सैम्पल को कैसे चुना गया, यह बताता है। इसके बाद थीसिस उन विभिन्न कारकों की जांच करता है, जिन्होंने श्रमिकों को प्रवासन का निर्णय लेने के लिए 'पुश' किया हो सकता है। इस अध्याय में, हम कोझीकोड जिले में प्रवासी निर्माण श्रमिकों की भूमिधर्मिता, जाति और शिक्षा प्रोफाइल का विश्लेषण करते हैं। इसके अलावा, इस अध्याय में जिले में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के लिंग, आयु, वैवाहिक स्थिति, परिवार के आकार और जन्म स्थिति, मातृभाषा और अन्य भाषा कौशल का वर्णन किया गया है। हमारा अध्ययन इस बात का सबूत देता है कि सैम्पल में महत्वपूर्ण श्रमिक ऐसे घरों से आ रहे थे जिन्हें गरीबी रेखा (बीपीएल) से नीचे श्रेणीबद्ध किया गया था। थीसिस अगले गांवों में प्रवासियों के घर की सुविधाओं की पड़ताल करती है, जिसमें राज्य से प्राप्त सहायता और उनके गांवों में खेती की शर्तें (अध्याय 5) शामिल हैं।

इसके बाद थीसिस ने सैम्पल श्रमिकों के रोजगार इतिहास के विश्लेषण का उपयोग करके प्रवासन की प्रक्रिया को समझने की कोशिश की (अध्याय 6)। यह भूमि स्वामित्व और प्रवासन प्रक्रिया पर जाति के प्रभाव पर प्रकाश डालता है। इसमें श्रमिकों के कृषि क्षेत्रों और अन्य पारंपरिक क्षेत्रों से गैर-कृषि क्षेत्रों की ओर के रोजगार शिफ्ट की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन है - उनके मूल राज्यों के भीतर और बाहर स्थित गांवों से शहरी और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों की ओर श्रमिकों के प्रवास की प्रकृति को समझने के लिए। थीसिस विभिन्न चरणों में एजेंसियों की भी जांच करती है जो प्रवासन की प्रक्रिया में श्रमिकों की सहायता करती है (विशेषकर वे एजेंसियां जो प्रवासन की लागत के बारे में जानकारी और वित्त प्रदान करती हैं)। इसने पूरे क्षेत्रों में श्रमिकों के आंदोलनों और केरल में उनके प्रवेश के वर्ष का वर्णन किया। इसके अलावा, इसने

प्रवासन की परिपत्र और मौसमी प्रकृति की विशिष्ट विशेषताओं को समझाया और नियोक्ताओं के दृष्टिकोण (अध्याय 6) से प्रवास के संदर्भ की जांच की।

थीसिस तब 'पुल' कारकों के विश्लेषण के साथ आगे बढ़ती है जो केरल में श्रमिकों के प्रवास की प्रक्रिया को सहायता प्रदान कर सकती है (अध्याय 7)। इस अध्याय ने जिले में सैम्पल श्रमिकों द्वारा प्राप्त किए गए कार्य, मजदूरी और गैर-मजदूरी लाभों की प्रकृति, काम के घंटे, आवृत्ति और मजदूरी भुगतान के तरीके और उन स्थानों और क्षेत्रों की जांच की जिसमें श्रमिक पूर्ववर्ती वर्षों में लगे हुए थे। । इसने सर्वेक्षण से पहले वर्ष में कोझिकोड और उनके पैतृक गांवों में सैम्पल श्रमिकों के लिए उपलब्ध रोजगार के दिनों की संख्या का अनुमान लगाया, और सर्वेक्षण से पहले महीने में श्रमिकों द्वारा की गई आय और व्यय और प्रेषण के बारे में भी अनुमान लगाया। यह कोझिकोड में श्रमिकों के रहने और काम करने की स्थितियों का वर्णन करता है, जिसमें श्रमिकों की व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य के मुद्दे शामिल हैं (अध्याय 7)।

थीसिस का निष्कर्ष है कि देश के पूर्वी और उत्तरी हिस्सों से केरल में श्रमिकों के वर्तमान प्रवास में पुश और पुल दोनों कारक महत्वपूर्ण पाए गए हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल के सैम्पल में प्रवासी श्रमिक सामाजिक और आर्थिक दोनों तरह के नुकसान से पीड़ित थे। इसी समय, हम यह भी पाते हैं कि पश्चिम बंगाल के प्रवासी श्रमिकों को राज्य के भीतर के अधिक क्षेत्रों और उस राज्य के समाज के व्यापक क्षेत्रों से आकर्षित किया गया है। प्रवासन प्रकृति में अल्पकालिक रहता है और प्रवासी श्रमिक अपने गांवों के साथ मजबूत संबंध बनाए रखते हैं। थीसिस भारत में रोजगार के लिए अंतर-राज्य प्रवास की प्रक्रिया की बारीक समझ प्रदान करता है।

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