

IMPACT OF SEASONAL MIGRATION AMONG SUGARCANE CUTTER LABOURS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN BEED DISTRICT, (MAHARASHTRA)

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ABSTRACT

Geographical, social, economic, natural and political factors affect human migration, similarly, the main reason for employment or to make our life happy is migration. Push and pull are two important factors influencing migration, any migration of human beings is mainly aimed at economic development. The migration rate of women is lower than that of men in Beed district. The figures are from the analysis between 2018 and 2023. The maximum migration is from Georai tehsil followed by Kaij tehsil which has the highest migration rate from Beed districts. The main objectives of this research are sugar cutters in Beed district and its impact on their children. Primary and secondary data collection has been used to accomplish this objective.

KEYWORD: Sugarcane Cutter, Migration, Trend, Impact, Childran.

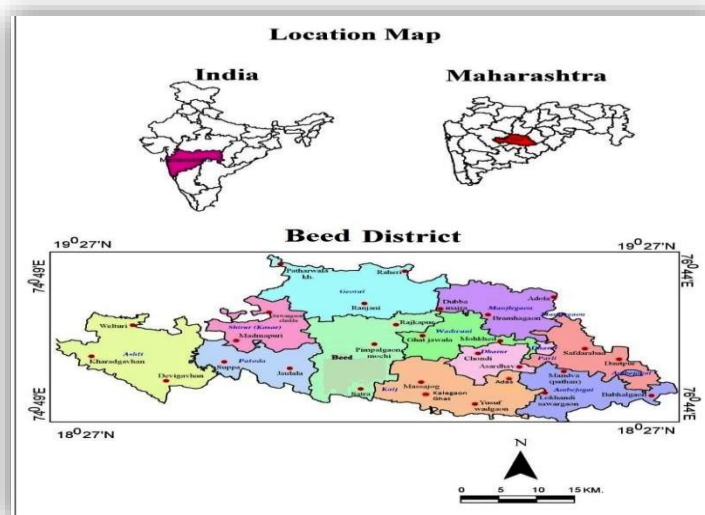
INTRODUCTION

Many factors such as geographical, social, economic and political are behind human migration. One of the factors is employment, due to the drought situation in Beed district, the number or availability of employment in this area is very low. Many people in this area work as sugarcane cutters for employment generation and these workers go to the sugarcane fields to earn their livelihood and the migration is not permanent but seasonal. Population migration is not a modern problem of the world but a problem of the past. There is a large population migration in India as well and the government is facing a big problem of migration in the state of Maharashtra as well. To prepare the development plan of the state and for this it is necessary to study what are the reasons behind the social, economic, problems of the new and old areas. Seasonal migration of sugarcane cutting workers is not a new problem in the region but a past one (1,4). Because there is no social and economic development in this area, so there are problems behind the creation of various jobs in this Beed district. Man in this district has adopted this profession as a sugarcane cutter to earn his livelihood. Beed district has always faced natural disturbances as the district is under rain shadow and most of its tehsils are dry. Due to this, this natural calamity affects the employment here. Therefore, the people here migrate to other regions for job creation (5,6). Also, the people here go and work as sugarcane cutters in the rural areas of the western part of Maharashtra. But this business or job is not permanent but during seasonal period these people go to certain other sector and get seasonal employment there.

STUDY AREA

Beed district is situated in central part of Maharashtra and Geographical Location between 18°27' and 19° 27' north latitude and 74° 49' and 76° 44' east longitude. It is surrounded by Aurangabad and Jalna districts to the north and Parbhani district to the north east district to the south-east, Osmanabad district as well as to the south and Ahmadnagar district to the west direction. The shape of the Beed district is broadly likely that of a trapezium, the northern and southern sides of which are nearly parallel. The total geographical area of this district is 10693 square kilometers and the district covers 3.44% of the total area of Maharashtra state. There are total 11 tehsils in Beed district.

Map No 01: Location of Beed district



OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this research is to study the geography of sugarcane workers in Beed district. The following objectives have been taken to fulfil the said aim.

1. To study Sugarcane Cutter Labours in Beed district
2. To study the impact of migration of Sugarcane Cutter Labours on their children in Beed district

DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY

This research paper relies on primary and secondary data. Primary information is mainly collected with the help of questionnaire. Some of the Cutter Labours in Beed district have used questionnaires to find out the problems of their children. 100 questions and interviews with 100 workers have been analyzed to find out the problems of children of Cutter Labours. Also, secondary data has been collected through population senses, research articles, and various websites.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Sugar cane workers are found almost in all drought-prone districts of Maharashtra, but Beed is considered to be the hub due to the maximum number of people involved in this sector. In Beed district alone, it is estimated to be around 5 lakh to 6 lakh and during the present study the respondents asserted that their number is much more than this. According to the 2011 Census, the total population of Beed district is 25, 85,049, out of which 81.96% reside in rural areas. The agriculture has been the primary occupation in Beed district. Hilly area, rain shadow region, inadequate irrigation facilities, small landholdings and persistent drought have seriously hampered agricultural productivity in the district. Beed district is industrially backward as well. There is a Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation in Beed, in which 75% factories remain closed. The unsustainable nature of agriculture and lack of alternative employment opportunities have been the prime factors behind large-scale migration for sugar cane cutting in Beed district. Although the government has declared the right to education as a fundamental right, the realisation of this right is still a far cry from the children of sugar cane harvesting workers. Around 56.89 % of the sugar cane workers are illiterate (Table No 01). So, there is lack of awareness about the importance of education among them. Many children have to go to the farms with their parents to collect the litter. Poverty-stricken parents think that taking help of children in their work is more rewarding than educating them. Gender discrimination is also at work here, as generally the boys get the opportunity to at least matriculate, but girls from the age of seven–eight years have to look after the domestic work and also take care of their younger siblings. Due to the migratory nature of their work, the question of education of the children of sugar cane cutting workers has become really grave.

Fig. No01: Trends of Tehsils wise migrants (sugarcane cutter) of Beed District to the sugar industry throughout Maharashtra-2018 to 2022 in Percentages

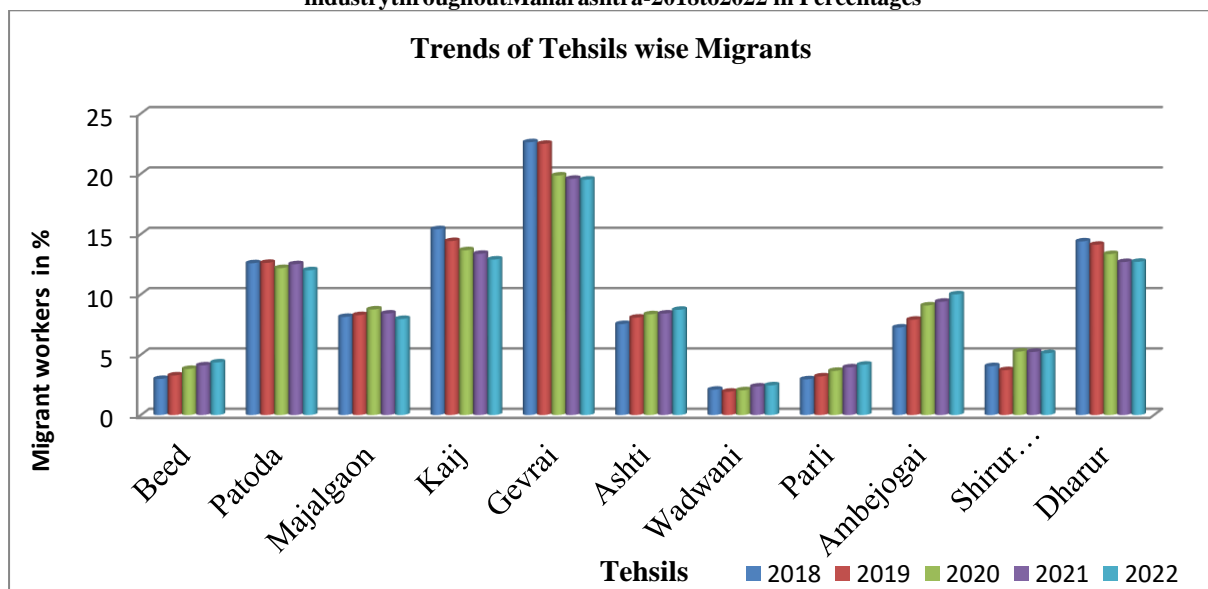


Fig. No01 shows classification of sugarcane cutter migration according to tehsils of Beed district or tracts. There are total 11 tehsils in Beed district: Beed, Georai, Patoda, Ashti, Shirur (Kasar), Ambajogai, Kaij, Majalgaon, Dharur, Parli (Vajinath) and Wadwani. People from these 11 tehsils migrate to different parts of Maharashtra or outside Maharashtra as sugarcane workers. The maximum migration is from Georai tehsil followed by Kaij tehsil which has the highest migration rate from Beed districts. The rate of migration of people from Gevrai and Kaij tehsils is high. This means that there is no means of employment available in this tehsil, also due to lack of water there is no development of agriculture in this area due to various reasons the migration rate of people in this tehsil is high. The least migration of sugarcane cutters from Wadwani tehsil. This means there is employment availability in this tehsil. The rate of migration in this tehsil is less than other tehsils, the important reason for this is that employment

opportunities are available in this area and the development of agriculture in this area is progressive due to the facilities of water bodies.

Fig. No 02: Trends of Migrants (sugarcane cutter)of BeedDistrict to thesugar industrythroughoutMaharashtra-2018to2022 in Percentages

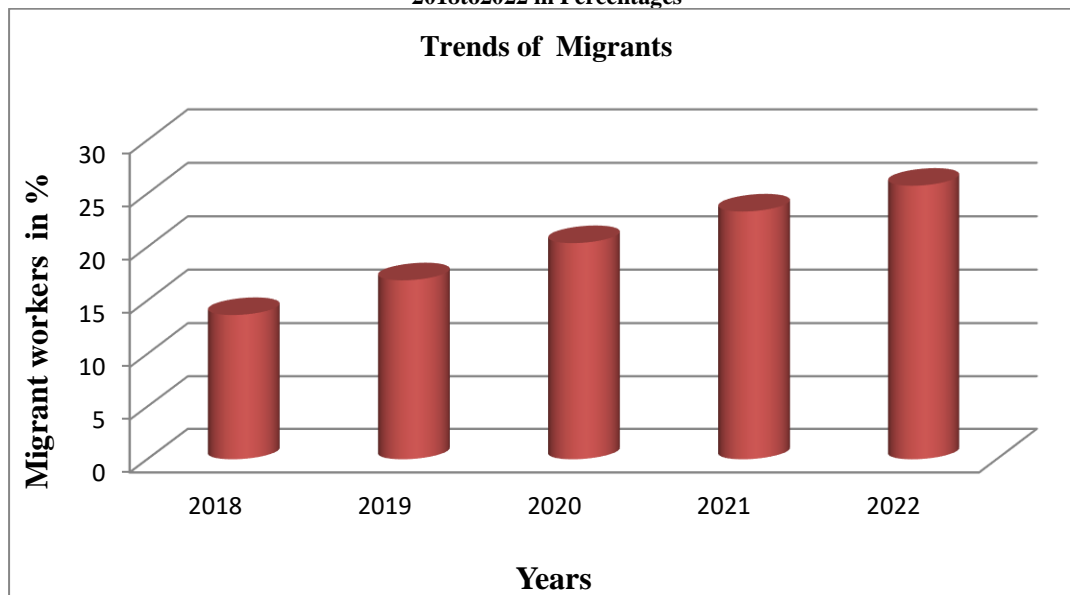


Fig. No 03: Trends of Male- Female Migrants (sugarcane cutter)of BeedDistrict to thesugar industrythroughoutMaharashtra-2018to2022 in Percentages

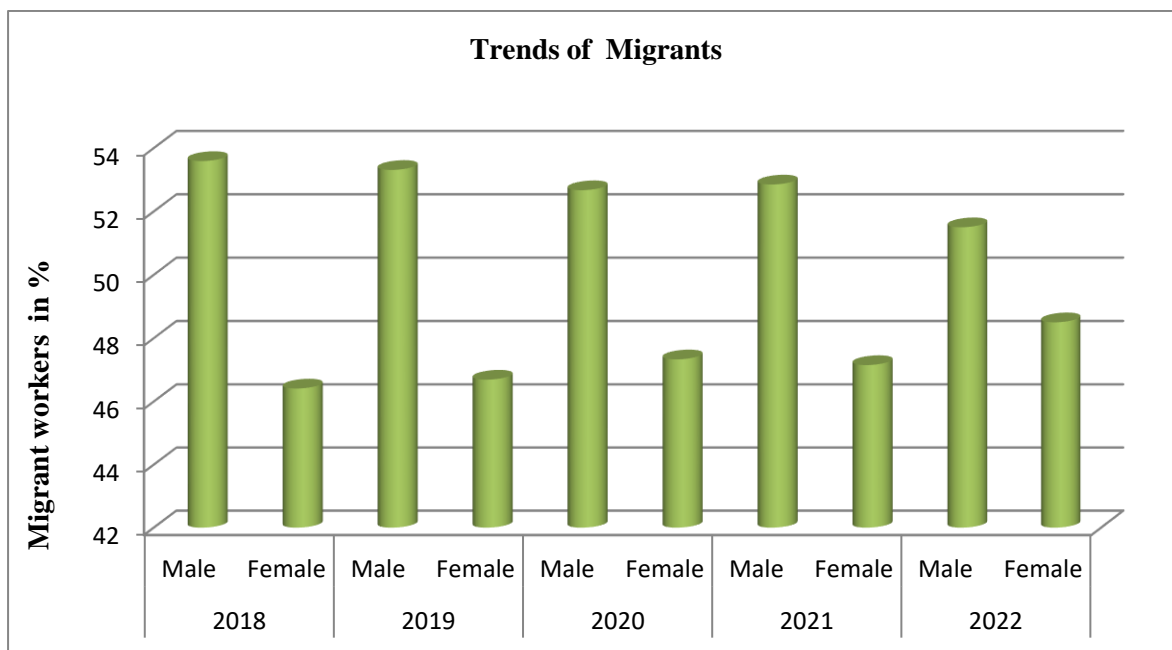


Fig. No 02 shows Trends of Migrants (sugarcane cutter)of BeedDistrict to thesugar industrythroughoutMaharashtra-2018to2022 in Percentagesand Fig. No 03 shows Trends of Male- Female Migrants (sugarcane cutter) of Beed District to the sugar industrythroughoutMaharashtra-2018to2022 in Percentages.

From the figure number 02, it can be seen that the Migrations of Sugarcane Cutter Labours are increasing during the year 2018 to 2022. The average percentage is increasing every year. In 2018, 10% of the total population migrated, 15% in 2019, 18% in 2020, 22% in 2021 and 25% in 2022. Various sugarcane cutters left Beed district and went to various places in Maharashtra and outside Maharashtra. Figure No. 03 shows that in Beed district the proportion of women is less than that of men. However, every year between 2018 and 2022, the migration rate of women is increasing. In 2018, women accounted for 46% of total migration, 47% in 2019, 48% in 2020 and 49% in 2022. But there are fluctuations in male migration.

Table no 01: Educational Profile of Sugarcane Cutter Labours

Level of Education	Percentage
Illiterate	56.9
Primary	19
Secondary	10
10th	8.6
12th	2.3
Graduation	2.4
Post-graduation	0.9

Sources: Questionnaire

- Sugar cutters and their families wake up at three in the morning. From three o'clock whoever is cooking cooks and eats whatever is available. All this affects the health of their children, because waking up at three in the morning does not give them enough sleep. Also due to not getting nutritious food it affects the body.
- A sugar fanatic's child's education remains incomplete due to non-availability of educational standards or educational facilities. Therefore, at seasonal levels, many leave their village schools and go with their parents, causing a large gap in their education and a high dropout rate.
- Along with parents, their children go to the farm, so they have to face various problems there. In some forms, predatory animals, various birds, reptiles also have to deal with their children or some children die in this too.
- Presumably sugarcane harvesting occurs in winter, so the pukkars are not at home during this time in the places where these people live. In short, they provide their shelter with the help of huts or sails or whatever natural means they have. Due to this, if there is severe cold here, the effect of that cold is on the health of children or themselves.
- Sometimes accidents occur or due to lack of health care, there are many symptoms of illness and due to insufficient financial capital, proper treatment is not provided. Due to lack of health system, a large number of children fall ill.
- Sugarcane cutter workers tower in the month of November to the factory area and they return to their village at the end of May. During this time he does not come in contact with any society or he cannot attend the social events of his relatives. Also cannot organize or attend family events like weddings, family related events.
- Not everyone in the household has access to clean water to drink, so the incidence of illness is high.
- Economic conditions have affected their livelihoods, so householders do not get clean clothes.
- They use for bath & toilet nearby open space in the factory & field. Therefore some migrants are suffering from viral infections & diseases.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the present study it is observed that geographical conditions are important for development in Beed district. Many economic problems have arisen in this Beed district due to the geographical situation. It is because of this problem that the people here are attracted to sugarcane cutting for employment. Due to this, the migration rate is high in these areas. Due to the seasonal nature of this migration, the people here go to another geographical area for some time for employment or sugarcane cutting and fulfil their needs. This situation affects every member of his family. In this, one has to deal with various problems like health problems, educational problems, and social problems.

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