



Research Article

A STUDY ON THE SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS IN REDDYPALAYAM VILLAGE OF KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU, INDIA

B.Kalai Arasi*

Saveetha School of law, Poonamalle, Chennai, Tamilnadu

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 8th March, 2018

Received in revised form 24th

April, 2018 Accepted 16th May, 2018

Published online 28th June, 2018

ABSTRACT

In the present scenario migration is unavoidable, People from various parts of the Tamilnadu state migrate to reddyalayam village which is identified as a fertile land for brick making work in the north tamilnadu region. The migrant workers settle down in the Temporary settlements in the brick kilns, the migrant workers socio economic condition is very poor and the government and Ngos should concentrate on them.

Copyright©2018 B.Kalai Arasi. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

In this research paper the socio economic conditions of the Migrant works in Reddypalyam village of kanchipuram district, Tamilnadu is critically analyzed. Reddypalayam and surrounding villages are naturally gifted with the fertile soil which plays vital role in the brick making process. As the result of this many brick kilns started mushrooming in the past two decades. People from other districts migrate to Reddypalyam village for brick making work and settle down in the temporary residential places provided by the brick kiln managements. Both men and women in the family along with their children involve in this work. Majority of the migrant workers fall on the last rung of the social ladder. Through this research the researcher aims to bring out the socio – economic condition of them.

Migration

According to the webster’s new world dictionary – 1951 Migration means “move from one place to another , especially to another country” Or to move from place to place to harvest seasonal crops according to demographic dictionary. Migration is form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from place of origin or place departure to the place of destination or place of arrival.

A person is considered as migrant by place of last residence, if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of immediate last residence. India is estimated to have more than 10 0,000 brick kilns producing about 150 – 200 billion bricks annually. Brick industry in India is employing large number of migrant workers including men &

women and even children who work in the kiln on a temporary contract and low wages. According to Indian Brick Manufacturer Association, approximately one lakh brick kilns are operating in India which employs more than four million workers. Most of the workers are migrants who belong to economically backward and underdeveloped regions of the country and normally hail from low income and socially disadvantaged section of the society.

Socio Economic Condition

In this research, the researcher examines about the socio-economic condition of the migrant worker in reddyalayam village working in the brick kilns industries. The Brick making work is a seasonal job which is carried out only in the summer season. During the rainy season the migrant workers are used to preserve the bricks in the temporary settlements and prepare raw materials of the bricks. While existing studies provide evidences for short distance migration to reddyalayam village from nearby district like villupuram, cuddalore and Thiruvannamalai. There is also evidence for long distance migration from other districts like Madurai, virudunagar in recent years. Informal information networks through migrant workers from native place plays important role in migration of workers to reddyalayam village.

There are 65 brick kiln industries in the surrounding areas. Poor economic conditions in the native place and a minimum wage guarantee with temporary settlement along with employment opportunities in Reddypalyam have been identified as the main reasons of migration. On the other hand living condition for most of the migrant workers is deplorable, most of them live together in either poor rented houses or work sites with one room shared by many, without proper provision of hygienic sanitation. The children of the migrant workers are not facilitated with NFE (Non Formal Education) centers. The various development and welfare measures ensured by the

*Corresponding author: **B.Kalai Arasi**

Saveetha School of law, Poonamalle, Chennai, Tamilnadu

central and state legislations are not practiced by the owners of the brick kiln industries. The migrant workers are not in a position to form union and get united as workers whereas the brick kiln owners are well organized and have registered associations to defend themselves from the legislations.

Major Findings

The real situation which prevails among the migrant workers in brick Kilns of the Reddypalayam village of kanchipuram district.

10% of the Migrant workers are widow/widower, They are working in the brick kilns for fulfilling the family needs. They migrate with their children and involve in brick making works. 30% of the Migrant workers are illiterate they do not know to put signature instead they use Thumb impressions. 90% of the Migrant workers work all the days in the week. They do not have leisure hours and they work even in the sunlight. 66% of the Migrant workers work for more than 10 hours a day. Even during the night hours the brick kiln owners provide light facility so that the work is carried out without any delay. 30% of the Migrant workers feel that the work load is heavy and 30 % feel they receive less payment for the work they do. 76% of the Migrant workers dislike this brick making work and they are not happy in continuing this job.80% of the Migrant workers say that the facilities provided in the occupation area is poor 100% (All the Migrant workers) are not part of any union. And there is no any union in this Reddypalyam village. 100% of the Migrant workers do not get any support from the labour welfare board or other government agencies.

40% of the Migrant workers go back to home during the Rainy season and 30% remain jobless. 68% of the Migrant workers feel that their housing condition is bad 90% of them do not use toilet. The Brick kiln management also do not provide such facilities to the workers in the working area and their temporary residents. 58% of the children of Migrant workers are not sent to school regularly among them 64% of them assist the family members in the brick making process.

82% of the Migrant workers do not have habit of saving, 52% of the Migrant workers earn only Rs 3000-7000 per month. Among 18% of the migrant workers who have habit of saving 52% of them keep the money in the house and they don't save through banks or other financial institutions.

54% of the Migrant workers have breathing problem 18% of them have eye problem .This happens because of the poor working conditions. Respiratory related disease is common among the workers, 78% of the Migrant workers get treatment from primary health care centre. 96% of the Migrant workers are not aware about the labour legislations. The remaining 4% are also not familiar about the laws but they are aware that some laws are enacted for their welfare.

Suggestions

Considering the situation of the Migrant workers, the following suggestions are proposed to improve the socio – economic conditions of the Migrant workers working in brick kilns, Reddypalyam village after examining their conditions in the working area.

To prevent exploitation and to provide identity, education – health – food rights and formation of inter Departmental migrant cell to assist the Migration workers. Child friendly

environment to be ensured in Parents work sites / labour camps and residential areas.

Registration of Migrant Labour families and ensure Education and Health facilities. Right to Education of Migrant Children to be ensured upto 18 years , Setting up of crèches for 0 -3 and Anganwadis in brick kiln Worksites. Compulsory Registration of all Migrant Workers in TNCWWB without Revenue Department interference and through TUs and provision of crèche – Education. Mobile Health care and Provision of shelters to Migrant workers according to the living standards in the brick kiln areas must be given preference .

Education

1. Children census taken every year in the month of May and January/ December should include Migrant Children in villages and brick kilns
2. SSA Schemes should be implemented by the NGOs/ Panchayats in the brick kiln areas

Health

1. PHCs and Govt health care programs including hospitals should not discriminate against migrant workers.
2. Health cards, should be given to the migrant workers and their families
3. Overall health care to be provided to Migrant Labour families and specifically Hospital on wheels facility to be made available to Migrant children and families.

Monitoring

1. Cases of unnatural deaths of migrant children in workplaces/ labour camps, should be registered, investigated, culprits brought to book with severe punishment and relief provided to families
2. The Living conditions and basic amenities provide to the migrant workers should be monitored by the concerned government authorities.

Labour

1. To prevent exploitation and to provide identity, education – health – food rights and formation of inter Departmental migrant cell to Migrant Child Labour there is urgent need for the state govt. to implement Draft Action Plan on Migrant Child Labour evolved during the previous regime and not implemented
2. Strict implementation of Child Labour Act and rehabilitation of Rescued children and implementation of Minimum Wages in Construction, Brick kilns, stone Quarries, Rice mills
3. Identification of Bonded Labour in Construction, Brick kilns, stone quarries, etc through involving organisations working with Bonded Labourers; Steps to be taken in Tamil Nadu for Identification, Release and rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers.

Socialwelfare

1. Crèches for 0 -3 and Anganwadis in Worksites and Residential Areas should be set up in brick kiln areas Chennai
2. NGO's should be involved in monitoring the brick kilns to ensure that Migrant workers are treated properly.

CONCLUSION

Through The proposed Suggestions the Socio Economic condition of the migrant worker can be improved and the Government should take proper necessary steps to solve out the problems faced by the Migrant workers. NGOs Like TEA TRUST working in that area are concentrating more in the education sector of the Migrant workers by providing Quality free education similarly their health Should also be take into consideration. Special attention by the District management on this workers is a much need one as they are not in a position to voice out their needs.

References

1. Webster's New world Dictionary, 1951
2. Data Highlights Migration Tables, Census of India
3. Socio-Economic Status of brick workers in Coimbatore Dr.R.Santha and Mrs.C.Athene, Language in India volume 13:8, August 2013 ISSN 1930 -2940.
4. Kilns of bondage, Frontline India, S.Dorairaj An ILO report on the exploitation of brick kiln workers in Tamilnadu pushes the state government into action to end the practice of debt bondage.
5. The plight of complimentary migrants : children at brick industry kilns, Parul agarwal

How to cite this article:

B.Kalai Arasi (2018) 'A Study on the Socio Economic Conditions of the Migrant Workers in Reddypalayam Village of Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu, India', *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 07(6), pp. 13241-13243. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijcar.2018.13243.2351>
