

Youth Migration in Jharkhand: A Study of Ranchi City

Dr. Ambrish Gautam

Assistant Professor Centre for Sociological Studies, School of Social Sciences and Policy, Central University of South Bihar, India

***Corresponding author**

Dr. Ambrish Gautam

Article History

Received: 11.10.2017

Accepted: 18.10.2017

Published: 30.10.2017

DOI:

10.36347/sjahss.2017.v05i10.025



Abstract: Youth migration has always been part of human history. Ranchi area, like many other border areas, experiences a variety of challenges as a result of the influx of young people from the neighboring Jharkhand and other states of the countries. Of great concern about this migration is the fact that the host state or area may become unsafe and unstable as a result of huge influx of migrants. There may also be tensions between local people and migrants over the resources. The study sought to investigate the effects of the neighboring states youth migration to Ranchi area. The study was undertaken in Ranchi city area. A qualitative research approach was used. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data. Non-probability quota sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The study sample consisted of fifty (50) respondents. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the data. The study found that the effects of the neighboring youth migration to the Ranchi area include, among others, tensions between locals and the youth migrants over resources, job and business opportunities, overcrowding and crime. Multi-pronged strategies which involve different stakeholders should be applied to address tensions over job and business opportunities, overcrowding and crime in the Ranchi.

Keywords: Host States, Effects, Migration, Ranchi, Youth, Jharkhand.

INTRODUCTION

Youth migration is a persistent phenomenon globally since young people are recognized as the most mobile social group around the world [1]. The number of international migrants continues to increase and is estimated to be around 243 million [2]. In India, there are about 45.36 Crore are migrants[10]. Most of the migrants are female (70 percent) 49 percent migrate for marriage, 10.2 percent for work and employment. Maximum male migration happens because of in search of job which is nearly 3 crore out of 14 crore of male migrants. In India, the overall estimated population of foreign migrants is about 16 million [3] and the majority are youth between the ages of 15 to 29 [4]. In India, as a state Jharkhand it is also believed to be the largest group of migrants estimated to be around 5 million[11]. The migration of youth from other states has been attributed to the land crisis Jharkhand experienced whereby land was taken away from the other state settlers. This has happened in maximum part of city like Hatia, Dhurwa, Ratu, Kanke area's etc. There is no clear data available about the immigration in Ranchi but as per census of India 2001 the in migrants in the state including Bihar were 963453. This led to high inflation rates, economic collapse and high unemployment rates. Coupled to this from the year

2000 onwards, Jharkhandians from the opposition party, faced political persecutions leading to their fleeing to other states that can be clarified with the incident of 24 July 2002 a movement of *Bahri and Bhitari* (Mulwasi Vs Outsiders) Though the outside migration of youth to the state especially in Ranchi may also be attributed to the development of Ranchi.

The movement of young people around the globe is associated with many effects. Migration creates both challenges and opportunities to the achievement of the Millennium Development goals around the World [5]. There is need to know about those challenges created by international migration and to develop strategies to solve them in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Youth migration has become a very serious challenge facing the whole world. This is so because youth constitute the largest population group migrating every year [6]. Such challenges range from competition for job opportunities with the states citizens, unemployment of the citizens, and decreased income for citizens. Immigrants reduce wage rates and compete with citizens for jobs, thus increasing the level of domestic unemployment. Youth migrants are also more preferred by employers than the citizens since they are a source of cheap labor. Such a situation robs

the citizens of employment opportunities and often leads to clashes with the local people. On farms in Ranchi area, migrants from other states like from West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa are often accused for working for long hours with little wages because they have little opportunities and making them vulnerable to xenophobia and exploitation in the work place.

Over the years in Jharkhand and especially in Ranchi the intolerance of immigrants has increased leading to xenophobic attacks like formation of Adivasi-Mulwasi Janadhikar Morcha, Adivasi adhikar morcha, Jharkhandi ashmita sangharsh etc. like democratic organization. Due to the increased number of immigrants in Ranchi there have been clashes over resources such as employment opportunities between immigrants and the local people especially in Hatia and Ratu areas. In Ranchi much of the attacks against immigrants are as a result of the frustrations in dealing with the economic challenges facing the local people. Although these attacks of migrants by local people are considered as a criminal gesture but local people feel that this is the only way that they can protect their resources. In addition youth migrants are believed to be associated with crime though there is not enough evidence to support these claims. Therefore there is need for research to find if there are any effects of youth migration on the host country.

Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to determine the effects of immigrants to Ranchi area.

Research Question

The research question being addressed is: What are the effects of immigrant's youth to Ranchi area, Jharkhand?

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative research approach was used in this study because it lets the subjects being studied provide better and richer answers to the effects of youth migration on Ranchi area. According to Kumar [7], qualitative is unstructured, open and flexible approach to enquiry aimed to explore diversity rather than quantifying. Due to the exploratory nature of the study, this research method enabled the researcher to probe for more information, thus giving in-depth information to issues that have not been fully explored [8].

Research Design

The case study research design was used to guide the research process. Case study research design is an approach to studying a social phenomenon through a thorough analysis of an individual case. The use of a single case can provide insight on the population of interest [7]. In this study, the case study has been

conducted in Ranchi city, which is capital town of Jharkhand.

Study Population and Location

The target population of this study was Ranchi area residents, different service providers and organizational personnel in Ranchi. The study was undertaken in Ranchi area in the Hatia, Dhurwa, Ratu and Kanke area. It borders Jharkhand with West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar. In Ranchi, it has the largest immigrant population and people of diverse communities.

Sampling Procedure

The quota sampling procedure was used to select respondents. The population was divided into two (2) categories which are Ranchi area residents and service providers and organizations in Ranchi and 8 respondents were selected from each category. The Ranchi area residents included out states and Jharkhands. An equal number of males and females were selected.

Data Collection Method

Semi-structured interviews were used as the data collection method. With the semi-structured interviews, questions were structured to suit the situation and comments of the respondents who were being interviewed. An interview guide was developed with questions to guide the researcher to ask the different questions to the respondents [9]. The study used interviews because they are flexible and they yield more data as they allowed the researcher to probe for more information according to the responses and they allowed the researcher to change the questions in a way that the respondent understands.

Data Analysis

According to De Vos *et al* [9], data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the collected data. This is the process of making meaning out of the data collected during the interviews. The data was analyzed through the use of thematic coding. The researcher went through the responses closely and repeatedly for in-depth understanding. The researcher categorized the data according to themes and analyzed them in order to derive meaning from the data. Thematic analysis was applicable in this study as it enabled the researcher to acquire in-depth information from the responses given.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the total number of the respondents interviewed, 75% of them stated that the immigrant youth migration lead to unfair competition for job opportunities between Jharkhand's youth and the outside states. The respondents said that, the migration to Ranchi has led to scarcity of job opportunities in

Ranchi. The local resident respondents reacted in the following manner with regard to this issue:

Over the years Ranchi has become overpopulated with migrants from other states who are in need of employment which is now scarce in Ranchi. This is causing vast competition in the labour market (raising the voice). Already we have a problem of unemployment in our state. Them coming providing cheap labour disadvantages us because the employers end up taking them instead of us (looking disturbed).

The above utterances by the respondents reveal that the influx of young Jharkhand migrants poses a serious employment challenge for the host youth which is already serious unemployment challenges since unemployment rate in Jharkhand is rural 2.1 and Urban 5.1[12].

The study also revealed that there is competition over business opportunities and customers between the Ranchi local people and the outside state youth migrants contributing negatively to the growth of businesses owned by locals. Respondent explained it this way:

Some outside youth migrants are into the illegal retail activities whereby they just buy and stock in their rooms or walk around selling in low prices to attract customers therefore more customers come to them and do not go to shops owned by the Ranchi local people. Local people in business engage in the low profits quick retains therefore they attract more customers. Also because most people who come to shop in Ranchi are outsiders they lure them into buying for them and not for the Ranchi local people. This makes the business people in this area frustrated.

The above statements highlight that immigrants' youth are contributing negatively to the growth of businesses owned by the local people through selling cheaper goods at low profits which is in opposition with the local business people. In addition the cross state traders are allured by the youth migrants to come and buy from them thus affecting the businesses owned by the local people because they cannot get enough customers. This often leads to frustrations on the part of the Ranchi local people.

The majority of the respondents (68, 7%) indicated the youth migration has led to the loss of culture amongst the locals as a result of the influence of the youth migrants. One respondent said that:

Our young children are growing up surrounded by outsider immigrants ending up learning their culture and they have end up forgetting our own heritage. It's so difficult to determine the culture of Ranchi because of this mixture. Converging of cultures is causing moral decay in this place. There is the high spread of STIs because of some of the Jharkhandians who work as maid, household works etc. but the newer generation do not allow to do so, because it provide them a lower status in the society.

The statements highlight that the unhappiness of the Jharkhand about the presence of youth migrants. They are not happy because they maintain that the presence of out side youth migrants is diluting the cultural values of the Jharkhand.

Youth migrations also giving raise to the issue of intermarriages between the migrant youth and Ranchi area local people. The respondents indicated that they were not happy with the issue of intermarriages between these two groups. They maintain that these inter-marriages are a result of the relationships that developed due to the interactions between the youth migrants and the Jharkhand young women. These relationships often lead to exploitation of the young people in Ranchi. To express his concern, some respondent said that:

Outsider youth are marrying some of our young women some out of real love and affection but some in order for them to get documentation and a place to stay. These people from across the border take our women by flashing money out making women love them after their stay they just leave these women and go which is extremely unacceptable because they are playing with the feelings of these women.

The above statements highlights the discontent of some Jharkhandis as a result of the inter-marriages between outsider youth migrants and Ranchi young women. The unhappy Jharkhandis argue that youth migrants take advantage of the young Jharkhand women by marrying them in order to get land grabbing and control over their assets. They think that these inter-marriages are not as result of love but the youth migrants' tactics to get an opportunity to settle in Ranchi at the expense of the Jharkhandi young women. Various national reports say the percentage of child marriage is much higher in Jharkhand compared to the national average of 47%. According to the Annual Health Survey of 2010-11, Jharkhand comes on the third position after Bihar and Rajasthan with 51.8% girls being married below 18 years. In Jharkhand, Deogarh leads in child marriage with an average of 72.4% followed by Giridih at 71.2% and Hazaribag at

65.7%. Similarly, the report of National Family and Health Survey-III 2005-06 said 63.2% women of Jharkhand got married before 18 years and Jharkhand was at the second position after Bihar. According to the data of district level health survey-III 2007-08, this average is 55.7% with Jharkhand being on third position[13].

The data collected demonstrated that youth migration has a negative effect on the safety and security of Ranchi area. The respondents stated that crime in Ranchi area is one of the effects of youth migration, although it is not as bad as in other areas. Captured as follows by a respondent from the Jharkhand Police service personal: JPSP

The level of crime in this area is not very serious compared to other areas. We do not experience a lot of serious crimes like murder, rape and car hijacking. Though this is the case, we cannot ignore the fact that over the past years there has been an increase in the incidences of theft due to the young people from our neighbouring states. As some are not employed, they steal small things like snatching of chain, theft in shops and money just to survive for that moment, and especially to fulfil the need of their Girl Friends firstly. Generally the Ranchi area is one of the safe places with immigrants in the nation.

The statement made by the JPSP does not paint a very bad picture concerning crime committed by the youth migrants. However, the JPSP still have concern over minor crimes committed by the youth migrants. It must be noted that the youth migrants contribute to an increased crime rate in the Ranchi area. This has further compromised safety and security in Ranchi area. The JPSP associate this increased levels of crime in Ranchi area to the high levels of unemployment in the area.

The statement made by some local residents of Ranchi (56, 3%) also corroborates the concern expressed by the police regarding crime committed by the youth migrants. Also, residents blame the increase in crime levels in the area to the presence of the youth migrants. They argue that the unemployed youth migrants commit crime in order to meet their basic needs. These sentiments are captured in the following utterances made by the Ranchi residents:

In the towns and residential areas there is a lot of theft and burglary where by the migrants break into people's houses, cars and shops to steal. You have to be careful all the times in this place because the outsider migrants steal from us. If you leave your purse or cell phone in the car they break the windows and take it. They

break into houses sometimes when they see an opportunity.

The above statements show that most of the crime committed in the Ranchi area involves mostly burglary. Furthermore, residents stress lack of safety and security due to the crime often committed by outsider youth migrants. Recent incident under Ratu police station, where a girl saved herself from the ill intentions of two youths by jumping out of a speeding autorickshaw on which she was being taken to some unknown place, is really alarming for the State police as criminals remain undeterred with the consequences of their activities. Similarly, cases of theft also took place on Wednesday in three different sanitary shops in Ranchi by the burglars taking away sanitary ware worth of several lakhs[14].

With regards to the effects of youth migration on human settlement in the Ranchi area, the majority of the respondents (87,5%) pointed out that there is overcrowding in most of the locations in Ranchi. This overcrowding is mostly attributed to due to the influx of youth migrants into the area. As a result, the area is so densely populated that in some instances there are two or more families staying in one house as stated below:

The town is congested and if you check the way people are living you will be amazed. In one house you can find two or more families. The migrants pay rent therefore the landlord accommodate many people in their houses to make money but these living conditions are bad.

These statements confirm that the influx of migrants is causing overcrowding in the Ranchi area especially in houses. This is very critical since the housing infrastructure in the area is not being developed to accommodate the influx of migrants into the area. In addition, the landlords in the area see the presence of youth migrants as an opportunity to make business. They take advantage of the desperate need for accommodation by the youth migrants. People end up living in unhealthy and overcrowded conditions in the area. This worsens the health problems in the area. Overcrowding of the Ranchi area by the migrants is placing a strain on the area. The erection of many shelters with no proper ablution facilities is also a health hazard as indicated below by some of the respondents:

There are some unhygienic houses without even water in the toilets. Due to the high demand of housing infrastructure by immigrants, landlords just do a quick job by building their houses without toilets or water with a motive of getting money from tenants. This is leading to some diseases.

The above statement indicates that as a result of the influx of migrants, greedy landlords who take advantage of the shortage of proper housing facilities build shelters without proper sanitation facilities. The greedy landlords rush to put desperate migrants in their houses without making sure that they are habitable. This in turn puts the residents at a risk of contracting diseases. Immigrant's shelter has no proper abolition facilities leading to health risks. More than half of the respondents (56,3%) explained that:

As more youth from Jharkhand are coming, there is competition over housing facilities. This gives rise to the emergence of informal houses like shacks commonly known as 'kocha'. Some of the young migrants opt to stay in these shacks because they cannot afford to pay rent for proper houses with the little wages they get.

The mushrooming of shacks all over the Ranchi area is also compromising town planning and landscaping in the area. Overcrowding and lack of proper settlement of people and planning and the building of appropriate facilities lead to many health and safety and security risks in the Ranchi area.

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that youth migration had a negative effect on Ranchi area. Most respondents indicated that youth migration brought about competition over jobs and business opportunities between locals and youth migrants, overcrowding and crime in the Ranchi area. The study also indicated that there is moral decay and frustrations by Ranchi area local people as a result of intermarriages between migrant youth and Ranchi local people. As a result of all these challenges, there are tensions between the locals and youth. Such a situation has resulted in the area being unsafe and unstable. Subsequently, insecurity and instability hampers the effective functioning and development of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The situation brought about the youth migrants calls for a multi-pronged strategy to address all the challenges faced by young migrants and local people in the Ranchi area. There is also need for a collaborative effort by government, political and community leaders as well as other relevant stakeholders to work out strategies to address the identified challenges caused by the youth migration on the Ranchi area. Policies targeting youth migration should be improved to ensure that they are effective in addressing effects of migration in Ranchi area. This will also help to manage unfair competition because both the locals and outside youth migrants will be employed on the same terms. Government should improve housing, infrastructure and

other services in the Ranchi area in order to address the effects of overcrowding caused by the youth migration.

REFERENCES

1. UNESCO. Youth migration: Moving development forward, 2013. www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prices-and-celebrations/international-youth-day-2013/#.vuvgintuldg (Retrieved November 10, 2014).
2. UN. International Migrant Stock 2015. New York: United Nations, 2016.
3. IOM. Regional Strategy for Southern Africa 2014-2016. Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2014.
4. Statistics South Africa. Documented immigrants in South Africa. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2012.
5. UNFPA. International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals: Selected Papers for UNFPA Expert Group Meeting. New York: UNFPA, 2015.
6. ILO. Youth Employment and Migration: A review of practices from joint programs of the United Nations. Geneva: International Labor Organization, 2013.
7. Kumar R. Research Methodology: A Step by Step Guide for Beginners. London: Sage Publications, 2014.
8. Hossain DM. Qualitative Research Process, Postmodern Openings. 2011; 7: 143-156.
9. De Vos AS, Strydom H, Fouche CB, Delpont CSL. Research at Grassroots (4th ed) Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers, 2011.
10. The Hindu, 3 Dec. 2016.
11. The Times of India 10th February 2017.
12. NSSO Report 2011-12.
13. The Times of India, 31 October, 2012.
14. The Pioneer, 17 January 2015.