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Paper

Family Migration of Tribal and Trafficking of Their Female Member into Illegal Profession

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Introduction

The state Jharkhand in India, separated from Bihar and established on 15th Nov. 2000. It is located at Latitude 22° to 24° 25' North, Longitude 83° 22' to 88° East. The covering area is 79,714 Sq. Km. The state has 24 districts out of which 15 are covered with forests. There are 314 blocks. Total population of the state is 2, 69, 09,428 as per 2001 censuses. Total male population is 1, 38, 61,277 and female population is 1, 30, 48,151. Density of population is 338 per sq. Km. Population growth (1991 –01) is 23.19% and Sex ratio is 941 female per thousand male. Literacy rate is 54.13% with 67.94% Male literacy and 39.38% Female literacy. Tribal communities constitute 26.30% of total population. There are 32 Notified Tribes and 9 Notified Primitive Tribes in the state are commonly called Scheduled tribe as they are notified by the President of India. These Scheduled tribe populations mostly live in remote rural villages where the infrastructure facilities are the weakest. The incidences of poverty are plentiful. The status of education/literacy among Scheduled tribe population is also poor. As per 2001 census, as against the state average of 43.71%, the literacy rate among tribal is as low as 33%. The scenario is even worse in the case of tribal women, whose literacy rate is as low as 22.11%. (Source GOJ, welfare department).



Human migration: As reported in Encyclopedia Britannica, human migration means- Permanent change of residence by an individual or group, excluding such movements as nomadic and migrant labour. Migrations may be classed as internal or international and as voluntary or forced. Voluntary migration is usually undertaken in search of a better life; forced migrations include expulsions during war and the transportation of slaves or prisoners. The earliest humans migrated from Africa to all the continents except Antarctica within about 50,000 years. Other mass migrations include the forced migration of 20 million people as slaves from Africa to North America in the 16th–19th centuries and the Great Atlantic Migration of 37 million people from Europe to North America between 1820 and 1980. War-related forced migrations and refugee flows continue to be very large, as are voluntary migrations from developing nations to industrialized ones. Internal migrations have tended to be from rural areas to urban centers.(EB,2005)

Trafficking is linked with the issue of migration, and especially illegal migration of women from poorer countries to richer ones. Now migration from Eastern and southern countries to Western countries is impossible due to Western European restrictive migration policies.

One can find the “legal” definition in the United Nation’s “protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nation Convention against transnational organized crime”, adopted in 2000 also called the “Palermo protocol”. It is currently the “official” definition:“ The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or the use of force or other form of coercion, of abduction, of fraud of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of the prostitution of others or other form of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

In some parts of India, three out of four households include a migrant. However, despite the large scale of migration in absolute numbers of people involved and India’s long history of population and labour mobility, labour migration has rarely been reliably studied. Labor migration is complex. Streams differ in duration, origin, destination and migrant characteristics. Economic and social impacts on migrants and their families are variable. Migration often involves longer working hours, poor living and working conditions, social isolation and poor access to basic amenities. At destination, migrant labour affects markets, lowering the cost of labour. Migration also affects the labour market at the place of origin. Migrant earnings affect income, expenditure patterns and investment and changes relations at household

and community levels. While there seems to be some positive impact on incomes and investment, the major function of migration is to act as a 'safety valve' in poor areas. The impact on asset and income inequality is more mixed.

Internal mobility is critical to the livelihoods of many people, especially tribal people, socially deprived groups and people from resource-poor areas. However, because of lack of data, migration is largely invisible and ignored by policy makers. There is a large gap between the insights from macro data and those from field studies. What data are available attest to the substantial and growing scale of internal seasonal migration. In one district of the rice-producing belt of West Bengal, the flow of seasonal migrants, drawn from tribal, Muslims and low castes, exceed 500,000 people. Migrants are disadvantaged as laborers and labour laws dealing with them are weakly implemented. Poor migrants have very little bargaining power. Most migrant labourers are also employed in the unorganized sector, where the lack of regulation compounds their vulnerability. They are largely ignored by government and NGO programmes (AIDS related work is a recent exception). Laws and regulations concerning working conditions of migrants are largely ineffective: legislation fails because regulatory authorities are overstretched, the state sees migrants as a low priority and because migrant workers are vulnerable with little support from civil society.

Causes of migration:

Given the diversity in the nature of migration in India, the causes are also bound to vary. Migration is influenced both by the pattern of development (NCRL, 1991), and the social structure (Moses et al, 2002). The National Commission on Rural Labour, focusing on seasonal migration, concluded that uneven development was the main cause of seasonal migration. Along with interregional disparity, disparity between different socioeconomic classes and the development policy adopted since independence has accelerated the Process of seasonal migration. In tribal regions, intrusion of outsiders, the pattern of settlement, displacement and deforestation, have played a significant role.

Most migration literature makes a distinction between 'pull' and 'push' factors, which, however, do not operate in isolation of one another. Mobility occurs when workers in source areas lack suitable options for employment/livelihood, and there is some expectation of improvement in circumstances through migration. The improvement sought may be better employment or higher wages/incomes, but also maximization of family employment or smoothing of employment/income/consumption over the year. At one end of the migration spectrum, workers could be locked into a debt-migration cycle, where earnings from migration are used to repay debts incurred at home or in the destination areas, thereby cementing

the migration cycle. At the other end, migration is largely voluntary, although shaped by their limited choices. The NCRL has recognized the existence of this continuum for poor migrants by distinguishing between rural labour migration for survival and for subsistence. The landless poor, who mostly belong to lower caste, indigenous communities, from economically backward regions, migrate for survival and constitute a significant proportion of seasonal labour flow (Study Group on Migrant Labour, 1990).

Situation of Migration and trafficking:

Migration is a dynamic process and encompasses diversified forms of temporal and geographic mobility. The types of migration may differ from temporary to permanent migrants from seasonal to yearlong migrants. Several studies focused on rural to urban migration in India such as Sharma 1988; Vijay 1999, 2005; Gupta & Mitra 2002, Karan 2003, Sudari 2005; Reddy 1990, Rao 1994; Dayal & Karan 2003. They have examined the consequences of outmigration.

Some studies on Migration have emphasized the distress dimension of migration such as Reddy, 1990; Rao 1994. They identified the main drivers as the worsening situation of dry land agriculture created by drought and crop failure. Rogaly and Coppard [2003] observe that wage workers in West Bengal now view migration as a way of accumulating a useful lump sum, rather than, as in the past, simply surviving. Some recent studies in village India show a marked increase in temporary migration. Some of these studies are based on resurveys of villages [Singh and Karan, 2001; Karan 2003 in Bihar; and Dayal & Karan 2003 in Jharkhand].

The causes of trafficking and migration from Jharkhand could be understood only by going through the ground realities of Jharkhand. This paper is restricted to the Jharkhand state in particular. However, general understanding of trafficking and migration is also been discussed. This paper deals with ground realities of Jharkhand by its economy culture and the people in the first part, level of trafficking in the second, migration of people from Jharkhand in third, driving forces of migration in the fourth followed by a part debating on migration with conclusion.

Tribal women in Jharkhand are living under domestic and outside agriculture work pressure but they have no say in decision making in family and society. Their labour is unaccountable. They usually suffer from anemia and reproductive infections. The socio-economic condition of the tribal's is very poor caused by many factors, i.e. undulating topography, less cultivable land with no irrigation facilities, lack of Govt. infrastructure facilities and superstitious beliefs, etc. The female child (below 14 years of age) is considered as potential workforce for tribal society. They are subject to maximum exploitation in Jharkhand as a work force. Therefore, they easily fall pray and trapped in trafficking.

Our findings suggest that family migration of tribal and trafficking of their female member into illegal profession is on the alarming rise and it is a menace for the people of state. It must be prevented through collaborative action of influential members of society and community leaders, police personals, media people, NGOs working in the field and individuals who are in professional capacity can influence state legislation to successfully combat trafficking. Reports on the alarming rise in trafficking of minors and children from tribal population of the state, for commercial sexual exploitation not only in India but also at an international level, is a matter of great concern. There have been many news reports and anecdotal events of the occurrence of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation from all the districts of state of Jharkhand. It is evident that although the Jharkhand girls are enticed out of their homes on the pretext of lucrative jobs, they are virtually trapped in the flesh- trade supported by touts, equally attached to the two extremes of the rural Jharkhand and metropolitan cities of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.

In fact it is a clandestine top grade that is centered round and it is taking advantage of its tribal natives, known for simplicity, gullibility, sincerity and affectionate nature and at the same victims of extreme poverty at local level in their hours.

Jharkhand that has the potential of the richest state is the poorest in bringing benefits of its natives. It is on this count that exploitation of girls from rural parts of Jharkhand where there is no viable source of livelihood continues. Migration is a compulsion and curse. It is occasioned out of complete lack of sources of livelihood. It doesn't lead to a better fortune for most of the girls going out of their homes but dark lanes where they are forever lost, where their lives end as victim of sexual exploitation in various ways and they fall prey to sexual exploitation in the brothels or outside the brothels. They are forced to continue because there because on the one hand network of flesh trade allows no escape for them and on the other the compulsion of being alive compels them to accept their forced destiny. Even when they get a chance to come back to their native state they dare not disclose the truth and simply give an impression that are working as domestic servants.

Presently, there is no system of record keeping of migrating population with Government of Jharkhand neither there is any such initiative reported so far. In such situation, it is only speculative exercise with which many NGOs and government departments are organizing seminars on the issues of migration and trafficking in Jharkhand. Some data on migration is reported in 1991 census for erstwhile Bihar state from which Jharkhand was carved out. The state should have a Safe Migration Policy for safety and security of migrating people from the state. Migration and Trafficking leads girl child to vicious circle of sexual exploitation and spread of diseases like STDs and HIV/AIDS. Education with professional/

technical skill for income generation activities should be taken up by the government on priority basis. There should be co-ordination between press and NGOs or networking organization for raising the issues of female workers for effective dissemination of women trafficking in Jharkhand. NGOs should have better rapport with the media. It should be transparent and co-operative with the press by feeding leads and backgrounder on the issues pertaining to women trafficking. The press should publish these stories with an interesting slant.

Existing structures for policy implementation for Internal Migration in India:

The Ministry of Labour and the Departments of Labour, at state levels, are responsible for formulating and implementing measures to protect migrant workers. Certain existing labour laws aim to improve the conditions of migrant workers and prevent their exploitation. The important ones are: the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; and the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. The enforcement of these laws is the responsibility of both the central and state governments. At the central level, the key agency is the office of the Chief Labour Commissioner and its field offices. However, the Directorate General of Labour Welfare and the Welfare Commissioners also deal with certain welfare provisions emanating from some of these enactments. In the states, the offices of the Labour Commissioners and their field offices are responsible for enforcing these laws. Concerns of migrant labourers are also the responsibility of the relevant Social Sector Ministries (Health and Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Food and Consumer Affairs, Urban Affairs, Social Justice). However, there are no separate departments in these ministries dealing exclusively with migrant labour. The Ministry of Home Affairs has the responsibility for immigration.

Discussion

Conclusion:

There is great potential for co-ordination between press, NGOs and networking organizations for bringing about empowerment of tribal women and changing the lives of those trafficked. This would bring women's power and media power together as a formidable power. The regional press and the national press should work in tandem for the dissemination and projection of the

issues emanating out of the women trafficking in an effective manner. They both have to develop effective linkage and will have to work in close co-operation so that there is a perceptible change in the lives of the tribal families.

I propose, that the integrated line of action be taken by the government as immediate step to prevent family migration and trafficking of female members of the tribal communities into illegal profession from the state of Jharkhand in India.

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