



# **A study on Socio-Economic Changes of Agricultural Migrants**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*The work was carried out collaboration among all authors. Author RK carried out the collection of data, performed statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author RV guided, read, made corrections of the in the analyses of the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Aims:** The study aims to find out the Socio-Economic changes occurred in the livelihoods of agricultural migrants in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu.

**Study Design:** Ex-post facto research design.

**Place and Duration of Study:** Tiruppur district were purposively selected for this study since it stands third place in Tamil Nadu receiving the migrants. This study was conducted during May 2021.

**Methodology:** Migrants with agricultural background was selected as respondents for this study. Total sample size of 120 respondents were selected by using snow ball sampling method. To measure socio-economic changes of migrants, socio-economic indicators were identified based on the literature review, discussion with advisory committee members and senior social scientists. The socio-economic indicators identified for measuring socio-economic changes are socio-psychological factors, education, health maintenance and nutrition, housing, occupation, cultural

factors, economic changes, social participation and material possession. The primary data was collected with the help of a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Percentage analysis and cumulative frequency method were used to analyse the data.

**Results:** In this context, the Socio-Economic changes of agricultural migrants were analysed and discussed with nine sub-headings. The results reveals that majority of the migrants (84.16%) expenditure on education were increased, All the respondents (100%) were able to take balanced diet, Vast majority of the respondents (91.66%) expenditure towards the improvement of the house were changed, Cent per cent of the respondent's occupation were changed, Most of the respondents (90.00%) expenditure on celebration of festivals were increased, There was a vast change in the income of the majority of the respondents (89.16%), Cent per cent of respondents possess mobile phone and television, The outside contact was increased for most of the migrants (93.33%). Overall more than half (54.70%) of the respondents had medium level of overall socio economic changes.

**Conclusion:** The majority of the respondents were inter-district rural migrants and the cost of living is high in the urban areas. It might be the reasons for medium level of socio-economic changes.

*Keywords: Rural-Urban migration; socio-economic changes.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Migration is a spatial movement of people from place of residence to another location involving either temporary or permanent settlement. Migration has great influence on social, economic, cultural and psychological life of individuals, both at place of emigration as well as in migrated areas [1]. Workforce engaged in farming sector is reduced from 58.20 per cent in 2001 to 54.60 per cent in 2011 (Census report, 2011). The migration is steadily increasing year after year in all over India. Tamil Nadu is one the major industrial hubs in India. Each year many people migrate into the state in search of employment opportunities. In Tamil Nadu Tiruppur stands third place in receiving the migrants. The population decadal growth of Tiruppur increased from 25.30 per cent to 28.70 per cent in 2001-11 [2]. Lack of employment opportunities, lack of infrastructure, poor income, poverty lead to migration of the agricultural labours to the urban areas. Hence, the study aims to find out the changes occurred in the livelihoods of migrants as a result of migration.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu. Migrants with agricultural background was selected as respondents for this study. Total sample size of 120 respondents were selected by using snow ball sampling method. The Ex-post facto research design was used in this study. To measure socio-economic changes of migrants, socio-economic indicators were identified based on the literature review, discussion with advisory committee members

and senior social scientists. The socio-economic indicators identified for measuring socio-economic changes are socio-psychological factors, education, health maintenance and nutrition, housing, occupation, cultural factors, economic changes, social participation and material possession. The primary data was collected with the help of a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Percentage analysis and cumulative frequency method were used to analyse the data. The results are presented below

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Educational Changes

It could be observed from the table that majority of the migrants (84.16%) expenditure on education were increased. The amenities available in urban areas compared to rural areas were high. This might be the reasons for the increased expenditure on education

Majority (73.33%) of the migrants family members were learn to read and write after migration. Exposure to mass media and circumstances around them in urban cities push them to learn and the illiterates are changed to functionally literate.

More than three fourth of the migrants (72.50%) children shifted to better school in the migrated area.

It could be observed from the table that 29.16 per cent of migrant's children going are to college. Increased income, educational facilities available in the migrated area might be the reasons for this change.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on socio-economic changes after migratio (n=120)**

S.No	Particulars	Changes after migration	
		Number	Per cent
<b>I</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>		
1	Expenditure on education	101	84.16
2	No. of family members learned to read and put signature	88	73.33
3	Children shifted to better school	87	72.50
4	Children going to college	35	29.16
5	Children studying in the hostel	39	32.50
6	children studying in private school	54	45.00
<b>II</b>	<b>HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND NUTRITION</b>		
7	Food habits	89	74.16
8	Expenditure on health / hygiene	96	80.00
9	Expenditure on future safety/ insurance	92	76.66
10	Consumption of balanced diet	120	100.00
11	Increased health awareness	102	85.00
<b>III</b>	<b>HOUSING</b>		
12	Expenditure towards the improvement for house	110	91.66
13	Bought a new house	24	20.00
14	Change in the type of house	106	83.33
15	Improvement in the overall Quality of life at your home	112	93.33
<b>IV</b>	<b>OCCUPATION</b>		
16	Type of occupation	120	100.00
17	Family members started the self-employment	35	29.16
18	Family member joined in government job	9	07.50
<b>V</b>	<b>CULTURAL FACTORS</b>		
19	Dressing pattern	17	14.66
20	Expenditure on marriage	77	64.16
21	Expenditure on celebration of festival	108	90.00
22	Following their cultural traits	20	16.66
<b>VI</b>	<b>ECONOMIC CHANGES</b>		
23	Increase in income	107	89.16
24	Increased Savings	62	52.50
25	Cleared the debts	64	53.33
26	Purchased any land	50	41.66
27	Freedom in purchasing home appliances	69	57.50
28	Freedom on spending money for education marriage and health of their children	67	55.83
29	Freedom on getting loan and credits from the credit institutions	67	55.83
<b>VII</b>	<b>SOCIAL PARTICIPATION</b>		
30	Membership in any organization	45	37.50
31	Participation in politics	28	23.33
32	Participation in social activities	19	15.83
33	Participation of family members in any organization	25	20.83
34	Participation in training	14	11.66
<b>VIII</b>	<b>MATERIAL POSSOSSION</b>		
35	Bought vehicle	106	83.33
36	Bought tech gadgets	43	35.83
37	Radio	87	72.50
38	Television	120	100.00
39	Air conditioner	34	28.33
40	Refrigerator	112	93.33

S.No	Particulars	Changes after migration	
		Number	Per cent
41	Mobiles	120	100.00
42	Laptop/computer	55	45.83
<b>IX</b>	<b>SOOCIO-PSYCOLOGICAL FACTORS</b>		
43	Increased media exposure	81	67.50
44	Increased outside contact	112	93.33
45	Changes in individual status in society	93	77.50
46	Improvement in self confidence	99	82.50
47	Increased social mobility	97	80.83
48	Increase social contacts	108	90.00
49	Improvement in communication skills	108	90.00

Less than one-third of the migrants (32.50%) children are studying in the hostel. In the case of partially migrated migrants, they did not settled their family members in migrated areas. This might be the reasons for migrants children's studying in the hostel.

Nearly half of the migrants (45.00%) children are studying in the private school. Increased awareness about education and availability of educational facilities in urban areas and also ability to provide better education facilities to their children might be the reasons for these changes.

The findings are in line with Ali H et al. [3]

### 3.2 Changes in Health Maintenance and Nutrition

It could be observed from the table that majority of the respondents (74.16%) food habits were increased. The respondents produced and consumed their own vegetables at their native villages. A shift from rural to urban areas and change in demographic and socio-cultural factors might be the reasons for these changes.

According to the table that majority (80.00%) of migrant's expenditure on health and hygiene were changed due to the increased awareness about health, the incidence of diseases and also treatment cost for these disease were high when compared to rural areas.

Majority of the respondent's expenditure on future safety/insurance (76.66%) were changed. Before migration most of the migrants didn't spend money for these kind of activities because of lack of awareness and also notable percentage of migrants (85.00%) health awareness were increased.

Regarding consumption of balanced diet, all the respondents (100%) were able to take balanced diet because of the increased income.

The findings are in line Radhakrishnan et al. [4].

### 3.3 Changes in Housing

The above table reveals that vast majority of the respondents (91.66%) expenditure towards the improvement of the house were changed. and also less than one forth (20.00%) of them bought new house at present.

Majority of the respondents (83.33%) house type were changed. The migrants owned houses at native place but not in the migrated areas. The cost of the properties like land and house is high in the migrated area that leads to afford only for rented houses.

The findings are in line with Ali H et al. [3], Devi et al. [5] and Shanthakumar et al. [6].

### 3.4 Occupational Changes

Cent per cent of the respondent's occupation were changed after migration. Less than half (41.66%) of respondents dropped agriculture and engaged in full time workers in factories and more than half (59.34%) of respondents not dropped agriculture fully but they are continuing the farming activities and working in factories.

One third of the respondents (29.16%) family members started self-employment. In the city like Tiruppur, the opportunities for entrepreneurship was high, loans, schemes from government for entrepreneurs boosted up the self-employment opportunities in urban areas. This might be the reasons for these changes. Notably, only 7.50 per cent of the migrant's family members have joined in government jobs.

The findings are in line with Roy I [7] and Woldegebriel [8].

### 3.5 Changes in Cultural Factors

The above table reveals that only 14.66 per cent of the respondents dressing pattern were changed and also only 16.66 per cent of the respondent's cultural traits were changed. Majority of the respondents were inter-district migrants which means migrated within the state hence, dressing pattern and the cultural traits of the respondents were not drastically changed.

More than three fifth of the respondent's expenditure (64.16%) on marriage were increased and most of the respondents (90.00%) expenditure on celebration of festivals were increased. The cost of living is high in urban areas might be the reasons for these changes.

### 3.6 Economic Changes

The above table indicates that vast changes were occurred in the income of the majority of the respondents (89.16%), and even though the income increased only less than half of the migrants (40.83%) savings were increased.

Only 39.16 per cent of the migrants cleared the debts after migration and less than one fourth (23.33%) of migrants purchased lands.

There was a notable change regarding the freedom to spending money. More than half of the respondents (57.50%) were purchased home appliances and 55.83 per cent of respondent's freedom on spending money for education, marriage and health of their children and 55.83 per cent of migrant's freedom on getting loan and credits from the credit institutions are changed.

This findings is in conformity with the findings of Chowdhury et al. [9] and Rani et al. [10].

### 3.7 Changes in Social Participation

Above table reveals that less than two fifth of the respondents (37.5%) are members in organisation. Regarding Participation in politics, less than one fifth of the migrants (23.33%) actively participating in politics after migration and only 15.83 per cent of migrants participating in social activities in destination areas.

About less than one fourth of respondents (20.83%) family members are participating in any

one of the organisation and only 11.66 per cent of migrants participated in training. The migrants were away from their native place, kith and kin might be the reasons for these changes.

### 3.8 Changes in Material Possession

Vast majority of the respondents (83.33%) bought vehicle. Increased income and easy EMI facilities available for purchasing vehicles at urban areas might be reasons for these changes. Only 35.83 per cent of respondents were bought technology gadgets.

More than two third of the respondents (87.00%) have radio at their homes, 93.33 per cent of the respondents have refrigerator and cent per cent of respondents possess mobile phone and television. This indicates that overall quality of the migrants were increased after migration. Only 15.33 per cent of respondents possess air conditioner at their homes.

Nearly half of the respondents (45.83%) having the laptop/computer. Tamil Nadu government providing laptop for students for their education. This might be the reasons for this type of changes.

The findings are in line with Rajan J [11].

### 3.9 Changes in Socio-Psychological Factors

From the above table we can conclude that more than half (67.50%) of the respondents mass media exposure were changed. exposure of urban facilities and usage is a reasons for these changes.

The outside contact were increased for most of the migrants (93.33%) and also the majority (90.00%) of the respondent's social contacts were increased. The shift of working and living environment in urban areas might be the reasons for these changes.

More than three-fourth (77.50%) of the respondent's individual status in the society were changed due to their improvement in economic status. Majority (82.50%) of the respondent's self-confidence were increased and most (80.83%) of the respondents social mobility were increased.

The findings are similar to the findings of Shyam. S et al. [12] and Rajan J [11].

**Table 2. Overall socio-economic changes after migration**

S.No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Low	28	23.33
2.	Medium	65	54.17
3	High	27	22.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The overall socio-economic changes of migrants were classified into low, medium, and high socio-economic changes by using cumulative frequency method.

It could be observed from Table 2 that more than half (54.70%) of the respondents had medium level of overall socio economic changes followed by high level (22.50%).and 23.33 per cent of the migrants had low level of economic changes after migration.

The majority of the respondents were inter-district rural migrants and the cost of living is high in the urban areas. It might be the reasons for medium level of socio-economic changes.

The results are in contrary with Vasanthapriya et al. [13].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The main objective of the study was to investigate the socio-economic changes after migration. This study reveals that majority of the migrants (84.16%) expenditure on education were increased, All the respondents (100%) were able to take balanced diet, Vast majority of the respondents (91.66%) expenditure towards the improvement of the house were changed, Cent per cent of the respondent's occupation were changed, Most of the respondents (90.00%) expenditure on celebration of festivals were increased, There was a vast change in the income of the majority of the respondents (89.16%), Cent per cent of respondents possess mobile phone and television, The outside contact was increased for most of the migrants (93.33%).Over all the results reveals that more than half of the migrants (54.70%) had medium level of changes after migration. Hence, it can be concluded that, the rural-urban migration contributes for improvement of socio-economic status of migrants.

#### CONSENT

As per international standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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