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Brothers at Our Door : The Unapplauded Role of Migrant Labour in Transforming Kozhikode

Dr. Priyadarsini P*

Human migration that has been there from time immemorial continues even today and its repercussions are all pervasive. Globalization a relatively new phenomenon has increased the demand for workers from other countries in order to sustain national economies. Known as "economic migrants," these individuals are generally from impoverished developing countries migrating to obtain sufficient income for survival. This income is usually sent home to family members in the form of remittances and has become an economic staple in a number of developing countries. People also move or are forced to move as a result of conflict, human rights violations, violence, or to escape persecution. Another reason people move is to gain access to opportunities and services or to escape extreme weather. This type of movement is usually from rural to urban areas and is known as internal migration. Socio-cultural and geo-historical factors also play a major role. It is very common amongst people in African countries to migrate to the west as a matter of prestige.

This paper focuses on labour migration to Kerala from North Indian states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh and also from the North Eastern Indian states which is the result of wage difference between these geographic locations. The wage differences are usually linked to geographic labor demand and supply. It can be said that areas with a shortage of labor but an excess of capital have a high relative wage while areas with a high labor supply and a dearth of capital have a low relative wage. Labor tends to flow from low-wage areas to high-wage areas. Often, with this flow of labor bring about changes in the sending as well as the receiving destination. Kerala which is considered as India's Gulf in the north Indian rural villages has been one of the most liked destinations by the labourers for the past few decades.

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