

THE IMPACT OF MALE MIGRATION ON RURAL FAMILIES A CASE STUDY OF RURAL AREA IN JAFFNA

N.Baskaran

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences,
South Asian University, New Delhi, India.
bassau2014@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: Male migration can play a key role in rural due to their family development at household level in rural area in Sri Lanka. The end of the three decade long civil war in Sri Lanka was declared in May 2009. During the war and its related processes resulted in significant levels of male migration and concerning the impact of high levels on rural community. Nevertheless, at present male migration from rural to outside of country is significantly an event of rural area in Sri Lanka. Given this social context, this study especially focuses on two major components such as male migration and rural families. Under these components, this research attempts to understand how various forms of male migration and their impact on families in a rural community by particularly focusing on the rural spaces. In this research, primary data were collected from a sample of 63 rural family's respondents in the selected rural of Sri Lanka, Kaithady, Jaffna. The results of the study confirm a significant difference in the perceptions on male migration among rural families. The most influential socio-economic factors affecting the male migration in rural are; age, education level, number of members in the family and gender role in rural area. The results of the study further reveal that the reasons for male migration from rural to outside of Sri Lanka were not only economic reason but it were related to some security reasons. Also, the male migrations give a social and economic mobility of the rural families in different scales.

Keywords: Male Migration, Rural Family, Every Day, Family Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The term 'Migration' has come into the usage of social discourses mainly to refer to the move or mobilization of certain people within a social system. It is often connected to a person or social group's social class, educational status and living conditions and how these would impact their access to various opportunities. Migration is a social phenomenon but is not just a new phenomenon. It is related to every day social life also our everyday life is the best projector of all the norms that we value and experience in different aspects of life. "Everyday life comprises people's regular activities and routine practices, the often taken-for-granted cultural fabric of their lives, daily rituals as well as life-cycle events, the organization of family life and domestic space, food, language and other signifying practices as much as educational and occupational biographies" (Karner 2007). Migration is both a cause and a consequence of various social, cultural and economic constraints experienced by people in rural society (Mc Gee 1977, Dasgupta 1988 & Rao, 1995). According to Rege, the latter feature is partly due to the migration politics of the host skilled and less educated workers, but the major reason is the cost of moving the family (Rege 2013). In contrast, the purpose of migration is both generate more cash and improve a household standard of living.

Migration has a micro level and macro level of impact of the Sri Lankan social structure. Sri Lanka has long witnessed the migration of different forms in rural- urban and in different castes and classes but with the changing social, cultural and economic scenario the quantum and pattern of migration show a varying trend. Though migration has recently come to be well documented for this region, its impacts on social, economic and cultural dynamics of the region are a relatively new area of research and inquiry. Sri Lanka, The contribution of

migration to annual household income ranges from 2009 in the case of those rural poor households has increasing.

It is in this context, an attempt is made to understand the phenomenon of migration by applying the rural family framework. This paper attempts to understand the male migration from rural to the outside of Sri Lanka, its various forms and the processes through it manifest with regard to the migrated person's families in rural area. According to existing literature in migration in rural indicates that while the impact of male migration on rural families is impacted on more positive and more diverse. In this context, this study is expected to cast new light on a growing reality, everyday activities of the male migration of the male and help in deepening the discourse on empowerment of rural families.

OBJECTIVE

This research attempts to understand how various forms of male migration and their impact on families in a rural community by particularly focusing on the rural spaces. In this study especially focus on the socio- economic implication of male migration on rural families.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This main objective of this study is to bring some light into the existing understanding of 'male migration'. The research address two questions,

1. What is the causal relationship between male migration and family experiences?
2. How a traditional family structure does exercises their acquired status within the migration arena?

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The world view of this study is related to the scientific and theoretical way of understanding. According to this perspective, a lead to different meanings and interpretations. Male migrated families are living in different social contexts i.e. before the male migrated period and the after the migration period. This approach was to understand the conceptual frame of migration, its various forms, and the process through it manifest above with regard to the families in the rural.

METHODOLOGY

Research Site

The main objective of this study is to consider the experiences with male migrated family in rural society. It focuses on a specific village kaithady of the Northern part of Jaffna. It is located in the southern part of Jaffna district. It is an island village about 11 kilometers away from the capital of Jaffna situated on the A9 road from Kandy to Jaffna. Kaithady is divided in into 7 villages which come under the administration. The population of kaithady is nearly 10,000 the composition of the population by religion is Hindu 98 % Christians 2 %the main building blocks of the local economy of kaithady comprise: agriculture the cultivation of paddy, coconut, vegetables, tobacco. Other field crops and horticulture, Livestock rearing, coastal and inland fisheries, micro and small industries. It also has some important social service intuitions and department like an Ayurveda University, Ayurveda hospital and an elder's home, which is very useful for most elderly people in Jaffna. It also has the Nuffield

disabled home & school for the deaf and blind. There are a number of male migrated families and it has increased on during and after the post-war for many reasons. Therefore, it was easily for me to spend more time with these people for my data collection.

Sampling

This study reported on the experiences of 63 rural families. The research is very much related to purposeful random sampling method. Accordingly, a total number of 54 families have been selected for interview for this study. The families were selected from a list of those who were registered as having migrated person on their family by the divisional secretariat from 2009 to 2015 in Jaffna. Also, selected 09 non-migrated families for interview because their experience, attitude and responses also influence on the impact of the rural families in Jaffna.

Data Collection

This study was conducted in qualitative methods. Qualitative research very much related to narrative and narrative story telling method. Qualitative information collected by methods such as case studies. As a primary data collection method of this study examining a real situation, the best methodology is the case study approach (Yin 2004:1) Further, the study is an explanatory one looking at the experiences male migrated family in the selected rural.

Some kinds of secondary data were collected from particular government and nongovernment organizational reports, media sources for migration as well as important. It is expected to use data collected through documents, archival records, direct and participant observations had been made strategically.

Data Analysis

Qualitative research provides detailed description and analysis of the quality, or the substance of the human experience. The qualitative data analysis method was used as an analytical tool. This work has been carrying out within a framework of grounded theory. Grounded theory is a particularly qualitative methodology which seeks to develop conceptual knowledge and frameworks that are grounded in the individual experience of research participants. Male migrated families stories play the entire informant role in the method of qualitative analysis because this analysis tells us about the meaning of interpretation of their everyday lives in families own stories, feelings, emotion, and experiences.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There can be several patterns of migration population who falls into the category of migration is still a debatable issue. Within family include various kind of migration. Those are a migration of complete households, migration of few members of each family, migration of a couple and single male or single female migration. This type of migration and their issues have a crucial role for understanding on rural family's experiences. Especially, this finding is based on two major groups of male migration such as migration of few members of each family and single male (head of the family) in Sri Lanka.

Reasons for migration

This study has found that there are many reasons making the male migration to the outside of rural in Jaffna. They are the economic reward, marriage, making the geographical distance from their family, education (with students' visa), political conditions were the most influential factors in the decision to male migration for the middle east and other part of the world. Selected male migrated family of rural informants has agreed that economic benefit was first reason for migration. Many poor families to raise their standard living and improve opportunities for their family members especially need for children in the post-war rural society.

However, many participants pointed out those political situations were the most influential factors in the decision to male migration. Many people of the rural, especially the young (22 – 29), from the rural migrate seeking better security and their family members and also another personal circumstances influential factors in the decision to out migration in during and after the post war in Jaffna.

Family structure and rural migration

A family is a fundamental unit of social structure of Jaffna. The household or family was identified in association collectively rather than of the responsible individuals who formed part of it. Family members can strongly influence a condition of male migration. This study interested in the roles and influence of wife, children, parents and other family members on the male migration in rural Jaffna. The parents and members of the family interviewed for this study. There are of two a kind of family influential for migration, in which migrated person is born and grows and religion, politics, and education of that person depends directly on their family. The second type of family in which the migrated person is influential including children and individuals under supervision.

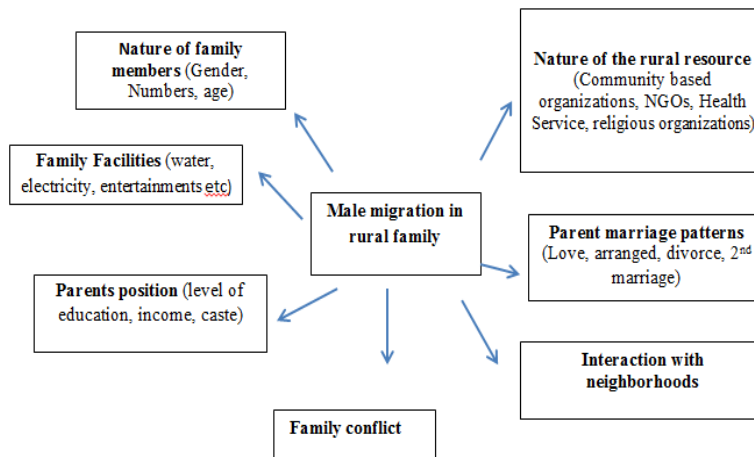
Under this family, there are two groups of men eligible for migration. The first men group is consisted of those of marriageable age in their family and who needed to finance their and their family member's marriages. Another type consisted of those married men with at least, more than two or three children. Under these circumstances man or husband to migrate from their family.

Gender roles and power relationship

Generally, woman select a live partner above her social status in rural. Also a woman (wife) is more under the control of her husband and his kin during the family life. After the husband migration many of the wife has a double role for maintaining their family. In additions to their usual takes, the wives had to shoulder much of their husband's responsibilities. Many of the wives in rural they had to learn to budget for daily expenses, educational costs of their children and unexpected expenses in protecting their household interests.

Impact of migration on the family

Diagram for impact of migration on the families in rural



(Source: - Field work)

CONCLUSIONS

This study especially focuses on two major components such as male migration and rural families. Under these component, this study shows that the nature of male migration from the rural to outside of Sri Lanka and its process impact of their families. This study was founded that reasons for male migration from rural to outside of Sri Lanka was not only economic reason but it was related to some security reasons. Also, the male migrations give a social and economic mobility of the rural families in different parameters. In contract, husband migration gives the more traditional women a new self-confidence and status, which impact their position in the household positively in rural area.

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