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## **Examining Rural Migrants Job Searching: A Case Study on Chennai Koyambedu Daily Market**

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### **Abstract:**

*Migrations of rural peoples towards the urban areas are quite common now days and the migration rate is increasing rapidly. Job searching behavior is differing from one group to another by its various backgrounds. As they are forced by their economic problems and attracted with modern society, the migration rate is too high now. This study was carried to know the kind of jobs that rural, migrant, uneducated peoples searching in Chennai with the sample of 486 migrant workers from rural to urban.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Rural, Urban, Job Search

### **1. Introduction**

The major causes of rural urban migration are; search for better education, employment, and business opportunities. Others are identified as poverty, unemployment, famine, and inadequate social amenities in the rural areas. While some of the effects of rural-urban migration are; rural-urban migration brings pressure on urban housing and the environment, high rate of population growth in the urban centres also lessens the quality of life, overpopulation encourages crime rate in the society and rural-urban migration slows down the pace of development of the rural areas. It is recommended that the Government should strive to provide social amenities and facilities in the rural areas and also provide jobs for the citizens in the rural areas. In addition to this Vocational training centres should be established in the rural centres for training of the productive youths for self employment. Migration is the movement of people from one geographical location to another, involving permanent or temporary settlement. The region where people are leaving is referred to as the source region whereas the region to which people are entering is known as destination region. While rural-urban migration is the movement of people from rural areas (villages) to urban centres (cities). One noticeable aspect in the society today is the rate at which people migrate from the rural to the urban centres. While the urban centres are increasing in population, the rural areas are decreasing in population. The migration literature has come to regard rural-urban migration as “the major contributing factor to the ubiquitous phenomenon of urban surplus labour and as a force which continues to exacerbate already serious urban unemployment problems” (Todaro, 1976). Population growth in urban areas has soared over the last few decades.

### **2. Literature Review**

According to Cornwell and Inder (2004) much of the contemporary literature on economic motivations for rural-urban migration builds on the seminal work of Todaro (1969) and Harris and Todaro (1970). Their models has provided a widely accepted theoretical framework that explained the relationship between rural-urban migration and urban unemployment in many LDCs. Assuming potential migrants respond to the urban employment probability and treating rural-urban migration primarily as an economic phenomenon, the Harris-Todaro model (HT) then demonstrates that, in certain parametric ranges, an increase in urban employment may actually result in higher levels of urban unemployment and even reduced national product (the Todaro Paradox). The paradox is due to the assumptions that in choosing between labour markets, risk-neutral agents consider expected wages; that the probability of obtaining urban employment is approximated by the ratio of urban jobs to the urban labour force; and that the urban wage rate is considerably and consistently higher than the rural wage rate. Under these assumptions, inter-labour market (rural-urban) equilibrium mandates urban unemployment. This unemployment ensures that the expected urban wage is equal to

the rural wage (which is assumed constant throughout). The repercussion of this simple set of assumptions is that contrary to received wisdom, once the migration response is factored in, several policies aimed at reducing urban unemployment will raise urban unemployment rather than reduce it (Riadh, 1998).

In the HT model migration is regarded as the adjustment mechanism by which workers allocate themselves between different labour markets, some of which are located in urban areas and some in rural areas, while attempting to maximize their expected incomes. The model led to many applied studies most of which confirmed that the relative wages and the perceived probability of finding a job were indeed important determinants of a decision to move. Also, the main conclusion of HT model has had considerable influence on policy formulation in LDC's. From the empirical point of view, the HT model generates unemployment rates which are implausibly high. From the theoretical point of view, the model leaves its driving force, the disparity of urban and rural wages and the fixity of urban wage, unexplained. However, the model, with or without fixed wages, can be modified in a number of ways to introduce many interesting aspects (risk aversion, priority hiring, informal sector, travel costs) which probably will reduce the level of unemployment as predicted by the starting model.

One of the predictions of HT model was that the proportional equilibrium size of the urban traditional sector will vary inversely with the rate of job creation. Arellano (1981) indicated that this prediction refers to the steady state and is warranted by a specific assumption about the elasticity of the migration rate.

### 3. Methodology

A case study design was adopted in this research where Chennai Koyambedu market was chosen as a case study. The data for this study were mainly collected in areas where most of the people have migrated from rural areas. A random sampling method was used to select the respondents. A total of 486 respondents were involved in the study. Primary data for the study were gathered by using structured questionnaires and interviews. Since the respondents are in working zone the prepared questionnaire has very few objectives i.e

- Causes for migration from rural to urban
- Kind of job they are searching in Chennai city.

### 4. Results and Discussion

	MIGRANTS	
	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	417	85.8
Female	69	14.2
Age		
Below 30 years	177	36.4
30 to 40 years	209	43
40 to 50 years	78	16
Above 50 years	22	4.6
Income (In Rupees)		
Less than 5000	38	7.8
5001-10000	226	46.5
10001-15000	115	23.7
15001-20000	103	21.4
Above 20000	3	0.6

Table 1  
Source: Primary Data

#### 4.1. Gender Distribution of Respondents

Survey data revealed that 85.8% of the respondents are males while 14.2% were females. This shows that male migrants constitute the majority among the migrants in Chennai City.

#### 4.2. Age Distribution of Respondents

Findings from the study showed that 36.4% of the respondents fell within the age group of below 30 years, 43% are within the age group of 31-40 years while 16% are within the age bracket of 41-50 years and above. And 4.6% peoples are belong to 50 & above age groups.

#### 4.3. Income in Rupees

Findings from the study also indicate that 7.8% of the respondents got salary up to Rs5000, 46.5% rural migrants getting Rs5001 - 1000. While 23% of rural workers getting income Rs 10001 to 15000. About 21% of the respondents earned Rs15001-20000. 0.6% of people earning above 20000 in a month.

#### 4.4. Causes of Rural-Urban migration

The major causes of rural-urban migration is identified as; search for better wages, education, political and social stability, better technologies, employment and business opportunities. Others are poverty, unemployment, crop failures and famine, inadequate social amenities and facilities in the rural areas such as pipe borne water, electricity, good roads, hospitals, schools, vocational centres.

### 5. Kind of Job Searching by Rural Uneducated Migrants

#### 5.1. Rural Based job search in city

In beginning time rural migrants are searching job which is fully rural based i.e jobs like load man, construction workers, and other works. These kinds of jobs always welcome the rural migrants to enter. It is because of the job need high level of physical effort. And with the help of this experience they are trying to be part of supervisor role in the same industry. In addition to this some workers started their own business like selling vegetables, fruits near roads and inside the streets of city. However the success rate is too low due to several factors of city and the rural migrants.

#### 5.2. Urban based job search in city

Rural migrants are planned to search urban based job in their later phase of job searching. Which take place after surviving some period of time in any industry, absorbing the city properly and with the help of network they created in their past. Urban organizations are not ready to provide any fair income jobs to the rural uneducated migrants. Hence they are creating their own job with the small amount of investment like founding their own shops and the age old peoples involved in security jobs in the city.

### 6. Conclusion

This study reveals human sources of rural migrants were not used properly and the city is not designed to avail required space to the rural uneducated migrants from different parts of Tamil Nadu. The rate of rural-urban migration is alarming in recent years and its effects are not only felt by the destination regions alone but also felt by the source regions-as facilities in the destination regions are overstretched, the source regions are virtually deserted. Unless the government provides the basic necessities of life to the rural areas and provide the productive youth in the rural areas with employment opportunities people will continuously drift in to the urban centres from the rural areas in search for better life and employment.

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