



*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

*No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.*



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

**R. Kavitha<sup>1\*</sup>, R. Velusamy<sup>1</sup>, J. Puspha<sup>1</sup> and K. Prabakaran<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, AC&RI, Madurai, India.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics, AC&RI, Madurai, India.

## **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.*

## **Article Information**

DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2021/v39i1030684

### Editor(s):

- (1) Dr. Golubkina Nadezhda Alexandrovna, Federal Scientific Center of vegetable production, Russia.  
(2) Dr. Wang Guangjun, Pearl River Fisheries Research Institute, China.

### Reviewers:

- (1) Nongthombam Muhindro Singh, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, India.  
(2) Renu Jethi, ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, India.  
Complete Peer review History: <https://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/74029>

**Original Research Article**

**Received 10 July 2021**  
**Accepted 20 September 2021**  
**Published 24 September 2021**

## **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.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kaur, Amandeep. Pattern of Utilization of Remittances of NRIs in Doaba Village of Punjab. M. Phil thesis, Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala; 2003.
2. Census of India. Population Census Provisional Data; 2011. Available:www.census2011.co.in.
3. Ali H, Shafi MM, Rehman MU, Jadoon MA. Causes and Effects of Rural-Urban Migration in Rural Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Pakistan. Arts and Social Sciences Journal. 2015;6:144. DOI: 10.4172/2151-6200.1000144
4. Radhakrishnan PP, Murugan. To measure the impact of shift from agriculture to other non farm occupation an analysis in coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu. International Journal of Agricultural. 2018;8(1):69-72.
5. Devi 2019 MC. Economic impact of migration in Tiruchirappalli. Adalya Journal; 2019. Available:https://adalyajournal.com/gallery/14-aug-1644.pdf
6. Shanthakumar S, Thandapani V. Economic Study on Labour Migration in Coonoor Taluk, the Nilgries District, Tamilnadu. The International Journal of Analytical and Experimental Modal Analysis; 2020. Available:http://www.ijaema.com/gallery/25-8-ijaema-february-3472.pdf
7. Roy, I.Labour migration from (and in) Bihar: continuities and change University of Oxford, IGC Working Paper; 2016. Available:https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Roy-2016-Working-paper.pdf
8. Mefekir Woldegebriel. Assessing Socio-Economic Impact of Rural- Urban Migration in Sodo Town, SNNPR Ethiopia.

- Global Journal of Human-Social Science; 2017.  
Available: <https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Roy-2016-Working-paper.pdf>
9. Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury, Nadia Haque, Mohammad Mostufa Kamal, Tanjina Islam, Mohammad Maniruzzaman Khan, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Imtiaz Uddin. Internal Migration and Socio-Economic Status of Migrants: A Study in Sylhet City. American Journal of Human Ecology. 2012;1(4):123-133.
  10. Rani Surabhi, Vijayan PK. Malabar Migration and Socio-economic status of migrants: A study in Taliparamba Block of Kannur District, Kerala. International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews; 2019.  
Accessed: March 17, 2019
  11. Available: [http://ijrar.com/upload\\_issue/ijrar\\_issue\\_20543340.pdf](http://ijrar.com/upload_issue/ijrar_issue_20543340.pdf)
  11. Densingh Rajan J, 2018. A study of socio-economic and cultural status of the families of inter-national migrants residing In ramanathapuram district, Tamilnadu, India .International Journal of Recent Scientific Research. 2018;9:23489-23496.
  12. Shyam S, Salim M, Ramees Rahman, Athira NR. Labour migration and alternate avocation in marine fisheries sector of Kerala. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India. 2017;59(2).  
DOI: 10.6024/jmbai.2017.59.2.1962-14
  13. Vasanthapriya M Asokhan. Impact of Off-seasonal Migration of Hilly Tribes in Tiruvannamalai District of Tamilnadu. Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology. 2019;36(2):1-9.  
DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2019/v36i230241

© 2021 Kavitha et al.; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

*Peer-review history:*  
The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:  
<https://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/74029>