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Migration behaviour of labourers in coffee plantations

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Abstract

The study entitled 'Migration behaviour of labourers in Coffee plantations' was conducted in two major Coffee-growing districts of Karnataka state, namely, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu. To ascertain the migration behaviour of immigrants, Coffee producing zones within the districts were selected. Irrespective of the position of zones in terms of area under Coffee, ten migrant labourers were selected randomly from the villages having the highest area under Coffee in each of the zones. Thus, 140 migrant labourers were selected from 14 villages having the highest area under Coffee from 14 zones. The pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the primary data. The results indicated that more than four-fifth (86.43%) of the migrant labourers belonged to the young age group, with regard to education more than half (52.14%) of them studied up to middle school education and half (53.57%) of them had nuclear families. Majority (82.86%) of the migrant labourers fall under the marginal farmer category, exactly half (50.00%) of them had a low level of income correspondingly more than half (57.14%) of the migrant labourers had medium to a high level of debt. It is evident that more than half (53.58%) of the migrant labourers had a high to very high level of migration, while 46.42 per cent of labourers had very low to low levels of migration. It is clear that majority (77.14%) of labourers are found to be migrated to Coffee plantations from different states, viz., Assam, West Bengal and Kerala.

Keywords: Coffee, labourers, migrant labourers, migration, plantations and zones

1. Introduction

The pattern of growth of migration in the past two to three decades has steadily widened the gap between agriculture and non-agriculture between rural and urban areas and also between the states with excellent and critical growth indicators. It has steadily concentrated in a few areas and a few conditions. In India, states like Karnataka, Kerala and Gujarat emerged as promising development zones, a dynamic often conflated with economic growth, whereas states like Bihar, Orissa and Chhattisgarh are known for appalling growth indicators.

Karnataka's migration patterns present an excellent example to research the development of underdevelopment within a somewhat "developed" geopolitical zone. Plantation work in nature is carried out on large pieces of land or estates that are remotely located. Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu account for nearly two-thirds of the Coffee produced in-country. Kodagu alone accounts for 35.00 per cent of overall production in the country, thereby earning itself the sobriquet "Coffee Cup of India". With the majority of land used for Coffee cultivation, yield per hectare of Arabica and Robusta variety stands out higher in Kodagu than in any other district of the country. Coffee is a high labour-intensive crop that requires on an average 400 man-days per

hectare per year for the Arabica crop and 300 man-days per hectare per year for Robusta (Mohankumar *et al.* 2012) [5]. Most of the planters employ a combination of both permanent and temporary labourers, with minimum permanent labourers. With the migration of local peasants towards greener pasties, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu often find themselves short on labourers, forcing planters to employ migrant labourers from the other states. The yield invariably depends on the performance of the workers employed in it, either permanent or casual.

The labour force in Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu is multi-cultural, comprising locals, migrants from different districts of Karnataka state viz., Chitradurga, Davangere, Mysore and Northern districts. Migration is also apparent from North-eastern and Southern India. Assam and West Bengal constitute the Northeastern part, while Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the Southern part. As maximum labourers have immigrated to the study area, especially for Coffee estates from the poor, small and marginal farm households, they have to search for alternative sources of livelihood during the slack season. During peak season, migrants from the above mentioned regions found working in Coffee estates as lucrative and safe nest compared to their home states. The average daily number of persons employed on Coffee

plantations in the state of Karnataka was about 5.16 lakh workers in the fiscal year 2020 (Statista, 2021) [12].

As maximum labourers immigrate to Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, especially for Coffee estates from different parts of the state and neighboring states, for their livelihood security. Since no study has been undertaken to determine the specific migration behaviour of the labourers to these plantations. It will be worthwhile to do an in-depth study on this aspect, which will shine a spotlight on many unknown elements. With all this in view, the present investigation entitled “Migration Behaviour of Labourers in Coffee Plantations” was undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of the migrants
2. To study the migration behaviour of labourers

The study was conducted in two major Coffee-growing districts of Karnataka state, namely, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, during the year 2020-21. These two districts were purposively selected as they are contributing four-fifth towards total Coffee production in the state. Coffee is a highly labour-intensive crop and its yield depends on the performance of labourers employed to perform various cultural operations. Labour requirements in the regions were met through migrant and local labourers. Deploying of migrant labourers depends on the area and production of the Coffee plantation. It becomes imperative to probe into the reasons for interstate and intrastate immigration of labourers to Coffee plantations.

To ascertain the migration behaviour of immigrants, Coffee-producing zones within the districts were selected. Zones refer to the group of villages having an area under Coffee of more than or equal to 10000 ha. The zones were further positioned within districts based on the area under Coffee plantations. Both Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts were divided into 24 Coffee-producing zones *i.e.*, 12 from each district. Irrespective of the position of zones in terms of area under Coffee, 10 migrant labourers were selected randomly from the villages having the highest area under

Coffee in each of the zones. Thus, 140 migrant labourers were selected from 14 villages having the highest area under Coffee from 14 zones (Table 1). Ex-post-facto design was used for the present study. This design was considered appropriate because the phenomenon had already occurred. The data was collected through personal interview method and analyzed using statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and Chi-Square test.

Results and Discussions

Socio-economic characteristics of the migrants

Age

The results depicted in Table 2 (a) reveals that more than four-fifth (86.43%) of the migrant labourers belonged to the young age group. The young labourers in their productive age showed a higher tendency towards migration. The probable reason could be that labourers of the young age group who possessed needed skills and experience could efficiently and actively participate in the labour activities compared to the labourers of other age groups. Further labourers of the young age group are more energetic, enthusiastic, explorative and eager to try out new things and have responsibilities to take care of the family. In contrast, none of the migrant labourers was beyond the age of 56. This could be due to the difficulty of travelling and working, as well as the fact that they may have stayed back in their native to look after the house and children. The results were in conformity with Chakraborty (2014) [2].

Education

The results depicted in Table 2 (a) reveals that more than half (52.14%) of the migrant labourers had a middle school level of education. One possible explanation is that educated and young migrant labourers exhibited more cosmopolitan behaviour because their basic level of education allows them to move from one location to another in search of suitable work. The results were in accordance with the findings of Gimba and Mustapa (2012) [3].

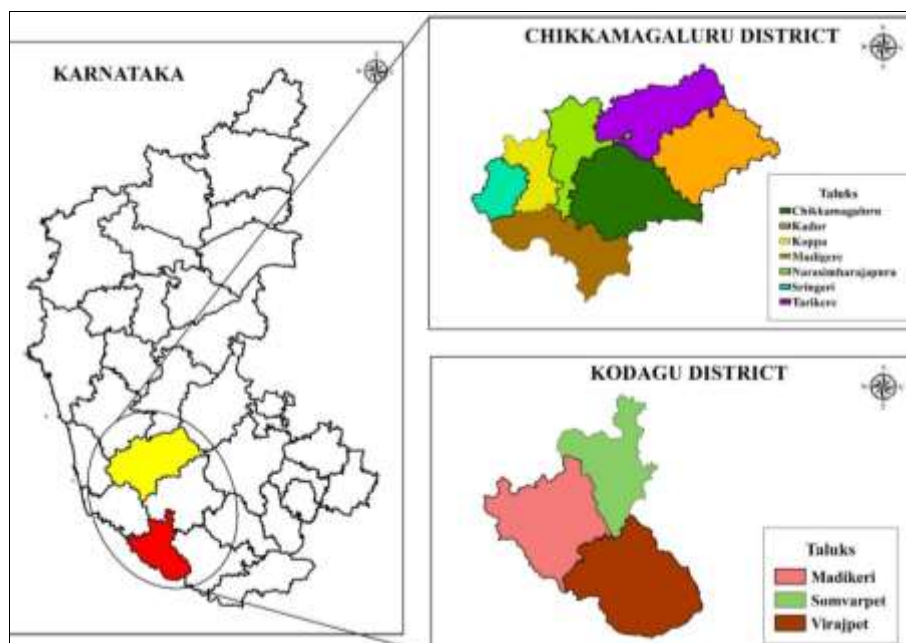


Fig 1: Map showing the study area

Table 1: Details of the respondents selected for the study

Sl. No.	District	Zone	Village	Migrant labourers
1.	Chikkamagaluru	Alduru	Handi	10
		Balehonnur	Balehonnur	10
		Eastern Giri	Mallenahalli	10
		Kalasa	Mavinakere	10
		Koppa	Kaduhithlu	10
		Mallanduru	Mallanduru	10
		Mudigere	Malasavara	10
2.	Kodagu	Gonikoppal	Pollibetta	10
		Madikeri	Hoskeri	10
		Napoklu	Kolakeri	10
		Siddapura	Siddapura	10
		Srimangala	Srimangala	10
		Suntikoppa	Jamburu	10
		Virajpet	Hathur	10
Total (Nos.)	2	14	14	140

Annual Income

As depicted in Table 2(a), it was evident that exactly half (50.00%) of the migrant labourers had a low level of income and 32.14 per cent had a medium level of income. The probable reason for the majority of the migrant labourers falling under low to medium-income groups can be irregular income through meagre employment opportunities available in their native place. The results were in conformity with Shruti (2015)^[11].

Land holding

As depicted in Table 2(a), more than four-fifth (82.86%) of the migrant labourers fall under the marginal farmer's category, followed by the small (12.86%) farmer category. The majority of the migrant labourers possessing marginal landholdings may be due to a lack of ancestral property and fragmentation. Because of this reason, they might have resorted to migrate for sustaining livelihood. The results were in conformity with Sunil Kumar *et al.* (2020)^[13].

Job-experience

The data in Table 2 (a) indicated that more than two-third (70.00%) of the respondents had a low to medium level of job-experience. Because the sample investigated included a greater number of young migrant labourers. As a result, it may be claimed that as people get older, their job-experience grows. The results were in conformity with Bijimol. The results were in conformity with Preethi *et al.* (2014)^[7].

In contrast, the data in Table 2(a) revealed that nearly four-fifth (78.57) of the respondents had medium to high job experience as migrant labourers in Coffee plantations. Since majority of labourers were migrated to these plantations permanently, indicating that they had medium to a high level of job experience.

Mass media exposure

From the data depicted in Table 2 (a), it is observed that slightly less than two-third (65.71%) of the migrant labourers had a medium level of mass media exposure. The possible reasons for the above results could be that, most youth either possessed a mobile phone/smartphone. Television these days have reached every house. Hence, gathering information through these media is no big task.

The results were in accordance with the findings of Sharath (2018)^[10].

Distribution of migrant labourers according to overall amenities available at the house

From the data presented in Table 2 (a), nearly two-third (62.66%) of the migrant families had medium level amenities available at the house. The probable reasons for this could be that because of the lower income levels of the migrant labourers and also due to their migration behaviour, they were exposed to different environments and have bought in or created few basic amenities. The results were in accordance with the findings of Patel (2017)^[6].

Economic motivation

From Table 2(b), it can be concluded that nearly three-fourths (74.29%) of the migrant labourers were found with medium to high levels of economic motivation. As discussed earlier, the majority of the migrant families had marginal to the small size of landholding and low level of income, which might have been felt insufficient to sustain their livelihood. Hence they might have been motivated to earn more money which would have acted as a push factor of migration. The results were in accordance with the findings of Patel (2017)^[6].

Indebtedness

As shown in Table 2 (b), more than two-fifth (42.86%) of them had a low level of debt. In contrast, more than half (57.14%) of the migrant labourers had medium to a high level of debt. The level of indebtedness indicates the financial problems of migrant labourers, which might be due to their financial situation, high level of inspiration and meeting their daily requirements to compensate for their expenditure.

From Table 2 (b), it is observed that nearly half (47.14%) of the migrant labourers had borrowed money to build their houses, to clear their parent's debt from non-institutional sources like landlords, money lenders, relatives/friends etc., only 10.00 per cent of the migrant labourers had borrowed money like farm loans, cattle loans etc., from banking institutions like Cooperatives, RRB's and Commercial banks and more than two-fifth (42.86%) are debt-free. The results were in conformity with Maan (2018)^[4].

Table 2: Profile characteristics of migrant labourers

Variable	Category	n= 140		
		Migrant labourers		
		Criteria	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young	Up to 35	121	86.43
	Middle	36 to 55	19	13.57
	Old	Above 55	0	00.00
Education	Illiterate	Cannot read and write	39	27.86
	Primary school	I – IV Standard	23	16.43
	Middle school	V – VII Standard	73	52.14
	High school	VII – X Standard	00	00.00
	P.U.C	XI-XII Standard	05	3.57
	Graduation and other technical courses	Degree	00	00.00
	Post-graduation	Master’s degree or above	00	00.00
Annual income	Low	$<(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	70	50.00
	Medium	$(\bar{x} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	45	32.14
	High	$>(\bar{x} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	25	17.86
\bar{x} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{x} = 148014.29, s =64679.61		
Land holding	Marginal farmers	< 2.5 acres	116	82.86
	Small farmers	2.51 – 5.00 acres	18	12.86
	Medium farmers	5.01 – 5.00 acres	6	4.28
	Big farmers	>10.00 acres	0	00.00
Job experience as a labourer	Low	$<(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	45	32.14
	Medium	$(\bar{x} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	53	37.86
	High	$>(\bar{x} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	42	30.00
\bar{x} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{x} = 3.12, s =2.43		
Job experience as a Coffee labourer	Low	$<(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	30	21.43
	Medium	$(\bar{x} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	71	50.71
	High	$>(\bar{x} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	39	27.86
\bar{x} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{x} = 3.12, s =2.43		
Mass media exposure	Low	$<(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	26	18.58
	Medium	$(\bar{x} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	92	65.71
	High	$>(\bar{x} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	22	15.71
\bar{x} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{x} = 4.82, s =1.03		
Overall amenities available at home	Low	$<(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	24	17.14
	Medium	$(\bar{x} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	59	63.57
	High	$>(\bar{x} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	27	19.29
\bar{x} = Mean s = Sample standard deviation		\bar{x} = 4.82, s =1.03		

Type of family

As depicted in Table 2 (b), that more than half (53.57%) of migrant labourers had nuclear families. The possible reasons could be that the lack of employment opportunities, especially for women and landlessness or small landholdings could have forced them to move out to fetch an adequate income required to lead an everyday life. The results were in conformity with Saravanan (2008) [9].

Occupation

As depicted in Table 2 (b), that more than three-fifth (60.71%) of migrant labourers were engaged in agriculture. As a result, it may be argued that the majority of migrant labourers were employed in agriculture as their sole occupation, as agricultural occupations are seasonal and labourers might have migrated to Coffee plantations to earn a livelihood during the off-season. The results were in accordance with the findings of Venu *et al.* (2016) [14].

3.2 Migration behaviour of labourers

The study of migration behaviour is composed of different components like the number of members who migrate, place of migration, duration of migration, frequency of migration in a year and type of the migration. The data collected in

this regard was tabulated in Tables 3 and 4.

3.2.1 Extent of migration to Coffee plantations among labourers

Study on the extent (magnitude) of migration of migrant family mainly depends on two factors, *i.e.*, number of members in the family who migrate and duration for which they migrate. The migration index, as detailed in Research Methodology, was worked out for each migrant family. Based on the migration index score, migrant labourers were arbitrarily categorized. The data in this regard is presented in Table 3.

It is evident from Table 3 that more than half (53.58%) of the migrant labourers had a high to very high level of migration, while 46.42 per cent of labourers had very low to low levels of migration. This might be because the respondents selected for the study are migrant labourers of Coffee plantations having both seasonal and permanent types of migration. The migrant labourers who had the permanent kind of migration used to stay back in Coffee plantations for more than eight months and they rarely visited their native places, which increased the migration index score, hence the extent of migration. The results were in accordance with the findings of Patel (2017) [6].

Table 2b: Profile characteristics of migrant labourers n= 140

Variable	Category	Migrant labourers		
		Criteria	Frequency	Percentage
Economic motivation	Low	$<(\bar{X} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	36	25.71
	Medium	$(\bar{X} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	40	28.57
	High	$>(\bar{X} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	64	45.72
\bar{X} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{X} = 9.51, s =1.14		
Indebtedness	Low	$<(\bar{X} - \frac{1}{2} s)$	60	42.86
	Medium	$(\bar{X} \pm \frac{1}{2} s)$	25	17.86
	High	$>(\bar{X} + \frac{1}{2} s)$	55	39.28
\bar{X} = Mean s =Sample standard deviation		\bar{X} = 53714.29, s =54142.67		
Source of credit	Non-institutional	-	66	47.14
	Institutional	-	14	10.00
	Others	-	60	42.86
Variable	Category	Migrant labourers		
Type of family	Nuclear family	75	53.57	
	Joint family	65	46.43	
	Labour	49	35.00	
Occupation	Agriculture	85	60.71	
	Others (Business)	6	4.29	

Table 3: Distribution of migrant labourers based on the extent of migration n= 140

Sl. No.	Category	Migration index score	Migrant labourers	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Very low	Up to 20	36	25.71
2.	Low	21-40	29	20.71
3.	Medium	41-60	00	00.00
4.	High	61-80	9	5.72
5.	Very high	81-100	68	47.86

3.2.2 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the migration behaviour

3.2.2.1 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the migrating members in a family

It is evident from Table 4 (a) that in the category of two members who have migrated, out of 124 families, most of them have a nuclear family. The whole family has relocated with their children on a temporary/permanent basis, searching for a better livelihood. In contrast rest of the families who have migrated are from joint families as the old parents and remaining members of the family stayed back to look upon agricultural and allied activities or any other jobs in their native place. And in other instances, young and middle-aged men or newly married couples separated from their joint family moved out to earn additional income. The results were in accordance with the findings of Amresh (2021) [1].

3.2.2.2 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the type of migration

It is evident from Table 4(b) that nearly three-third (66.43%) of migrant labourers are found to have permanent/year-round type of migration. The possible reason could be that the facilities like free housing, electricity and water supply given by plantation owners to migrant labourers. The availability of ample work opportunities is also one of the reasons for their migration

behaviour.

3.2.2.3 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the frequency of migration in a year

The results in Table 4(c) revealed that cent of migrant labourers migrates only once a year. As previously stated, the respondents for the study are migrant labourers in Coffee plantations who migrate both seasonally and permanently. Migrant labourers who were on a seasonal migration only came to these Coffee plantations once a year, during the harvesting season. Those with a permanent type of migration, on the other hand, used to stay back and care for the Coffee plantations, performing intercultural tasks such as weeding, manuring, mulching and spraying plant protection chemicals to Coffee plants throughout the year, in addition to harvesting Coffee beans. The results were in accordance with the findings of Sagar (2021) [8].

3.2.2.4 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the duration of migration (Average days of migration)

It is evident from Table 4 (d) that nearly two-third (66.43%) of migrant labourers were found to have an average migration period of 8 months and above. This might be because nearly three-third of the migrant labourers had a permanent type of migration; thus, the average migration period will be more in these cases. In contrast, more than one-fifth of migrant labourers had a 2-4 months period of migration. The probable reason could be that the migrant labourers migrated only during the harvesting season of Coffee beans. The results were in accordance with the findings of Patel (2017) [6].

3.2.2.5 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the place of migration

The results depicted in Table 4 (e) revealed that more than three-fourth (77.14%) of labourers are found to be migrated from different states as Coffee harvesting is manual, labour-

intensive work. There are no machines that harvest the Coffee beans from the trees and the beans should be harvested in time. Thus owners of Coffee plantations feel challenging to cope up with these vast labour requirements. On the other hand, local labourers demand more wage rates. Thus in recent years, labourers from various states like Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala started migrating to these Coffee plantations. Darrang, Guwahati

and Kamrup districts in Assam, Kolkata and Hooghly districts in West Bengal, where most labourers migrate to Coffee plantations. In contrast, 18.58 per cent of labourers move within a state to these Coffee plantations in search of work. The major districts in Karnataka where labourers migrate to Coffee plantations include Chitradurga, Mysuru, Davangere, Ballari and Vijayanagara.

Table 4: Distribution of migrant labourers based on the migration behavior n= 140

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Distribution of migrant labourers based on the migrating members in a family			
1	One	00	00.00
2	Two	124	88.57
3	Three	00	00.00
4	More than three	16	11.43
Distribution of migrant labourers based on the type of migration			
1	Seasonal	47	33.57
2	Permanent / Year-round	93	66.43
Distribution of migrant labourers based on the frequency of migration in a year			
1	Once	140	00.00
2	Twice	00	00.00
3	Thrice	00	00.00
4	More than thrice	00	00.00
Distribution of migrant labourers based on the duration of migration			
1	Up to 60 days	00	00.00
2	61 to 120 days	31	22.14
3	121 to 180 days	11	7.86
4	181 to 240 days	05	3.57
5	240 days and above	93	66.43
Distribution of migrant labourers based on the place of migration			
1	Within taluk	00	00.00
2	Within the district	06	4.28
3	Intrastate	26	18.57
4	Interstate	108	77.14

3.2.2.6 Distribution of migrant labourers based on the source of information for migration

Table 5 shows that more than half of the migrants (52.86%) follow information from contractors. It is possible that during peak season *i.e.*, the harvesting season in Coffee plantations, contractors (mestri's) from Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts bring labourers from North-eastern states like Assam and West Bengal. Furthermore, for more than one-third (35.00%) of migrant labourers, other migrants and

friends from their native places serve as sources of information and they are motivated by the earnings patterns that they hear from those who have already migrated; they are very confident that those who have migrated earlier have begun earning income. It is also evident that every migrant had a source of information at the place of migration which could arrange him a work to do and a place to live in, which builds the confidence of the new migrants. The results were in accordance with the findings of Amresh (2021) ^[1].

Table 5: Distribution of migrant labourers based on the source of information for migration n= 140

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Friends (Peer group)	21	15.00
2.	Family members	00	00.00
3.	Relatives	17	12.14
4.	Other migrants from the area	28	20.00
5.	Others (Commission agents)	74	52.86

3.2.3 Association between migration behaviour and independent variables of the migrant labourers

It is evident from Table 6 that the independent variables, such as age, education, annual income, landholding, occupation, job-experience, type of family, mass media exposure and indebtedness, had shown a positive and highly significant association with the migration behaviour of labourers. The results were in accordance with the findings of Patel (2017) ^[6] and Amresh (2021) ^[1].

3.2.3.1 Age and migration behaviour

The results in Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between age and migration behaviour of labourers. This indicates that the migration behaviour of labourers was influenced by their age and it was more prominent in young people than old aged people. It is quite natural also that in old aged people, energy and body strength are comparatively lower while social responsibilities are high.

3.2.3.2 Education and migration behaviour

The results in the Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between education and migration behaviour of labourers. As discussed earlier, the income of the majority of the migrant families was low. In this situation, education might have helped them realize the importance of migration for earning more to sustain their livelihood. Education might also have helped them in developing self-confidence to search for work opportunities through migration.

3.2.3.3 Annual income and migration behaviour

The results depicted in Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between the annual income and migration behaviour of labourers. As discussed earlier, the income of the majority of the migrant families was low. Thus, it is obvious that labourers having a low level of income have more migration.

3.2.3.4 Land holding and migration behaviour

The results in the Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between landholding and migration behaviour. As discussed earlier, the majority of migrant labourers fall under the marginal farmer category. Thus the migrant labourers having marginal landholding tend to migrate more.

3.2.3.5 Occupation and migration behaviour

The results depicted in Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant relationship between occupation and migration behaviour of labourers. As mentioned earlier, for the majority of migrant labourers, agriculture was the sole occupation, as agricultural occupations are seasonal, and labourers may have migrated to Coffee plantations to earn a livelihood during the off-season.

3.2.3.6 Job-experience and migration behaviour

The results in the Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between job-experience and migration behaviour of labourers. Further, the sample investigated included a greater number of young migrant labourers. As a result, it may be claimed that as people get older, their job-experience grows.

3.2.3.7 Type of family and migration behaviour

The results depicted in Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between the type of family and migration behaviour of labourers. The members would be less in the nuclear type of family, and hence, the extent of migration would also be more in nuclear type as it is easy for these types of family to completely relocate from one place to another and it can be concluded that type of family played a significant role on the migration of labourers.

3.2.3.8 Mass media exposure and migration behaviour

The results in the table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between mass media exposure and migration behaviour of labourers. As discussed earlier, most migrant labourers are youths and possess mobiles and smartphones with the internet, helping

the labourers gain information regarding work opportunities, a place to live-in etc., in different areas. Thus it can be concluded that mass media exposure played a significant role in the migration of labourers.

3.2.3.9 Indebtedness and migration behaviour

The results depicted in Table 6 revealed that there was a positive and highly significant association between indebtedness and migration behaviour of labourers. Thus it is evident that labourers having debts are the one who migrates more to earn extra income to clear their debts.

Table 6: Association between migration behaviour and independent variables of migrant labourers n= 140

Sl. No.	Categories	Chi-square statistic	P- value
1.	Age	14.112**	0.003
2.	Education	74.973**	0.000
3.	Annual income	24.593**	0.000
4.	Landholding	25.489**	0.000
5.	Occupation	27.435**	0.000
6.	Job-experience	24.916**	0.000
7.	Type of family	97.414**	0.000
8.	Mass media exposure	29.848**	0.000
9.	Amenities available	11.066 ^{NS}	0.086
10.	Indebtedness	45.257**	0.000
11.	Economic motivation	10.975 ^{NS}	0.089

** Significant at 1% level significance, NS=Non significant

4. Conclusion

Migration, as a worldwide event, is as old as civilization and development. It is the outcome of an individual's desire to improve his living conditions and explore new opportunities. Not all migrations are motivated by a passion for higher living standards. Migration has also been influenced by political, social, religious and ethnic reasons. It is both a cause and an effect of the rate and magnitude of economic growth worldwide. To control/combat a very high level of migration from other states, respective state governments where from immigration was observed should formulate suitable beneficiary programmes to ensure employment opportunities to the migrant labourers round the year with minimum wages. The respective state governments should create self-employment opportunities among migrant labourers through capacity building programmes to check migration, as 86.43 per cent of labourers fall under the young age category with a moderate level of education. Mechanization of possible operations in Coffee plantations could be a solution against the predicament of over-dependence on migrant labourers. The majority of migrant labourers believed staying in their native places makes it impossible to maintain their family due to poverty/poor economic conditions.

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