

## DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS AND ACCESS TO SCHOOLS OF CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT LABORERS IN KERALA

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### ABSTRACT

Migration contributed in the enhanced development of mankind and in turn deciding the history of the world. We Indians are considered to be a mixed migrant population from various parts of the world. India is well known for its unity in diversity. Places are different in language, culture, rituals, beliefs, art forms etc. As a common trend, Indians are travelling from one place to another for the sake of economical/social gains. Kerala receives migrants from all over the country, ranging from the nearest Tamil Nadu to North Indian states. The main reason for this immigration is the high wages in all the sectors of work as compared to their native states. Most of the immigrants are unskilled workers intended to contribute in agricultural and construction sector. In Kerala, the immigrant children's education is catered through schools and special training centers of Samagra Shiksha Kerala under General Education Department. Here, these children are taught with the similar curriculum under General Education, Kerala. In this study, the number of immigrant laborers children enrolled under various districts in Kerala in the year 2019-20 academic years, their native states and their access facilities to schools are discussed.

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists"

Franklin D. Roosevelt

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kerala is known as the golden gulf of migrants. In past, the people were migrating to gulf countries to earn well and set up a better life. Like that, now a lot of unskilled laborers are migrating to Kerala because of the pull factors like urbanization, better wages, high quality of life and better availability of living conditions.

Kerala receives migrants from all over the country including the nearest state Tamilnadu and farther northern states. Some of the immigrants come alone and others migrate with their family. Those who migrate with their children are the area of concern. The children enrolled under various schools are having various issues due to their past living background. Some of the languages spoken by migrant children in schools include Bengali, Assamese, Odiya, Hindi, Mundari, Tamil, Kannada and Dhivehi. 11733 children were enrolled at various schools under all the 14 districts in Kerala in the academic year 2019-2020. To support them in their language, educational volunteers are recruited in schools but not in all cases. Lack of availability of qualified educational volunteers from their native states is reported from certain areas. Most of the migrant children are coming from extreme economic backward situations.

### II. RELATED WORK

Migrant Workers in Kerala: A Study on Their Socio-Economic Conditions states that the immigrant laborers low income limit is shifted in to high income limits when migrated to Kerala. [1]

Integrating Migration and Development Policy in India: A Case Study of Three Indian States that proper support is needed in a number of areas including registration, issuing ID cards, legal

Support, access to social protection and social security, financial inclusion, education of migrant children, health, and skill creation and jobs.[2]

International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research, 2018. 03, 36. Shows that migration has helped them to attain a better standard of living.[3]

Access and Quality of Education for International Migrant Children Concludes that a range of key school-level factors must be considered which influence education for migrant children, including early childhood, age and duration of compulsory schooling, ability grouping, tracking, responsiveness of curricula and pedagogies to migrants, and openness to diversity for ensuring quality migrant education. [4]

The Adaptation of Migrant Children concludes that provision of volunteer programs and other Forms of outside assistance to guide the most disadvantaged members of this population and help Them stay in school.[5]

Changing patterns of household decision-making and the education of rural migrant children: comparing Shenzhen and Mumbai states that in both China and India, migrant families face difficult decisions about education and livelihoods. In China, migrant children have limited access to urban schools, because of high documentary barriers to enrolment. In India, administrative barriers are fewer, but other structural factors, including households' need for child labor restrict opportunities. [6]

Beyond belonging, How migrant children actively construct their cultural identities in the interaction says that At a broader level this analysis focused on cultural identity not as an element in order to verify the integration of migrant children inside Italian society, but rather as a way to observe and recognize their active participation in social processes and their social competences [7]

### III. METHODOLOGY

The study is a descriptive one. The data was collected through survey method. Respondents consisted of a random sample of 500 immigrant laborers, Educational volunteers, Teachers and District programme officers in charge of immigrant laborers children education under all the 14 districts of Kerala. Data was collected through structured questionnaire method through Google platform. Secondary data was assorted from various journals and articles.

**Table-1:** Details of district wise enrolment of immigrant laborers children.

Sr. No	District	Total number of immigrant children class 1 to 12
1	Trivandrum	1067
2	Kollam	550
3	Pathanamthitta	192
4	Alappuzha	315
5	Kottayam	224
6	Idukki	749
7	Ernakulam	4679
8	Thrissur	935
9	Palakkad	475
10	Malappuram	421
11	Kozhikode	827
12	Wayanadu	65
13	Kannur	785
14	Kasaragod	449
	Total	11733

From the consolidated district wise data of immigrant laborers children, 11733 children are enrolled at various schools under general education in Kerala. 1067 children from various states have been enrolled in various schools under Trivandrum district. Since it is bordering Tamilnadu, most of the children are from Tamilnadu (467). 550 children from various states have been enrolled in various schools under Kollam district. Since it also bordering Tamilnadu, most of the children are from Tamilnadu (373) .192 children from various states have

been enrolled in various schools under Pathanamthitta district. Most of the children enrolled at Pathanamthitta are from Tamilnadu (71). 315 children from various states have been enrolled in various schools under Alappuzha district. 224 children from various states with similar proportion from north and south India have been enrolled in various schools under Kottayam district. Idukki district have 749 immigrant children enrolled at various schools. Most of the children are from Assam (396) and Jharkhand (214). Ernakulam district have the largest number of immigrant laborers in the state. 4679 immigrant children enrolled at various schools. Most of the children are from Tamilnadu (1389), west Bengal (816) and Bihar (680).

Thrissur district have 935 immigrant laborers children enrolled at various schools. Most of the children are from West Bengal (134) and Bihar (119). Kozhikode district have 827 immigrant laborers children enrolled at various schools. Most of the children are from Bihar (172) and Uttar Pradesh (153). Malappuram district have 421 immigrant laborers children enrolled at various schools. Wayanadu district have the least number (65) of immigrant laborers children in the state. Kannur have 785 immigrant laborers children enrolled and most of the children are from Rajasthan (135), Karnataka (108) and Tamil nadu (136). Palakkad district have 475 immigrant laborers children enrolled at various schools. Most of the children are from Tamil nadu (166). The district borders Tamil nadu in a large portion. Kasaragod have an enrolment of 449 children from 1 to 12 classes and most of the children are from Karnataka since it borders Karnataka a great extent. Of the respondents, 97.6% of parents enrolled their children in schools in Kerala. As a part of the study, 15 children in the age group of 6-14 have identified as not enrolled in schools yet in Idukki (11) and (4) Pathanamthitta. A total of 10% parents are not able to send their children to schools regularly because of the absence of neighboring schools. The issue was reported to the officials and they go enrolled soon. In Idukki and Pathanamthitta, high range areas have vast plantations which make the situation harder to enroll the child in schools. Survey and continuous tracing is hard in these areas.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Now in Kerala there is an active out of school wing and special training centers under Samagra Shiksha Kerala from 2011 onwards. The first special training centre to cater the immigrant children's education was started at Kandanthara GUPS perumbavoor as an innovation by the Samagra Shiksha officials. The same idea was extended to all the schools in Ernakulam district and the same was taken up by the state and immigrant children were catered under these special training centers with educational volunteer from their own linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The highest numbers of children are enrolled under Ernakulam district (4679) and lowest number of enrolment is at Wayanadu (65). Most of the construction works are happening in Ernakulam District which is the most urbanized district of Kerala. Since most of the immigrant laborers are from unskilled labor areas, this city demands them much. The highest pull factored district is Ernakulam and hence the number of immigrant families are greater here. In Wayanadu, most of the areas are tribal hamlets and green zones. Very less construction works are going on there. So only hotel and tourism sectors are demanding unskilled laborers. In Kerala, Largest number of immigrant children is from Tamilnadu (3251). The intensity of migration is large in districts which shares larger areas with borders of Tamil nadu. 10% of immigrant parents are not able to send their wards to school because of the absence of neighborhood schools. The responses were from Idukki (8%) and Pathanamthitta (2%) with difficult to access vast and high range plantations.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that, 97.6% of immigrant parents enroll their children in schools in Kerala. As a practice from 2011, all the block resource centers in Kerala have a trainer and CRC coordinator in charge of access and retention and migrant education. So when a migrant family/ group come to Kerala, the companies/plantation managements reports it to the concerned faculties and after parental awareness, these children are enrolled in nearby schools. Where there are more than 10 number of enrolment of immigrant children, a special training centre is opened and an educational volunteer with similar linguistic background is posted there. Most of the immigrant laborers choose urban areas for their employment and their enrolment is not a hurdle. But there are tea/ coffee/ cardamom plantation workers who live in high risk access less areas mostly in Idukki and Pathanamthitta. Most of the agencies are not able to follow up the activities due to the access issues. If the

educational volunteer is posted from each and every pocket of immigrants, the problem can be solved up to a great extent.

## VI. REFERENCES

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