

## MIGRANT WORKERS OF CARPET INDUSTRY: A CASE STUDY OF BHADOHI CITY, UTTAR PRADESH

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**Abstract:** *Migration is one of the three major factors which affect growth and distribution of population and the other two are nationality and mortality. The migration held place due to pull or push factor. The means of livelihood is one of the most determinant factors behind migration. The Present paper is the study of migrant workers in carpet industry of Bhadohi. Carpet industry had engulfed large number of migrant workers in it. This paper deals the socio economic life of migrant carpet workers such as sex composition, education, income, work participation, family size, etc. The study is based on primary source of data with the help of questionnaire to the respondent to collect the information pertaining to the socio economic condition of the migrant workers of carpet industry. Bhadohi city comprises 25 wards each ward surveyed through purposive sampling. For this 100 migrant workers have selected purposively from carpet industry. Simple percentage method has been used to analyze socio economic condition of migrant workers.*

**Key words:** Migration, Socio-Economic Life, Carpet Industry

### Introduction

Migration is a geographical phenomenon that seems to be a human necessity in every age. Since man has a tendency to leave areas in which life is difficult, he migrates to the area where life may be easy and better. The term "migrant worker" has different official meanings and connotations in different parts of the world. The United Nations' definition is broad, including any people working outside of their home country. Some of these are called expatriates. Several countries have millions of foreign workers. Some have millions of illegal immigrants, most of them being workers also. The term can also be used to describe someone who migrates within a country, possibly their own, in order to pursue work such as seasonal work. The "United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" defines migrant worker as follows: "The term "migrant worker" refers to a person who is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national" (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). Migration of workers is a human phenomenon which has historical roots and wider implications. The term migration is very broad. It generally refers to shift from a place of residence to another place for some length of time or permanently including different types of voluntary movements. "Migration is defined broadly as a permanent or semi permanent change of residence. No restriction is placed up on the distance of the move or upon the voluntary or involuntary nature of the act and no distribution is made between external and internal migration" (Lee 1969). Economic history of world, however, shows that the human migration is the natural manifestation of socioeconomic and technological growth/development. The normal course of migration is that it takes place from relatively low

developed to high developed regions/ countries. Migrations have economic genesis but resulting socio-political cultural ramifications. Migration is an important feature of human civilization. It reflects, human endeavor to survive in the most testing conditions both natural and man-made. Migration in India has existed historically, but, in the context of globalization and opening up of the world economy it has assumed special significance for the country and the society. Present paper is the study of socio economic profile of migrant workers of Bhadohi Carpet Industry. Carpet industry is a part of culture and tradition in India and over the world since past .Carpet had been the luxurious items since the past and become necessity in the modern era. Although many Indian states achieve its different identity in the carpet manufacturing but Bhadohi is most dominating among these. Popularly known as the “Carpet city of India”, Bhadohi district is the biggest carpet manufacturing center in India, most known for its hand-knotted carpet. Bhadohi alone employs 22 lakh rural artisans in its 100 percent export-oriented industry. It accounts for about 75 per cent of the Rs. 4,400 Crore total carpet exports from India, exporting carpets worth Rs. 2,500 crore (approx) in 2010(www.bhadohicarpetcity.com) .In same year the carpets of Bhadohi received the Geographical Identification tag (GIS).Carpet manufactured from 9 district or region Bhadohi Mirzapur, Varanasi, Jaunpur Allahabad collectively called “Handmade Carpets of Bhadohi. It is famous for hand knotted carpet all over the globe. Bhadohi alone produce more than 70% of carpet manufactured from India (www.aicma.co.in).

### **Literature Review**

The review of related literature is an important pre-requisite to actual planning and execution of any research work. A review of literature on the research topic makes the researcher familiar with the existing studies. Workers migration is not new to human race. Individual want to migrate for adventure, hope desperation searching for the idol place to work and live have travelled the world. (Ali, 2009) It reflects human migrates to find out the most testing place in terms of natural and human conditions. In India, the labour migration is mostly influenced by social structures and pattern of development. Uneven development is the main reason of migration along with factors like poverty, landholding system, and fragmentation of land, lack of employment opportunities, large family-size and natural calamities. The high-land man ratio, caste system, lawlessness and exploitation at native place speed up the breakdown of traditional socio-economic relations in the rural areas and people decide to migrate to relatively prosperous areas in search of better employment and income (Kaur, 2011). Migration of workers is a human phenomenon caused due to economic , social and psychological process, its gives the development and prosperity to one region on one hand and on the other hand backwardness and deprivation to other region.(Mathur 2013)

### **Study Area**

Bhadohi (Sant Ravidas Nagar), district was created on June 30, 1994 as the 65<sup>th</sup> district of state. The district is famous for its carpet universally. It is the smallest district of the Utter Pradesh by area. It is famous by the sobriquet of “Carpet City”. It was part of the Varanasi district prior to its creation on June 30, 1994 .This district is situated in the plains of the Ganges river, which forms the south western border of the district. Ganges, Varuna and Morva are the main rivers .The district is surrounded by Jaunpur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Allahabad by North, East, South and West respectively. The district has an area of 1055.99km<sup>2</sup>.The district is divided into three tehsils, Aurai, Bhadohi and Gyanpur and six blocks, Bhadohi, Suriyawan, Gyanpur, Deegh ,Abholi and Aurai .There are 1075 populated and 149 non populated villages along with 79 Nyay Panchayats and 489 Gram Panchayats

in the district and has nine police station..According to the 2011 census, Sant Ravidas Nagar has a population density is 1531, its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 14.81, its sex ratio is 950 and literacy rate is 89.14. The climate of the district is moist and relaxing in winter and hot season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The average annual rainfall is 1021.3mm on an average there are 50 rain days in a year in Bhadohi.

### **The General picture of carpet industry**

The tradition of carpet manufacture in Bhadohi goes back to at least 400 years. "Ain-Akabari" (1600 AD) by Abul Fazal is the oldest record in which reference appears to carpet weaving in the area. The hand-knotted carpets of Bhadohi constitute 95 percent of the total carpet export from India. Only about 10 percent of the total carpet produced in India is locally consumed. The export of Indian carpets has reached to its peak at Rs. 3674.86 crores in 2006-07 (U.P. share Rs. 2829.64 crore) but global slowdown and demand of traditional Persian carpet especially from Europe and US jolted the carpet industry. With some improvement in global economy the trade has seen rising trend in 2010-11 to tune of Rs. 2992 crore (U.P. Share 525.87 crore) Industry has all hope that the value of export would not go below last year figure in the current year. In 2010 the carpet manufactured in Bhadohi region has also received geographical indication (GI) tag. While many Indian handicrafts succumbed to the challenges of technological modernization, the carpet industry-one of the urban handicrafts-has not only successfully withstood the onslaughts of technological development, competition from china and Pakistan and global recession as well but has flourished over the years. This is due to the adaptability that the industry has shown to new situations. Carpet manufacturing involves a good deal of specialization. The whole organization opens unemployment opportunities to a large number of workers, and represents a tightly knit nexus of interrelationships among the people engaged in the industry at different levels. The carpet manufactured in Bhadohi is not all woolen. The warp is made of cotton twisted thread and knots of from different parts of the country such as Jhansi, Agra, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gwalior. The local names of the cotton thread and woolen yarn are soot and anga, respectively. The different processes in carpet manufacture include picking and sorting of wool, carding, spinning, dyeing, weaving, trimming and washing. The tasks of picking and sorting of wool, and carding and spinning, are not much in vogue today. Some people still do this work in their own homes. A rough quality of yarn is supplied to the small manufacturers. The manufacturers are supplied with readymade woolen yarn by different woolen mills also. A major part of carpet manufacture is weaving. Carpet weaving is carried out on looms by weavers in their own homes. In the Bhadohi carpet industry alone about 25 thousand rural artisans are employed. Most weavers have their own looms. Only a few do not own their looms and weave on looms owned by master-weavers or commission agents. Usually, commission agents or manufactures advance some money to weavers to install looms. Such weavers are contractually bound to weave the carpet for those, who have given them the money in advance. This contract is only socially sanctioned and there is no formal legal agreement.

### **Socio-Economic structure of Carpet Industry**

In general, carpet production was a small-scale cottage industry; almost all (perhaps 95 percent) carpet production was located in small workshops (sheds) and in households that mostly used family workers. Most sheds were in villages, and most shed owners owned only a few looms and employed very few workers, including children. Those shed owners were not wealthy and often, not even middle class. A smaller number of much larger sheds were

owned and operated by manufacturers supplying exporters with carpets and processors supplying exporters with other materials and services. At the top were the major exporters and carpet manufacturers who owned hundreds of looms and relied on a hierarchy of managers and contractors. Some of their carpets were produced in big factories operated directly by the exporters or their managers. For other carpets, the exporters gave orders to contractors, who distributed the orders (and often the looms) among many sheds and households in rural villages and (less common) urban neighborhoods. Granner, E. (2001). The base of the industry's socioeconomic structure consisted of the weavers and lower level employees. They were predominantly male and low ranking in all studies. Enforce, as it was nearly impossible to trace the connection between local looms and the responsible manufacturer or exporter. The carpet industry in India was concentrated in eastern UP state in traditional core "carpet belt" districts and an extension area. The core area accounted for 70 to 90 percent of the total carpet production in India. The long-established carpet industry in Jammu & Kashmir specialized in silk. Newer areas for carpet production included Jaipur (Rajasthan state), Panipat (Haryana state), and Agra (western UP), which were growing in importance due to their accessibility, better infrastructure, and proximity to the national capital and main tourist sites. There were reports that new carpet production areas were being established in districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh states by migrants returning from working in the carpet belt.

### **Objectives**

The present paper is an attempt to show the general picture of migrant workers in carpet industry in Bhadohi city. Migrant workers among the various sectors constitute very significant amount and added their effort in the socio economic development of the region. The present study is about the carpet weaving workers that comes from the neighbouring state and contributes their skill to making the marvellous carpet. The main focus of this paper is to highlighting the socio economic condition of migrant workers in carpet city.

### **Methodology**

Present study is based on the primary survey that is done through schedule. Purposive samplings have been done to determine the number of respondents. Bhadohi city comprises 25 wards each ward from which 100 migrant workers have selected for study. The interviews have done in June 2016. The simple percentage method have used to analyses the socio economic condition of migrant workers.

### **Socio-Economic Life of Migrant Workers in carpet industry in Bhadohi City**

Socio Economic study is a multi dimensional phenomenon, it engulf many indicators in itself such as economical, educational, living standard, indoor and outdoor environment, health status, infrastructure condition etc. which determine the socio economic condition. The term 'socio economic' has been the major concern of most of disciplinarians because of its multidimensional nature. There are lots of factor which does impact on socio economic condition of people whether directly or indirectly. The most important factor among these is the means of livelihood because it determines the level of income which becomes the controlling factors of other socio economic conditions. Migration in India is mostly influenced by social structure and pattern of development. Uneven development is the main cause of migration, added to it are disparities, inter-regional and among different socio economic classes. The landless poor who mostly belong to, lower caste indigenous community and economically backward regions constitute the major portion of migrants (migrant workers: present position and future strategy)

Migration of workers is always gender selective depends on the nature of work. Carpet weaving in Bhadohi city is done through the male workers commonly. There is some trifling that is done through female workers such as wool unbinding, finishing and designing. Among the respondents of carpet workers there is 85% workers are male whereas 15% are female. The respondents have selected mainly weavers and weaving is done through dominantly by male workers. So this is reason behind such difference in number of male migrants and female migrants. The female migrant workers are those who come with their husbands after marriage. Among the respondents 68% are married and remaining is unmarried.

Carpet Industry has comes under the cottage and handicraft industry it does not required the higher educated workers in the manufacturing level of carpets. The most of the respondents of migrant workers are indulged in the manufacturing process of carpet making such as weaving, washing, designing, coloring, finishing etc. These workers are mostly daily waged and irregular workers. Among the respondents there is 65% are literate while 35% are illiterate .Among 15% female migrants there are 10% literate and 5% are illiterate. Among the literate workers 85% have passed their 5<sup>th</sup> class only while 8% have completed their 10<sup>th</sup> and 7% has done 12<sup>th</sup> .Among the women respondents they all have high school passed. The very low level of education among the migrants is due to poverty and lack of opportunity at their homeland.

The income condition among the workers are low because they are mainly temporary based workers in which most of them are daily waged that paid much less in comparison to the other workers. There are various categories of work in carpet manufacturing. There are number of stage of making a single carpet. The category of work in carpet manufacturing is involves the designing, coloring, weaving, washing, dying, finishing and packing. All these work requires manual labour that done by the daily waged workers. Among the respondent, weavers can earn only 180 Rs/day. The other category of washer man that earn 100-150 Rs and this constitutes only 5% among the respondents.30% respondents belong to the category of dyer and finishing workers they also get only 180-200Rs /day. The group of designers among respondents are 3% and earn 200-300 Rs /day that is much satisfactory than the weavers and other groups. The 15% of migrant workers among the respondents are also involves in carpet making process. The women workers among respondents are indulged in wool binding. They can earn 50-60Rs/day along with all household chords.

Family Size is the most important indicator to assess the Socio-Economic condition of migrant workers. There is high family size among migrant workers of study area. The largest group among the respondent of family size is 7-12 shows the highest concentration that is 58%.The second highest group of family size is 5-7 that constitute 28% of respondents.16% of family size lies in the group of 1-5. Housing Condition of these migrant workers are very pathetic .There are only 25% of respondents having their own land .The other 98% migrant workers live on the monthly rent. The majority of migrant workers are confined to live in under a single roof with high family in a congested indoor environment .There are 75% of respondents confined to live in 2 rooms of a house with such a large family size.25% of respondents have to satisfy their needs under a single roof. Among the 2% of respondents those have tier own land also lead a pathetic living condition.68% of respondents have not a toilet facilities at their house and only 23% of respondents are living with separate kitchen at their home. Respondents of migrant workers are also suffering with

health problem due to congested and unhygienic living environment .The weavers are exposed to suffocating loom house during working hours .The woolen carpet weavers are suffering with respiratory problems due to inhaling of that air which dissolves the woolen suspended particles.45% of respondent have reported the health problem such as backache, respiratory problems and lung disease. The 55% of remaining respondents showed healthy condition.

Table 1: Demographic Variables of Migrant Workers in Carpet Industry of Bhadohi City

<b>Demographic Variables</b>	
Religion	
Muslims	90%
Non Muslims	10%
Sex Composition	
Male	85%
Female	15%
Age Structure	
20-45	68%
45-50	30%
50-60	2%
Marital status	
Married	68%
Unmarried	32%

Source: Researcher collected data through field work in 2016

The above socio economic condition of migrant workers needs attention of government to provide them good and healthy living environment. Their social and economic status required the planners concern to support them to lead better life.

### **Reason of Migration in Carpet industry**

Migration is always caused by broadly two factors that is push and pull factor. Basically, migrant workers in carpet industry are temporary workers and daily waged. Carpet industry provides the ample opportunity of employment of those unskilled and uneducated people that could hardly get employment in other sector. This industry is considered the best pull factor to suck the number of migrant workers from the neighboring areas.

### **Pull factors**

Pull factors are that factor that attracts the people to leave their place of origin and migrate to other place. The agricultural workers of rural area are tends to migrate neighboring place in search of their means of livelihood in the off agricultural season. Carpet industry in Bhadohi itself a pull factor of these unemployed workers that gives them the opportunity to earn their livelihood. There are various factors that constitute the pull factor such as employment, education, health and religious. These entire factors are responsible in the migration of workers in carpet city Bhadohi. There are 86% of respondents that belongs to Muslim Julaha community that is well known for weaving. Bhadohi city leads in the number of this community and only this place this community lives very reputed and satisfactory life in comparison to the other neighboring place. This is also the leading factor behind the migrant workers to tend to migrate in carpet city of Bhadohi. Among the respondents there are 85% that reported the cause of their migration is employment opportunity. Because the most of the workers are farmers and they tend to leave their occupation and find the other substitute

of employment. They can earn here easily without any specific training. Besides this factor the remaining participants reported cause of migration is the educational facilities and medical facilities to their new generation. Among the participants of migrant workers, 15% reported that they leave their home place for seeking the medical and educational facilities to their children. All these factors are playing the role to attract the workers in the city.

### **Push Factor**

Push factors are those factors that become the cause of leaving their home place and search a new place in order to find out their better means of livelihood. Among the respondents there are 89% of workers that have migrated from Bihar and 11% of respondents from other neighboring district. Bihar is the one of the poorest state of India that constitutes the most migrant workers in other sector and in other state of India. The poverty and hunger is the main cause of the migrant laborers of any state. The respondents of migrant workers reported that the main reason behind their migration is to find out better job and earn money during the off agricultural season. The problem of unemployment leads the other socio economic problem such as poverty and hunger and illiteracy and illness and other social problems.

### **Problem of Workers**

Socio-Economic life of migrant workers of respondents is highly discouraging. They encountered with number of problems. Among the respondents, 85% have reported that they are not satisfied with their living condition .These are discussed below:

**Low Wages:** The income of workers for sustenance of better life has become insufficient. The weavers group of respondent that share largest proportion among migrant workers.

**Irregular Nature of Work:** Migrant workers have complained irregular nature of work. They hardly get 20 days of work in a week. This problem leads further migration of workers to neighboring place for means of earning.

**Poor housing Condition:** Among the respondents 98% of workers are living on the rent house of one or two rooms with such a large family size. They are very much exposed to suffocating indoor environment .This poor indoor environment has become the major cause of bad health. There is 45% of respondent that reported several health problems.

### **Conclusion**

Carpet industry of Bhadohi has proved its artistic glamour over the world. It exposed the marvelous piece of human artistic skill that is done by the aesthetic sense of human mind. Carpet industry has spread over the several pockets in India. Each region of carpet belts is famous for its own specialties .Bhadohi carpet is renowned for hand knotted carpets .The weavers who weaved this intricate pattern of carpet is leading a miserable condition. Daily waged migrant workers are unskilled and low educated that makes them unable to find better job opportunity. This caused their poor economic and living condition.

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