
MIGRATION IN PROFESSIONS BY CRAFTSMEN - A REVIEW ON THE REASONS FOR ARTISANS MIGRATION IN BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT

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Abstract

The paper is about the traditional handicrafts artisans who have come out of their profession of creation of handicrafts and has taken up new employment activity for the betterment of their livelihood and future prospects. The paper analyses the reason for such a migration from their tradition profession to changed employment through scheduled interviews. A sample of 30 artisans were approached for collection of data. The data was collected in the month of October 2017. The sample survey was conducted in Bangalore rural.

Keywords: *Artisans, Handicrafts, Migration, Bangalore, employment, prospects.*

Introduction

Handicrafts is a traditional profession which has been a livelihood for many artisans of the small and village industries. But the industrialization that has evolved and taken up modern technology for manufacture of various products has given a major impact on the handicrafts industries. Though the industry has been thriving well, there has been major changes in the area of design of the product and technology to a certain extent. This has made many a traditional artisans to take a change in their profession. Many are exploring for different professions for the need of earning well and expecting a good future prospects. There a variety of handicrafts renowned in the State of Karnataka namely Mysore paintings, Kinnel ware, Bidriware and lacquer ware. Apart from their cottage industries included sericulture and Beedi works and wooden crafts. Due to the growing urbanization that has created more employment opportunities which gives a fruitful earnings, the artisans are preferring to migrate to different professions for their livelihood.

Review of Literature

Priya Deshingkar and Daniel Start, "Seasonal Migration for Livelihoods in India: Coping, Accumulation and Exclusion", August 2003, has analysed in their paper about the migration of earth workers, haveli workers, construction workers and sugarcane cutters migration by studying 6 village of Andhra Pradesh and 9 villages of Madhya Pradesh. The author says that migration has opened in secure new opportunity, has brought up new skills but the social and domestic trade-off has become severe.

Ram B. Bhagat, International institute of population sciences, 2015, "Urban migration trends-challenges and opportunities in India", in this paper the author narrates the following strong points as reasons of migration-better employment opportunities, transfer of service and proximity to work and also family related issues like marriage and movements with parents and family members, education and others.

Statement of Problem

Bengaluru as a capital city of Karnataka has been an attractive area for thriving Information technology industries. The vigorous growth of the city and its infrastructure and industrialization has opened a various employment opportunity for even people with only matriculation qualification and even below that. The opportunities are mainly cab drivers, jobs at the mall and market places, security services jobs and janitors and sales jobs at big business tech parks and many more. This kind of wide opportunity has motivated many people involved in small and village industries to migrate to the urban city for better prospects.

Objectives of the Study

The paper is mainly scrutinizes the various valid reasons for the migration of artisans to jobs in urban areas. The objective is

- To understand the need for the change in profession by the artisans.
- To analyse the reasons for the change in profession through migration from rural areas to urban areas and capital city for employment.

Research Methodology

The objective of analyzing the reasons for the migration is realized by way of scheduled interviews and interactions and discussions with artisans who have come to the city leaving their traditional occupation. The primary data was collected through distribution of questionnaire. A sample of 30 artisans who changed their profession was interviewed during the month of October 2017. The questionnaire contained ten reasons for the migration and the responder was requested to give ranks for the ten reasons, starting from 1 for the most important reasons going to 10 for the least important reasons. These were tested with Henry Garentt Ranking methodology for analysis using the formula:

$$\text{Percent position} = 100(R_{ij}-0.5)/N_j$$

Analysis and Interpretation

The basic data collected about the age, gender, marital status, educational qualification are as given below

Table 1AGE

Age	
<30 YRS	5
30-40	7
40-50	12
>50	6

All the artisans were male and married. The educational qualification of the artisans were all the 30 had studied below matriculation from Std 7 to Std 9. The reasons for the migrations were given as following in the questionnaire which was ranked by the respondent artisans:

Set function	Reasons for migration to different occupation
F1	1. Less earnings/profitability in handicraft industry
F2	2. Health problems involved creation of craft
F3	3. Problems pertaining to marketing of craft
F4	4. Insufficiency in capital formation
F5	5. Problems in procurement of raw materials
F6	6. Problems with labour
F7	7. Less or no future prospects
F8	8. Eagerness to explore new sectors of employment
F9	9. Competition
F10	10. Absence of institutional support

There were problems faced by the artisans in getting financial assistance to procure raw materials and process it to make a finished product. Most of the artisans were working in wood crafts and the small wood particles in the air while making the craft led them to get breathing problems. There was huge competition in the market and the demand of the market for new design were making it difficult to find buyers for the finished products. The making of the craft were very time consuming and the artisans were of the feeling that the time and energy spent on creation of the craft did not fetch the required results in terms of money and earnings. So there was a doubt among the artisans as to the future prospects for better standard of living in the profession of traditional handicrafts. The skilled labour for the creation of craft were getting very expensive due to the competition in the market and the big business houses of handicrafts employing the skilled workers for better payment made the small and cottage industries to suffer. There were also exploitation of small industries at the time of fetching a price for their product by the big handicraft business houses.

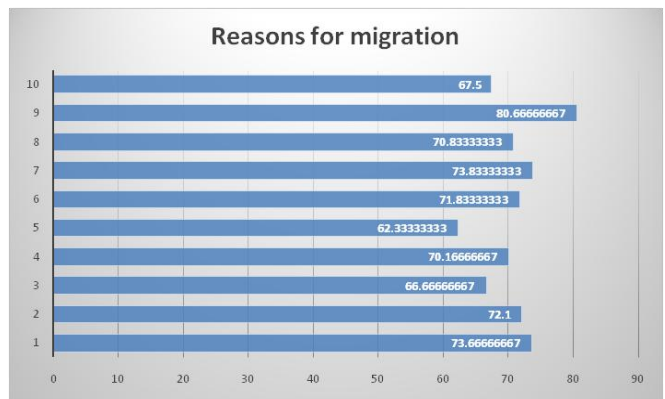
There were also duplication of products and products of lesser quality in the market for a lesser price and the buyers were preferring to buy inferior quality at a cheaper rates rather than going for the original traditional handicrafts which were not at a higher price compared to the inferior duplicated products. For example: Channapatna toys from Dsitrict of Ramanagara, Karnataka are made from the wood of the hale (**Wrightiatinctoria**) tree, using lac for polishing which are non –toxic. These

toys are made by traditional artisans but there are similar china toys made of ordinary wood that are painted by toxic paints and sold in the market for inferior price. This has raised a huge impact on the sale of traditional craft.

The respondents had given ranks for the ten reasons of migration in the scale of 1 to 10 and the ranks given by the respondents were ranked under Henry Garentt ranking methodology and the results of the mean score and ranks are given as under. The analysis shows the major reasons for the change in profession is due to competition in the market (Rank 1) followed by future prospects (Rank 2), lesser profitability (Rank 3), health problems (Rank 4), labour problems (Rank 5), explore of opportunity (Rank 6), capital funding (Rank 7), Institutional support (Rank 8), Marketing problems (Rank 9) and availability of raw material (Rank 10)

The formula used was Percent position = $100(R_{ij}-0.5)/N_j$

Set Functions	MEAN Scores	Ranks
F1	73.667	3
F2	72.1	4
F3	66.66667	9
F4	70.16667	7
F5	62.33333	10
F6	71.83333	5
F7	73.83333	2
F8	70.83333	6
F9	80.66667	1
F10	67.5	8



Conclusion

The study shows that migration is mainly due to heavy competition in the tradition craft sector and artisans move away to urban areas in search of new and better future prospects and to increase their standard of living. Problems with regard to raw materials, marketing and institutional support have secured only the last three ranks, which shows that the artisans are satisfied with these aspects. The most concerned aspects that need to be looked into for reducing the migration of artisans to different profession is to give a good price for their product and to provide social welfare measures concerning to hygiene and health factors. Handicrafts is the most traditional occupation which depicts the culture of our country and protecting that sector is very important for the sake of upkeep of cultural heritage and also to provide a good livelihood for the artisans.

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