

**PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS OF THE SEASONAL MIGRANTS: A CASE STUDY OF  
THE SUGAR CANE CUTTER LABOR OF BEED DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)**

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**ABSTRACT:**

*Migration is a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit to another unit. Generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or the place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival is called migration .It is the main socio-economic issue of the Beed district .Migration affects on the both geographical areas population structure& the other hand it makes many problems or opportunity to region for the development. Keeping this view in mind present study has attempted to assess the problems & prospects of the sugar cane cutters in the region The intensity of this work is to highlight the trends of seasonal migration to decide the level of development in the region .*

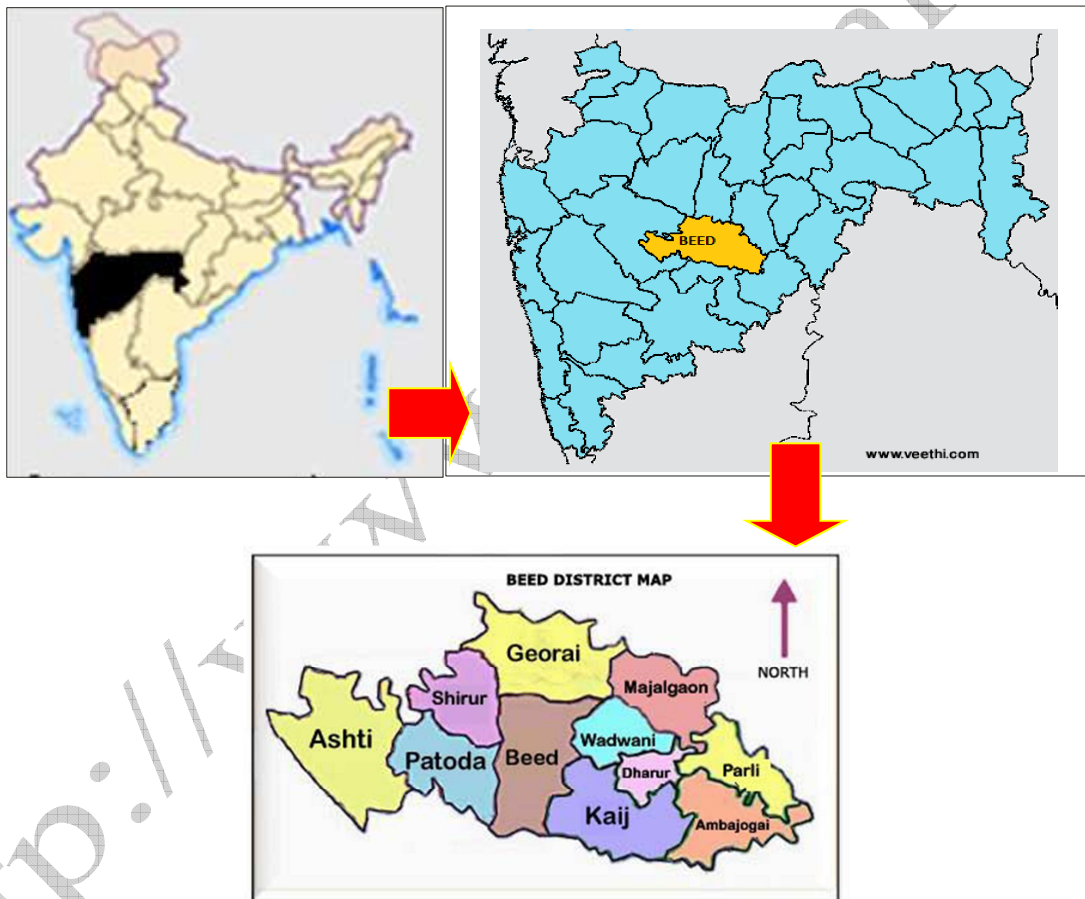
**KEY WORDS:** *Geographical & spatial mobility, migration, destination, problems or opportunity, seasonal migration*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Migration of population is major issue of the govt. for the designing development plan of the state. Its affect on old & new areas plan of development sheet as well as creates socio-economic problems in the society .The seasonal migration of the sugar cane cutter made various problems in the region .All sugarcane cutter migrants belong from undeveloped area to well developed areas behave differently & get impressed by regional opportunities of employment. Beed district of Maharashtra is known for the providing of labor for sugar cane cutting to the sugar industry of Maharashtra.

The sugarcane cutter migrants from Beed district which region is always suffered from natural hazards. Due to under rain-shadow zone this area remains almost dry & no option to the jobs for local people. These people use to search seasonal jobs particularly cane cutting. The cooperative sugar industries which are located in rural areas of the west part of Maharashtra. It provides permanent jobs for the some local people & seasonal employment on large scale during the crushing seasons. Majority of sugar cane cutters belongs to dry prone area of Marathwada region with mostly apart from Beed district.

### Study Area



Beed district is one of the economically, educationally & culturally backward area of Marathwada region. It is situated flanked by Aurangabad & Jalna districts in the north, Parbhani in the east, Latur in the south east, Osmanabad in the south & Ahmednagar district in the west &

south west. It is bounded by latitude  $18^{\circ} 48'$  and  $19^{\circ} 28'$  & east longitude between  $74^{\circ} 48'$  and  $76^{\circ} 45'$ . For administrative purpose the district has been divided in 11 talukas . As per census 2011, the population of the district is 25.85 lakh .The district has 6 towns & 1360 villages' .The major parts of the area comes under Godavari basin .Godavari, Manjra, & Sina are the major rivers that drain the district along with their tributaries .

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives of the present research paper are following;

- i) To highlight the various problems of the sugar cane cutter migrants
- ii) To assess the prospects of sugar cane cutter migrants
- iii) To examine the socio-economic & educational development level in sugar cane cutter

### **DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY:**

Present study is mainly based on primary data collection & partly depend on secondary data .The viva-voce technique has been used effectively for getting authentic information from the cane cutter migrants who are yearly goes to sugar cane industry as a member of toli .Some information has been collected from “**Mukadam**” who is In-charge person of toli & mediator between labor & sugar cane industry. Some information has been collected with the help of questionnaires filled by labor & his family members. The secondary data has been collected from the various cooperative sugar industries of the west Maharashtra .All data & collected information is compiled & inferences have been drawn .Analysis & results have been made with the help of geographical & also sociological perspective with cartographic method

### **RESULT & DISCUSSION:**

The Beed district is characterized by different physical features & it is divided in to three physiographic units (i) low lying northern division or Godavari basin (ii) Balaghat Ranges. (iii) Low lying undulating area south west of high land. The effect of terrain exercises through altitude, rugged relief & slope are determined the region have no better condition for the

irrigation & climatically this area comes under the rain shadow zone and rainfall is unevenly distributed .Due to this geographical condition people have no option &opportunities for permanent jobs that’s why ultimately peoples from the Beed district divert toseasonal jobs of sugar cane cutting

**Table.No.01: Trends of Taluka wise migrants ( sugar cane cutter)of Beed District to the sugar industry throughout Maharashtra- 2011 to 2015( in 000)**

Area	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Beed	2205	1985	4190	3130	2560	5690	4070	3910	7980	5024	4826	9850	5865	5635	11500
%	1.57	1.42	<b>2.99</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>1.47</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>4.36</b>
Pato da	9575	8015	17590	11017	9932	21849	13232	12214	25446	15489	14491	29980	16878	14967	31845
%	6.84	5.74	<b>12.58</b>	<b>6.36</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>12.61</b>	<b>6.33</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>12.18</b>	<b>6.47</b>	<b>6.05</b>	<b>12.52</b>	<b>6.40</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>12.07</b>
Majalgaon	6159	5221	11380	7600	6740	14340	10060	8230	18290	12720	9868	20140	11000	10000	21000
%	4.40	3.73	8.13	4.38	3.90	8.28	4.81	3.94	8.75	5.31	3.10	8.41	3.79	4.17	7.96
Georai	11565	10000	21565	12744	12245	24989	15127	13413	28540	16630	15350	31980	17500	16500	34000
%	8.26	7.14	<b>15.40</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>7.07</b>	<b>14.42</b>	<b>7.24</b>	<b>6.42</b>	<b>13.66</b>	<b>6.95</b>	<b>6.41</b>	<b>13.36</b>	<b>6.63</b>	<b>6.26</b>	<b>12.89</b>
Ashti	16458	15192	31650	22428	18531	38959	21819	19670	41489	24776	22089	46865	26250	25220	51470
%	11.76	10.85	<b>22.61</b>	<b>12.94</b>	<b>9.54</b>	<b>22.48</b>	<b>10.44</b>	<b>09.41</b>	<b>19.85</b>	<b>10.35</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>19.58</b>	<b>9.95</b>	<b>9.56</b>	<b>19.51</b>
Wadavani	5709	4852	10561	7550	6430	13980	8903	8552	17455	10473	9667	20140	12000	11000	23000
%	4.08	3.46	<b>7.54</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>4.26</b>	<b>4.09</b>	<b>8.35</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>8.41</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>8.72</b>
Parali	1612	1318	2930	1743	1607	3350	2254	2026	4280	2888	2773	5661	3283	3217	6500
%	1.15	0.95	<b>2.10</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>2.46</b>
Ambajogai	2153	1987	4140	3102	2438	5540	4210	3440	7650	5004	4457	9461	5600	5400	11000
%	1.54	1.42	<b>2.96</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>4.17</b>
Dhar	5379	4770	10149	7256	6434	13690	10339	8641	18980	11365	11116	2248	1350	1300	2650

ur												1	0	0	0
%	3.84	3.41	<b>7.25</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>9.39</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>4.92</b>	<b>10.04</b>
Shirur	3119	2551	5670	3354	3095	6449	5715	5274	10989	6368	6118	12486	7000	6500	13500
%	2.23	1.82	<b>4.05</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>3.72</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>5.12</b>
Kaij	11077	9063	20140	12469	11980	24449	14334	13546	27880	15782	14568	30350	17000	16500	33500
%	7.91	6.48s	<b>14.39</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>6.92</b>	<b>14.11</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>6.48</b>	<b>13.34</b>	<b>6.59</b>	<b>6.09</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>6.44</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>12.70</b>
Total	75011	64954	139965	92393	80892	173285	110063	98916	208979	126519	112875	239394	135876	127939	263815
%	53.59	46.41	100	53.31	46.69	100	52.67	47.33	<b>100</b>	52.85	47.15	100	51.50	48.50	100
Dist			139965			173285			208979			239394			263815
			13.65			16.90			20.38			23.34			25.75
<b>Tota Beed dist-migrants(2011-2015)</b>			<b>1025438</b>						<b>100.00%</b>						

**SOURCE: Union of Sugar Cane Cutter, Beed District, Beed**

Above table shows that trends of the migrants from the 11 taluka wise of Beed district & total Beed region to the sugar industry of Maharashtra. The sugar cane cutter migrants trends of Parali(v), Ambejogai, wadvani & Beed observed low score & high score lies in Ashti, Patoda, Georai, Majalgaon, Shirur (k), Dharur, Kaij but total number of sugar cane cutter migrants has continuously increasing from 2011 to 2015 due to the lack of rainfall in throughout study area. Certain recent observations of seasonal sugar cane cutter migrants trend is low score from 4 talukas (Parali Ambejogai, Beed & wadvani) because it has option for job to local people as like Thermal power station (parali), small scale industries of cotton (wadvani) & nearby location MIDC latur & proper city of Beed. High scores of sugar cane cutter migrants from 7 taluks (Ashti, Shirur, Patoda, Georai, Dharur, Kaij, & majalgaon) has no option for employment at ground level due to the climatically critical condition of the study area. Therefore most of local peoples from rural area of Beed district has divert to job of sugar cane cutter in throughout Maharashtra. Table no.1 clarify that the total number of cane cutters from Beed district were 139965 (2011) out

of them 53.59% (75011) male & 46.41% (64954) females. Ratio of male & female cutter migrants continuously increasing & declined up to 263815 (2015) out of them 50.50% (135876) male & 48.50% (127939) females. Generally score of migrants starts from 13.65% (2011) & declined 25.73% (2015) means continuously number of seasonal migrants are increasing & it becomes double in four years.

**Table NO.2: Age group wise classification of the Migrants**

Sr. no.	Age group	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1	Below-18	30	7.50	11	2.75	41	10.25
2	18-35	88	22.00	78	19.50	166	41.50
3	35-55	68	17.00	69	17.25	137	34.25
4	55-Above	39	9.75	17	4.25	56	14.00
<b>Total</b>	-----	<b>225</b>	<b>56.25</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**SOURCE: Field survey by Author**

Table no.2 clarifies that out of 400 seasonal migrants- 10.25% (41) are below 18 yrs with 30 males & 11 females from them. The highest score of the sugar cane cutter (labor) in age-group 18-35 is 41.50% (166) & 14.00% (56) migrants have been observed in age group 55-Above. This table indicates that naturally high working capacity of cutters age group at 18-35 (166) & poor working capacity at below-18 (41). Out of 400 cutter 56.25% (225) male & 43.75% (175) females are randomly observed & noticed that 10.25% cutters are child laborers.

**Table NO.3: Educationwise classification of the Migrants**

Sr.NO	Education	M	%	F	%	Total	%
1	Illiterate	65	16.25	100	25.00	165	41.25
2	Literate	30	7.50	50	12.50	80	20.00
3	S.S.C/H.S.C.	70	17.50	25	6.25	95	23.75
4	U,G,P.G.	60	15.00	-----	-----	60	15.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>225</b>	<b>56.25</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**SOURCE: Field survey by Author**

The above table shows that 58.75% (235) of labors are educated & 41.25% (165) illiterate. Highest score of illiterate sugar cane cutter is 41.25% (165) & 23.75 (95) cane cutters having S.S.C./H.S.C pass or fail migrants out of 400 seasonal migrants. It indicates about female sugar cane cutters having more education up to 12<sup>th</sup> & no score in the educational level at U.G/P.G.

**Table NO.4: Economic status of the sugar cane cutter migrants (2011 -2015)**

Sr.No	Taluka	migrants	10000-to 20000	%	20000 to 30000	%	30000 to 40000	%	Above 40000	%	Total %
1	Beed	28	02	7.14	19	67.85	05	17.85	02	7.14	100
2	Patoda	52	08	15.38	34	65.38	06	11.53	04	7.69	100
3	Majalgaon	17	03	17.64	12	70.58	01	5.88	01	5.88	100
4	Kaij	26	04	15.38	15	57.69	05	19.23	02	7.69	100
5	Gevrai	27	02	7.40	17	62.96	06	22.22	02	7.40	100
6	Ashti	88	15	17.04	50	56.81	13	14.77	10	11.36	100
7	Wadwani	25	02	8.00	20	80.00	02	8.00	01	4.00	100
8	Parli	17	03	17.64	13	76.47	01	2.88	----	-----	100
9	Ambejogai	20	02	10.00	16	80.00	01	5.00	01	5.00	100

10	Shirur (Ka)	65	10	15.38	40	61.53	10	15.38	05	7.69	100
11	Dharur	35	08	22.85	21	60.00	03	8.57	03	8.57	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17.25</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>66.75</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13.25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>100</b>

**SOURCE: Field survey by Author**

In the light of observation & present investigation of the table no.4 noticed that majority of sugar cane cutter migrants are economically backward. Taking in to consideration the sugar cane cutter migrant’s income of 400 out of 17.25% (69) is less than Rs.20000 & 66.75% (257) getting Rs .20000-30000 per year. Only few persons 7.75 %(31) getting more rupees. above 40000 per year & 13.25%(53) sugar cane cutters having Rs30000-40000 per year. All of these workers 80% of earning has been taken in advance before 6 month .When they goes to factory in next year or season they have cut their total amount which is taken in advance last year .As per rules & regulations of factory mediator/**Mukadam**, they earn not more than advance payment.

## **PROBLEMS OF SUGAR CANE CUTTER MIGRANTS**

### **Housing:**

While people are away from their home, they need accommodation that’s why shelter is basic need of human& all sugar cane cutter migrant lives in huts which are developed on the open space in sugar industry premises as well as in the field of factory. Labors go to factory for seasonal job so they have not their permanent house. They built their huts by using bamboo, pachat& other row material which collected from the nearby surrounding area but they suffers from many climatic problems as well as they have no protection from wild animals

### **Water:**

Water is important for human life & most of the diseases are creates in human body from the pullulated water which is the main problem of sugar cane cutter migrants so they do not get purified water in the field of work as well as at the home. Therefore migrants face to many problems their health.

**Education:**

Education is the key of human progress & it makes man to perfect for living in the world. Most of the migrants are only literates but they have not technical knowledge for the sporting live. The highest score 41.25% only illiterate, 23.75% having SSC/HSC, 15.00% obtain UG/PG & 20.00% migrants are found literates in the study but future of the next generation of migrants is seen in education fail or dark. They can't provide better facilities to child for his future development.

**Health & Food:**

Majority of migrants work daily 12-15 hrs in the field & they have no time for preparation of better cooking that's why they takes simple & low quality foods. It is not sufficient to cover more calories or energy to their bodies. So lace of better quality food affect on their healthy life in the future.

**Electricity:**

Sugar cane cutter migrants are lives in temporary hut& they have not facilities of electricity they use kerosene chimney& dry batteries for light in the field. Most of them use natural light of moon for cooking meal & other purpose as well as some time illegally takes the connections of electricity from the pole of MSEB in the working field.

**Drainage:**

As per observation drainage system has never seen in the settlement of sugar cane cutter. They use for bath & toilet nearby open space in the factory & field. Therefore some migrants are suffering from viral infections & diseases

**Transportation:**

Sugar industry depends on worker & labor as well as on the row materials. Sugar cane cutter works hard in the field of sugar cane & transport the cane with help of bullock cart & other transport vehicles to the factory. Most of roads which are daily using bullock carts & sugar cane

cutters are observed very rough & un useful for transportation. Some times of the low categories of roads & long distance between factory & sugarcane field affect on their earning as well as on the working capacity.

**Economic problems:**

Sugar cane cutter migrants are belonging to economically backward. They has no technical knowledge but hard worker .Every sugar factory fixes wedge rate for sugar cane cutting & cane cutting process is time spending works which affect in earning .Most of them takes advance payment before six month & goes to factory next year . Meanwhile they spent their money as per needs & some spent as per their wish with enjoys. Therefore never seen economical planning & when they return back with hand free because the deduction of advance payment & again takes advance payment in two or three month for the next year bond of sugar cane cutter

**Social problems:**

Sugar cane cutter goes to factory in October/November & return back in end of the month May. Meanwhile they don't touch with society therefore they can't attend any social event as well as don't arrange family function like marriage & other events related to family & society

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The overall analysis of the present study reveals the facts in term of the geographical conditions of the Beed district play key role in the development. Critical climatic condition of the study area creates many economical problems for people & .therefore divert some people for getting seasonal employment to job of sugar cane cutter. Socio-economic condition of the migrant's informal economy is very miserable. They have never self security from natural hazards as well as no provisions for safety & long life employment. The study found that the socio-economical ; & educational condition of sugar cane cutters were poor due to low earning & poverty. The sugar cane cutters who were always attending the sugar factory work & job of sugar cane cutter have been suffered many problems in the season. The major problems observed there accommodations & other facilities for daily life as well as social, economic & psychological problems affect on their future life.

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