

Influence of Labour Migration on the Economy and Culture of Kashmir: A Case-study of District Anantnag

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Abstract:

Migration is the movement across the geographical areas permanently or temporarily owing to the respective grounds which may include the socio-cultural factors, economic betterment, educational upliftment, political instability or religious obligations. In case of labours, the migration takes place when there is a remarkable difference between the earnings at home and at the income in the potential host place. Kashmir, besides meeting these requirements and providing suitable and apt atmosphere to work at, has witnessed the labour immigration considerably with the dawn of 21st century. On one hand it has accelerated the pace of development but on the other hand it has affected the culture, native labour market and economy of the valley, the most, and is continuing to do so. Besides providing an alternative to the much demand labour supply, some of them are involved in begging, child-labour, thefts, drinking, playing cards, etc, which are highly undesirable in the Kashmiri society. They outnumbered their native fellow workers and are consistently pushing them to the fringes of many distinguished crafts. This explains the huge capital flow from Kashmir with the passage of time.

In this paper, an attempt will be made to: bring out the pull factors of the labour immigration in the Kashmir valley; elicit its influence on the culture; project the hammering the local talent received with the advent of these immigrants and; check the pace of the economic flow outside the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir. The exploratory study employs interview schedule and observation as tools for collecting data, supplemented with relevant literature wherever necessary.

[Keywords: Immigration, Alarming, Influence, Economic drain, Kashmir]

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