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Migration of workers during Ancient Period in Bihar

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ABSTRACT
Historical phases are a major facet of the concept of migration. We cannot understand the concept of migration without historical phases. Literature and presented records are significant of migrant labours existed in the ancient period. Migration is a not new and historical account which shows that people have moved of the progress of their life style. The term mobility is perhaps the most general concept of migration studies. It includes all kinds of territorial movements, both temporary and permanent. I will discuss ancient phase of migration and Migrant Labour in Ancient period in this paper. Many causes were behind migration in our past. A person progressively creates a specific environment and makes history. In this process, it is not only limits set by nature that are transgressed but also the limits of human experience and cognition. From the elementary adaption to the natural environment to the establishment of a great civilisation, the horizon of experience and the regional extension of human relations constantly expand. Beyond the Aryan migration debate that specific geographical conditions were historically migration shaped in India.The technology available at different times to surpass them. Tribal migrations and ancient India ranged from nomadic hunter-gatherer formations to pastoralism and the exploration of greener pasture.

KEYWORDS: Ancient, Migrant, Labour, History, Aryans.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The term mobility is perhaps the most general concept of migration studies. It includes all kinds of territorial movements, both temporary and permanent.[i]"The role that Migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origins, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognised and reinforced.[ii]"All international migrants, who are currently employed and seeking employment in their present country of residence."[iii]

Means of livelihood is the main cause of migration. The area of unavailability of the means of livelihood pushed people, while the productive and resourceful areas attract migrants. The main economic causes of migration are as that Impenetrable population and lack of the means of livelihood, agriculture land available in the outer regions, the desirability of good productive land, facility of irrigation, availability of minor resources, availability of forest resources, The facility of transport, the attraction of industrial centres, the facility of trade and commerce.[iv]

The studies of Bihar's history are vast and provide a sense of the expanding and contraction economic fortunes that the state has been.[v]

Migration of Bihar has rather an extensive (sufficient) history. And migrated workers of Bihar have not only shifted the other state of India but also the international frontiers. Consequent upon the growth of Modern industries and urbanisation, migration from Bihar started around 1830.[vi]

It is important to recognise these two separate routes to the diversity observed in any region:

(1) One through migration.
(2) Second through isolation and the lack of migration.[vii]

Migration of workers in Ancient period:

The migrations that led to the settlement of this great plain before the Common Era (CE) literally constituted a watershed moment in India's global history.[viii]An agricultural settlement was one of the earlier settlements in the Indian subcontinent which have been located in Mehgarh, near Quetta in Baluchistan. This settlement lived in mud-brick huts grew wheat and barley and herded cattle, sheep and goats. We can say that the typical features of a village. And these features are as the emergence of agriculture and settlements marks a radical departure from the nomadic ways of living. The agriculture settlement that occurred in Baluchistan is all remarkable. Because as recently, tribal communities adopted agriculture settlement as peripatetic ways of living.[ix]

Mehgarh, its surrounding regions, are considered to belong to the Pre-Harappan era, dated between the late fourth millennium BCE and 2600 BCE.Surrounding regions of Mehrgarhbelong to the Pre-Harappan period. It's covered an area of roughly one million square kilometres from Ganga –Yamuna Doab in the east. Nowadays, this place to the present in Pakistan-Iran border in the west and extending to Gujarat and Pakistan.[x]

A large number of authentic evidence shows that established urban centres and trades in this area. And hence the introduction of a new form of migration in the subcontinent involving mercantile links. The people of Harappan civilisation were also of different racial types, painting towards different streams of migration. But the last stage of this civilisation created a mystery even a century. One theory arises for this decline, possibly, called outmigration.[xi]

Therefore regular pullnear the eastern and southern parts of the Indo-Ganga plain, where the late Harappans and new migrants from Central Asia settled in the second millennium BC. That pushed the Central Asian prairielandpersons to seek better pasture lands. That a gradual, protracted migration took place is beyond doubt, as evidenced in the archaeological and linguistic literature. The northwestern route of the Indian subcontinent facilitated the migration of horse-riding pastoral nomads who moved into the more fertile and agriculturally stable regions of the upper Indus plain in Punjab. It is believed that the Sanskrit-speaking Rig Vedic Aryans began migrating to South Asia from about 1400BCE, following some of the early central Asian migrants and that they made the Saptsindhu (Seven Rivers)region of Punjab their new home.[xii]

The Vedic era was the next major population group in India on the basis of historical records. The geographical location of the Indo-Aryans, as the Vedic people are referred to, is noted to have shifted eastwards over time. There are references to migrations into the Gangetic plains in the SatpathaBrahmna, a Vedic text. The emperor VideghaMathavasaid that to have led his people eastwards as far as the Gandak River, along the Himalayan foothills.[xiii] Towards the end of the later Vedic period moved further east to Koshala in eastern Utter Pradesh and videha in north Bihar.[xiv]

The ancient Indian texts give information about the Uttarapatha (Northern India) and other four other routes[xv] of the Indian subcontinent to us. The precise migration routes followed by the Indo-Aryans to reach the Ganga plain whether they followed the Himalayan foothills or simply kept to the riverbanks of the Yamuna and Ganga to reach the more fertile semi-arid zone of the Ganga plain. Aryans moved through the drier, more accessible zones where the requirements of their mixed economy cattle tending and the culture of (primarily) wheat and barley, along with a little paddy could be met. Muralidhar suggested this statement.[xvi]

At the heart of this narrative is a region is synonymous with migration in contemporary India's Bihar-but for immigration, not outmigration.

Ajatasharu had built a small fort at Pataligrama, on the Ganges, which was a Centre for the exchange of local produce. This was a later to become the famous Mauryan metropolis of Pataliputra.[xvii] Migration also started into Ganga plain and is emerged in Brahmans.

As per available historical records, the centre of gravity in the political and urban sphere shifted between 2000 BC and 300 BC, progressively eastwards from the Indus Valley to the Yamuna Ganga doab and then to the region surrounding Patliputra, eventually the seat of both Mauryas and Gupta Empires. While there is evidence of human activity throughout the Indo- Gangetic valley even before 2000 BC, the limited evidence on migration in the Vedic texts and other sources do convey an eastward migratory movement.[xviii]

One reason, therefore, for Bihar's ascendance around Pataliputra could culmination of an eastward drift of settlement. But another interesting explanation has recently been provided in terms of its unique environmental character based on aridity and rainfall. Bihar structures a transitional zone between the moist areas in the east and the dry areas in the west which made attractive as a site of the interface between two societies with different agrarian performs. In the dry zone, economic activities apart from agriculture included herding and horse-breeding whereas in the humid zones, agriculture, in particular, rice cultivation, supported higher densities.[xix]

Patliputra (Patna) would emerge as a strategic site as it had drier areas in the south and west suitable to the migrant's agrarian practices, access to the mineral resources of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau bellowed to plentiful[xx]agriculture supported by relatively more fertile soil in the north and east in the humid zones.

Further, the southern zone banks of the Ganga around Pana formed a ridge that was amenable for the growth of urban markets, town and kingdoms.[xxi]

Magadha was the kingdoms of Bihar at the earliest time, and we find that two most important migrations of Bihar. One was Budha and second was Mahavira. They were associated with different religions Buddhism and Jainism.[xxii]

The Buddhist monastery in Nalanda was patronized by the Gupta Empire and later by Harsh. The emperor of Kannauj, and attracted students and monks from as China. Buddhism travelled to some extent within India for a few centuries but made more headway outside the subcontinent; travelling thought merchants and monks along the silk road via the northern passes such as Karakoram and others, to place East Asia. Jainism

would make some headway down south but over time drifted westwards towards Gujarat. Also, both religions were urban-based with a positive outlook towards trade and were heavily patronized by merchants.[xxiii]

Vibrant (Effervescent) trade and agriculture in the transitional zone of the Indo-Gangetic plain eventually led to the birth of the Mauryan Empire with Chandragupta Maurya ascending the throne 321 B.C.[xxiv] He is said to have been assisted in this endeavour by his personal adviser, Kautilya, and I is through his Arthashatra, a fine treatise on statecraft whose authorship and date of origin remains contested, that we glean more about migration in the ancient world.[xxv]

The administration of Maurayas had taken new steps of trade. They were developed buildings, roads and attempting to make contact with moderately remote areas. The later invasion of north-western India by non-local rulers, with resulting migrations of people, was advantageous to the merchant, who ventured into places as yet untapped.[xxvi]

The expansion of village settlements under the aegis of the state was necessarily accompanied by the growth of trade, fostered in its turn by the development of the internal communication system. The clearing of land and founding new agrarian settlements in what were previously forest regions facilitated movement from one place to another place. So Migration also developed the migrant labours. There is evidence of considerable improvement in communications brought about the Mauryas.[xxvii] D.N. Jha provides us with a vivid picture of Patliputra (Patna) highlights the ecological and geographical condition of this region during the time of Mauryas that, "Patliputra was connected with Nepal via Vaishali. From the road passed through Champaran to Kapilavastu, Kalsi (Dehradun district), and Hazra, it went up to Pehawar, Megasthenes refers to a road connectin north-western India with Patliputra which was linked with Sasaram, Mirzapurandcentral India. A route connected the Mauryan capital with Kalinga which in its turn was connected with Andhra and Karnataka. Also, the rivers of North India provided easy internal transport, a big Asoka monolithic pillar, quarried, chiselled and made cylindrical at Chunaron the river bank and probably transported to the distant destination by the river. The development of communications within the country helped inland trade just as, peaceful relations with the Greeks under Bindusara and Asoka gave a fillip to foreign trade with the west."[xxviii]Arthashstra gives other reasons for migration are pilgrimages, fairs and festivals. Kautilya gives entire history to the tribal migration. The methods of systematically breaking up free tribes.

Conclusion:

It is clear that in the ancient period migration existed. There was migration during the Harappa era, Vedic Era etc. in Bihar. There was various reasons for migration like trade, pilgrimages, fairs and festivals, climate, progress of their life style etc.

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[15]. Supra note 19 at 607. Prachya (Eastern India), Aparanta (Western India),Dakshinapatha (Southern India), Madhya Desha (Middle Country).

[16]. Id. at 609.

[17]. Supra note 18 at 154-155. The Mauryan had built a royal highway from Taxila to Pataliputra, a road that was almost continously rebuilt in some approximation to the originalduring the period of Sher Shah, the Mughals and the British. The British referred to it as the Grand Trunk road and itscurrent revival is in national highway .Pataliputra was connected by both road and river withTamluk, which was also linked by se to Sri Lanka and Myanmar, 36.
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