

# RAINFALL SEASON AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION: A CASE STUDY OF SOLIGA TRIBES IN BARGUR HILLS, ANTHIYUR TALUK OF ERODE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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## **Abstract**

Rainfall is one of the significant weather elements in the Lower atmosphere especially Troposphere along Wind, Temperature, Pressure, Humidity and clouds etc. Weather is the conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place over a short period of time. India experiences Tropical Monsoon climate. Erode district situated at between 10° 36' and 11° 58' North latitude and between 76° 49' and 77° 58' East longitude. The main objectives of the study is to focus on the Rural-urban migration of Sholaga(soliga) Tribes in the Sholagani hamlet of Bargur hills during the monsoon rainfall season. To observe the migration pattern and the reasons for the shrinking of their population during non-rainy period. Evaluate the employment status of soliga tribes in the Erode, Tiruppur urban centres and Valparai tea estates. Socio-economic conditions of soliga Tribes in the Bargur hills. The main aim of the study is to focus on the Rural-Urban Migration of Soliga Tribes in the Bargur hills. Primary sample was collected by using Simple Random Sampling method, each member of the soliga population has an equal chance of being selected. Sholaga Tribes earlier they are shifting cultivators but now they are practicing subsistence agriculture for their own consumption. During sowing and harvesting period seasonal migrants migrate to the rural Bargur hill region from the urban regions.

**Keywords:** Migration, Tribes.

## **Introduction**

Rainfall is one of the significant weather elements in the Lower atmosphere especially Troposphere along Wind, Temperature, Pressure, Humidity and clouds etc. Weather is the conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place over a short period of time. India experiences Tropical Monsoon climate. The winds which reverse their conditions completely between the summer and the winter as known Monsoon winds. South West Monsoon winds originates from Indian Ocean as South East Trade winds.

According to the Ferrel's law and Coriolis force South East Trade winds changes its direction near the Equator and starts moving towards the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal Region. South West Monsoon wind blows from Sea to land. So, moisture laden winds hit the Kanyakumari region and was bifurcated into two branches. North East Monsoon or Retreating Monsoon blows from the Land to sea during winter, especially October to December.

India monsoonal country which receives major rainfall during South West Monsoon Period. Major part of India during receives heavy rainfall except Tamil Nadu during South West Monsoon Period. Tamil Nadu receives major rainfall during North East Monsoon Period. Tamil Nadu State annual rainfall is about 945mm (37.2 inches) of which 48 percent of rainfall is received during North East Monsoon from October to December and 32 Percent of rainfall during South West Monsoon period -June to September 15.

Tamil Nadu lies in the Tropical region, the local weather conditions such as Temperature, Humidity, Rainfall, clouds and wind change the climate conditions to a greater extent. In Tamil Nadu South West Monsoon occurs between June to September. Nilgiri, Erode, Salem, Kanyakumari and Theni districts receive heavy rainfall during this period. During North East Monsoon Period Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu receives rainfall.

## Study area

Erode district situated at between  $10^{\circ} 36'$  and  $11^{\circ} 58'$  North latitude and between  $76^{\circ} 49'$  and  $77^{\circ} 58'$  East longitude. Bargur hills is located in the Anthiyur taluk of erode district in the Eastern Ghats range. 2270 Tribal people are living in the altitude of 1053 m in the North-Eastern part of Erode District. Soligas, Malayalis, Urali Tribal communities and Lingayat communities are inhabited in the Bargur hills. Bargur hills is a part of Eastern ghats. Ragi, Maize, dry paddy, Tapiocca and other rainfed crops are cultivated. No other artificial irrigation system was found in the bargur hills. So Bargur hills depends the Monsoon rainfall for the subsistence agriculture. Socio economic conditions of the soligas was mainly depended the monsoonal rainfall.

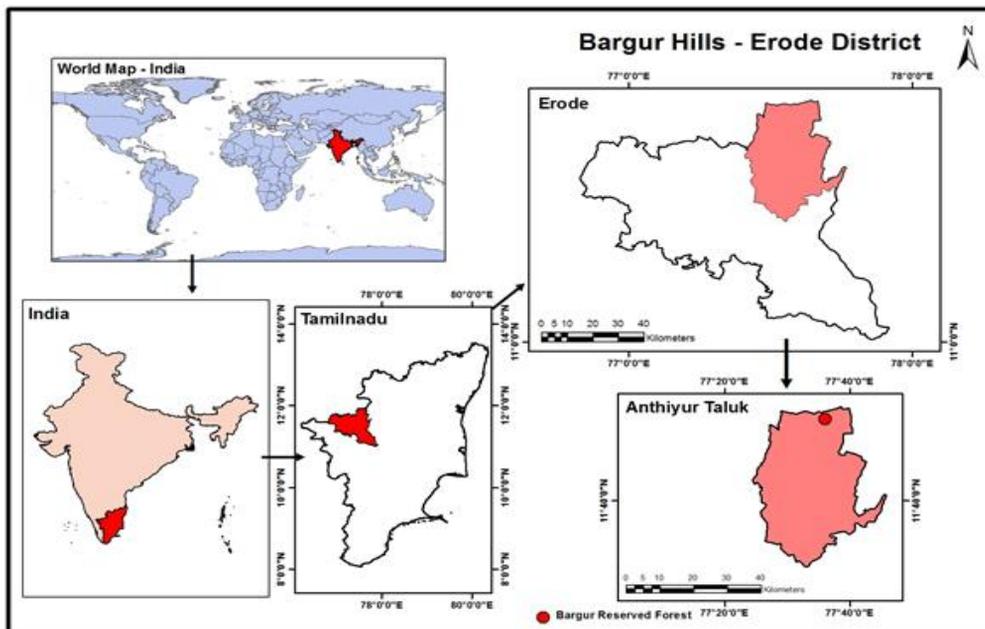


Figure 1. Study Area -Bargur hills of Erode District.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the study is to focus on the Rural-urban migration of Sholaga(soliga) Tribes in the Sholagani hamlet of Bargur hills during the monsoon rainfall season. To observe the migration pattern and the reasons for the shrinking of their population during non-rainy period. Evaluate the employment status of soliga tribes in the Erode, Tiruppur urban centres and Valparai tea estates. Socio-economic conditions of soliga Tribes in the Bargur hills.

## Methods and Techniques

The main aim of the study is to focus on the Rural-Urban Migration of Soliga Tribes in the Bargur hills. Primary sample was collected by using Simple Random Sampling method, each member of the soliga population has an equal chance of being selected.

Questionnaire containing the information's like Age, Gender, Income, Migration, Employment, Agricultural land was used during the primary data collection process. *Solagani* hamlet was chosen for the study. 160 sample from the soliga communities was collected and used for the study. Secondary data – Census 2011 report was used for the total population and the Scheduled Tribes population data in the Bargur hills and the Erode District. Erode district Rainfall data 2016-2017 was also used for this paper.

## Results and Discussion

Soliga or Sholaga communities in the Bargur hills are migrated from the Karnataka state during state Reorganisation Act. Bargur hills consists of 33 hamlets. Soliga people has 2 to 5-hectare agriculture land, without any artificial irrigation. They depend monsoonal rainfall for their cultivation of crops.

The main aim of the study is to focus on the Rural-urban migration of Soliga Tribes in the Bargur hills according to the monsoon rainfall season.

Table 1. ANNUAL RAINFALL OF BARGUR HILLS, ERODE DISTRICT (2016-2017)

MONTHS	RAINFALL (mm)	SEASON
June to September	209.68	South-West Monsoon
October to December	314.6	North -East Monsoon
January to February	14.3	Winter
March to May	143.65	Summer

This Bargur hills of erode district receives major rainfall during Northeast Monsoon (October, November and December). This is the main agriculture growing season. During 2016-17 Bargur hills received 314.6mm rainfall during North East Monsoon season. Soliga community cultivate rainfed crops like Ragi, Maize, Beans and Dry paddy during this season. So, all the Migrated male members returned back to the hills from the urban areas cultivate rainfed crops.

## Migration

Table 2. Rural-Urban Migration details

MIGRATION	POPULATION	PERCENT
Valparai Tea Estates	50	31
Local Agricultural Activities	45	28
Mannarkudi Bamboo Cutting	40	25
Tirupur Textiles and Erode Bakeries	25	16
Total	160	100

Bargur hills receives 209.68 mm rainfall during June to September due to South-West monsoon period. Some crops are grown. Local agricultural labourers especially marginal farmers and landless people tend to stay back in the hills. Young Male members both

bachelors and family members migrate to the Mannargudi to cut the bamboo and in the valparai estates to Pluck the Tea leaves. Some Soligas also working in the Erode bakeries and Tirupur Textiles. Soligas seasonal migration was prevalent among the soligas. Soligas earning very less income in the Bargur hills. It was very difficult to fulfil their basic amenities. So only raining season soligas has work in their farmlands. Remaining period disguised employment conditions prevails in the Bargur hills. So seasonal migration from hills to urban regions and from urban regions to bargur hills was most prevalent among the Soliga Tribes. Because of these incomes, Soligas sending their children to the schools and colleges. But still this income was very less. Government providing some basic amenities. But soligas basic livelihood status was under developed conditions.

## Rural-Urban Migration

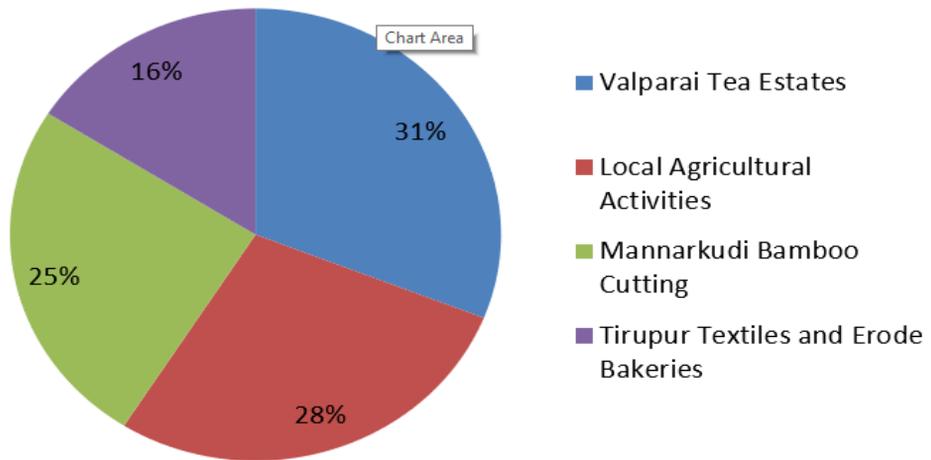


Figure 2. Rural -Urban Migration.

### Conclusion

Sholaga Tribes earlier they are shifting cultivators but now they are practicing subsistence agriculture for their own consumption. During sowing and harvesting period seasonal migrants migrate to the rural Bargur hill region from the urban regions. But the remaining period they work in the urban centers mainly in the Erode, Tiruppur areas. Sholaga tribal adults works in the construction works, Tiruppur textile industry, Tea estates and banana markets as daily wages. Sholaga community life and livelihood was depended on the Monsoonal rainfall. They are living harmoniously with nature.

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