

ABSTRACT

Between Villages and Working Places: Circulation of Manual Labourers in Andhra Pradesh

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Mainly tribals and low caste, small landowners without access to water, manual labourers leave the district of Mahabubnagar (“called Palamur”) in Telangana (Andhra Pradesh), with families for 8 to 9 months and go for work all over India. Famous for their works on dams, canal irrigation since more than 70 years, palamur labourers get advances from local contractors. This form of circulation is now subjects to changes. Many leave as daily wages to cities – Hyderabad, Mumbai and even Dubai, mainly on construction works and stone quarries. But the circulatory form of migration and the relative fragmentation of labour markets persist. The main purpose of my thesis is to analyse the dynamic and multidimensional aspects of palamur labourers’ migration. Following the migrant labourers from villages to working places and making regular up and downs allows to re-link all places, types and forms of labour. I focus my research on the following points:

- ❑ In-depth analysis of the village and its power and hierarchical relations (caste-class, economical, political, religious and kinship forms)
- ❑ debt relations
- ❑ working conditions, organization and everyday life in working camps, forms of
- ❑ exploitation, social rules and relation labour/maistri/local people labour relations (between workers, job brokers and local people)
- ❑ acts of everyday resistance and forms of collective action
- ❑ representation on labour, migration through stories, songs and cultural aspects
- ❑ links between caste, politics and contractors
- ❑ religious practices as festivals, pilgrims, rituals in which labourers are involved.