

RURAL MIGRATION – UNDERSTANDING AND INTEGRATING URBAN POLICIES

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ABSTRACT

In India, internal mobility is critical to the livelihoods of many people, especially for women from rural areas. Migration of women within national borders is far greater in magnitude than migration across international borders and has enormous potential to contribute to economic prosperity, social cohesion and urban diversity. Internal migration is an essential and inevitable component of the economic and social life of the country, given regional imbalances and labour shortages and safe migration should be promoted to maximize its benefits. However, in the absence of a coherent policy framework and strategy, migration imposes heavy costs on human development through poor labour arrangements and working conditions of migrants and obstacles in their access to shelter, education, health care and food. The significance of this research lies in the insights it provides into the experiences and attitudes of migrants from rural areas to urban centers in India. Women migrant workers from developing countries engage in paid employment in countries where they are not citizens. While women have traditionally been considered companions to their husbands in the migratory process, most adult migrant women today are employed in their own right. The study highlights the importance of economic and social factors in migration decisions and the need for the government to prioritize rural development to address the challenges faced by rural women communities. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining strong family ties and cultural traditions, even after migrating to urban areas. The study also provides valuable insights into the factors that motivate individuals to migrate and the impact of migration on household income, which can inform policies and interventions aimed at supporting migrants and their communities.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Women, Rural.

INTRODUCTION

Geographically India is divided into 29 states and 7 union territories. There is a tremendous difference in the combined population size across the state. India constitutes around 30 percent of the total population, which is around 309 million persons were migrants based on place of last residence. As a result of rapid economic growth for past few decades, since the initiation of economic reforms in 1990, India has been experiencing the rapid urbanization flow from rural to urban migration. Urban population growth in the developing countries is far more rapid than the population growth generally, about half the urban growth is accounted for by migrants from rural areas. Cities in developing world are growing more rapidly than developed countries. Inequalities, insecurity, humiliation, agony, poverty and human unhappiness are also multiplying due to urbanization. These main problems will make worse, especially when aided by population explosion and increasing migration. The total population of India is 1028 million consisting of 532 millions males and 496 million females, according to 2001 census. In this paper we are going to discuss; what drives Migration? How many migrated? What effects does this have? This paper will cover the migration of persons within states or between the states based on crossing geographical boundaries. The assess of the different streams of migration at all India level over a decade. This will give us a brief description when was the migration of people at the highest peak. Below data consist of 1991 and 2001 censuses. The pattern on migration between intra states, shows is the migration flow. This data even covers the male and female ratio of migration between states. This flow can tell us about the development structure and their migrated

population of that particular city or area. The labour and the employment-oriented migration, which will help us to know why migration takes place to that particular state or city.

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the rural urban policies and migration policies in India.

THE LINK BETWEEN URBANIZATION AND MIGRATION: A PICTURE OF EXCLUSION

Urbanization has been a growing phenomenon in South Asia, including India. As of 2011, the population living in urban areas in India was about 31 percent (about 377 million persons), still below the global average of 55 percent. In fact, India has one of the lowest urbanization rates in the world. Even in the South Asia region, where India is a regional power, only Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan have lower rates of urbanization (United Nations 2018). Although net rural to urban migration contributes about one-fifth of urban population growth, the net annual outflow from rural to urban areas is about 2 million (Bhagat 2012). Another main issue that influences migration to urban areas is the primacy of urban employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector. However, employment in manufacturing has been stagnant in India for a number of years, with low labor absorption (Iyer 2013). Research has shown that formal employment in labor-intensive industries such as manufacturing is actually moving out of urban areas to rural areas, leaving workers in urban areas with few options beyond informal employment (Ghani, Goswami, and Kerr 2012). Migrants take up significant space in India's large urban centers, with the Census of 2011 indicating that almost 46 percent of India's urban population is migrants. They work in both formal and informal sectors, such as in manufacturing and construction, as well as occupation such as brick making and textiles (Srivastava and Sutradhar 2016; Deshingkar and Akter 2009).

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION TRENDS IN INDIA

During the period of structural transformation in India, a large number of people out-migrated from rural areas. The number of out-migrants increased by 42 million (about 24% increase) during 1999–2000 and 2007–2008. The total number of out-migrants (within the Indian geographical territory) was about 175.3 million during 1999–2000. This increased to about 216.8 million during 2007–2008. Both the number and percentage of out-migrants are high in relatively poor and backward states, most of which are agrarian. These states^{[Footnote2](#)} include Orissa (Odisha), Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. In terms of the number of rural out-migration, Uttar Pradesh stands at the top position during 1999–2000 (35.6 million) and 2007–2008 (about 37 million) with an absolute increase in the same of 1.3 million. Maharashtra registered the second highest number of rural out-migrants followed by Andhra Pradesh during 2007–2008. In terms of the increase in out-migration, Chhattisgarh is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. It is important to note that the states with relatively high poverty headcount ratio (HCR) are showing a large number of rural out-migrations in India.

CONCLUSION

The working of push and pull factors simultaneously determines rural-urban migration in India. The high incidence of poverty, growing mechanization in agriculture, and lack of suitable job opportunities in the rural areas push a large number of people out of rural areas in search of employment and living. Furthermore, with increasing mean years of schooling and growing enrollments in higher education and technical and vocational education, a large number of young job aspirants are moving toward the urban areas for employment. This is also reflected by the migrants' labor force participation in urban India. The rural to urban migration not only causes the growth of the urban population and informal sector activities but also creates a competitive environment for all urban job seekers. This is partly evident from the relatively higher average wages/earnings of migrants than their non-migrant counterparts in most of the sectors (including manufacturing, construction, electricity, gas and water, hotel trade business, transport and communications, etc.) in which migrants are engaged. Furthermore,

the overall wage differentials favor migrants with a 98.4% difference owing to the difference in productivity in 2007–2008. This paper provides new evidence on the costs and benefits of rural to urban migration in developing countries. We study seasonal migrants who choose between construction work in the city and on local public works, which provides a unique opportunity to observe the same worker doing similar work in the village and in the city in the same season.

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