

Rural Out-migration in India: Reasons and Remedies

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Abstract: The present article deals with the causes of rural out-migration and the suggestions to curb the mass exodus of rural population. The study is based on primary sources of data, collected through the direct questionnaire to the respondents. The block boundary has been considered as migration defining boundary and household has been taken as the smallest unit of enquiry. An analysis of the study reveals that rural out-migration is more economic motivated than that of social reasons and male migration outnumber female migration for economic reasons and vice versa.

Keywords: migration, economic condition, rural population

INTRODUCTION

The domain of internal migration covered a wide array of research on the issues related to the causes, distance, movement, pattern, decision-making processes of migration, etc. [1]. The general questions which may be asked by the researchers in the sphere of internal migration are: Why migration does occur? Who migrates? What are the patterns of origins and destinations and of the flows between them? How the process of the decision to move is formed and it changes over time? However, the most important questions which are usually studied by the social scientist- why migration does occur and how the process of the decision to move is formed and it changes over time?

Migration is the outcome of the decisions made by individuals in the light of what they perceived the objective world. If migration occurs as a result of the perception by individuals of differences between places in the opportunities offered for the fulfilling of wants and needs, then in more detailed explanations of why migration occurs consideration must be given to the processes of decision-making whereby individuals decide to migrate and decide where to move to. The structural forces in terms of spatial variations in socio-economic opportunities determine the scale and form of migration, and factors underlying of migration differs among the countries and over time. Migration occurs when various factors operate together[2-3] and these actors may be the repulsive forces operating in the rural areas in the form of high rate of unemployment, low wages, small size of land-holdings, inadequate educational, lack of modern infrastructural facilities and health facilities, absolute poverty, while, the availability

of jobs, high wages, decent nature of work, expanding infrastructural facilities, civic amenities and facilities act as attractive forces in the urban areas [4-9].

However, the main thrust of the present article is to highlight the dominant factors of rural out-migration and to suggest measures to curb the mass exodus of rural population in India. The study is exclusively based on the field survey which was carried out during 2012 in Kanpur Nagar District. The villages have been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling based on the size of population. Out of the total 909 inhabited villages, 5 per cent (46) villages have been selected for rural survey. The rural survey consisted of 951 households in 46 villages.

REASONS OF OUT-MIGRATION

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of various reasons of out-migration based on the sex-composition of rural migrants. The data given in the Table 1 brings the fact into light that rural out-migration is more economic motivated than that of social reasons and male migration outnumber female migration for economic reasons and vice versa. The further examination of data unfolds the facts that unemployment, low income, late payment, small land holdings or landlessness and arduous nature of work in rural areas are the main economic reasons which pushed the rural poor male population to migrate which combinely shared 90.65 per cent of the total economic motivated migration and 65.35 per cent of total male migration, while, poverty, education, large family size, marriage and orphanage are all together contributed about 85 per cent to the total social migration and 23.70 per cent of the total male migration.

On the other hand, female migration shares only about 7 per cent of economic migration and nearly 93 per cent of social migration. Among the economic reasons of female migration, to get service or job and their low income have been motivated 2.69 per cent of

total females to migrate, while, marriage migration is the dominant factor of the total migration (68.12 per cent) as well as the social migration (73.29 per cent) of female population, followed by poverty and household migration.

Table-1: Percentage Distribution of Causes of Out-migration of Rural Population Based on their Sex-composition, Kanpur Nagar District, 1992-2011

Causes	Rural Migrants		
	Male	Female	Total
Economic			
Landless/Small Land Holding	16.84 (12.14)*	-	16.14 (8.39)
Unemployment	20.17 (14.54)	-	19.32 (10.05)
Low Income	19.75 (14.24)	14.29 (1.01)	19.52 (10.16)
Shyness to work	4.37 (3.15)	-	4.18 (2.18)
Arduous work	16.22 (11.69)	-	15.54 (8.08)
Late Payment	17.67 (12.74)	-	16.93 (8.81)
Service/To get job	2.70 (1.94)	23.81 (1.68)	3.59 (1.87)
Others	2.29 (1.65)	61.90 (4.36)	4.78 (2.49)
Total	100.00 (72.11)	100.00 (7.05)	100.00 (52.02)
Social			
Education	19.35 (5.40)	1.44 (1.34)	8.64 (4.15)
Social Conflict	4.84 (1.35)	-	1.94 (0.93)
Poverty	34.95 (9.75)	8.66 (8.05)	19.22 (9.22)
Marriage	6.99 (1.95)	73.29 (68.12)	46.65 (22.38)
Orphan	5.38 (1.50)	0.72 (0.67)	2.59 (1.24)
Large family	18.28 (5.10)	2.17 (2.01)	8.64 (4.15)
Household Migration	3.76 (1.05)	7.22 (6.71)	5.83 (2.80)
Others	6.45 (1.80)	6.50 (6.04)	6.48 (3.11)
Total	100.00 (27.89)	100.00 (92.95)	100.00 (47.98)

* Figures in parenthesis indicate the percentages to the economic and social migrations combined together under the column.

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey by author, 2012

SUGGESTIONS

The unemployment or underemployment in rural areas is an acute problem during agricultural slack seasons that can be solved or minimized through the promotion and intensification of rural industrialization (agro-based, agro-allied and ancillary industries like animal husbandry, poultry, dairy, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture, piggery, apiculture, silviculture, sericulture, etc) particularly in those areas where the majority of city wards migrants originates.

Agricultural workshops and the retail services which are providing agricultural materials and implements (chemical fertilizers, high yielding varieties of seeds, insecticides and pesticides, other agricultural implements, etc.), may be shifted from towns and cities to rural areas.

There is a need of timely and strong implementation of land reform laws and lowering the limit of land ceiling so as to make more land available

for redistribution among landless agricultural workers and share-croppers. Besides, the government should not only provide better compensation rate to the poor farmers for the acquisition of their land under the development scheme but also give them an alternative employment opportunity to sustain their livelihood. Besides, government should have continuous surveillance over the executive bodies of the Gram Panchayats for the efficient functioning of Panchayati Raj System, so that Pradhans of the villages would be checked timely and regularly who have exploited the rural poor masses with the coordination and cooperation of deputed secretary of the blocks.

There should be sincerely administrative commitment of Government of India towards the 'Right to Education Act' at the modern lines and simultaneously promotion of vocational education in rural areas and there should be at least one degree college in each block or tahsil funded by government of

India that can curb the rural migrants to migrate for higher education in urban areas.

Development of efficient means of transportation between both the rural and urban areas, so that daily commuters will be back to their native places after completion of their work. It will not only help in reducing the prospects of potential migrants who are unwillingly residing in the urban areas, but also help in supplying the rural goods and commodities to the markets of urban areas which is a difficult task during agricultural harvesting seasons due to lack of connectivity.

The villages with infrastructural facilities should be encouraged to develop market-oriented farming like gardening, dairy and poultry etc. Such villages not only provide the greenbelt for the metropolis and act as the black hole of noxious gases emitted from the industries and automobiles and help to make pollution free-environment but also performed as a feeder belt supplying the commodities like cereals, vegetables, milk, meat etc., which are necessary for the city residents. Such developmental activities will also attract migrants who would have otherwise flocked to the city and help in the dispersal of migrants. In addition, rural-urban linkages and their integration will also help in bridging the widening gap between the cities and countryside and investing in infrastructure at the countryside or in the peri-urban interface will not only create jobs for peasants, agricultural labours and farmers during agricultural slack seasons closer to their residence, but also lessen the over pressure faced by the crowded cities.

There should be an effective implementation of PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities for Rural Areas) scheme to bring the basic infrastructure to those areas that are falling through the cracks of the rural-urban divide.

The real beneficiaries who have been continuously exploited by the few clever peoples in the rural areas did not get the benefits of the governmental

programmes and policies due to lack of information, hence, special drives have to be taken for the development of efficient extension services for creating awareness among the rural and urban poor masses regarding the land reform laws, employment, housing and other associated government programs launched for their development or alleviating poverty.

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