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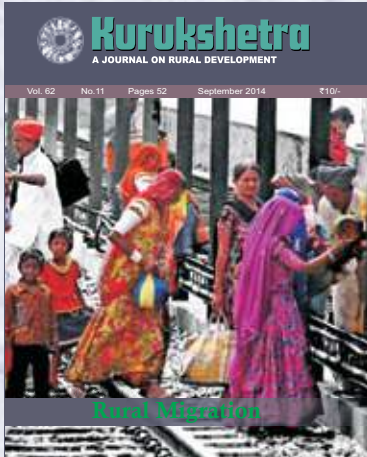
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INSIDE

India's urban population which was 17 per cent in 1951 is expected to jump to over 42 per cent in 2025. The increase will be on account of migration of people from rural areas, who will shift location in search of greener pastures. In the last 50 years the rural population has decreased from 82.0 to 68.9 per cent.

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national level and speaks of the levels of economic inequalities existing in the economy. With the share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of agriculture falling sharply from around 40 per cent in the 1990's to around 15 per cent, large number of people along with their families are shifting to urban areas in search of better opportunities. Some say they are being squeezed out because of "Push Factors", while other academicians say they are getting attracted to urban life because of "Pull Factors".

Whatever the reason, migration has led to increase in incomes which has come with the pain of poor living conditions in the urban areas.

While planners argue that migration should be reversed by giving the same level of economic opportunities back in rural areas, others argue that the migrants have a right to change location and also have the right to live in a dignified way and should be provided with the amenities by the government.

Despite the problems, migration has helped in equalizing social status, income of rural urban settlements, helped in checking fragmentation of land holdings and promote concept of division of labour and specialization. Migration also helps in cultural diffusion and cultural assimilation as peoples from diverse cultures share and exchange their cultural values and ethos thus helping in cultural diffusion. Income sent home in the form of monetary assistance can help in paying the debt, increase food security and help diversify livelihoods and reduce vulnerability associated with shocks.

There is a new class of migrants which is on the increase recently. These are called "Environmental Refugees" who can no longer gain a secure livelihood in their homelands because of drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental disasters.

In this issue we discuss the causes of migration and the resultant affect on the people who migrate.

Rural migration is still largely a survival or a subsistence strategy. □

RURAL DISTRESS AND RURAL MIGRATION

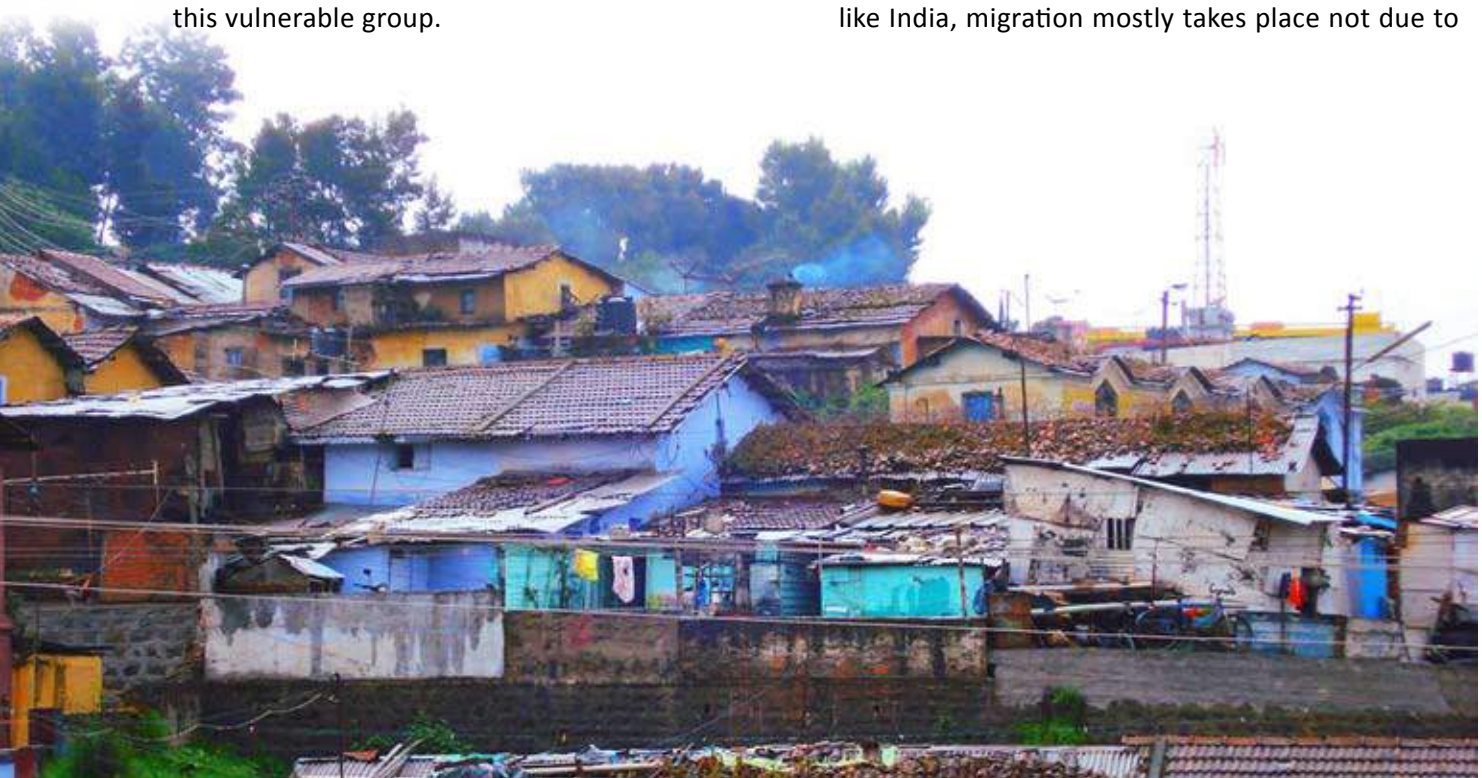
Dr. Shahin Razi

Migration of people 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.

Migrants constitute a floating and invisible population, alternating between source and destination areas and remaining on the periphery of society. In India, internal migration has been accorded very low priority by the government & policies of the Indian State have largely failed in providing any form of legal or social protection to this vulnerable group.

India's total population as recorded in census 2011, stands at 1.21 billion. Internal migrants in India constitute a large population – 309 million internal migrants or 30 per cent of the population (census of India 2001) and by more recent estimates 326 million or 28.5 per cent of the population (NSSO 2007-2008).

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination. It is a natural outcome of inequality in the distribution of resources. Migration and development is a growing area of interest. There has been much debate on the negative impact of migration on development and vice versa. On the one hand, it is argued that underdevelopment is a cause of migration, and on the other hand, prosperity also leads to migration. The history of migration is the history of people's struggle to survive and to prosper, to escape insecurity and poverty, and to move in response to opportunity. In developing countries like India, migration mostly takes place not due to



the so called pull forces of the destination place as usually happens in case of developed countries, but because of poverty, unemployment, natural calamities and underdevelopment at the origin place. Migration in developing countries like India is still viewed as a survival strategy. In India internal mobility is critical to the livelihoods of many people, especially for people from rural areas.

The percentage of urban population in India which was only 17 per cent of the total population in 1951 is expected to jump to around 42.5 per cent of the total population by 2025. All this will happen because large numbers of people will leave rural areas for urban areas in search of better opportunities. In the last 50 years the rural population has decreased from 82.0 to 68.9 per cent.

Tales of Sorrow

Large numbers of people, mostly young are moving away from rural areas to urban centers because there are fewer employment opportunities back home. The story of migration has its own tales of sorrow as several children turn into rag pickers and families have to live in inhuman conditions in urban areas. Many don't get employment throughout the year and commute between urban and rural areas.

However, for the landless and marginal farmers who are in constant debt, migration is the only choice for livelihood. Migration comes as a boon for several people who get better fresh opportunities and send remittances home.

Some analysts advocate internal mobility as a necessity for lifting people out of poverty. Remittances play an essential role in ensuring food for many rural poor households and thus constitute an efficient strategy for facing adversities such as low agricultural productivity and the inherent risks and instability of farming activities. Moreover, remittances many serve as insurance to improve or counter crisis situations, thus limiting negative effects on food security.

In India, 68.9 per cent of the population lives in 6.40 lakhs villages. The share of agriculture to

overall GDP in India has come down to 14 percent, while 66.2 percent of rural males and 81.6 percent of rural females are engaged in agriculture as cultivators or labourers. Inadequate diversification has taken place in rural occupations as many 66.2 percent of rural males and 81.6 percent of rural females, reporting agriculture as their principal economic activity. There is continuous migration from the rural to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities and living standard. Migration from rural to urban areas is up from 27.8 to 31.1 per cent since 2001.

It is estimated that approximately 2 million people are shifting from rural to urban areas annually and approximately 22 million people have migrated from rural to urban areas since 2001. Agriculture provides the principal means of livelihood for over 52 per cent of our population which lives in the rural areas. It is reported that 57 per cent of urban migrant households migrated from rural areas whereas 29 per cent of rural migrant households migrated from urban areas. Further, approximately 55 per cent of the households in rural areas and 67 per cent of the households in the urban areas had migrated for employment related reasons. Loss of job

opportunities in agriculture is the primary factor of driving people away from agriculture. Agrarian crises can be gauged from the fact that 240,000 debt-ridden farmers committed suicide between 1995 and 2009. There is urgent need to slow the rate of migration from rural to urban areas to strengthen the agriculture. Thus, there is need for on-farm rural employment to combat rural poverty and to secure adequate livelihood within the households of small-holders and land-less agricultural labourers. Higher growth in agriculture is needed for sustainable food security of the country and with the introduction of food security bill, the need for food grains will further increase. Thus, there is need to strengthen employment opportunities in the rural areas to sustain agriculture and agriculture based industries. There is need to arrest this trend.

Migration is a positive phenomenon and if required and managed properly can reap benefits

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels.

for both the sending and receiving regions. Employment is one of the main reasons for migration. Remittances are the main benefit of international migration, providing scarce foreign exchange and scope for higher levels of savings and investments.

Causes of Migration

There are numerous causes of migration from rural to urban centers and vice versa or from one region to another. Notable among these are :

1. Social conflicts and social tension
2. Gap in civilization / culture
3. Law and Order situation
4. Inequalities in the available social and economic opportunities and other amenities of life between groups of people and or sectors.
5. Income maximization.
6. Inequitable distribution of benefits of economic development.
7. Social mobility and social status aspirations.
8. Residential satisfaction.
9. Friend and family influences
10. Desire for attaining lifestyle, performance and enjoyment.
11. Development of some sort of complex.

Migration rate in rural areas was lowest among the scheduled tribe (ST), nearly 24%, and it was highest among those classified in the social group 'others', nearly 28%.

and it was highest among those classified in the social group 'others', nearly 28%.

- In urban areas, migration rate was lowest among other backward class (OBC) nearly 33%, and it was highest among those classified in the social group 'others', nearly 38%.
- For rural male, migration rate was lowest (nearly 4%) among the 'not literates', and it was nearly 14% among those with educational level 'graduate and above'. For urban males also, it was lowest for among the 'not literate' (17%), and 38% for those with educational level 'graduate or above' level.
- Among the migrants in the rural areas, nearly 91% had migrated from the rural areas and 8% had migrated from the urban areas, whereas among the migrants in the urban areas, nearly 59% migrated from the rural areas and 40% from urban areas.
- Nearly 60% of urban male migrants and 59% of urban female migrants had migrated from rural areas.
- The most prominent reason for female migration in both the rural and urban areas was marriage : for 91% of rural female migrants and 61% of the urban female migrants the reason was marriage.
- The reason for migration for male migrant, was dominated by employment related reasons, in both rural and urban areas. Nearly 29% of rural male migrants and 56% of urban male migrants had migrated due to employment related reasons.
- A higher percentage of the persons were found to be engaged in economic activities after migration : for males the percentage of workers increased from 51% before migration to 63% after migration in rural areas and from 46%-70% in urban areas, while for females it increased from 20%-33% in rural areas and from 8%-14% in urban areas.
- For rural males, self-employment had emerged as main recourse to employment after migration. The share of self-employment

Rural-Urban Migration : Some Emerging Trends

- The migration rate in the urban areas (35%) was far higher than the migration rate in the rural areas (26%).
- Magnitude of male migration rate was far lower than female migration rate, in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas nearly 48% of the females were migrants while the male migration rate was only 5%, and in the urban areas, the male migration rate was nearly 26% compared to female migration rate of 46%.
- Migration rate in rural areas was lowest among the scheduled tribe (ST), nearly 24%,

in total migrants increased from 16% before migration to 27% after migration, while the shares of regular employees and casual labours remained almost stable, in both before and after migration.

(Source : Government of India, 2010, National Sample Survey 64th Round, Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, NSSO, New Delhi).

Advantages of Migration

Migration is essential for development. It is a desirable phenomenon. But what is not desirable is the distressed migration, found in most of the developing countries resulting in overcrowding of cities and mushrooming of slums.

If well managed, migration can ensure a better living for the rural poor. In terms of the impacts of migration – it can be concluded that migration generally seems to have a positive impact on the household involved and; migration has the potential to contribute to poverty reduction, with widespread and generally beneficial impacts. Migration between urban and rural areas has fundamentally changed interactions between rural and urban settlements and the way in which we perceive the countryside. Many rural-urban migrants retain strong links with their home villages to the benefit of household members in both locations (for example, through remittances, food supplies, childcare, work at harvest time etc.). Long distance migration, usually to cities, sometimes international, contributes an increasing share of household income. It helps individuals and their families to increase their income, learn new skills, improve their social status, build up assets and improve their quality of life.

Migration can contribute to the empowerment of women by providing women migrants and women whose husbands have migrated with income and greater status, autonomy and self-esteem. It is important therefore, that development policy and planning to reduce poverty takes account of the complexity of migration, and the different ways in which poor men, women and children may benefit from, or lose out as a result of, migration. Migration can influence social and political development, with internal labour mobility being seen as essential to economic growth. But at the same time international migration must be managed, internal mobility must

be planned for, and the rights of all migrants need to be addressed.

Migration should be managed in such a way that it can play a positive role in the process of economic development and can provide a sound basis for national prosperity. The ad-hoc policies related to urbanization and migration need to be replaced by a consistent, logical and systematic policy which can be sustained over a period time. Here are some suggestions :

1. An impetus should be given to the development of small and medium towns so that the flow of migration to large cities can be checked. Their infrastructure should be developed so that their economic bases are consolidated, strengthened and expanded,
2. Population control measures must be made effective in both urban and rural areas in order to sustain urban situation. Otherwise, even the best of urbanization strategies will fail.
3. Rural and urban settlements should not be considered as competitive but they should be treated as complementary to each other. Urban and rural areas constitute parts of an organic whole, Balanced development of urban and rural areas is the only possible long term solution.
4. The problems of metropolitan cities must be looked in a comprehensive manner and on a regional basis. The civic services in big urban centers must be augmented to make them fit for a reasonable level of living.
5. The flow of migration may be checked only if they are offered better employment opportunities in rural areas. Effective and efficient policy measures must be adopted to establish agro-processing units, village, cottage and handicrafts industrial units in the rural and semi-urban areas so that the rural people can get employment in these industries and are not compelled to migrate in search of job opportunities to big cities. In the same way, efforts must be made to improve agriculture, horticulture, dairying, animal husbandry and primary health and education in rural areas and nearby small towns.

[The author is Jamshedpur based economist and an academician]

CONSEQUENCES OF RURAL MIGRATION

Dr. Parveen Kumar

Rural migration is still largely seen as a survival or a subsistence strategy for the rural masses. The article briefly highlights the various reasons for rural migration, the trends regarding rural migration and the consequences of rural migration. The paper also discusses how the various strategies like PURA, MGNREGA can check rural migration.

Migration is being attributed to push and pulls factors. While push factors are mostly repelling and compelling ones the pull factors are largely the attracting ones. An analysis done by Greenwood on migration to urban areas in India using 1961 census data concluded that economic factors such as transportation costs, income and job opportunities significantly affect individual's decision to migrate to city in less developed country like India. The push factors include the population pressure, declining yields, institution of marriage, disintegration of joint family system, lack of livelihood opportunities, etc; the pull factors include better educational, health care facilities, modern means of transport and communications, more employment opportunities and a growing craze for urban life.

Push and Pull factors

Population Pressure: The growing population pressure on our natural resources has led to a stage where they are being used and depleted at a rate more than their natural rate of formation. The population pressure limits already limited opportunities and resources in the rural areas. More population means more and more peoples have to share the limited resources available with the rural families. This also forces them to migrate to safe destinations.

Decreasing per capita availability of land: The increasing population has led to the fragmentation of land. The per capita availability of land has decreased considerably. More than eighty per cent of the farmers are now marginal



and small. Such small holdings have now become uneconomical. The growing number of farmer suicides and the dropping out of farmers from their profession is an indicator of this. Farming community is now looking out for other alternatives. This also has catalytic effect in migration to urban centers for better earning opportunities.

Climate refugee: Dr. Thomas Fingar, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis and Chairman of the National Intelligence Council current research in Asia has reported that South, Southeast, and East Asia will face risks of reduced agricultural productivity as large parts of the region face increased risk of floods and droughts. By 2025, cereal crop yields will decrease 2.5-10 percent. The credit for identifying the migration due to climate change goes to Jodi Jacobson. The number of peoples who will migrate to other places to save themselves from the harsh extremities of weather due to increasing temperature will be more than from any other type of migration in the coming decades.

Lack of livelihood opportunities: Lack of livelihood opportunities in rural areas coupled with the absence of even day to day basic needs like good schools, health care facilities, financial institutions, inaccessibility and suitable markets have also compelled the rural peoples to migrate to their nearest urban centers.

Improvement in communication and transport facilities: The areas which once were inaccessible and beyond reach are now accessible having good roads, communication and transport facilities. This has favored migration of the rural communities. Whenever they have lean periods or off season they migrate to urban areas for earning and then return back with the start of sowing season. Such type of seasonal and circular (also known as cyclical, oscillatory) migration has long been part of the livelihood portfolio of poor people across India. Urban areas also represent better educational, healthcare, employment opportunities which act as a pulling force for the rural peoples towards them.

Employment: Most of the rural peoples leave their houses and move to cities in search

of employment in various types of industries. In urban areas many different type of industries flourish (Table 1) which have the capacity to absorb work force in large numbers.

Table 1: Percentage of rural migrants employed in different industries (NSSO 2007-08)

S. No	Industry	Percentage of rural migrants
1	Construction	41.6
2	Agriculture	23.6
3	Manufacturing	17
4	Mining and Quarrying	1.3
5	Trade	7.3
6	Transport	16.8

The 64th NSSO Report on Rural Migration:

The major findings of the 64th National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released Report No. 533 entitled 'Migration in India, 2007-08' based on the household survey on Employment and Unemployment & Migration Particulars. The nationwide survey carried out during July 2007 to June 2008 covered a random sample of 5,72,254 persons from 79,091 rural households and 46,487 urban households spread over 7921 villages and 4688 urban blocks in the country. The survey covered the whole of the country except the Leh (Ladakh) and Kargil districts of Jammu & Kashmir, interior villages of Nagaland situated beyond five kilometres of a bus route and villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which remain inaccessible throughout the year.

- Migration in India is largely confined to within the same state. 72 percent of migrant households in urban areas and 78 percent in rural areas have migrated within the same state.
- The migration rate i. e the proportion of migrants in the population was higher in the urban areas (35 per cent) than in the rural areas where it stood at 26 per cent.
- Dominant proportion of female migration in the country accounted for marriage pattern in the country. Since the marriage pattern in the country is based on **virilocal** residence

where a girl has to leave his parental house, the survey found that 91 per cent of the rural female migrants and 61 per cent of the urban female migrants had moved because of marriage.

- There was a significant decline in the rural male migration rate on an average by as much as 28 per cent compared to previous surveys.
- In 2007-08 28.6 per cent of rural males and 0.7 per cent of rural females migrated for work related reasons.
- For migrants from urban areas construction and manufacturing accounted for equal sharing of the activities amounting to just over half of the work found. The other large employers for the migrants from urban areas were trade, hotels and restaurants.
- The construction industry was the dominant employer and a major destination employing about 41.6 percent of the rural migrants (Table 1).
- It being followed by agriculture accounting for 23.6 percent, the manufacturing sector being the destination of 17 per cent of the rural migrants, followed by Transport (16.8 percent), Trade (7.3 percent) and mining and quarrying being favored destination of only 1.3 percent of the rural migrants.
- Migration of households in both the rural and urban areas was dominated by the migration of households from rural areas. Nearly 57 per cent of urban migrant households migrated from rural areas whereas 29 per cent of rural migrant households migrated from urban areas.
- In both rural and urban areas, majority of the households migrated for employment related reasons. Nearly 55 per cent of the migrant households in rural areas and 67 per cent of the migrant households in the urban areas had migrated for employment related reasons.
- Migration rate in rural areas was lowest among the scheduled tribe (ST), nearly 24 per cent, and it was highest among those classified in the

Farming community is now looking out for other alternatives. This also has catalytic effect in migration to urban centers for better earning opportunities.

social group others (28 per cent).

- For rural male, migration rate was lowest (nearly 4 per cent) among the 'not literates' and it was nearly 14 per cent among those with educational level 'graduate and above'. For urban males also, it was lowest among the 'not literates (17 per cent)', and 38 per cent for those with educational level 'graduate or above' level.

Consequences of Migration:

Urbanization: Migration aids in Urbanization. Thomson also viewed urbanization in the form of migration. Preston considers rural urban migration as an indicator of regional and sectoral distortions in the pattern of development. The UN also estimated that about 60 per cent of the urban growth in developing countries is due to the rate of natural increase of urban areas and the remaining 40 per cent is due to migration. Migration is the chief mechanism by which all the world's greatest urbanization trends have been accomplished.

Rural depopulation: Migration to urban areas results in rural depopulation. As most of the productive work force leaves rural areas in search of better opportunities the rural areas are left behind with the old and the unable.

Social status: Migration is helpful in equalizing social status, income of rural urban settlements, checking fragmentation of land holdings and promotes concept of division of labour and specialization. Migration also helps in cultural diffusion and cultural assimilation as peoples from diverse cultures settle and in due course of time they share and exchange their cultural values and ethos thus helping in cultural diffusion.

Remittances: Income sent home in the form of monetary assistance can help in paying the debts, increasing food security, help diversify livelihoods and to reduce vulnerability associated with shocks. The NSSO 64th report also states that nearly 10 per cent of the households in the rural areas had used remittances for 'debt repayment'

and nearly 13 per cent of the households in the urban areas had used remittances for 'saving/investment'. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Indians living abroad transferred \$24.6 billion to India in the fiscal year 2005-2006. India, thus, continues to retain its position as the leading recipient of remittances in the world. A study by a UN organization (2000) found that Bangladeshi women migrants sent 72 percent of their earnings home. These remittances have a great role in poverty reduction and development (UNFPA, 2006).

Problem of management:

Cities have become unmanageable because of uncontrolled migration of rural population to urban areas. Large cities of India have now ceased to be congenial places for living. Rural populations coming to urban areas earn their livelihoods by rickshaw pulling, vendors, road side mobile shops. Such activities lead to problem of traffic, congestion and sometimes add to the crime rates.

Checking Rural Migration:

Rural migration is still largely a survival or a subsistence strategy. Survival strategy indicates that the prevalent economic and social conditions force the rural peoples to migrate for a longer time in order to stay alive. The second reason for migration is a short term measure and it is mainly due to need to supplement income in order to fill the gaps of seasonal employment. Therefore following strategies can be employed effectively to check migration:

Providing Urban Facilities in Rural Areas (PURA):

The concept of PURA was the brainchild of our former president Sh. A. P. J Abul Kalam. The objectives of PURA are proposed to be achieved under the framework of Public Private Partnerships involving Gram Panchayat. The state government actively supports the activities under PURA. Amenities to be provided for rural infrastructure include drinking water facilities, sanitation, sewerage, village streets, drainage, solid waste management, skill development etc.

Providing suitable wage employment opportunities:

Rural population, if provided with suitable livelihood opportunities will not go for migration. This has been authenticated by various research studies involving Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides for 100 men days of work to each family on the rural areas. A study done by P. Anandharaja Kumar and SriWell Haorei in 18 Panchayats in Dindigul district of Tamilnadu revealed that after the implementation of MGNREGA migration stopped in 5 Panchayats. The Panchayats in which migration did not stopped was because 100 men days work was not provided in these Panchayats.

Making agriculture remunerative: Agriculture as a major mainstream livelihood activity is now being perceived as a failure due to the rising costs of cultivation and a declining returns thus making it non remunerative. As such it is necessary that agriculture be made more profitable by suitable interventions.

A report of the World Population Council says

Rural population, if provided with suitable livelihood opportunities will not go for migration.

that productive population of India, i.e., people belonging to the age group 15-60, will stop increasing in the coming years and it will stabilize at 64 percent of the total population from 2025 to 2050. It will then decrease

thereafter to 62 percent of the total population in 2050 (Jain, 2008). If the present rate of migration from the country goes unabated, we may face shortage of skilled labour in India. As the pattern of emigration shows that mostly migrants are those who are scientists, IT engineers, doctors, academicians and others who are already in short supply, it may lead to decline in productivity besides affecting our education system seriously. The process of migration needs to be dealt with multi level planning and not individual efforts. Migration should not be seen as a merely survival strategy or an escape route, but a social process that contributes to the well being of the society, that promotes cultural diversity, specialization and division of labour and spirit of unity among diversity.

[The author is Rehbar-e Zirat (Agricultural guide) with the state of Jammu and Kashmir]

ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES – THE RESULT OF ANOTHER FORM OF FORCED RURAL MIGRATION

Dr Srikanta K. Panigrahi

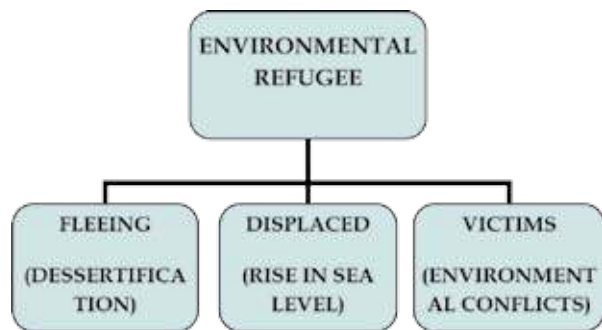
The last decade has seen a number of arguments to extend regular supports to the regime of migrants and refugees. In most recent days, there is the growing consensus that ‘internally-displaced persons’ (IDPs) should be brought under some form of international convention, providing them necessary protection and assistance (Holbrooke, 2000). Another strong group, those displaced by development projects can also be added to refugees list (Cernea and McDowell, 2000). More recently, Myers and Kent (1995, 18) have described environmental refugees as ‘persons who no longer gain a secure livelihood in their traditional homelands because of what are primarily environmental factors of unusual scope’.

Environmental Refugees is the product of several phenomenon of modern era. These refugees are the people, who can no longer gain a *secure livelihood* in their homelands because of *drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental disasters*, together with associated problems of *population pressures, in addition to the profound poverty*. These people feel they have *no alternative* but to seek sanctuary elsewhere. Not all of them have fled

their countries, many being internally displaced. But all have abandoned their homelands on a semi-permanent if not permanent basis, with little hope of a foreseeable return. It is interesting to note that most of the environmental refugees are of rural origin. *Climate refugees* are a very important segment of environmental refugees. Climate refugees are people who must leave their homes and communities because of the effects of climate change and global warming.

As in 1995 the numbers of the total environmental refugees was at least 25 million people, compared with 27 million traditional refugees i.e. people fleeing political oppression, religious persecution and ethnic troubles. The total environmental refugees doubled by 2010, since then, although there is no good estimate available of today’s total. Moreover, it could increase steadily for a good while thereafter as growing numbers of impoverished people press ever harder on over-loaded environments. When global warming takes hold, there could be as many as 200 million people overtaken by disruptions of monsoon systems and other rainfall regimes, by droughts of unprecedented severity and duration, and by sea-level rise and coastal flooding.





Causes:

Environmental Refugees are the people, who might have left their homes and communities because of the effects of climate change and scarcity of resources and livelihood and also due to the failure of agriculture or changing cropping pattern. Some of the major contributing causes are detailed below:-

Global Warming

Global warming (*Temperature rise*) is the most recent chapter of climate change. Human activities like burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests contribute to global warming because they release greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. Rising temperatures associated with global warming cause *glaciers* and *ice caps* to melt. This can cause *flooding* and make *sea levels* rise. Rising temperatures also lead to *droughts* and *desertification* (the transformation of arable land to desert). Some of these effects, such as sea level rise, can put land completely underwater, making it uninhabitable.

Sea Level Rise

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that sea levels would raise a total of 0.18 to 0.6 meters (7 inches to 2 feet) between 1990 and 2100. Rising sea levels already cause problems in low-lying coastal areas of the world. Sea level rise is particularly high along the coastlines of the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea. A study imply that if future anthropogenic warming effects in the Indo-Pacific warm pool dominate natural variability, mid-ocean islands such as the Mascarenhas Archipelago, coasts of Indonesia, Sumatra, and the north Indian Ocean may experience significantly more sea level rise than the global average. While a number of areas in the Indian Ocean region are experiencing sea level rise, sea level is lowering in other areas.

The study by World Bank found that the rivers on upper Bidya and Raimangal - Pathankhali and Jhila - should have been at least 340 and 420 meters wider respectively to withstand the impact of

sea level rise, the human habitat on the islands like Gosaba and animal habitats in the forests of Jhila, Arbesi and Khatuajhuri are being threatened. The study was confined to the Basirhat range of forest in Sunderban of West Bengal.

Drought

While rising seas threaten coastal regions, drought can create climate refugees inland. When people cannot grow crops on the land where they live, they have to move somewhere else in order to survive. Millions of people in western India are suffering their worst drought in more than four decades. The middle part of India is facing a water shortage worse than the severe drought in 1972.

Loss of livelihood in agriculture sector

Agriculture sector alone represents 23 per cent of India's Gross National Product (GNP), plays a crucial role in the country's development and shall continue to occupy an important place in the national economy. It sustains the livelihood of nearly 70% of the population. It seems obvious that any significant change in climate on a global scale would impact local agriculture, and therefore affect the world's food supply.

Considerable studies have been carried out to investigate how farming might be affected in the different regions. Several uncertainties limit the accuracy of current projections. One relates to the degree of temperature increase and its geographic distribution. Another pertains to the concomitant changes likely to occur in the precipitation patterns that determine the water supply to the crops, and the evaporative demand imposed on the crops in carbon dioxide enriched atmosphere.

The problems of predicting the future course of agriculture in the changing world are compounded by the fundamental complexity of natural agricultural systems, and socio-economic systems governing the world food supply and demand. Many climatologists predict a significant global warming in the coming decades due to rising atmospheric carbon dioxide and other green house gases. As a consequence, major changes in the hydrological regimes have been also forecast to occur. Changes in the temperature, solar radiation, and precipitation would have an effect on crop productivity and livestock agriculture. As in few places of the Himachal Pradesh, the apple orchids are relocated towards the hill top as the temperature rise in the middle hill region is now no more suitable for the cultivation of apples. The mean temperature in India is projected to increase by 0.1–0.3°C in kharif and 0.3–0.7°C during rabi by 2010 and by 0.4–2.0°C during kharif and to 1.1–4.5°C in rabi

by 2070. Similarly, mean rainfall is projected not to change by 2010, but to increase by up to 10% during kharif and rabi by 2070.

Climate change would also have an economic impact on agriculture, including changes in farm profitability, prices, supply, demand, trade and regional comparative advantages. The magnitude and geographical distribution of such climate induced changes may affect our ability to expand the food production area as required to feed the burgeoning population of more than 10,000 million people projected for the middle of the next century.

Indian environmental challenges

Migration does not necessarily signify a rejection of a rural livelihood. Rather, it demonstrates that the survival strategies of rural habitants are not only rooted in their immediate vicinity, but are also linked into economies in other rural and urban locations. It is precisely this inter-linkage which supports rural communities and helps them to survive in such climatically unstable environments.

In rural India the scarcity of food, water and other resources as well as the assorting climatic conditions are major reasons for a forced migration. On the other hand India is facing the burden of climate change and would see severe stress on water resources and food-grain production in the future, as seen in middle part of the country that heat sensitive species of wheat and rice had stopped yielding at a high level and in future they may not even grow.

India, like other developing economies, may lose up to 1.7% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if the annual mean temperature rises by 1 degree Celsius compared to pre-industrialization level, hitting the poor the most. An increase in extreme weather events are reported such as last year's flash floods in Uttarakhand and cyclone Phailin in Odisha if steps are not taken to control the rise in temperature.

In India, there is a general concern about environmental migrants. A study by Dr. Hefin Jones, Cardiff University estimated that the country itself would have around 30 million environmental migrants within next 50 years. At the same time, the current illegal influx from Bangladesh would also rise subsequently. In future decades around 15 million affected persons in Bangladesh and around 30 million persons in China would be required to leave their local area because of the rising sea levels, erosion and scarce soil fertility due to climate change. The average temperature in India, Jones continues, would increase by 3 to 5 degree Celsius by 2100. The warming would be felt mainly in the Northern parts and would lead to a 20 percent rise in the summer

monsoon rainfall. In addition, the estimated rise in sea level in the Bengal coastal areas may also be one meter in 2050 and two meters in 2100.

This is not to say that environmental change and the existence of high risk environments with highly variable climatic or other conditions— are not the factors behind large-scale rural migration. People have historically left places with harsh and deteriorating conditions, whether this is in terms of poor rainfall, high unemployment, or political upheaval or even some combination of these or other adverse factors.

As a result, it is expected that the sea would submerge most of the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta including the Sunderbans. Being the largest delta region in the world, its 12 southern islands are threatened with erosion and submergence. Prof. Sugata Hazra from the School of Oceanographic Studies at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, estimates that out of the 4.1 million people living in the islands, 70,000 would be rendered homeless by 2020. Currently, most of the displaced people from two already submerged and six shrinking islands have been heading for Pathar Pratima Island and Sagar Island. India grants asylum and provides direct assistance to some 200,000 refugees from neighboring countries. As the country lacks a national legal framework for asylum, UNHCR conducts registration and refugee status determination (RSD), mostly for arrivals from Afghanistan and Myanmar. More than 24,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of diverse origins are protected and assisted by their office in India.

The status of refugee regarding India	
Refugees Residing in India	188,395
Asylum Seekers	3,675
Total Population of Concern	192,070
Refugees Originating from India	11,042
Asylum Seekers	11,879
Total Population of Concern	23,332

Source: 2014 UNHCR regional operations profile -South Asia

In turn, it is unclear that the complex set of factors that lead to 'environmental migration' as defined would suddenly evaporate or crystallize into a single 'environmental' cause at the time people become refugees. Although a distinction could be sustained at the level of proximate causes of flight, this is unhelpful from an academic point of view if it is accepted that the response to forced migration needs to be guided by underlying, rather than simply proximate causes.

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STATUS OF RURAL MIGRATION — NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Dr Gopal Kalkoti

In the context of market-driven economy migration has become one of the most critical issues for socio-economic development. Significant improvement in road connectivity and telecommunication system has facilitated reduction in the costs of migration and in the speed at which migrants can move from origin to destination. Of late, there is a growing concern and commitment for better governance of labor mobility and legal protection to migrant workers. This article briefly highlights the significance and current status of rural migrants in India and suggests some development initiatives to ameliorate their working conditions.

Significance

According to the Population Division of the United Nations, the world has a total of 214 million international migrants. Most are low-skilled and semi-skilled migrants working at the lowest level of the economy under highly risky and difficult work environment. This community contributes

to the destination economies by providing cheap labor and transfer of remittances and skills to the source economies. Migration of persons 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. Given the size of their contribution to the economy of their home countries and actions warranted for efficient management of remittances, “migration” has found a place in ‘*Millennium Development Goal Plan B*’. According to the UNDP [2009] report, there could be enormous benefits of migration both for the areas of origin and destination if migrant-friendly policy changes and programs are introduced.

Migration transfers labor from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, raising the productivity of the labor force and minimizing imperfections in the labor market. Rural migrants consider Indian cities as their crucial destinations and the rising contribution of cities to India’s GDP is because of



migration and migrant workers. Migration cannot be viewed simply as a response to economic crisis. It is an activity to fulfill the aspirations of the people and a sign of *people's desire to prosper*. In India, almost all households use remittances for household expenditure to improve quality of life. According to the NSSO [2010], a very high proportion of rural households use remittances on food items (76 per cent) followed by health care (38 per cent) and education (31 per cent). Besides, migrants bring back a variety of skills, innovations and knowledge, known as *social remittances*, which contribute to the social and economic changes in the areas of origin.

Migrant sugarcane cutters, earth workers and agricultural laborers from remote and poor villages of backward States have improved their standard of living and are investing their savings in agriculture and educating their children. Thus, migration brings benefits to both areas of origin and areas of destination.

Internal migration of labor for employment has become one of the most durable components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas. Internal migration is an inevitable component of the economic and social life of individuals depending upon the regional imbalances and labor shortages, among others. Correspondingly, there are also supply-side changes owing to changing social structure, increasing the literacy rate and educational level of the workforce, besides the impetus to develop and modernize thousands of cities to become business-hubs.

The growing spatial inequalities in economic opportunities and a widening gap in the development between agriculture and industry have impacted on the pace and pattern of migration. Factors attributed to rural-urban migration include the historical development of different regions, interlocked markets for credit, output and labor, marketable traditional skills, other livelihood options that are complementary to migration, the availability of surplus labor within the household, cultural norms regarding the sexual division of labor, as well as decisions related to children's education.

Current Status

Migration in search of livelihood is a stark reality in India today. The bleak livelihood scenario

in backward, hilly, tribal, desert, drought-prone, rain-fed, flood-affected, high-density or conflict-ridden areas has led to the emergence of migration as a *survival strategy* for a large number of poor people in the country. In India, the number of internal migrants deriving their livelihood out of seasonal migration is estimated to be more than 100 million. Preferred for their cheap labor, most of these migrants work in the informal sector devoid of social security and legal protection. Lack of portability of entitlements across State borders makes them lead a sub-human existence, devoid of access to basic services and labor rights.

Census data show that inter-State migration has grown from 12.02 per cent in 1981 to 13.31 per cent in 2001. NSS rural-urban data show that the inter-State migrants increased from 19.6 per cent in 1999–2000 to 25.2 per cent in 2007–08. While Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, with laggard economies and surplus labor, are the primary suppliers of labor, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, known for their flourishing economies, attract large numbers of migrant-workers. Maharashtra, for example, shows a high correlation (0.77) between net in-migration rate and per capita NSDP.

The construction sector is the largest employer of 40 million migrant-workers, followed by 20 million as domestic workers, 11 million in textile industries, 10 million in brick-kilns, and many more in transportation, mines, quarries and agriculture. Workers in construction are seasonal migrants and their number has increased by 26.5 million in the decade 2000–2010.

Seasonal migrants are engaged as casual labor and face difficulties in claiming their entitlements. They often belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with low levels of assets, education and skills. NSS data show that 54 per cent of short-term migrants fall in the bottom two Monthly Per Capita Expenditure quintiles. Women migrants dominate among temporary workers. NSS data [2007–08], reveal that among short-term migrants, 52 per cent are women migrating for employment as against 28 per cent for men. Child migrants, though undercounted, form a significant part of seasonal migrants. A study by Human Rights Watch reported a large number of bonded child-

laborers employed in brick-kilns, stone quarries, carpet-weaving, beedi-rolling, etc.

The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of movement and freedom to settle within the territory of India as a fundamental right of all citizens (Article 19). Yet, migrants face several barriers in accessing civic amenities, housing and employment, as well as restrictions on their political and cultural rights because of linguistic and cultural differences. Governments and urban bodies do not implement this enabling provision enshrined in the constitution. In the absence of suitable measures, migrant-workers have no residential security and are compelled to live and work in crowded slums and unauthorized public lands/locations with unsatisfactory civic amenities and access to basic services, and they undergo repeated displacement. They are denied rights to basic entitlements. Urban policy is becoming more exclusionary, increasing the cost of migration for the poor and the anti-migrant rhetoric is becoming more strident in many States and urban metropolises. This leads to the marginalization of the migrants in the decision-making process in the city and exacerbates their vulnerabilities with regard to the vagaries of the labor market, the risks of discrimination and violence, risks to health and natural calamities, like floods and landslides, because their shelters are located at vulnerable sites within the city.

Rural migrants are all the more vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation because many of them are poor, illiterate and live in slums and hazardous locations that are prone to disaster and natural calamities. Slums are a manifestation of deprivations in cities, and the migrants who live in slums are denied of their right to shelter, potable water, sanitation and health care. A study by NSSO (2010) shows that in 2008, almost 25 per cent of the urban households had no access to drinking water within their premises, 22 per cent had no bathroom, 15 per cent had no drainage facility and 11 per cent did not have toilet facility.

The nationwide employment data show that

in 2009–2010 there were an estimated 91.4 million casual workers in agriculture and 58.6 million in non-agriculture. Of the latter, 32 million were employed in the construction industry alone. Some studies have estimated that 90–95 per cent of casual workers are migrants.

The implementation of MGNREGA is reported to have declined seasonal out-migration of mostly women, at least of a distress kind. Field studies in a few migration-endemic areas in Gujarat, Orissa and Maharashtra in early 2009 revealed marginal impact of MGNREGA on seasonal migration.

Two reports of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) [2007, 2009] described in detail a shift in labor regimes towards greater informalization and flexibilization. Notably, employment related migration has definitely increased. Further, while migration propensity is higher among the better off and the more skilled, there is an increase in labor circulation and seasonal labor migration, partly dictated by the emerging labor regimes and partly by the growth in sectors such as construction.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan in the context of rural-urban migration did propose

two-pronged approach, viz.

- [i] upgradation in the quality of infrastructure in existing cities to provide improved municipal services to large numbers of people and
- [ii] development of new suburban townships as satellites/counter-magnets to reduce/redistribute the influx of population.

Development Initiatives

Migration needs to be facilitated through a proper development initiatives and strategies so that its benefits can be maximized at all levels. These include, *inter alia*, following.

- A. Migration must be recognized as an integral part of livelihood strategies and production systems; migration, also, seeks high-return employment [and not only because of shocks

migrant-workers have no residential security and are compelled to live and work in crowded slums and unauthorized public lands/locations with unsatisfactory civic amenities and access to basic services, and they undergo repeated displacement.

and stresses during the drought period] which means migration can be accumulative and not merely a coping; and migration is a diverse phenomenon with various non-economic determinants including caste and gender. This reflects wider policy interventions with regard to political-economy determinants of access and opportunity.

- B. Migrants, outside their home areas, are guaranteed of their entitlements to livelihood support system and Government's welfare schemes. They must be paid a full wage and contractors shall not deduct anything from wages. Women and children must have easy and reliable access to basic facilities viz. food, shelter, education and healthcare.
- C. Migrants' access to food should be guaranteed under the National Food Security Act and through public distribution system. For this, migrants can be organized into Self-Help-Groups.
- D. A comprehensive social protection program is necessary for migrants to guarantee minimum wage, no exploitation, proper housing, access to improved sources of drinking water, sanitation and health services.
- E. Rights-based approach can be considered to guarantee minimum wages, freedom from bondage, sexual exploitation, social protection including compensation for injury and death suffered by migrant laborers. For this, NGOs and labor unions must pressurize State governments and employers to enact migrant-laborers' rights and their fundamental right to access health, education and other civic amenities.
- F. Regulations and administrative procedures should sharply focus on migrants' access to legal rights, public services and social protection programs as accorded to ordinary residents. Migrants cannot be treated as second class citizens.
- G. Potential for human development can be tapped by formulating policy and programs to harness remittances and effecting necessary changes in deeply rooted attitudes and governance structures.
- H. Migrants can be provided with computerized

identity cards that can help them to access services at their destinations, viz. health care, entitlements to PDS rations etc. In any case migrants should not lose their entitlements to PDS.

- I. A mechanism can be put in place to computerize registration of migrants at panchayat/urban local body level. The UID authority in consultation with the National Coalition of Organization for Security of Migrant Workers can develop a system whereby migrants can use Aadhar to avail health, education and PDS, bank's services for savings, credit, remittances and insurance, among others.

The National Commission for Rural Labour had first focused on a policy agenda for migration. Recently, the NCEUS has, *inter alia*, suggested

- [i] a systematic approach to labor migration within the framework of policies and programs for informal workers
- [ii] a comprehensive legislation for informal workers, covering minimum labor standards and issues specific to migrant labor
- [iii] a universal minimum social security package for informal workers incorporating three elements crucial for extending the coverage to migrant workers, viz., complete portability in terms of registration, payment of premium (where applicable), and receipt of benefits
- [iv] to involve grass roots organizations in the registration of workers and that the workers be issued a family smart security ID card, which could be simultaneously utilized by the migrant and her/his family members
- [v] livelihood promotion, addressing the regulatory framework in urban areas, and an approach to agricultural and rural development.

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RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN INDIA— A CRITICAL REVIEW

Dr. Amiya Kumar Mohapatra

“Human development and human rights are enshrined in today’s world. But they have not yet become the core values of our reality. The stability and success of any country will not be secure until we are able to spread the benefits in a more equitable manner. The obscene wealth of the few cannot be at the expense of the hungry and the destitute.”

Reverend Desmond M. Tutu

Recent economic growth and faster industrial development along with the growth of urbanisation is the major magnetic effect at work that draws people from rural to urban areas. The scope of better employment opportunities, better standard of living and provisions of improved amenities of these cities also add to the cause. Besides, migration is the natural outcome of deprivation, inequality, poverty and unemployment especially in the rural areas. Various socio-economic dynamics and a range of causes unlock the way for rural to urban migration. This is in fact, a special kind of class struggle and inequality in terms of provisions made. Such an influx of population from rural to urban areas has resulted in various socio-economic problems at the source of origin as well as at the source of destination.

Migration is caused due to various reasons which may vary from country to country and it can vary from place to place, state to state within a country on the basis of socio-economic and cultural status of the demography. The factors which largely contribute to rural to urban migration are poverty and starvation, unemployment, low agricultural productivity, failure of crop, landlessness, poor education & medical care, lack of credit facilities mainly found in rural areas in one hand and better scope of employment, better gender equality, prospect for better life (education, health & drinking water etc), wage differentials, bright city lights cause attraction in the urban areas on other hand. These factors can be segregated as push and pull factors for better understanding of the nature of causes and consequences of the migration. We will discuss various causes and dynamics of migration through “Push-Pull Factors Model”. The “Push-Pull Factors



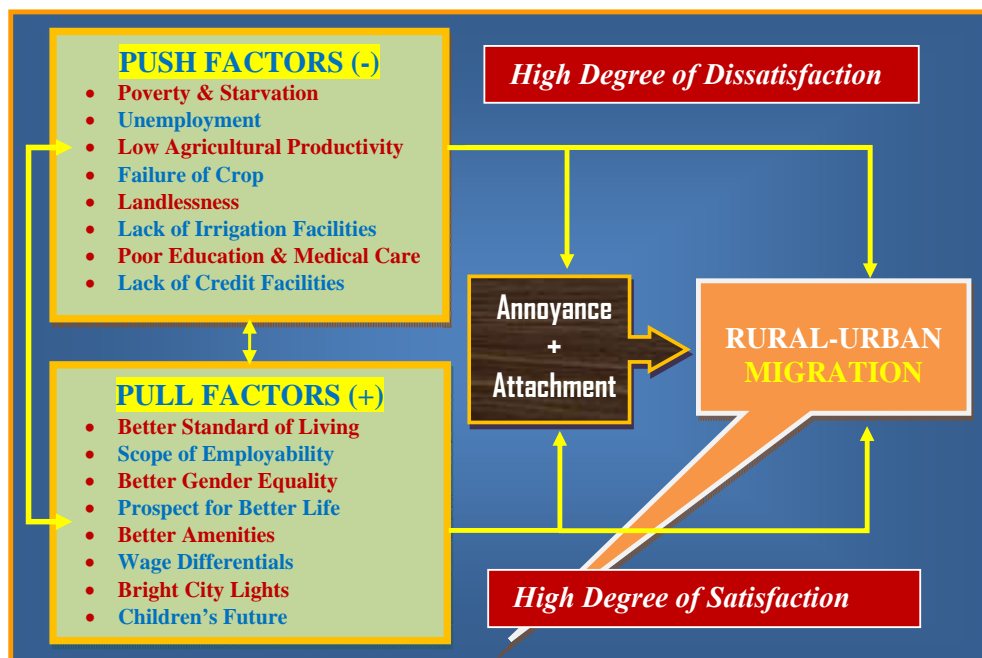


Figure 1: The Push-Pull Factors Model for Rural-Urban Migration in India

Model” broadly reveals the major determinants and causes of migration and able to contribute in policy formulation and possible intervention in controlling the migration.

In India, rural to urban migration is caused due to push and pull factor taken together. But various research works carried out by scholars from time to time; pointed out that the cause of migration is not same for male to female and skilled to unskilled labour, educated to uneducated person and precisely it depends upon other characteristics of demography too.

Although combined effects of the model, considered as the causes of migration, but socio-economic analysis of rural to urban migration reveals the different. For policy perspective and for generic analysis, why majority of rural migrants leaving their place of origin and their ancestral habitat, make the way open for the push factor as matter the most than the urban attractions (pull factors). When push factor is the major cause, then for rural poor and unemployed person, migration is not a “choice rather a compulsion” and therefore linked to distress migration.

Issues and Constraints

Although the migrants economically feel better off but at the cost of poor living in terms of

housing, sanitation, drinking water, health and education etc; and creating and facing a lot of problems at the urban centers. To get control on such social influx, government needs to find the key drivers which are the root and fundamental causes of migration. The government should work on the grey areas which cause the push factors to dominant than the pull factors (as most migration is caused due to distress at the place of origin).

So to reduce the momentum in the process, the government should not only initiate new policy interventions but also refurbish the existing policy and program in prioritizing on employment creation, income generation and poverty reduction. As most of the causal factors are interrelated, therefore *One Umbrella Action Model* should be developed to address all these interrelated issues simultaneously. Living at the native place, do not have a bearing on their life unless and until supported by livelihood program and subject to availability of other basic amenities like drinking water, housing, health and hospital facilities etc. On other hand, rural demography, those are guided by pull factors and follow the ‘choice’ path for migration which may not fit to such policy interventions. But such ongoing policy and provisions is neither sufficient enough nor effective to stop/control rural to urban migration. Various programs undertaken/implemented over the years are unable to ensure “*Roti, Kapda & Makan*” to the deprived and hapless people in rural areas and hence unable to create an impact and bearing on the pace of migration process.

Poverty and starvation over a period of time compelled these people to migrate to the cities, as not a matter of choice but as a compulsion. This type of compulsion arises due to distress conditions of migrants. Once the causes are identified and their

contribution in migration process gets ascertained, the government can evolve further policy to address these issues. But the success of any policy very much depends upon how it gets implemented to fulfill the need of these people at their place. Just creation of policy, institution is not enough, but there must be need of strong political will to implement the same and adhere to the best practices involving the rural community at the centre. Over the years; the government has taken a lot of policy initiatives to do the same so as to reduce all kind of deprivation- 'social, political and economical' in rural areas and thereby helping in controlling migration.

Need for Policy Interventions

The issues and challenges of rural to urban migration and its economic impact and social consequences have overriding effects on the socio-economic conditions of these people and hence significantly draw the attention of policy makers and planners to address such issues. The need of the hour is a lateral approach and need of different perspective to address and understand this social flux. To control rural-urban migration, there is need of policy interventions; and among many, few interventions have been elaborated categorically by addressing the problems at the place of origin. As the migration by far assumed to be distressed one, therefore policy focus has been clustered around the distressed factors which are enlisted as push factors in the model:

- MNREGA has fetched magnetic changes in the rural life - economically and socially. It has made sure that each adult member of a family, male or female is provided with 100 days of work in year. This is certainly raises the purchasing power of the family and help in getting their livelihood. This kind of stable, safe and secured income has always motivated them to work in their native land and hence possibly create an atmosphere to control migration to a great extent.
- Although the MNREGA has started with best of intentions but real benefits is not being shared by the target demography. There is lot of loopholes at the stage of implementation and accounting process. Bringing rigor and transparency in implementation and

furthermore community involvement may certainly control migration in large scale.

- Provisioning of better and adequate education and health facilities in the rural area is one of the essentials to control the pace and magnitude of migration. Beside, vocational education should be added to the curriculum and especially for rural colleges so as to give a practical exposure to the rural students to get their livelihood. The government should give importance to social sector development especially on housing, drinking water, medical facilities and education too.
- Increase in agricultural productivity may deter the migration process. The government should promote sustainable agricultural practices in general and at the areas where migration is dominant in particular through special provisioning of irrigation, high yield variety seeds, fertilizer in subsidized rate. Beside, provision of agricultural credit facility at large and crop insurance may add to the effort.
- Dairying has become the secondary source of income among many families in rural areas. The government should give more emphasis to the National Dairy Plan to increase milk production and thereby creating avenues to keep hold the people to their indigenous occupations. Similarly focus should be given on fisheries and poultry as a source of income and employment to revamp the rural economy.
- The government should encourage other allied sectors to enhance job creation in the villages through high value agriculture like horticulture, floriculture and etc.
- To increase income and employment, the government should ensure development of non-farm rural activity, beside its farm counterpart.
- Village Entrepreneurship Program should be initiated and incentives should be provided to the rural youth to start their new venture with the help of available rural resources. To make it more successful, the government should provide training and teach them necessary skills for excellence.

- Special effort has to be made to preserve the forest and to stop deforestation in the tribal belt which may slow down the pace of migration and help the natives to get their livelihood at their place of origin.
- Electricity becomes an inevitable part of human being, without which life become miserable. Life style of rural people has undergone drastic changes and therefore to ensure sustainable rural development, there is need of continuous supply of electricity.

All the urban facilities like mobile services, multi channel TV connection, and medical and improved transportation facilities are very much essential to give a descent living in rural areas. Faster rural infrastructure development will certainly control migration in India.

Basic provisions and amenities should be made available to rural masses to facilitate a dignified social life. PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) scheme is somewhat extent fulfill the mandate in few states where it is implemented. The PURA mission manifests how to empower and enable the rural people through economic connectivity in the villages which can be possible only through creation of physical connectivity, electronic connectivity and knowledge connectivity. The scheme is meant to benefit the masses at rural area through rural infrastructure development coupled with economic re-generation activities. Thereby, it becomes the foremost venture in delivering the basic amenities

and other required infrastructure in the rural area at par at the services provided in the urban areas. So for better and greater accessibility, it should be implemented in each and every state to empower the people in the rural areas and that will certainly help in curbing the pace and magnitude of migration.

Concluding Remarks

Migration and related issues are one of the major thrust of research now a day. In spite of number of studies have been conducted still there is a lot issues related to the migration has not been addressed. The main cause and concern behind the migration is the economic factor; so agriculture and non-farm sector at rural landscape should be given the top priority to control migration. Hence, the government should kick off inclusive rural policies through which credit support and rights based service delivery and other services can be assured to the target demography. Rural-urban migration can be controlled on a large scale if the government will provide all kind of support to the rural migrants for getting their livelihoods and provide them basic amenities for a descent standard of living at the rural areas as like as its urban counterpart. The government should develop public policy by integrating social inclusion in milieu of rural diversity for the wellbeing of all the segments of rural community.

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In India, rural to urban migration is caused due to push and pull factor

Kurukshetra

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S.K. Dey – The Pioneer of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Ranbir Singh

Born on September 13, 1906 at Laxmi Basa Village in Medinipur Taluka of Slyhat district in Bengal province (now a part of Bangla Desh), S.K. Dey could be legitimately ranked amongst the top most Indians of the 20th Century. This person with a multi-faceted personality was an organic intellectual in the sense in which Gramsci has used this term. Despite getting higher education in the USA and his success in achieving a top position in a multi – national company, he remained steadfast to his rural roots and peasant background. That is why he gave priority to the uplift of the rural masses and amelioration of peasantry over his lucrative career in a subsidiary of the General Electric Company. Dey was a true nationalist with a burning desire of serving his country. This is what prompted him to give up a top executive position in that reputed concern and undertake the responsibility of the rehabilitation of Refugees from Pakistan who had to migrate to India from Pakistan after leaving their homes and hearth in the wake of the communal riots that preceded and followed the Partition of India on August 15, 1947. He got constructed with the labour and skill of the Refuges the township of Nilokheri by inculcating in their dignity of labour which he would call Music of Muscles. He divided the township into Hospital Area, School Area, Poultry Area and Kisan Basti (the abode of the peasants). He not only made it an agro-industrial centre but also got set up the first Government Polytechnic of Northern-

India, the Government of India Printing Press, Extension Education Institute and Integrated Industrial Training Centre, Community Health Centre and thus made it the hub of Technical Education and Training. He also got set up Orientation Training Centre for the IAS Officers for converting the General Administration of India into Development Administration. In this context, his innovative and dedicated role has been aptly acknowledged by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India who called Nilokheri as his daughter and wanted the creation of ten thousand Nilokheris in India.



Trained as an electrical engineer at the prestigious American universities of Purdue and Michigan, Dey proved himself an accomplished social engineer while working as the Honorary Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Rehabilitation in the Government of India in 1948-51. He was also recognised as an efficient administration on account of his successful role as the Community Project Administrator, as the



Ministry of Community Development, Cooperation and Panchayati Raj, and as a Minister for Mining in the Union Cabinet. Dey also deserves recognition as one of the pioneers **in the field of development journalism on account of his role in launching Kurukshetra, now a monthly organ of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.** He was indeed a rare blend of a philosopher and a practitioner who played an important role in the nation – building process for more than four decades after the liberation of India from the colonial rule in 1947 till his death on September 24, 1989. But far more important than all these roles was his contribution as a social scientist in the field of Social, Economic and Political Thought in India. His brilliant paradigm of democratic decentralisation merits special attention of the social scientists, administrator, political leaders and other stakeholders in the decentralised rural governance.

S.K. Dey viewed Panchayati Raj not merely as democratic decentralisation of development administration but also as an essential component of the political democracy without which it remains incomplete and limited only to the central and state levels and does not percolate to the local level. Moreover, according to Dey, when the Community Development Programme was confined to a very small number of projects, the staff could be trained with special attention and work could be supervised from the centre down to the ground. When expansion took place, the old attention was no longer possible either for the training or for the supervision. Besides, it brought in its wake fantastically rising curves of the demand for facilities from the government. Moreover, the dominant sections of the rural society began to get the lion's share in its benefits. Even the cooperatives were captured by them. Furthermore, instead of becoming "peoples programme", it became a *government's programme*. The introduction of the scheme of democratic decentralisation, popularly known as the Panchayati Raj on October 2, 1959 on the recommendation of the Balvantray Mehta Study Team has to be seen in this perspective. **S.K. Dey, who institutionalised Panchayati Raj as the Union Minister for Community Development, Cooperation and Panchayati Raj, had the deep insight to identify various issues that came to the fore after its introduction in 1959.**

S.K. Dey was also perceptive enough to foresee that the Panchayati Raj may not be rolled back in most of the states except in Maharashtra and Gujarat where genuine decentralisation of powers had already taken

place. This is evident from his dialogue with Nehru in 1964 Dey's prophesy proved true as Nehru's successors did not share his enthusiasm for Panchayati Raj because they believed in the centralisation and de-politicisation instead of decentralisation and politicisation. Dey was not only eased out of the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperation and Panchayati Raj in 1966 but was also forced to quit politics in 1967.

But this did not dampen his enthusiasm for Panchayati Raj. He joined hands with Jayaprakash Narayan in 1973 for strengthening the institutions of decentralised rural governance by advocating an amendment in the Indian Constitution for according a constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions so that these could be saved from the caprice and malice of the state governments which were not favourably disposed towards them.

S.K. Dey also played an important role in the re-invigoration of Panchayati Raj in the post-Asoka Mehta Committee Report (1978) phase. He guided and inspired Rama Krishna Hegde, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, and Abdul Nazeer Sab, a Minister in his government, for taking lead in the revival of Panchayati Raj in their state in 1983. It has also been claimed that Dey was one of the persons who influenced Rajiv Gandhi to take initiative for the constitutionalization of Panchayati Raj through the 64th Amendment Bill in 1989⁶. However, Dey died on May 24, 1989 much before his dream could be realised through the enactment of the 73rd Amendment in 1992. It needs to be explored as to how far this Amendment converges or diverges from Dey's paradigm of Panchayati Raj.

But it is really unfortunate that there is no Institute in the memory of this pioneer of rural development and panchayati raj in India. The Government Polytechnic has been rechristened as Guru Brahmanand Government Polytechnic, the Extension Training Centre has got the name of Chaudhary Charan Singh, Haryana Agriculture University added to it and the Orientation Training Centre whose name had been changed to State Community Development Training Centre has now been rechristened as Rajiv Gandhi State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Community Development Centre. SK Dey's daughter Purbi Pande ran from pillar to post in his centenary year 2006 to get a Degree College set up at Nilokheri in his memory but failed.

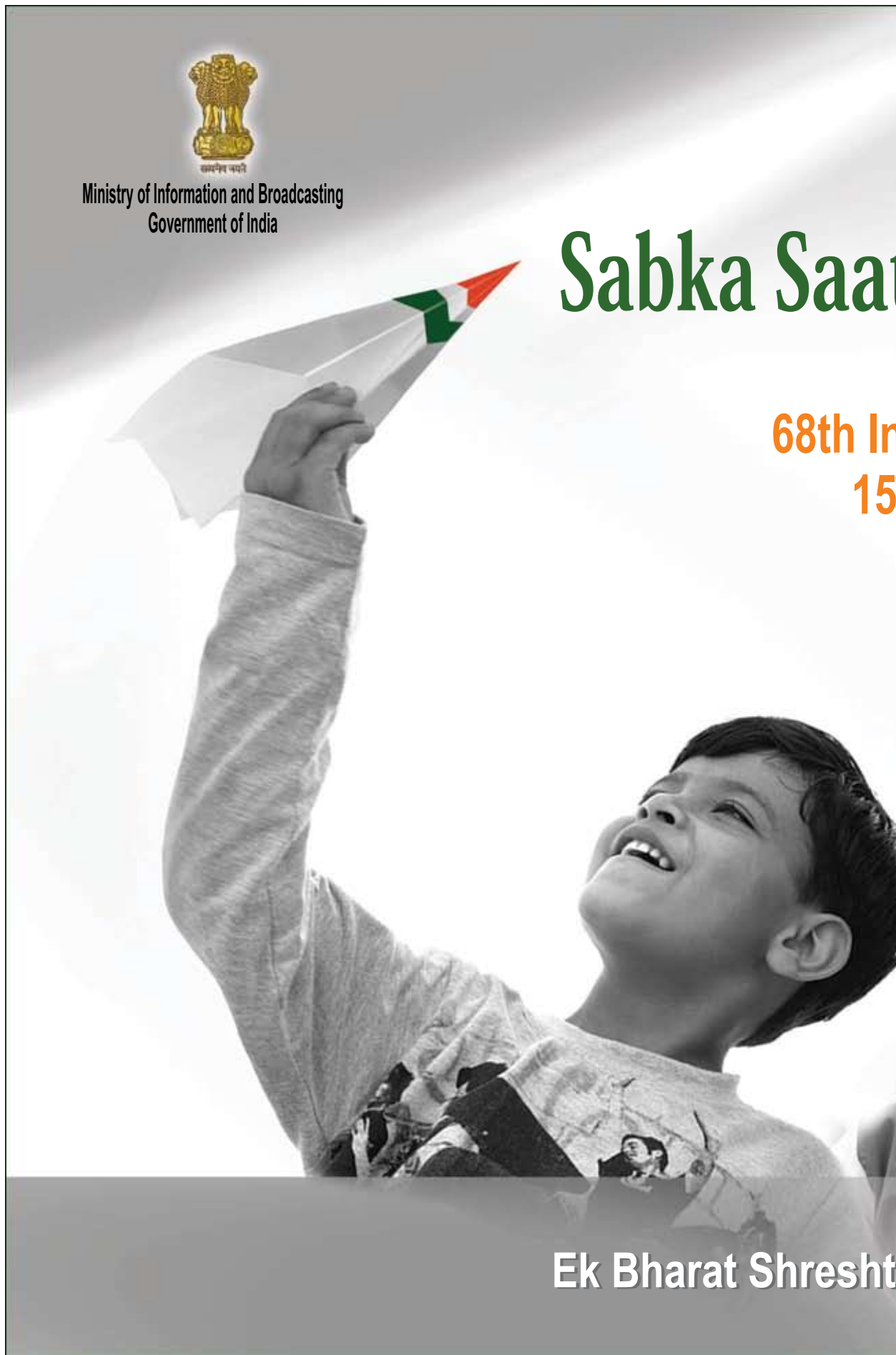
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MGNREGA – AN ALTERNATIVE TO MIGRATION

Dr. Arpita Sharma

According to NSSO report: In India, nearly 29 per cent of the persons were migrants with significant rural-urban and male-female differentials. [1] The migration rate (proportion of migrants in the population) in the urban areas (35 per cent) was far higher than the migration rate in the rural areas (26 per cent). [2] Magnitude of male migration rate was far lower than female migration rate, in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas nearly 48 per cent of the females were migrants while the male migration rate was only 5 per cent, and in the urban areas, the male migration rate was nearly 26 per cent compared to female migration rate of 46 per cent. [3] Migration rate in rural areas was lowest among the scheduled tribe (ST), nearly 24 per cent, and it was highest among those classified in the social group 'others', nearly 28 per cent. In urban areas, migration rate was lowest among other backward class (OBC) nearly 33 per cent, and it was highest among those classified in the social group 'others', nearly 38 per cent. [4] For rural male, migration rate was lowest (nearly 4 per cent) among the 'not literates', and it was nearly 14 per cent among those

with educational level 'graduate and above'. For urban males also, it was lowest for among the 'not literates' (17 per cent), and 38 per cent for those with educational level 'graduate or above' level. [5] Among the migrants in the rural areas, nearly 91 per cent had migrated from the rural areas and 8 per cent had migrated from the urban areas, whereas among the migrants in the urban areas, nearly 59 per cent migrated from the rural areas and 40 per cent from urban areas. [6] Nearly 60 per cent of urban male migrants and 59 per cent of urban female migrants had migrated from rural areas. [7]

The most prominent reason for female migration in both the rural and urban areas was marriage: for 91 per cent of rural female migrants and 61 per cent of the urban female migrants the reason was marriage. The reason for migration for male migrant, was dominated by employment related reasons, in both rural and urban areas. Nearly 29 per cent of rural male migrants and 56 per cent of urban male migrants had migrated due to employment related reasons. [8] A higher percentage of the persons were found to be engaged in economic activities



after migration: for males the percentage of workers increased from 51 per cent before migration to 63 per cent after migration in rural areas and from 46 per cent to 70 per cent in urban areas, while for females it increased from 20 per cent to 33 per cent in rural areas and from 8 per cent to 14 per cent in urban areas. [9] For rural males, self-employment had emerged as main recourse to employment after migration. The share of self-employment in total migrants increased from 16 per cent before migration to 27 per cent after migration, while the shares of regular employees and casual labours remained almost stable, in both before and after migration.

Impact of MGNREGA on Migration: One of the significant objectives of the MGNREGA is to arrest out-migration of unskilled landless labour force from the rural areas to urban areas by ensuring up to 100 days of wage employment within their native jurisdiction so that these guaranteed wage employment can be judiciously and rationally utilized by the landless peasants during lean and distress seasons. As far as possible the work site is to be within a five Km radius of the applicant's village. In case it is not it must be provided within the Block and the labourers must be paid 10 percent of their wages as extra wages to meet the additional travel and living expenses MGNREGA too could become a predictable source of local employment and therefore reduces distress migration. In this respect MGNREGA contrasts with previous employment programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana or Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana. MGNREGA will have significant positive impact on seasonal rural-urban migration by providing rural workers with employment during the lean season. The lack of exact official data on migration is a matter that should be corrected as soon as possible as it is quite important to quantify this as accurately as possible as rural-urban migration can become quite a problem for both the source and destination areas. Research seems to indicate that the agriculture labour shortage is not caused entirely by MGNREGA; trends of reduced labour force in agriculture precede MGNREGA. Data from FY 2010–11 suggests that 70 per cent of the works in the Scheme have been generated during the agriculture lean season. On the other hand, data from some studies demonstrates that there has been a change in the composition of the MGNREGA labour force where more agriculture labour is participating in the Scheme. An analysis of the quantum of MGNREGA works provided across the year also indicates a powerful seasonal fluctuation,

with a disproportionately higher share of works being done during the agricultural off-season.

The month-wise employment data under MGNREGA during FY 2010–11 indicates that it is in the lean agricultural season (April–June and January–March), that around 70 per cent of person-days of work were generated. While this does not factor in migration of labour during an agricultural lean season to other places, it does suggest that the impact of MGNREGA on labour markets may be limited at best. The MGNREGA income in wages has two dimension. The families owning small agricultural land which is insufficient to generate food security for the whole of the year or create additional surplus of cash to meet other basis needs, families are supplementing agricultural income with wage income of MGNREGA.

Analysis of MGNREGA: MGNREGA has had a more direct and positive impact on reducing distress migration as compared to migration taken up for economic growth and other reasons. Studies indicate that MGNREGA has reduced migration by providing work closer to home and decent working conditions. A study conducted in Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh observed that the scheme brought down the migration levels from about 27 per cent to 7 per cent in the sample villages due to availability of work. Another case study from Bastar notes that in one block the number of people migrating declined from 4500 to 500 as a result of employment being provided close to home by MGNREGA. A survey of 240 households in the district of Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh also confirmed these findings; migration had reduced in sample areas by 60 per cent due to the availability of work.

The impact of MGNREGA may be more on the population that migrates for employment; as per the National Census data 2001 around 15 per cent of the households migrate for employment. In Punjab, while there has been a reduction in the in-flow of labour, there is no significant impact of MGNREGA on out-flow of labour. This may be because, to begin with only a limited percentage of population migrates out of the state for migration. In a study to assess the impact of MGNREGA on migration in Punjab, it was found that only around 5 per cent of the 300 households in five districts reported migration from the village due to employment opportunities. The World Development Report 2009 contended that a reduction in migration, as caused by MGNREGA, is posing a barrier to internal mobility thus limiting economic growth of these households. A majority of the studies on the subject note that the Scheme has

caused mostly a reduction in distress migration, and opportunistic or aspirational migration in search of better and more lucrative opportunities continues as before (particularly because MGNREGA cannot match the wages of skilled labour in cities). The reduction in distress migration may be more apparent in the case of households that need to migrate with their families; the entire family is forced to migrate to cities due to limited work opportunities. This leads to a disruption of children's education and access to family health care.

A study across 12 districts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, found that out of 938 beneficiaries, 55 per cent of the respondents felt that migration had been reduced in their families as a result of MGNREGA. Thirty-five per cent of the respondents (out of 938 respondents) felt that their children's education had been positively benefited by MGNREGA, while 30 per cent felt that their clothing had improved.

A longitudinal study across six districts in Andhra Pradesh also highlights the positive impact of the Scheme on reduction in child labour. As per the research, MGNREGA reduced the probability of a boy (whose family was provided work under the Scheme) entering child labour by 13 percentage points and of a girl entering child labour by 8 percentage points.

MGNREGA also provides supplementary income for family members who choose or are unable to migrate.

In Palakkad (Kerala), the results of a study showed that the labour market got vertically segmented: women, old people and the infirm sought employment with MGNREGA and the able-bodied men demanding higher wages chose farm jobs. Likewise in Rajsamand and Dungarpur (Rajasthan) where migration to urban centers offers relatively higher incomes for men, much of the MGNREGA workers were found to be women and older men who had discontinued migration. Some reports indicate that in certain places the reduction in distress migration has been reversed due to improper implementation of MGNREGA processes. In Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), MGNREGA implementation initially reduced migration but the delay in payment of wages led the people back to their migrant ways. Delay in payment of MGNREGA wages was also found to be a key reason for the lack of enthusiasm among the tribal farmers in Narmada district (Gujarat). This was in spite of significant differences between the prevailing market wage rates (Rs 35/day plus meal; cash payment) and MGNREGA wage rates (Rs 100/day).

[The author is ICSSR Post Doctoral fellow in G.B.P.U.A.&T. Pantnagar].

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IMPACT OF RURAL MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS OF BIHAR IN ASSAM (A CASE STUDY OF CACHAR DISTRICT)

Dr. Kumar Amarendra

Migration has become a worldwide phenomenon in the modern industrial age. Even during ancient past, it has not been unheard. Many adventurous and enterprising people migrated to different places outside the country in search of food and shelter or for other commercial purposes. The present industrial age has been facilitated by better means of communication which have paved the way for large scale migration outside India. A big chunk of population of Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal states has migrated to the advanced European countries like Britain, France, Germany, and other countries. Inside India too, a large scale of unskilled labourers of Bihar, U.P, M.P, Orissa and West Bengal have migrated to advanced states of Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. They have also migrated to backward states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Radical changes in the institutional set up and occupational pattern got about by the Industrial Revolution was the starting point of several streams of migration of the people. In the modern period large number of people use to flock from neighbouring

villages of Bihar to the growing towns of Assam and W. Bengal where commercial and agro-based industries have absorbed unskilled rural labourers. The main motive of migration is the desire in men in terms of material gain. This is the main influencing factor of migration where labourers put hard work in their job for material gain without any fear of physical discomfort. Migration occurs when the place of utility in a few location becomes better than that of the present location. Migration is possible even if there is unemployment in the urban sector, place of utility represents the social, economic, and other cost and benefits derived from an individual's integration at same position in space.

Migration is infact, a boon for industrial advancement. It is also a blessing for jobless persons who spend their valuable time uselessly. During colonial period, a large scale of famine and poverty-stricken people of Bihar, U.P, M.P, Orissa, Bengal and Tamil Nadu migrated to the tropical countries a, like Surinam, Mauritius, Fiji Islands and other places as indentured labour for sugar plantation. Their hard working nature channelised by their colonial masters



boosted up the economy of the country's concern. These labourers settled down in those countries. Inside India, too, during middle of nineteenth century such type of labourers were imported by the British colonial masters of tea plantation in Assam and Bengal.

In this paper an attempt has been made to study the factors responsible for migration of labourers of Bihar to a far flung area of South Assam (Cachar) and its impact on the economy of the migrant labourers of Bihar. The socioeconomic profile of these labour society has also been effected by their migration. In order to study the problem, a sample of two hundred Bihari labourers working in Silchar (District H.Q. of Cachar, South Assam) engaged in different institutions, establishment and commercial concern, have been taken, and on the basis of responses made by them have been critically analysed to arrive at the conclusion.

Bihar has been experiencing a large scale migration of rural population to different industrial towns and rural areas of Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. These rural labourers have also shifted to developing states of Assam, Orissa and Arunachal Pradesh. Unlike other states of Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Bengal the migration of rural labourers of Bihar are mostly confined to different urban centres inside the country.

Migration of rural labourers of Bihar is both of permanent as well as seasonal in nature. The seasonal migration of Bihari labourers in Assam is mostly categorised as weavers, bricklin workers, rice godown workers, while permanent migration includes workers who get regular work throughout the year and acquire handsome income from the work. Such workers are washermen, shoemakers, hawkers, kerosene sellers, rickshawallas, thellawallas, bag carriers railway porters, FCI workers, labourers employed in Assam Electricity Board and other important wholesale food stockists. These workers, in general, live without family in a group and lead a very simple life keeping in view their main motive to earn money and send it to their family members living in Bihar. They have no intention to live at Silchar or other semi-urban towns, permanently many have built up houses out of their savings. On many occasions, particularly during festivals they come to their native places and stay together with their family. Similarly, on other occasions like settlement of marriage or similar ritual functions they came to their places, and after attending such functions they return back to the places of employment.

Causes of Migration

So long as the wants remain strictly limited there

is little scope of migration. The urge for migration was absent so long as the wants were satisfied from the local sources. The frugal rustic life with little contact with outside world kept the innocent workers like 'Frogs in the well'. They were deficient in sustenance, having scanty clothings, poor housing condition with minimum needs of material comfort. Subsequently attitudinal change arising out of changes in life style and growth of modern civilisation which paved the way for migration of rural labourers of Bihar to nearest urbanised centres of Bengal and Assam.

Though subsistence economies of the past have been noted for incidence of high birth rates, death rates etc. have been equally high due to heavy incidence of epidemics like Cholera, Small Pox and high infantile mortality. The population of such economies was practically stagnant. Under such circumstances normally there arose no urge for the people to migrate. Further a subsistence economy is characterised by low degree of monetisation. The absence of a well developed cash-nexus left the potential migrants with no working capital required for consumption, expenditure and meeting the cost of residence.

The deep rooted socio-economic class structure of an agrarian society has been operating as a powerful constraint on the migration of population. The stratification of the society based on caste with impremature of religious sanction behind it severely restricted the scope of migration in the normal course. The stigma of pollution attached to inferior castes operating as permanent handicap to the members belonging to such communities for out-migration. Further the system of land tenure, on the otherhand, can either impede or facilitate migration in an agrarian society. The landless peasants and agricultural workers have no other option but to migrate to different urban places for material gain.

Although various factors such as language barrier, predominance of agriculture as a source of livelihood, caste system and cohesivness of village life etc. have in past, operated as powerful constraints in genral, but the speed of education, massive industrial expansion scheme and the steps taken by the national government to inculcate the spirit of oneness among the people of India, were some of the developments which tended to encourage migration during the post-independent period. The effect of such development on interstate migration is most attractive development, the impact of which on economy of both sides is tremendous.

'Push' and 'Pull' factors are most important parts of rural migration of unskilled and unemployed workers of India in general and Bihar in particular. Employment opportunity is shrinking everywhere

due to increase in population, decline in handicraft, stagnant agricultural economy and absence of industrial growth which resulted into large scale seasonal migration from Bihar. Furthermore, the influence of kinship acted as most powerful factor to motivate their near and dear friends and relatives to come to places where such labourers are working and earning through their enterprising efforts.

Difference in socio-economic pattern is basically responsible for migration in India. Most of the migrants in Bihar to Assam belong to lower and depressed section of the society (Table I) who are the worst victims of exploitation of landlords and big farmers. The demographic pressure coupled with famine, flood and starvation occurring due to failure of monsoon is the potent cause of migration. This forced the weaker section of society to move along with other known persons already engaged in job. Being motivated by the desire to seek freedom from life of incessant toil and shameful exploitation, a big chunk of schedule caste and backward class community migrated to Assam (Table I).

The present study is made on the seasonal labourers of Bihar working in Cachar where a sizeable workers are employed in different institution, shops and goodowns and other private concerns. The study reflects that 60% of the workers are illiterate, 20% are non-matriculate, 10% matriculate and remaining 10% are undergraduates and graduates.,

Labour Migrants of Bihar in Cach

The study further reveals that the migrants were from the the districts of Vaishali, S amastipur, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Purnea and Kishanganj. In their native places they were facing acute financial crisis and were unable to carryout financial burden of their families. Their family status was not high, hence they felt no hesitation to go out of their villages in search of material gains.

The sample survey of the seasonal migration of Bihar clearly reflects that they are the daily workers engaged in weaving, brick making, laundry works, carrying load on Thella, rickshaw, selling of kerosene, Pan Masalla, Khaini, ice-cream selling on the road side or other similar works. Such works, in the opinion of the local people of Cachar are below their status and standard, as they are socially and educationally conscious of their position and, they hesitate to undertake such works. As a result, these unskilled migrants find suitable ground for their earnings. Abid Hussain, a weaver of Kishanganj informed me that he used to go to Silchar along with other workers in the month of October every year and stays there for nearly six months. Everyday he used to get a net saving of nearly Rs. 150 on an

average per day. In fact all such manual workers put hard work and discharge their duties diligently and honestly and have won the confidence of the local people and their owners.

The workers, in general, remain there without family with intention to earn money and syphone it to their native places in order to purchase land or build houses, purchase cattles and meet other family expenses on education, and marriage of children a clear ancestral debts. Han Charan Singh, a Railway Porter informed me that his parents were groaning under poverty and had mortgaged half of the landed property. After arriving here and working as railway porter he cleared off all the debts and got mortgaged lands in his possession. To me, it is pleasure to work here as railway porter because my children are reading in English medium schools. From the survey it appears that these migrant workers were well satisfied with their jobs and their financial position has reasonably improved and their soci-economic position has become sound. Had they remained at home, their economic position would have remained stagnant. They would have remained as vagabond, roaming from village to local bazar in search of work in the farm or in the construction work as helper. It is their migration from their native places to distant places of Assam which has boosted up their economic position. Their absence from village has little V-impact on agricultural activities due to the availability of surplus labour. In fact, the seasonal migration of surplus labourers of flood and poverty stricken districts of noth Bihar has undoubtedly raised the economic solvency of the migrants. The local people of Cachar are equally benefited by the presence of such migrants who are not suited for such type of works. The local inhabitants as informed by Shantanu Bhattacharya, that the local businessmen, shopkeepers and contractors spend a small faction of their income on labour payment and rest is pocketed by them as profit. Thus it is a both way traffic to earn money.

In fine, it can be easily concluded that the migration (seasonal and permanent) of agricultural labourers has reasonably improved the socioeconomic position of the migrants of Bihar. Their outlook has changed and their perception of narrow out look based on caste and social taboos has vanished. They are exposed to modern civilised life and their intermingling with the advanced section of society of Cachar has widened their horizon. This, in the long run, will improve the socio-economic faces of the migrants as well as the state as a whole.

[Dr. Kumar Amarendra Narain is from P.G. Deptt. Of Economies, R.N. College, Hajipur (Bihar)]

REPERCUSSIONS OF MIGRATION ON RURAL MIGRANTS A CASE STUDY

Tarique Hassan and Prof. Jabir Hasan Khan

By going through the kaleidoscope of human history, it would not be wrong to say that man is the most mobile creature on this earth moving from one area to another either due to fear of loss and lure of gain or to fulfill his basic needs and desires, depending upon his wisdom, knowledge, skill, interest, intellectuality and technical know-how. The only possible alternative for population is migration, when a society has ceased to satisfy an individual or community and shows its inability or unwillingness to execute the set of their expectations and values of life. It occurs because migrants believed that they will be more satisfied in their needs and desires at the place they moved than in the place from which they came.

It would be wrong to say that migration always act as a negative phenomenon which has been reflecting misery and lack of livelihood opportunities in the dispatching areas and absence of basic amenities and other infrastructural facilities and health hazards in receiving regions. It needs to be seen also as an opportunity being taken up by people to improve their socio-economic status. There are evidences that this is currently being taken up by skilled and better off sections of society. Likewise, with

the technological and cultural advancement and economic development of any region, prospects of migration will increase and vice versa in case of deprivation.

India is one of the most physically, socially and culturally diversified nation, consequently, regional disparities in the level of socio-economic development are quite striking in the country. As a corollary, people of culturally and economically deprived regions have been migrated towards the economically developed or culturally rich areas. In addition, political instability, agrarian unrest, casteism and communal riots have been also the major motivating factors behind internal migration in India. It is the migration which has been shredding the moral fabric of the migrant population, shattered the family structure and disturbed the whole economic and social structure of the society. The trauma of mass migration and exposure to an unfamiliar and unfriendly environment are further multiplied by the problems of acclimatization, lack of basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, absence of proper lavatory facilities, poor housing or houselessness, overcrowding, lack of health care facilities, joblessness, idleness, depression,



Table 1: Type of Problems Faced by Rural Migrant Population

Types of Problems	Rural Migrants		
	In-migrants	Return-migrants	All Migrants
Unemployment	9.94	8.03	9.85
Low Income	11.98	13.63	12.07
Electricity	9.79	9.49	9.77
Road	5.13	4.62	5.10
Housing	7.14	4.14	6.99
Education	3.60	6.57	3.75
Sanitation	7.17	5.84	7.10
Drinking Water & Toilet	10.06	3.89	9.75
Police Harassment	3.80	0.97	3.66
Irrigation	2.54	6.08	2.72
Rude Behaviour of Native People	3.70	-	3.51
Ration Cards	2.50	2.68	2.51
Inflation	5.32	4.87	5.30
Landless	2.84	1.46	2.77
MGNREGA Job Cards	0.28	9.00	0.72
Social Conflict and Casteism	1.00	5.84	1.24
Hungry	6.27	-	5.95
Old Pension	-	5.11	0.26
Arduous Work	4.12	2.68	4.05
No problem	2.81	5.11	2.93

Source: Based on Sample Survey, 2012.

deprivation and diseases.

The present article is a case study exclusively based on primary sources of data, carried out during 2012 in Kanpur Nagar district that aims to highlight the consequences of migration in the district, so that we can generalize the repercussions of migration on the rural migrant population of India. It is also imperative to study because Indian economy is still agrarian in nature, as well as, the proportion of rural to rural and rural to urban migration-streams have the highest share in migration among the various migration streams of India. The study also helps in understanding the deprived status of rural migrant population after their migration.

Table 1 provides a comparative portray of the prevailing problems among the migrant population of rural areas in Kanpur Nagar district. The data show that nearly three-fifth migrant populations of the district are facing the problems of low income, unemployment, electricity, drinking water and toilet, sanitation, housing, hungry, inflation, road and arduous nature of work. As far as the in-migrant population of the district is concerned, it has been found that low income, drinking water & toilet, unemployment and electricity are the major problems which combinely share about 42 per cent of the total in-migrants, while, return-migrants have

complained against low income, poor supply of electricity, corruption in the issuance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) job cards and lack of employment opportunities which are altogether constituted nearly two-fifth of the total return-migrant population of the district. It may also be observed from the data that in-migrant population is facing more problems than the return-migrants because only 3.35 per cent in-migrant population has reported that they have no problems in the district, but, the proportion of return-migrant population is relatively higher that is 5.11 per cent who did not faced any type of problem in the district after migration.

Table 2: Prevalence of Bad Habits among Rural Migrants

Bad Habits	Rural Migrants		
	In-migrant	Return-migrant	All
Smoking	8.08	8.85	9.84
Drinking	11.69	4.42	11.13
Gutka	17.34	25.66	20.16
Tobacco	15.89	9.73	16.22
Drugs	5.3	-	4.18
Gambling	21.18	4.42	16.72
Stealing	4.63	-	3.88
No Bad Habits	15.89	46.9	17.87

Source: Based on Sample Survey, 2012.

The percental distribution of prevalence of bad habits among in-migrant and return-migrant populations of the district is given in the Table 2. It would be seen from the data that nearly 18 per cent of the total sampled population have no bad habits. Among the different categories of bad habits prevalent among the migrant population of the district, the highest share of population is chewing Gutka that is 20.16 per cent, while, gambling contributed 16.72 per cent, followed by tobacco locally called 'Tambaku' (16.22 per cent), drinking liquor (11.13 per cent), smoking including 'Beedi' and cigarettes (9.84 per cent). The bad habits like addiction of drugs (in the form of *Charas* and *Ganjha* by filling it in the cigarette) and stealing activity have been reported by 4.18 per cent and 3.88 per cent of the total sampled population of the district respectively.

Table 3: Incidence of Disease among Rural Migrants

Type of Disease	Rural Migrants		
	In-migrant	Return-migrant	All
Skin Problem	3.98	5.98	4.02
Tuberculosis	4.3	-	3.79
Cancer	4.84	-	4.13
Asthma	4.94	4.35	5.13
Gastroenteritis	9.14	19.57	9.6
Heart Problem	3.44	-	3.17
Arthritis	2.04	2.17	2.92
Blood Pressure	3.87	6.52	4.25
Diabetes	2.79	10.33	3.17
Back Pain	3.22	10.87	3.99
Visual Impairment	10.21	4.35	8.98
Handicap	13.54	5.98	11.44
Stone in Gall Bladder	4.51	3.8	3.99
Filariasis	3.48	-	3.51
No Disease	25.69	26.09	27.9

Source: Based on Sample Survey, 2012.

An examination of data regarding the bad habits among the in-migrant and return-migrant populations reveals that the percentage share of bad habits like gambling, drinking, addiction of drugs including '*Charas* and *Ganjha*' and stealing

which have been gratifying the maximum share of in-migrant population as compared to return-migrant. Besides, the highest ratio of population who did not indulge themselves in any bad habits or activities was found among the return-migrants of the district and their proportion is 46.90 per cent.

The percental distribution of incidence of diseases among rural migrant households has been presented in Table 3. It would be seen from the data that the incidence of diseased persons is very high in the district that accounted to 72.10 per cent of the total sampled population and remaining 27.90 per cent population did not suffered from any kind of disease in the district. The majority of persons are suffering from handicap, gastroenteritis, visual impairment, asthma, blood pressure, cancer, skin diseases, stone in gall bladder, back pain and tuberculosis which altogether shared 62.83 per cent of the total sampled population of the district.

On the basis of migration status it has been observed that incidence of disease is very high among in-migrant population as compared to return-migrant population of the district. The data regarding the in-migrant population of the district reveals that majority of them is suffered from the diseases of handicapped, visual impairment, gastroenteritis, asthma, cancer, stone in gall bladder, tuberculosis, skin problem, blood pressure and filariasis. Nevertheless, the high incidence of diseases among the return-migrant population are gastroenteritis, back pain, diabetes, blood pressure, skin problem, handicapped, asthma, visual impairment, stone in gall bladder and arthritis.

Conclusion:

It may be summarized from the above analysis that in-migrants are more deprived as compared to return-migrants in the rural parts of India. Meaning thereby, the ill-effects of migration over the in-migrant population are higher than that of rural return-migrants after migration which is mainly due to the fact that the places of last residence of return-migrants are their native areas or the places of their belongings, but, in-migrant population are residing in the alien environment, consequently, they are more prone towards problems after migration.

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MIGRATION AS A LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY IN UTTARAKHAND

Rekha Dhanai and R.S. Negi

Migration in the Himalayan mountainous areas of the world is a common phenomenon but in recent years, global changes have led to a considerable increase in migration in the region. Migration has long been an important livelihood strategy for the people of the Himalayan region. Because of limited opportunities of economic development within the region, frustrated youth are migrating in large numbers to the urban and industrial areas in the plains in search of employment. Migration generates financial and human capital (skills and knowledge) which, if leveraged for development, can reduce poverty. Socio-economic and environmental changes are taking place across the Himalayan region, including increases in the extent and severity of natural disasters, declining crop yields and availability of mountain products, a reduction in the diversity of mountain agriculture, a decline in the water flow from local springs, and growing food insecurity and poverty. The region also suffers from low incomes, lack of employment opportunities, lack of

infrastructure, and lack of access to basic amenities which is necessary for the survival of the local people. The specific characteristics of mountains – poor accessibility, fragility, and marginality have contributed to the impact of the changes. Rapid economic development in the urban centres in Asia has increased the demand for cheap and flexible labour. Increased awareness of opportunities elsewhere, better communication technologies, and falling transportation costs have enabled previously immobile mountain people to migrate at record rates.

Results from macro-economic studies suggest that, on average, a 10 per cent increase in per capita official international remittances leads to a 3.5 per cent decline in the proportion of people living in poverty. Remittances are increasingly becoming the most direct, immediate, and significant contribution to the livelihoods of the mountain poor in the Himalaya. Remittances provide a safety net for the large number of



dependents left behind. Migration has become an effective strategy for livelihood adaptation in this Himalayan region and almost 35 per cent of households in the mountains receive remittances. Remittances improve living conditions, education, and health in the origin communities, and provide insurance against income shocks. Migrants acquire new ideas, skills and technologies from the host communities, which they carry back to their place of origin and act as powerful agents for transformation and social change.

Migration is an important livelihood strategy for mountain people and has a significant impact on reducing poverty in the region. The major findings for the Himalayan region are:

- 1) Lack of employment and income generating opportunities in the region, food insecurity due to low agricultural productivity, and poverty are the major reasons for migration.
- 2) Lack of opportunities for skill development in the place of origin forces the majority of the unskilled mountain migrants into low paid jobs in the informal sector.
- 3) The majority of migrants remit money through informal channels, mainly because of financial illiteracy and the limited outreach of formal credit institutions in remote mountain areas.
- 4) Male outmigration has both positive and negative effects on the status, decision-making power, drudgery, and health of women.

Whenever the population rose to such an extent that people could no longer secure a livelihood, they migrated elsewhere. Even today, both poor and better off people pursue migration as a livelihood strategy from this fragile region. Choice of destination and levels of benefits and risks, however, vary significantly, according to the economic and social power of the migrant.

Migration Drivers

The key drivers of migration fall into three categories:

- 1) Factors related to the region or country of origin, including political instability and conflict, lack of economic opportunities, high rates of population growth and lack of access to resources
- 2) Factors related to the region or country of destination, including the availability of employment and demand for workers, higher wages, political stability or access to resources;

and

- 3) Intervening factors that facilitate or restrict migration, including ease of transportation, family or social networks, government immigration or emigration policies, economic ties such as trade and investment linkages, or social and cultural exchanges (Arango 2004).

However, there is a degree of agreement that each of these factors is a potential driver of migration. The enabling factors that may apply in one circumstance may not apply elsewhere and the different factors may interact in different ways. The classic migration theory posits that people will move from poorer to richer regions or from places where there is 'population pressure on resources' to places where there is not. Yet this does not tell us whether the 'push' of poverty, or the 'pull' of economic opportunity is more important, even though this may be critical in terms of understanding whether and how much climate change will influence economic drivers of migration. Similarly, 'population pressure on resources' is often cited as a reason for people to leave a particular area, yet this may well lead to migration to an urban area where population densities are much higher, but where economic growth has meant a much larger population density can be supported.

Determinants of Migration in Uttarakhand

Decreasing Agricultural Productivity:

Mountain agriculture is predominantly subsistence in nature, and people from mountain areas, has been migrating from centuries for cash to supplement household income. A large section of the population of this region depends upon agricultural activities for their livelihood, consisting of agriculture, animal husbandry and forest interlinked production systems. Terraced slopes covering 85% of total agricultural land are largely rainfed, while the valleys (15%) are irrigated. Agriculture in this region is characterised by small and fragmented landholdings, lack of irrigation, shallow soil, and lack of mechanisation and technology; all of which contribute to limiting yield. Agricultural development is poor in the region because of lack of proper policies, inaccessibility, varied topography and extreme ecological conditions. With increasing climatic stresses, particularly erratic rainfall, and global food price volatility affecting even remote mountain communities, mountain agriculture is increasingly becoming a less reliable livelihood strategy, increasing the need to migrate. All the above factors compel the local poor to migrate

and explore better livelihood options in urban and industrial areas in the plains.

In Uttarakhand, the majority of people observed that agricultural productivity is decreasing and claimed this as a major reason for migration. Traditional hill agriculture is practised on small and fragmented terraced fields, which are uneconomic to operate. The rapid increase in population has been accompanied by increased family size and the subdivision of landholdings. Small landholdings are also characterised by lack of irrigation, resulting in low crop yields and limited options for cultivating cash crops. Many claim that they do not have sufficient food grain to support their family and agriculture fulfils their food grain requirements for 6 to 8 months a year and in some areas agricultural produce is sufficient for only 1 to 2 months of the year, whereas earlier, they could fulfill the complete annual household demand. Decreasing productivity is a cause of higher food insecurity. The inaccessibility of mountain areas hampers the spread of extension services, access to agricultural inputs, and access to markets. There is a growing awareness about the uneconomic agricultural practices among mountain farmers.

Lack of income generating opportunities:

Lack of local opportunities and attractive prospects elsewhere are strong factor in the rising migration numbers, particularly among mountain youth. Greater awareness of outside prospects through radio, television, and education are increasingly attracting mountain youth to migrate, as options for local growth and investment seem limited. A general fatigue with the hardship and lack of facilities in mountains was observed and an attraction to city life.

In Uttarakhand, lack of employment in villages emerged as the strongest motive for migration among the respondents. Alternative employment opportunities are limited by the lack of industrial development in the hill and mountain areas. The influence of migrant friends and relatives is another significant determinant for migration, closely followed by low agricultural productivity and a lack of interest in working in agriculture and also the lack of basic facilities in villages so, villagers cited better prospects in cities as other reasons for migrating.

No interest in Agriculture work and Education:

A growing lack of interest in agricultural work was observed in Uttarakhand and large number of youth indicated that they had no interest in working in agriculture and were looking for alternative

livelihood opportunities. Education has emerged as an important push factor among those disillusioned with agricultural work. Even young people with only an intermediate education feel that there are better livelihood opportunities for them outside their villages and are reluctant to take up agricultural work. There is also a strong feeling among young people that agriculture is not meant for the literate; it is seen as a 'demeaning' occupation, only pursued by illiterate and less educated people. This perception is a major accelerator for population shifts towards urban centres and the plains. Perhaps, the current societal value system and the educational system are partly responsible for this trend, in which agriculture is being tagged as a socially demeaning occupation.

Climate Change: Mountain people see climate change as an indirect driver of migration due to decreased land productivity. The Himalayan region is comprised of highly fragile ecosystems, which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Agriculture in the hills, is predominantly rainfed, depending heavily on weather conditions and rainfall.

Government Initiative to reduce migration and income generation

The policy response to mitigate migration has been to discourage migration by increasing rural employment opportunities through livelihoods intervention programmes, such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in India. This livelihood intervention programme usually guarantee wage employment to one adult member of every rural household for 100 days in a year for local development. The NREGS allows unskilled and less educated youth to earn by working in the vicinity of their village, while at the same time supplementing family income through agriculture and animal husbandry; together, the benefits of staying in the village are often higher than earnings generated through migration. This programme has encouraged some people, who otherwise would have migrated, to stay in their villages but it may not necessarily reduce migration. So, this programme may be an option to minimize the migration of less educated youths from the villages as labour migration.

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MIGRATION OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY WORKERS

(A CASE STUDY OF AMBEDKARNAGAR DISTRICT)

Dr. Jamshed Nasir, Mahvish Anjum and Ullas T

According to this empirical survey, it was astonishing to find that there had been practically no migration of cottage industry workers from Ambedkarnagar district. A few who have migrated have done so far reason other than livelihood earning such as religion, better environment, housing etc...

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination. It is generally believed that the globalisation processes all over the world has accelerated the migration trend, in search of survival, fulfilment and a better life for themselves and their families (Hazra, 2010). Rural migration is the phenomenon that describes the movement of people from their villages to urban areas, usually in search of a better livelihood (Solanki, 2002). In India there are a vast number of landless labours and equally vast numbers of partially employed workers in rural sector, internal mobility is critical to the livelihoods of many people, especially for people from rural areas who generate a continuous stream of out migrants destined for cities. These emigrants add to their own misery

by living on pavements or in slums and add to the misery of the cities by taxing to the already inadequate city services and by adding to the un-employed and un-skilled workforce of the city (Nasir, 1991).

At present there are many economic activities in Ambedkarnagar district but the dominant part of the economic activity is shared by cottage industry. Present paper focuses on the migration of workers employed in cottage industry. Cottage industries of Ambedkarnagar district using local resources, low level technology and local skills will go a long in mitigating the problem of rural and urban areas.

Objectives

In the present paper an attempt has been made to study the situation of migration and non-migration of cottage industry workers in



Ambedkarnagar district. The main objectives of this study are:

- To assess the economic condition of cottage industry workers
- To find out the causes of non migration for cottage industry workers

Methodology

Present study is based on primary data collected from the cottage industry workers with the help of questionnaire technique. The survey concerned 246 cottage industry workers from 9 blocks. In the present work simple percentage method has been used for the analysis of data. For showing the income distribution of cottage industry workers, bar diagram has been prepared.

Discussion

Ambedkarnagar is one of the important district of Uttar Pradesh which contribute in providing employment and supplementary income to 1000's of artisans, villagers and agricultural during slack agricultural season. Analysis shows that the number of cottage industry workers varies from minimum of 12 in Ramnagar to a maximum 52 in Jalalpur. In case of migration, only 5-10 percent cottage industry workers are migrated toward urban centre from different blocks (Table 1).

According to this empirical survey, it was astonishing to find that there had been practically no migration of cottage industry workers from Ambedkarnagar district. A few who have migrated have done so far reason other than livelihood earning such as religion, better environment, housing etc...

The only reason behind rural migration is

economic and therefore, the causes of non-migration of cottage industry workers should also be related with economics i.e. the earnings of cottage workers should be so high as to keep them bound to their place of work. Therefore, data was collected about the income of the workers employed in cottage industry and were further categorised on the basis of their income into three groups i.e. high, medium and low income group (Table 2).

As illustrated in the table 2 and figure 2 (41.03%) of the total sampled workers belonged to the medium income group, (10.26%) to the high income group and (46.15%) to the low income group in Tanda block.

In Akbarpur block (37.5%) belonged to low income group, (52.08%) to medium income group and (10.41%) to high income group. In the blocks of Katehri, Baskhari, Bhati, Bhiyaun and Ramnagar, the percentage of cottage workers belonging to high income group is nil. The high percentage (77.27%) of cottage industry workers belongs to low income group is shown by Jahangirganj.

It may be mentioned here that in all these blocks, any income may be regarded as family income because most of them are only earners in the family. It is evident that this is not that attractive as to keep these workers attached to their place of origin. Effects were, therefore made to find other reason for their non-migration.

Causes of non-migration

The data revealed the following facts about non-migration:

Affection for their native place: its natural phenomenon that the person has affection to his

Table 1: Block-wise distribution of cottage industry workers and number of migrating and non-migrating workers

Blocks	No. of cottage industry worker	Migrating	Percentage	Non-migrating	Percentage
Tanda	39	2	5.13	37	94.87
Akbarpur	48	3	6.25	45	93.75
Jalalpur	52	2	3.85	50	96.15
Jahangirganj	22	1	4.55	21	95.45
Katehri	20	2	10.00	18	90.00
Baskhari	20	2	10.00	18	90.00
Bhati	13	1	7.69	12	92.31
Bhiyaun	20	1	5.00	19	95.00
Ramnagar	12	0	Nil	12	100.00
Total	246	14	5.70	232	95.30

Source: Based on Field Survey, 2010

Table 2: Block-wise income distribution of cottage industry workers

Blocks	Monthly Income					
	Less than 3000 (Rs.)	Percentage	3000-5000 (Rs.)	Percentage	More than 5000 (Rs.)	Percentage
Tanda	19	48.72	16	41.03	4	10.26
Akbarpur	18	37.50	25	52.08	5	10.42
Jalalpur	28	53.85	20	38.46	4	7.69
Jahangirganj	17	77.27	2	9.09	3	13.64
Katehri	15	75.00	5	25.00	0	Nil
Baskhari	12	60.00	8	40.00	0	Nil
Bhiti	9	69.23	4	30.77	0	Nil
Bhiyaun	14	70.00	6	30.00	0	Nil
Ramnagar	8	66.67	4	33.33	0	Nil

Source: Based on Field Survey, 2010

birth place. Majority (80%) responded that they would prefer to die hungry than leave their native place. Thus affection for their native place is one of the reasons for their non-migration.

Feeling of satisfaction: The cottage industry workers in spite of their meagre earnings, feels satisfied and live a life of limited needs.

House ownership: Most of the people in the study area are living here for generations. They have their own house to live. Because of being unsure about suitable residence in other place they do not prefer to migrate.

Close interaction with community: This also emerged as a major cause (>80% of respondent) of non migration. These workers have close interaction with the people around them and this interaction has developed a feeling of interdependency .

Services and facilities: Infra- structural condition of Ambedkarnagar district is moderate. People use various sources of water for their everyday needs. Most of them have their own hand pump and also get electricity facility. The blocks of Ambedkarnagar district have health facility i.e. private hospitals, government hospital, private doctor etc. which facilitate them satisfactorily. So these facilities are also one of the reasons for the non-migration of cottage industry workers as revealed by 75% respondents.

Whatever may be the reason, the fact remains that there are various cottage industries providing employment to the people in Ambedkarnagar district from where no migration takes place.

Impact of non-migration

As we know that rural-urban migration creates

a void in the village life and problem of water, housing, sanitation, pollution in urban centre so the situation of non-migration helps in controlling the ever increasing population pressure on urban centre particularly in metropolitan and big cities. It will also rejuvenate joint family system which has its own merits in the Indian context as opposed to a blind aping toward westernisation. Another important impact would be on the sustenance of traditional arts and technology because it carrying on the crafts is handed from father to son and son's presence in the family would help in keeping the tradition.

But if we look in another way, this situation of non-migration of rural young workers towards cities has thrown some challenges before the state as well as central governments, educational, NGOs etc. engaged in rural development work.

Conclusion

The present study on "Migration of Cottage Industry Workers in Ambedkarnagar district" has led to some interesting conclusion. As far as migration is concerned, insignificant numbers of cottage industry workers have migrated toward cities. In spite of low earnings they do not prefer to migrate as they have affection for their native place and are satisfied with their present work. The state as well as central government should frame such policies which could harness the energy of the rural workers to assist in the upliftment of the underprivileged section of the society.

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5597676	Muralidhar Kommisetty	033471	187.5	93.8	77.8
5597844	Arpit Sharma	103316	187.5	93.8	77.8
3013398	Vineet Kumar	241717	187.5	93.8	77.8
5293702	Ratendra Singh	006643	186.68	93.3	77.5
5099681	Pankaj Mittal	153106	186.68	93.3	77.5
3012296	Anudeep durishetty	123528	186.68	93.3	77.5
2387152	Prem Akula	539516	185.83	92.9	77.1
5597689	Akansh Dubey	020889	185	92.5	76.8
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*result undergoing internal audit

CHEMICAL FREE VEGETABLES IN INDIA– THE URGENT NEED

Dr. D. Panigrahi and Dr. B.K. Mishra

Vegetables play a pivotal role in Indian Agriculture because they provide the highest per hectare net profit and also nutritional security to the farmers. More than 40 kinds of vegetables are grown in India in an area of 8.5 million hectares with production of 146.55 million tones. The average productivity of vegetables is 17.2 tonnes per hectare which is much less than the world average. The per capita consumption of vegetables in India is about 270 gm, which is also lower than the actual body requirement (300 gm.). Hence it is indispensable to increase the area and productivity of vegetables leading to higher production and wider availability in the country. The major constraint for such low productivity of vegetables is due to the attacks of pests and diseases which causes yield loss of about 20 – 30 % depending upon the severity of attack.

The use of pesticides is the first line of defence for control of various pests and diseases by the farmers of our country. But these pesticides are poison and the indiscriminate use of these pesticides by the farmers cause serious problems

like development of resistance, resurgence and secondary pest outbreak due to the destruction of natural enemies, reduction in yield due to non-setting of fruits because of destruction of pollinators and the most important is the toxic hazards due to pesticide residues in many vegetables.

About 13-14 % of the total pesticides used in the country are applied on vegetables and average consumption of pesticides in vegetables in India is 678 gm. per hectare which is much more than the total average consumption of pesticides in agricultural crops (381 gm. per hectare). Of all the pesticides used in vegetables, two third are insecticides and among different vegetables maximum pesticide usage is in Chilli (5.13 %) followed by Brinjal (4.6 %), Cole crops (3.73 %) and Okra (2.3 %). Pesticides residues remain in the vegetables and are more hazardous because some vegetables are eaten directly and some are eaten half boiled. Insecticide residues also remain in some vegetables when some specific insecticides are applied to provide attractive colour to some



vegetables till their sale in the market. Also to prevent decay in storage due to fungal attack, and to prevent from bacterial diseases fungicide like carbendazim etc. and streptomycin, tetracycline etc. are applied respectively before harvesting for which residues remained in the vegetables.

After application of any pesticide viz. insecticides, fungicides, bactericides etc. into plant or soil, a fraction of it get absorbed in the surface or absorbed inside the plant and translocated to other plant parts and degrades with time to non-toxic metabolites on exposure to physico-chemical factors like sunlight, heat, humidity, chemical agents in atmosphere and biological factors viz. enzymes, microbes etc. The time spent for degradation of a toxic compound to harmless metabolites may vary from few hours to years depending on the chemical nature of the compound and its susceptibility to various degrading factors. If a crop is harvested before such period then residues of pesticides remained in the vegetables and consumption of these contaminated food may result in disorder of the body. Pesticide residues are also remained indirectly from contaminated soil and irrigation water, pesticide spray drift from adjoining crop fields and from some contaminated agro inputs.

It is important to know and analyze about maximum residue limit for appropriate study of chemical free vegetables. This maximum residue limit (MRL) is maximum permissible concentration of residues of a pesticide actually remaining in or on the food as a whole when offered for consumption. This is expressed either in terms of the amount of the parent compound remaining or a metabolite that is representative of the residue because residues of agro chemicals may be broken down in tissue into various metabolites. The concentration is expressed in milli of pesticide residues per kg of commodity (mgkg^{-1} / μgg^{-1} /ppm).

Residue monitoring is necessary because India belongs to the highest category of MRL exceedances in 2011 and the major commodities in trouble were Curry Leaves, Pea Nuts, Green Chillies and Okra.

Residue monitoring is necessary because India belongs to the highest category of MRL exceedances in 2011 and the major commodities in trouble were Curry Leaves, Pea Nuts, Green Chillies and Okra.

Methods for Reduction of Pesticide Residues

- Banned, restricted and non-recommended pesticides should not be used.
- Only the recommended eco-friendly and new generation pesticides should be used at appropriate time and methods.
- Integrated pest management (IPM) practices should be followed without use of highly toxic chemicals.
- Consumer risk should be minimized with detection of pesticide residues by following appropriate pre harvest interval (PHI).
- The pesticides are sequenced considering their persistency's mainly in the last two months before harvest.
- Bio-intensive based management practices by the use of plant products, bio-agents, pheromones, ITKS, eco-friendly cultural practices and mechanical methods must be followed during last one month before harvesting.
 - Combination products "Viz. Sherlone, Anaconda, polytrin-C containing two or more active ingredients can be used keeping in view that the dose of the individual active ingredient should not exceed the recommended dose.
- Dosage of different pesticides should be modified after every 5 years, keeping in mind the pest resistance, resurgence, emergence of new species, climate change and new local practices.

Indian farmers should replace the banned and restricted pesticides with eco-friendly and new generation insecticides, fungicides etc. and should adopt bio intensive based pest management practices for export of vegetables and safety of consumers.

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MILLETS – The nutrient rich counterparts of wheat and rice

Millets are one of the oldest foods known to humans. These are the small-seeded hardy crops belonging to gramineae family which can grow well in dry zones/ rain-fed areas under marginal conditions of soil fertility and moisture. Due to their short growing season, these can develop from seeds to ready to harvest crops in about 65 days. This highly beneficial characteristic of the millets is of vital importance in thickly populated regions of the world. If stored properly, millets can keep well for two years or beyond.

Most of the millets are highly nutritious, non-glutinous, non-acid forming and easily digestible foods. Being gluten free, individuals suffering from celiac disease can easily incorporate various millets in their diets. Millet ingestion helps in a slower release of glucose over a longer period of time; thus, due to low glycaemic index (GI), their habitual intake reduces the risk of diabetes mellitus.

Further, millets are rich sources of minerals like iron, calcium, zinc, magnesium, phosphorous and potassium. Ragi (Finger millet) is very rich

in calcium; and bajra in iron. These also contain appreciable amounts of dietary fibre and various vitamins (β - Carotene, niacin, vitamin B6 and folic acid); high amounts of lecithin are useful for strengthening the nervous system. Therefore, a regular consumption can help to overcome malnutrition among majority of our Indian population. These have often been called the coarse grains; however, due to their nutritional contributions, these are now being referred as 'nutria-millets/nutria-cereals'.

Millets are also rich in phytochemicals (polyphenols, tannins, phytosterols) and antioxidants; however, they do contain some anti-nutritional factors that can be reduced by certain processing treatments.

Despite numerous qualities, utilization of millets as food is confined to the traditional consumers, particularly the tribal populations. This is mainly due to the non-availability of consumer friendly, ready-to-use/ready-to-eat millet based products. Recently, millets have gained attention and efforts are under way to obtain their convenient and value added processed products.



Although among the food crops, millets occupy relatively a lower position in Indian agriculture, they are quite important from the point of food security at regional/household level. Millets can not only grow in poor soil/climatic conditions, due to their short growing season, these can very well fit into multiple cropping systems under irrigated as well as dry land farming; and provide nutritious grain as well as fodder in a short span. Their prolonged and easy storability under ordinary conditions has accorded them the status of “famine reserves”; and this feature is of great relevance for India, as our agriculture suffers from the vagaries of monsoon. The millets commonly grown in India include: bajra (pearl millet), jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), barri (proso/common millet), jhangora (barnyard millet), kangni (foxtail/Italian millet), kodra(kodo millet) etc.

Bajra Jowar Ragi

The fact that the small millets can grow from coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh to moderately high altitudes (hilly regions of Uttarakhand and North-Eastern states) is indicative of their wide capacity for adaptation. These crops can withstand variations in moisture, temperature and the type of soils ranging from heavy to sandy infertile lands. Therefore, to ensure food and nutrition security for our masses, it is important to increase the production of these crops and simultaneously revert the control of production, distribution and consumption back to the people. Since many households in dry land/hilly regions depend on millets to meet their food needs, we need to bring them into the food security basket.

With regard to Global Hunger Index (GHI), India ranks 64 (among the 81 nations); and in child malnutrition, unfortunately it occupies the second place; both the situations highlighting poor plight of our country. This is the scenario despite Public Distribution System/ Targeted PDS (PDS/TPDS)

Currently, in the 12th plan, our Government has recognized the role of millets in the food chain. Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), of the preliminary targets for enhancing food grain production by an additional 25 MT, the share allocated for millets is 2 MT (8% of the enhanced food grain production).

being there for nearly five decades; however, the focus has been only on wheat/rice distribution while the millets have long been disregarded. However, it has now been proposed to enlarge the food basket and include millets like jowar, bajra, ragi etc in the PDS.

Declining State support (in terms of crop loans/insurance) has led to the poor status accorded to millets in Indian agriculture which needs to be reversed urgently. There is a dire need for the Indian policy

makers to refocus their attention towards millet farming systems and enact policies to create enabling environment for the farmers. With respect to millets production/promotion, some of the existing Government schemes/ projects/ programmes include:

- Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) – a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana” (RKVY) which is the only comprehensive initiative to support millet production.
- Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) – a component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana” (RKVY); and
- Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-CC) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

India is the largest producer of many varieties of millets; bajra being the most widely grown. However, over the last five decades the area under millet production has been shrinking; and more so ever after the Green Revolution in 1960s. During the last five decades, a sizeable area under millet cultivation was shifted to other crops; and this has been an extraordinary loss to the India’s food and farming systems.

Millets can not only grow under harsh circumstances, these drought resistant crops

requiring fewer external inputs are termed as the 'miracle grains' or 'crops of the future'. Cultivated as dual-purpose crops (food & fodder), millets contribute to the economic efficiency of farming and provide food/livelihood security to millions of households, particularly the small/marginal farmers and the inhabitants of rain fed/remote tribal regions.

Besides, millets help in reducing the atmospheric CO₂ and thus contribute in mitigating the climate change. On the contrary, paddy is a major contributor to climate change through methane emission (the green-house gas emanating from water-drenched rice fields). Wheat being a thermally sensitive crop, with increasing temperatures, its production is liable to be adversely affected. Thus, in due course, wheat might disappear from our farms.

Millet production is not dependent on the use of chemical fertilizers. These crops do not attract pests; and majority of the millets are not affected by storage pests; thus, the use of pesticides is not mandated.

Millets are remarkable in their nutritive value; being nearly 3-5 times nutritionally superior to rice and wheat - be it minerals, vitamins, dietary fibre or other nutrients. Sorghum is an important source of antioxidants, polyphenols and cholesterol-lowering waxes. Due to their high dietary fibre content coupled with low glycaemic index, millets can help in curbing overweight/obesity as well as lowering the risk of hypertension, CVDs, T2DM, cancers as well as in preventing constipation.

Millets along with rice, wheat and pulses/oilseeds can be used to produce nutritious food products such as porridges, chapattis, breads, ladoos, pastas, biscuits, cookies, cakes, and several fermented foods including probiotic drinks. After dehulling, millets can be simply cooked like rice and their flour can substitute rice flour in preparing various snack items. Fermented batters of millets and black gram (3:1) can be used for making idli, dosa or uttapam. Ragi and refined wheat flour blends (1:2) can be used for making highly acceptable noodles/vermicelli which are hypo-glycaemic too.

Traditional methods of cereal processing (popping and flaking) as well as the contemporary

ones (roller drying/extrusion cooking) can be successfully employed for preparing various millet based ready-to-eat products. Thus, a variety of extruded millet-cereal-pulse snacks can be prepared commercially for easy availability and wider use. Similarly, millet-cereal-pulse blends can be used in preparing murukus, papads, vadiyan, bhujia, vermicelli, spaghetti, noodles, macaroni etc. Various millet blends along with wheat can be used for making multi-grain flour, baked products like biscuits, cookies, breads, buns, rusks, cakes and muffins. Sorghum (Jowar) malt is being used for preparing the infant foods. Since extrusion processing lowers the anti-nutritional factors and enhances digestibility of the millets; extruded millet products can be promoted as healthy snacks/health foods.

Partially processed millet products – ready to cook/instant foods, can be made available in the market; due to ease in preparation, these can promote millet consumption and thus, create a demand for these nutritious grains and simultaneously reduce the reliance on staples like rice and wheat.

In view of numerous benefits conferred by the millets, our farmers should aim at growing more and more of the millets; and we as consumers, should include millets in our daily food basket. Apart from increasing the production and consumption, in today's era of modernization, industrialization and urbanization, we need to adequately process the millets to create a variety of value added nutritious products as per the taste, texture, flavour of the consumers.

Further, the public needs to be made aware of the benefits conferred by millets and their role in combating the ill effects of westernized sedentary lifestyle so that they can lead a healthy life.

Give a try; include millets in your forthcoming meals and enjoy the benefits conferred by these tiny nutritious grains!!!!

(source PIB)

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Highlights of Prime Minister's Address on Independence Day



1. Dear countrymen, on this auspicious occasion of Independence Day, many good wishes from the Prime Servant of India. I am here amidst you not as a Prime Minister but as the Prime Servant.
2. I bow to all freedom fighters who sacrificed and dedicated their lives for country's independence.
3. Independence Day is an occasion to take a pledge for the welfare of all those who are down trodden, poor, exploited and oppressed and to do something for them.
4. Every action should be tested on the yardstick of national interest. If we resolve to live a life like that, the festival of Independence may become an inspiration to take India to new heights.
5. This country has been built not by the rulers but by farmers, workers, mothers and sisters, youth, sages and saints, teachers, scientists and social workers.
6. A child hailing from a small town and belonging to a poor family is today having the good fortune of bowing before India's tricolour from the ramparts of the Red Fort. It is the power of India's democracy and priceless blessing given by the authors of the Indian constitution. I bow to them.
7. All Prime Ministers of the country have contributed to the progress of the country after independence. Likewise, all Governments of the country as well as state Governments have also contributed.
8. Let us move together, think together, resolve together and unitedly take the country forward. 125 crore countrymen have taken the country forward with this credo.
9. We are not among those who function on the strength of majority. We want to move forward on a strong base of consensus.
10. I also greet all Members of Parliament and all political parties from the ramparts of the Red Fort with pride. We ended the Parliament session yesterday with an important experiment of taking the nation forward with strong consensus.
11. When I had an insider's view after coming to Delhi, it looked as if dozens of parallel Governments were running within the Government, each with its own fiefdom. I witnessed conflict and scattering. I have begun an attempt to make the Government an organic unit.
12. The machine called Government or establishment is to be made sharper and swifter for fulfilling aspirations of the people.
13. Right from a peon to the Cabinet Secretary everybody is capable. Everybody has power and experience. I want to harness their power and use it to speed up national welfare. I will certainly do it.

14. Our great leaders won freedom, do we not have a duty towards the India of their dreams, and don't we have a national character. A time has come to think seriously over these issues.
15. Should 125 crore countrymen not have a mantra to ensure that their every step is in national interest.
16. Everything is not for self. Some things are also for the nation. One should rise above the self-interest and think about the national interest.
17. Parents ask a number of questions when a daughter goes out, but do they ever have the courage to ask their son about his friends or where is he going or why. After all a rapist is also someone's son.
18. Nepal provides an example of youth laying down arms and taking to education. It can inspire the youth who have taken to violence, all over the world.
19. Even after independence we sometime face poison of casteism or communalism. How long will it continue and who is going to benefit from it?
20. I appeal to youth of the country that the poison of casteism, communalism or sectarianism is a hindrance to country's progress. Think and try a ten years moratorium to get a society free of all these tensions.
21. In Commonwealth games our 64 sports persons won medals. These include 29 women. Let us be proud of these daughters.
22. There are two tracks in the country to move forward, good governance and development. We can progress only on these tracks.
23. Crores of families have mobile phones but not a bank account. We have to change this situation.
24. Those in Government service are not doing a job but a service, this feeling is to be renewed.
25. Just imagine, if 125 crore countrymen take a step forward the country will move 125 crore steps forward.
26. Who so ever will open an account under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana will be provided with a debit card and insurance worth Rs. One lakh.
27. We want to link poor people of the country with a bank account facility through Pradhan Mantri JanDhan Yojana.
28. Our country is the youngest nation of the world. Skill development is our mission for development of the country.
29. I want to develop such youth who are job creators.
30. If we wish to provide maximum employment to youth we will have to promote manufacturing sector.
31. We have skill, talent and discipline and a will to perform. We want to give a collective opportunity to the world.Come, make in India, we have the strength, come to our country, I invite you.
32. A farmer serves the country by filling the granaries in the same way as a soldier defends the motherland. It is also a national service.
33. Youth should resolve that may be at a small level, they will make at least one article that the country imports, so that it may never need be imported in future.
34. Youth belonging to the IT profession have paved the way for establishing India's new identity in the world.
35. Digital India is our dream for the nation. When I say 'digital India' it is not meant for the rich but for those who are poor.
36. If we move with the dream of electronic digital India and manufacturing of electronic goods and become self-reliant, it will be a major gain for the country.

37. There was a time when it was said that Railway unites the country. I say, today IT has the power to unite the country and its people.
38. We want to promote tourism. Tourism provides employment to the poorest of the poor. Even the small vendor, auto driver, chaat seller and tea stall owner earns from it. While talking of tea seller, I feel a degree of affinity.
39. Biggest obstruction to development of national character is the filth seen all around us. The first job in the government I did after coming here, was that of cleaning. People were surprised. Is it the job of a Prime Minister. But for me, it is a very big job.
40. If 125 crore countrymen decide not to ever spread filth, then no power in the world can make our village or town dirty.
41. Let us decide that in 2019 when we observe Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary, we will not let our village, city, country, school, colony, temple, hospital and all other areas remain dirty. It is not Government's job, it is to be done by public participation.
42. Presently, our mothers and sisters are forced to defecate in open. Do we like this and is not our responsibility to arrange for toilets at least?
43. I have to launch a Swachh Bharat campaign from 2nd October and we want to carry this forward within four years.
44. One task which I would like to begin today, is toilet in all schools of India and a separate toilet for girls. Only then the girls will not drop out of schools. I urge all Members of Parliament to use their MPLAD fund for construction of toilets in the schools for one year.
45. When we stand here on next 15th August, we should be confident that there is no school left in the country without separate toilets for boys and girls.
46. I today announce a scheme named after the Parliamentarians- 'Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana'. Every MP has to develop one village in his or her constituency into a model village under this scheme.
47. A Parliamentarian should develop two more villages before going for election after 2016 in the year 2019. After that every MP has to develop at least five villages during a five year tenure.
48. A complete blue print of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be presented to all MPs and all State Governments by 11th October, Jayprakash Narayan's Jayanti.
49. We will have to think about giving a new shape to the Planning Commission in order to utilise our federal structure as a heritage of development and better team work between the Centre and states.
50. Strengthen State Governments, federal structure, with new outlook, new body and soul and with new direction, we will create a new institution. Very soon this new institute will start working in place of Planning Commission.
51. India's divine strength and spiritual heritage will play a major role in world's welfare. These thoughts were expressed by Shri Aurobindo.
52. As Swami Vivekananda said that once again Mother India has awoken, my mother India will take her place as teacher of the world and every Indian will be a tool of global welfare.
53. Why shouldn't all SAARC countries fight against poverty and defeat it.
54. I went to Bhutan and Nepal. Dignitaries from SAARC countries came to swearing in ceremony. This is a very good beginning. Definitely there will be good results.
55. I assure you, if you will work for twelve hour I will work for thirteen because I am not a Prime Minister but a Prime Servant. I have come with this government as a servant not as a ruler.
56. I felicitate country's security forces, para military forces for protecting Mother India and for their determination and sacrifice.

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