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Socio-economic aspects of rural migration in Rajasthan

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Abstract

Human settlement in the Rajasthan state is scattered, low density of population, vast area and segmented pattern of human settlement are some of the constraints adversely affecting the development of the states economy. Due to low agricultural productivity and heavy population growth in rural area problem like poverty, malnutrition, inadequate employment arises. So in order to earn livelihood, people from rural area move from one place to another in search of work. The study may be helpful in highlighting some of the unexplored and changing relationship. So the purpose of present study was to find out Socio-economic aspects of rural migration in Rajasthan.

The northern Rajasthan is agriculturally more developed as compared to the other region of the state. From the northern region 2 districts were chosen. The study is based on the census survey conducted in the villages of the 2 districts of Rajasthan and briefly present an account of socio-economic factors responsible for out migration.

It was proved that There is higher intensity of migration from the village attached to district headquarters. The proportion of daily migrants as compared to other migrants is greater i.e. shorter the distance more the daily migrants. The asset of household effect the intensity of migration among the households where asset position is better, the tendency to migrate is less. Poor employment opportunities at the native place and expectations to get more remunerative employment is the main reason of migration. Upper caste youth is migrating in large numbers to far distance urban area to get the better employment. The high income group also migrating toward urban area for better facilities, education and services. The migration largely effecting there social structure and also emotional needs.

Keywords: Socio-economic aspects, rural migration

Introduction

The conventional approach of defining immigration, the intensity of immigration is generally repeated to be very low in India. The two major sources of data on immigration in India, the census and the National Sample Survey (NSS) cover only permanent or semi-permanent immigration with seasonal immigration partly over lapping with the category of short duration immigration (Srivastava 1998) ^[10] However immigration adopted in the census and the NSS do not consider long term immigrants without changing the place of residence as migrant. As a result the coverage of these report show declining trends of out migration over the years (Kundu and Gupta 1996) ^[7], contrary to this, the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL, 1991) ^[9] finds increasing trends of seasonal and temporary migration over the years. Besides this many of the micro studies dealing with the issue of migration in the theoretical context as well report much higher incidence of out migration, particularly in the case of under developed regions. Besides there is a considerable change in the nature and cause of migration in recent years proportionately more migration is taking place among the labour force in search of their livelihoods which is mainly for relatively longer terms. Besides this, one of the general objectives of this study is to examine the socio-economic factors behind labour immigration from rural areas of Rajasthan, and its impact on the individual migrants, their families and also on the village society and economy as a whole.

Considering the importance of human intervention to avoid over concentration of population in some nodal centres and urban-ward migration and its related issues becomes an important theme to probe. Urbanward migration is a response to the change taking place in the spacial economic system. The major issues that emerge are (i) can migration be independent of socio-economic and political structure if not, why? (ii) Does geographical homogeneity manifests into similar mobility patterns;

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(iii) Does migration helps in generating functional regions through change in the space content and space relations; (iv) if so, what are the possible changes in space content and space relations that induce migration and influenced by migration processes.

To answer such issues the relevance of rural to urban migration becomes more pertinent rather than studying rural to rural migration which is oriented more towards development of Kinship system. The urban to rural migration is very weak in India, the urban to urban migration reflects the various steps in the migration process and is governed more by economic process rather than social. Thus the two components (i) Rural to urban and (ii) Urban to Urban constitute the universe of migration.

Rajasthan is the largest state in the country. Its geographical area is 3.42 lacs sq. km. and it is situated in the north-western part of the country. Which is surrounded by the state of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the north-east, Madhya Pradesh in the south-east and Gujarat in the South-West. The state has a long international border with Pakistan.

Human settlement in the state is scattered, low density of population, vast area and segmented pattern of human settlement are some of the constraints adversely affecting the development of the states economy.

Rajasthan, with its meager water resources and perilous dependence on scanty, low and uncertain rainfall is most vulnerable to drought and famine conditions. Agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development of the state and continues to be back bone of the economy, as state is predominantly agrarian where 75% of the population is living in rural areas and about 70% depends upon agriculture and allied activities. The agriculture scenario in the state is characterized by its dependence on the monsoon, which is highly inadequate and erratic in nature. At present less than one fourth of the agricultural area in the state is under irrigation. Due to low agricultural productivity and heavy population growth in rural area problem like poverty, malnutrition, inadequate employment arises. So in order to earn livelihood, people from rural area move from one place to another in search of work.

Statement of the problem

The study of such above discussed special mobility may be helpful in highlighting some of the unexplored and changing relationship. So the purpose of present study was to find out.

Socio-economic aspects of rural migration in Rajasthan

Hypothesis

Discussions in the various studies on internal migration highlights the following hypothesis is to be tested in the course of present study.

1. There shall be high incidence of out migration from the low agricultural developed region.
2. Male selectively increases in rural to urban migration stream with increasing distances.
3. There is higher intensity of migration from the village attached to district headquarters.
4. The varying class of rural area shall have significantly different types of migration, however lower class migration shall be from rural to rural and upper class migration shall be from rural to urban.
5. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics differ significantly between migrants and non-migrants.

6. The asset position of household effect the intensity of migration among the households where asset position is better, the tendency to migrate will be less.
7. Poor employment opportunities at the native place and expectations to get more remunerative employment at destination will keep the migrants workers tied to the place of destination.
8. Upper caste youth shall be migrating in large numbers.

Objective of the study is

1. To know who migrate and why migration?
2. To identify the patterns of migration to cities from rural areas of Rajasthan during.
3. To examine the socio-economic factors behind rural migration.
4. To find Consequences of migration on family, village and economy as a whole.
5. To know the changing nature and magnitude of migration and to establish the relationship between structural changes in the economy of states and resulting pattern of population mobility toward urban areas.
6. To find that the low economic development in general and inequality in the development of the villages and adjoining areas are the most important reasons of high incidence of migration.
7. To identify the urbanward migration regions on the basis of various characteristics of migrants.

Significance of the study

The significance of the study is that through this research socio-economic aspect of rural migration in the Rajasthan can be known, which will help in understanding who migrates? Why migration? Change in pattern and intensity of Migration what are the reason behind these changes, adverse affect of migration on the development of the rural economy. This study will help in adopting such measures as will help in transformation of rural economy, which is a step higher than development which is a step above growth. Both the quantities and qualitative aspect will be taken into account for transformation of the rural areas. It will also suggest what policy should be followed by government institutions, NGOs or other big business houses for the rural development which may help in reversing the migration.

Delimitation

1. Study was delimited to northern region of India i.e. Rajasthan.
2. Study was confined only to rural folk.
3. Married female migration were not be taken into account for the purpose of the study.
4. The study was based on secondary data's. Though every care will be taken to include the results from the studies that had utilized primary data.
5. Study was undertaken only in 2 district of Northern Rajasthan, which are developed from agricultural point of view.
6. In the present study only out migration of rural people was taken into account.

Review of literature

Several studies have been done in India on internal migration, its patterns, causes and consequences disputing of Push-Pull theory, Bose rejected the Simple Push-Pull

Concept and stories that these factors should be interpreted in the over all demographic situation.

Zachuria contributed many studies in migration. He writes that like many other Asian countries, in India male dominates in the city ward migration, he points out that short distance migration is common in developing countries while western countries are characterized in long distances. He showed that migrants in Greater Bombay formed a selected group with respect to age, sex, marital status and family status.

Using 1961 census data, by rural and urban and duration of residence collected for the first time in India. Mitra revealed that states like Assam, M.P., Maharashtra, Mysore, Punjab, West Bengal gained population while the states like A.P., Bihar, Gujarat, J&K, Kerla, Madras, Rajasthan and U.P. lost population through net migration.

In the analysis of migration stream Mitra found that in the districts having no city, intra district urban to urban migration was related positively to the levels of development, while rural to urban immigration was found to be higher in districts representing in lower development categories.

Gosal & Krishan analyzed the 1951 census data on birth place. Their work on 1961 data reveals (i) The bigger and older industrial concentration draw more long distance migration (ii) The agricultural developed region attract considerable population (iii) the area of high population pressure & low productivity are out migratory. (iv) Growth of mining activity and emergence of associated industries led to considerable migration (v) Proximity to major industrial center and to big construction sites was responsible for pull factors.

The Rege. Committee i.e. the Labour Investigation Committee 1946 observed that the working class had become stabilized and organized. Its ties with villages, which the Royal Commission Valued and sought to regularize had been loosened.

According to case study of Bihar During 1981-83 and 1999-2000 a census survey was made in 18 villages covering a population of more than 38 thousands from more than 6400. It showed that during last three decades the intensity and pattern of migration in rural Bihar has changed. The proportion of migration has approximately doubled and has become wide spread. Besides this, the nature of migration has changed from short term to long term.

According to study on Uttar Pradesh In the city word migration, intra district (Short distance) migration was longer, inter district immigration (medium distance) migration was moderate and the inter state (long distance) migration was weaker. The geographical distance between the place of origin and place of destination works inversely to reduce the intensity of migration. It involves travel cost, low level of information flow and higher intervening opportunity.

Kundu concluded that economically backward states are outmigrating states even in migrating state Madhya Pradesh has become outmigrating in 1981. The attracting capacity of seventies in the states of Punjab and Haryana has been cut drastically. There is an increase in urban to urban migration rate for short and medium distances. The inter state migration has slowed down. The interstate inequality in various socio-economic dimensions of development is noted to be on the rise. The decreasing mobility of both rural and urban population poses the major challenge for the

development strategy being followed in India.

The review of the available studies indicates several gaps which have not either filled or left unnoticed and hardly any work on such gaps is worth mentioning. The economy of Rajasthan is termed as under developed backward. The study of migration patterns in an out migrating state will help in generating the literature on migration at macro level for core out migrating regions.

Methodology

The purpose of the study is to examine the socio-economic aspect of rural migration in northern Rajasthan.

The present study is entirely based on the data available in various secondary sources. The secondary data were obtained from records, books and reports of the various committees and commissions appointed at the central and state level Statistical data were helpful in enumeration of various facts. For the purpose of analysis and interpretation of data, manual processing was done. An attempt was made to compare and contrast the trends and patterns of migration over two decades 1991 to 2001.

Broadly the data used for the present study was classified into three categories.

- a) Census data on migration towards urban areas for 1991 and 2001 census.
- b) The census data pertaining to socio-economic and demographic characteristics of rural, urban and non migrant population for 1991 and 2001 census.
- c) Data pertaining to various developmental indicators such as per capita income, net district domestic product (NDDP) and indicators pertaining to agriculture etc.

Present study was empirical exercise, which revolves around the inductive approach of scientific enquiry. The inductive approach defines its path from particular to general. The data were collected, processed tabulated and analysed to establish certain existing unknown relationships on urbanward migration in the selected regions so far. How far such interrelations were nearer to reality and superior to each other is a separate debate. An attempt here, was to interpret the results close to progressive ideology.

So in order to properly understand the problem and to arrive at certain conclusion investigator has decided to choose northern Rajasthan. The northern Rajasthan is agriculturally more developed as compared to the other region of the state. From the northern region 2 districts were chosen according to their development from agriculture per capita income, education point of view and from each district villages were chosen on the following basis.

- The one, which has highest population.
- The one which has the lowest population.
- The village attached to the district head quarters.

The study was arranged in five sections after presenting introduction in the first section, the second section deal with the socio-economic background of the study area in general and of the migrants and non-migrants in particular. The section is based on the census survey conducted in the villages of the 2 districts of Rajasthan and briefly present an account of socio-economic factors responsible for out migration, in the third section changing nature and magnitude of migration presented, in the fourth section other details of the current migration and likely impact of out migration on the household studied and in the last

section major conclusions and policy recommendation presented.

Conclusions

It was found that the pattern and intensity of rural out migration mainly depends on the agriculture production in the region. Male dominantly migrating from rural to urban. It was proved that There is higher intensity of migration from the village attached to district headquarters. The proportion of daily migrants as compared to other migrants is greater i.e. shorter the distance more the daily migrants. The one set of migrants migrates to specific areas and other is different, which are subjected to move under the structural compulsions. The mobile population is more sensitive to economic opportunities and tries to acquire more knowledge and skill to compete with non-migrants. The asset of household effect the intensity of migration among the households where asset position is better, the tendency to migrate is less. The most prone to migration household is those, whose head of the households are either non-agricultural labourer or are involved in some private service.

Poor employment opportunities at the native place and expectations to get more remunerative employment is the main reason of migration. Upper caste youth is migrating in large numbers to far distance urban area to get the better employment. Upper caste people do not do any manual wage work in their villages because of caste taboos. In case of lower caste also migrating for better opportunities. The education has filled the gap of caste and migration is largely for the better employment and high income group also migrating toward urban area for better facilities, education and services. The migration largely effecting there social structure and also emotional needs.

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