

Influx of Farmers to Urban Area and Its Impact on Agriculture- A Study of Select Telangana Villages

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Abstract: *In this paper an effort is made to bring out the causes and consequences of influx of farmers moving into urban areas. A case study has been presented by making through search in around twenty villages to gather information with respect to agriculture, adoption of modern cultivation methods, living standards, economic conditions availability and support of Government policies, exploitation of land-lords on weaker sections etc. The information gathered has been analyzed using simple statistical tools to identify and define the causes of migration to urban areas. The primary information with respect to their living standards, occupation, education, migration to other areas, financial support from banks, support from Government welfare schemes etc. have been collected by interviewing around 640 families in twenty villages. Interesting conclusions have been made in this present study. Around 60% have basic education including very few of them who have graduation. Around 77 % are living in their own houses and 21% are living in rented houses. Similarly, other aspects have been practically studied and presented.*

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I. Introduction

It is a well known fact that migration of people particularly farmers from villages to other parts of the country is growing day by day. Such processes have been existent in all regions of the India for quite long. Huge existing population coupled with high growth rate of population in this country are the main causes to increase urbanization besides many other factors which influence the influx of people settling into the city. This rural urban migration is an internal migration which means a movement within a country and this aspect is understood to be different from international or intercontinental migration. In the present context, migration refers to the movement of farmers from the villages or country side into the near by bigger cities of India.

There are many factors and determinants which lead to migration that are rather diverse and these factors can be defined by splitting up into economic and non-economic reasons [1]. Firstly, economic-push factors can be stated as unemployment or under employment in villages or rural areas besides low wages, lack of land and no assets. The reasons for lack of land are probably due to inheritance process i.e., the system which divides the land among the family members and there by farming becomes less productive. Secondly, non-economic are push factors which play an additional role in identifying the causes of migration such as poor living conditions in general and rural infrastructural facilities for taking care of health and education. Further, poor living conditions refer to in adequate housing facilities, sanitary conditions, various means of earning etc. In some cases, other aspects are the changes in agricultural methods and introduction of modernization of forming and use of new techniques and modern cultivation-equipment and machines. On the other hand, drastic technological changes (mostly due to economic reforms) lead to less demand of labour in the agricultural sector. Therefore, it necessitates people to search for new job opportunities in addition to factors that make the people to suffer from natural disasters, drought or famine and other conflicts that destroy the rural areas in most of the times. These disasters destroy most of their belongings and farm land and affect their livelihood. Besides this, other factors that attract people to move into the cities are the better earning means, better living conditions for health facilities and education. Accordingly, rural migration hopes for chances for employment and expectations for higher wages in the cities as they find higher demand of labour in general due to the fact that cities are growing at a faster rate economically as compared to villages. Non-economic factors for the rural migration could be included as some of the social factors such as better health care and facilities for good education and way of life in general in cities [2].

1.1 Types of Farming

We know that India is one of the countries which has the largest plain areas in the world. India is known for different landforms such as Indo-Ganga plain, central plateau etc. Besides this variation in landform, there are many other variations in the country which can be noted as varieties of climatic conditions, soil types and other physical factors like availability of irrigation, use of machinery, modern agricultural inputs like High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of seeds, insecticides and pesticides. These factors lead the farmers to adopt different types of farming practices which are given below.

- i.** Terrace farming: Graduated terrace steps are commonly used to farm on hilly or mountainous terrain. Terraced fields decrease both erosion and surface runoff, and may be used to support growing crops that require irrigation, such as rice. It is commonly followed in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Nigeria [3].
- ii.** Crop rotation is the practice of growing a series of dissimilar or different types of crops in the same area in sequenced seasons. It is done so that the soil of farms is not used for only one set of nutrients. It helps in reducing soil erosion and increases soil fertility and crop yield. Growing the same crop in the same place for many years in a row (monocropping) disproportionately depletes the soil of certain nutrients. With rotation, a crop that leaches the soil of one kind of nutrient is followed during the next growing season by a dissimilar crop that returns that nutrient to the soil or draws a different ratio of nutrients. In addition, crop rotation mitigates the buildup of pathogens and pests that often occurs when one species is continuously cropped, and can also improve soil structure and fertility by increasing biomass from varied root structures. Crop cycle is used in both conventional and organic farming systems.
- iii.** Mixed Farming: Mixed farming is referred to cultivation of crops and raising of animals simultaneously. The multiple farming is used to denote the practice of growing two or more crops together. In such case a number of crops having varying maturing periods are sown at the same time. The crop maturing early is generally harvested before the growth of the long maturing crop and there is thus not much completion between the crops growth. This practice is followed in areas having good rainfall or facilities of irrigation. In this reference, it is pertinent to understand the types of migrants.

1.2 Types of Migrants:

- i.** Rural-urban migration refers to the movement of people from the rural areas to a specific region in the urban area of a country. This could be brought about by the presence of better opportunities for work in the urban areas.
- ii.** Impelled migration refers to the movement of people from a country or area because of unfavorable instances.
- iii.** Interregional migration refers to the movement of populations from a region to another region in a country.
- iv.** Seasonal migration refers to the movement of people due to climate or seasonal reasons. For instance, some people would move to another place in order to plant crops or harvest.
- v.** Circular migration: This can also be called as repeat migration which means the movement of a migrant people who migrates temporarily from their native places to host areas usually for the purpose of employment and come back.
- vi.** Environmental migration: Environmental migrants are the people who are forced to leave their home region due to sudden or long-term changes to their local environment. These are changes which compromise their well-being or secure livelihood.
- vii.** Let us look at the immediate effect of migration on urban areas: The increasing number of people moving towards the large urban areas causes four things to happen:
 - i.** Since the towns and cities are spatially expanding, an increasing area of land is required for housing facilities in city for new comers to accommodate their living.
 - ii.** Urbanization which refers to the fact of a significant increase the proportion of people living in cities in the total population.
 - iii.** Rural depopulation which usually means that large number of working age people migrates from villages or the country side to earn more money in the city. Migration of working age people lead to leaving their parents or very old and very young children by which it causes additional problems in the process of rural development as there is a chance of young and skilled adults would be missing. Although people migrate to cities thinking that they would find better opportunities in cities, many of these migrants end up in poverty as many cities are not in a position to absorb this growing influx of new comers from villages as residents properly. This leads to insufficient sanitary conditions, sub-standard housing growth of slums and shanty towns increasing in air pollution, congestion, crime of insecurity. Let us also have a basic understanding of those who have not migrated as well.
- viii.** Situation of those who have not migrated: It is a fact that agriculture is the main source of the livelihood of people in most of the villages in India. However, some attempts are being made for rural livelihood diversification through which process the rural households could construct and diversify their

portfolio of activity and other assets so that they can survive and try for improving their standard of living. In spite of these efforts, productive agriculture capacity is hampered by influx of rural farmers to urban areas. In these circumstances, investigation of the effects of farmer migration to urban and its effect on sustainable livelihood will be the main focal points for research work. Published literature shows that people in rural areas are suffering from lack of education as the statistics show that the rural primary enrollment is nearly 20% lower than urban enrollment [4]. Accordingly, efforts should be made urgently by governments to give more thrust to rural education by providing quality education to the masses to make them self reliant.

1.3 Consequences of Migration

Migration has its own positive and negative consequences on the place of departure and destination. Natural resource depletion, environmental pollution, earning disparities, redundancy, urban expansion, social unrest, population crowding were/are some of the negative effects of migration. Whereas migration has paved the way for development, enhanced process of industrializations, serve as means of livelihood and even more the remittance become sources of family income and mechanism of to escape drought and famine[5].

The main causes of heavy influx of rural migrants in urban areas are the repulsive forces operating in the rural areas in the form of high rate of unemployment, low wages, small size of land-holdings, lack of modern infrastructural facilities, inadequate educational and health facilities, absolute poverty, while, the availability of jobs, high wages, decent nature of work, expanding infrastructural facilities, civic amenities and facilities act as attractive forces in the urban areas. The job opportunities as offered in factories, shops, offices, buildings and public services, facilities of vocational, technical or advanced education, better medical services, entertainments, pomp and glare of cities and many other facilities which are not available in villages may pull the rural inhabitants to urban centers for permanent settlement.

According to the migration data of all durations recorded on the basis of place of last residence in the Census of India 2001, the proportion of migrant population in general population was 30.57 per cent while male and female migrants were recorded as 17.54 per cent and 44.54 per cent respectively. The share of rural-urban migration to total migrant population was 16.43 per cent, whereas, the percentage of male migrants to total male migrant population was 26.24 per cent and proportion of female migrants to total female migrants population was 12.28 per cent. The ratio of total rural-urban migrants, whose duration of residence was one to four years, was recorded 21.43 per cent to the general migrants of same duration, the corresponding figures for male and female migrants were 31.07 per cent and 16.23 per cent respectively.

The percentage distribution of socio-economic causes of rural to urban migration of male population whose duration of residence in urban areas was one to four years, and who were in the age-group of 15-39 years in India, the dominant and root cause for them to migrate is the employment because it alone accounted 59.70 per cent of the total rural-urban migration of male population. After introduction of green revolution technology and continuous fragmentation of land-holdings under the law of inheritance, the proportion of unemployed and disguised unemployed has substantially increased in rural areas, therefore, the unemployed adult males migrate to the urban areas in search of job, and where they engage themselves in secondary and tertiary economic activities (construction, rickshaw pulling, cobbling, hair dressing, white washing, loading & unloading, waiter & cook in hotels, shop attendants, rice and pulse mills, etc.), in which, no technical know-how is required and wages are generally low. Moreover, 5.08 per cent youths migrated for business purposes. The educational institutions attracted 15.25 per cent of the adult male migrants in urban areas. Since Independence (1947), the Government of India has taken a number of steps for universalisation of primary education in rural areas. Therefore, the adolescents after getting primary and middle class level education in rural areas, migrate to urban areas for getting higher education, provided if they have their own resources to continue their higher education, because upto now, the number of high and higher secondary schools in rural areas is very meager and they are very distantly spaced, and in these colleges standard of education is generally very low. The proportion of male rural-urban migrants moving with their household is 11.43 per cent, followed by marriage 1.55 per cent and migration after birth has been recorded 0.05 per cent, while, miscellaneous factors (natural calamities like droughts, floods, etc., social/political problems, housing problem, acquisition of own house/flat and communal riots, terrorism, very high level of illiteracy, etc.), caused 6.94 per cent of male migrants to migrate from rural to urban areas of the country [6].

It is observed that in cities of developing countries like India, the heavy influx of migrants creates problems of accommodation, growth of slums, squatter settlements and increasing number of houseless people, beggars and rickshaw pullers, child labour, crimes and violence, lack of housing and basic civic amenities & facilities, water and electricity supply, sanitation, unchecked growth of cities, traffic congestion, environmental pollution and overall decline in the quality and standard of urban life [7].

II. General Objectives

The general objectives of this research are to assess the causes and consequences of rural urban migration which are given as under:

- i. To investigate the major drivers of rural urban migration.
- ii. To analyze socio-economic and social demographic characteristic of the migrant regarding income, employment, education, family size, age, sex, marital status etc.
- iii. To explore the challenges faced by migrants at early stage of their arrival to the town.
- iv. To assess the consequence of in-migration particularly on housing, employment, social conditions and other facilities and amenities in the study area.
- v. To understand different types of migrants and farming.

2.1 Specific Objectives

1. To understand the impact of migration on agriculture.
2. To offer suggestions to prevent migration

2.2 Data Collection

In view of the published data and literature as cited, a case study has been undertaken in the present work to establish a brief data with respect to reasons for influx of rural migration to the surroundings of Hyderabad City. Both Primary and secondary data is collected however priority is given to primary data. A team of twenty investigators for every two villages were deployed to visit the selected villages which are sub-urban to Hyderabad city and interacted with 3050 residents who are migrated from different villages away from this city. Twenty such teams visited these villages and collected data as per questionnaire distributed to them. The pattern of questionnaire is given in Tables I, II & III.

2.3 Data Analysis

The investigators concentrated mainly on the following specific aspects which could contribute to rural migration as described in the previous topics.

- i. How many families are living in their own houses and how many are in rented accommodation.
- ii. How many people have constructed their dwellings in farm-land.
- iii. Percentage of males and percentage of females living in these few villages surrounding Hyderabad city.
- iv. Educational status of these people.
- v. Nativity details of these migrants who are holding own agricultural land or undertaken leased land and how many are engaged in other earning means.
- vi. Employment status categorizing the nature of work they are engaged in their own land or working in others' land or engaged in other areas like business, as drivers of autos, taxis or lorry drivers or working in monthly salaried jobs.
- vii. How many are getting financial help from banks or other financial support from other non banking agencies.
- viii. Migration details such as temporary or permanent and how they are occupied and how many are educated among them.
- ix. How many people are using modern farming equipment.
- x. How many people are able to get water and electricity facilities.
- xi. Status of awareness of government schemes and minimum support prize received.

Although the statistical data gathered in the present survey is very little in size as compared to wide range of migrants in the country, the studies could bring out appropriate information that could contribute to identify reasons and influence of influx on farmers' migration to urban areas and its impact on agriculture. The detailed survey is presented in Table – I,II & III.

Table – I: Personal Data of Migrants

| Nativity Details | | Employment Status | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Agriculture | | Others | Working in Own Land | Working in Other's Land | Other Works |
| Own Land | Leased Land | | | | |
| 279 | 54 | 157 | 200 | 86 | 218 |

Table – II: Nativity Details & Employment status of Migrated People

| No. of Villages | Personal Data | | | | | Gender | | Education | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | No. of People | Own House | Rented House | Does This House lie in the Farm Y/S | | No. of Male | No. of Female | Up to 5 th Std. | Up to 10 th Std. | Up to degree Level | Nil Education |
| 20 | 3050 | 496 | 144 | 216 | 299 | 348 | 271 | 125 | 276 | 145 | 275 |

Table – III: Financial Support & Government Schemes.

| Financial Aid For Agriculture | | Application of Technology | | Drinking Water Availability | Electricity Availability | Government Schemes | | Awareness of Minimum Support Price |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Banking | Non-Banking | Agriculture | Non-Agriculture | | | Awareness | Schemes Availed | |
| 252 | 141 | 218 | 208 | 444 | 507 | 261 | 194 | 185 |

2.4 Analysis of survey

From the data collected by the investigating teams which have been presented in Table I, II and III are summarized as under.

Gender-wise: 56% belong to male population while 44% belong to female population.

Education: 15% of the people surveyed are having primary schooling upto 5th standard.

33% are either qualified 10th standard or less than 10th standard. 17% are having education upto degree level. 35% of the people surveyed in the present study do not have any education.

Dwelling details: 77% are living in their own houses irrespective of pucca buildings or thatched houses. 22.5 % are living in rented houses and the remaining people are living temporarily with others.

Nativity details: 82% are having agricultural land in their native places. 15% are having leased land. 3% do not have any land.

Employment status: 38% people are working in their own land. 16% are engaged in others' land. Remaining 46% have occupied in different fields of employment such as poultry business, dairy farm, Animal-husbandry, petty trades, drivers of autos, taxies, lorry drivers, washer-men, Construction and agricultural labour etc. Financial Support: 64% people receive financial support from different banks belong to both public and private.

Utilization of modern technology: 48% people adopt modern technology in farming such as tractors, ploughing- equipment. 22% people are using modern technology in their daily life such as, computers and other gadgets.

Drinking water and Electricity facilities: 98% families are getting water facility and 99% families are having electricity in their houses. Government Schemes 46% people are aware of Government schemes and 35% people are receiving the benefit of Government schemes.

III. Results and Conclusions

Present case study reveals some of the facts that most of the families who were interviewed by the investigating team have given reasons for their migration to urban area are their poor economic conditions and lack of livelihood in their villages. Considering gender-wise analysis, it appears that males have migrated larger than the females for want of better earning opportunities and females have also accompanied them with their other family members. Among the people migrated, thirty five percent of them do not have any education and found to be illiterate while 33% of the total migrated people are upto 10th Standard qualified. Only 17% of them are graduated but they left the villages either in search of jobs in factories, to work as marketing staff or seek self employment and so on.

77% of migrated population could settle down in the surrounding villages of Hyderabad by living in their own houses while 15% of this population is residing in different rented accommodation depending upon their monthly earnings. Most of the migrated people i.e. about 82% who are settled in and around Hyderabad have agricultural land in their native places while 15% have indicated that their siblings and parents in some cases have been engaged in the leased agricultural land in their villages. Those who have migrated totally have found their livelihood in different types of businesses such poultry forms, dairy forms, animal husbandry, petty trades etc. Nearly 46% are engaged in self employment by working as auto drivers, taxi drivers or street vendors or such occupations including some of them found earnings from working as laborers in construction.

On the agricultural front, it is indicated that 64% people receive financial support from different public and private banks and 48% farmers adopt modern cultivation methods such as use of tractors, ploughing tools etc.

On the domestic side, it is noticed that 98% are happy with water supply in the places where the migrants are living unlike the problems they faced earlier in their villages. Similarly, 99% houses of migrated people are having electricity in their houses. Further, it is understood that 46% of people in villages are aware of the government welfare schemes and around only 35% are really getting benefit of these schemes.

Suggestions:

Based on the outcome of the present survey made in twenty villages, necessary suggestions and recommendations are made hereby to prevent migration of farmers to cities and encourage them with several improved methods for higher production in agriculture.

- To introduce rotating crops, planting cover crops methods and application of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), integration of livestock, dip farming-crops and adopting agro forestry practices.
- Development of interface or interaction between farmers and Scientists for implementation of agricultural innovations made at national and international research institutions from time to time. Through interaction, it is possible to identify the practical problems of farmers, suggest crop selection which is based on soil and environmental conditions and provide storage and marketing methods.
- Training programs should be concentrated in providing short term and long term agricultural courses and create Agricultural Training Centers, Organic Farming Training Centers and Sustainable Agricultural Jobs etc.
- Significant improvements should be made by governments by introducing viable programs and ensuring sustainability of unemployment among the village youths. Governments should also come out with schemes to provide rural farmers with farm inputs such as tractors, fertilizers irrigation facilities in so much as to enable them yield much output and reduce the rate of migration.
- Besides the above, certain studies revealing crop losses due to certain diseases which are caused by pests, including rodents, weeds and birds are helpful to the farmers to the growth of higher crop yield. It is also necessary to generate information about these losses to monitor the effects of pests and diseases on crop production. Agricultural departments should provide guide lines for research on crop improvement to prevent pests and disease attack. Such studies are helpful in identifying the reasons for the unsatisfactory situation of farmers. The part played by losses in the development and use of economic pest and disease control action is necessary to study further for farmers to prevent migration to cities. It is important for the government to make suitable food policy and sort out economic reasons to control pests and diseases and to stimulate action against them.

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