

Searching For Greener Pastures- Role of Community towards Regulating Employment Migration of the Rural Youth in India

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Abstract: This paper examines the issues relating to role of community in motivating the youth towards joining hands in rural upliftment instead of migration to urban centers. The rural youth are migrating to urban centers in search of employment in construction & textiles sector. As they are unskilled & unqualified they are compelled to work as day laborers or wage earners for a minimal wage. Back in villages their parents aged & helpless suffer & villages are almost abandoned leaving the aged people behind. These problems are affecting the economic growth as well because village economy has become almost unsupportive. An aware community can contain the rural youth towards finding sustainable living in rural areas & join hands in progressive growth of a country. A community can motivate youth towards developing leadership & entrepreneurial qualities through development projects & schemes.

Keywords: rural youth, employment migration, Role of community

I. Introduction

Indian population statistics show that 69% of the population lives in rural areas. But the statistics of migration reflect that India is the fastest growing urban hub. It is emerging as the ten most populous urban centers. Indian urban population is growing more than the rural population. In 2008-2009 the migration of the rural population to urban centers was 35%, and in 2013-2014 it was increased to 55%. Rural areas are evidencing huge migration of the population to urban centers. The villages are becoming desolated areas with an aging population or small children the only remaining residents. according to the 2011 Census of India more than two-thirds (69 percent) of India's 1.21 billion people live in rural areas, but the country is rapidly urbanizing. The cities of Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata are all among the world's top ten most populous urban areas, and India has 25 of the 100 fastest-growing cities worldwide. This chart shows the increasing rural to urban migration in India

| | | |
|------|-------------|-------|
| 1951 | 62 million | 17% |
| 2011 | 377 million | 31% |
| 2025 | 600 million | 42.5% |

Source : The Report of the census of India Government of India publication New Delhi 2011

Labor migration is classified as

1. Permanent migrants,
2. Seasonal or circular migrants
3. Semi-permanent migrants

The causes of rural youth migration –

A significant cause of rural-to-urban migration, is insufficient economic opportunities in rural areas and move instead to towns and cities. 2011 census data show, India's urban population has grown faster than its rural population since the last census 2001. According to the Report of the census of India Government of India publication New Delhi 2011, Thirty-one percent of India's population is now classified as urban, up from almost 28 percent in 2001. In 2007-08, the National Sample Survey measured the migration rate (the proportion of migrants in the population) in urban areas at 35 percent. In addition to migration, natural population increase and the inclusion in census data of newly-defined urban areas also account for some of this urban growth. Despite India's impressive rates of economic growth over the past three decades, vast numbers of Indians are unable to secure a meaningful livelihood. In 2010, 29.8 percent of all Indians lived below the national poverty line, while 33.8 percent of rural Indians lived below the national rural poverty line, according to World Bank data. While wage and education gaps between rural and urban Indians are declining, rural India is still characterized by agrarian distress, a chronic lack of employment, and farmer suicides. Thus, the rural-urban divide has been one of the primary reasons for India's labor mobility. While migration data from the country is not as comprehensive or as recent as needed to the 2001 Census counted about 191 million people—or 19

percent of the total Indian population at the time—as internal migrants who had moved long distances to other districts or other Indian states. About 70 percent of all internal migrants are women, and marriage is the primary reason for female migration, accounting for 91 percent of rural female migrations and 61 percent of urban female migrations. By contrast, men migrate mostly for employment-related reasons. Fifty-six percent of urban male migrants move in search of employment. Other top reasons for migration among Indian men (often with other members of the household) include family, business, and education.

Impact of rural to urban migration -the impact created by rural to urban migration are plenty

1. **Negative impact on employment generation-** The employment & under employment are causing further problems .Several of the rural youth who migrate to urban areas are non permanent seasonal laborers whose earnings are spent in creation of routine living in urban sheds. The migrated youth are trained skill laborers hence their visit back to villages do not create any employability. The seasonal migration of the rural youth again is a problems agricultural related jobs.
2. **Negative impact on family relationships-** The chances of rural youth males migrating to urban centers has negative u impact on family relations. The joint family system , the collective land rights system , mutual collaboration etc are hit by the rural migration. Land farming is hit by the shortage of laborers, The migration has lead to homelessness , solitude societal family relationships are on high
3. **Negative impact on rural economy** – The traditional rural sustainable enterprises have died a slow death in villages. The micro, small, medium sized enterprises in villages are being shut which is hitting the traditional villages economy. Rural youth are being drawn towards building construction work, quarrying, mining , irrigation projects etc. Prospective Strategies of setting up new enterprises is also dimmed as there are very few youth people left in the villages. hence village economy is hit negatively. Villages have become the abode of aged / diseased / helpless people. & are becoming old age asylums.
4. **Negative impact on society** – the rural urban divide is created as digital non digital , literate illiterate , rural urban , rich poor , traditional modern etc. which are creating societal divide. (The Report of the census of India Government of India publication New Delhi 2011).
5. **Negative impact on urban living-** An exodus of rural to urban centers migration is causing problems on urban living. The fundamental problems of sewage, sanitation, water supply, drinking water, electricity, infectious diseases etc are rising in urban centers.

Community interventions Creation of sustainable living opportunities in rural areas is the need of the time. Rural youth leave villages because they find urban centers more attractive for earning a decent livelihood. A community can play a significant role in pressuring the agricultural sector through strengthening

1. Micro finance facilities .
2. Small irrigation Projects,
3. Crop insurance schemes ,
4. Small entrepreneurship development schemes,
5. Small business support schemes,
6. Self employment finance schemes
7. Rain harvesting solution schemes,
8. Energy solutions schemes,
9. Solar energy schemes,
10. Universal health insurance coverage schemes etc

Creation of productive employment opportunities - Creation of productive employment opportunities through

1. development of community leadership,
2. Development of community monitored projects
3. political membership for rural youth schemes ,
4. involvement in decision making process at local levels ,
5. Involvement in policy making in local self government Institutions,
6. Community stake holdership

There is a need for making the youth aware of digital developments as well. Expansion of f education can create sustainability. The rural youth migrate to urban centers for educational purposes. The higher education sector can support rural youth with establishment of Higher educational Institutions. Rural development strategies through good irrigation projects, good seed distribution , subsidy support prices to cultivated products starting of agro processing industries etc can make the productive support for rural youth. Finally corporate social responsibility is needed to achieve integrated rural development. They can provide

leadership & entrepreneurial support to rural youth. The corporate support can be given in training the youth in establishment of Micro enterprises, preparing them to inclusive finance & banking services

II. Conclusion

Thus there is a need to formulate an integrated migration policy covering sustainable agriculture policy, land ownership pattern , development of tertiary sector, promotion of crop insurance , rural health rural tourism etc. Only an integrate policy towards making the rural youth become sustainable future can solve the migration problem.

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