

Determinants of Migration- A review of literature

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Abstract

Migration is a physical shifting of an employee or work force from one place to other. It may be permanent in nature or temporary also. The transition of people from rural areas to urban areas having various internal dynamic, most of the times it is due to compulsion and inadequate infrastructure facility, medical care, education etc. In the present paper an attempt is made to understand the various determinants which lead to migration of work force from rural areas to urban areas. In this direction various existing literature were studied to understand and conceptualize the migration related issues. It was found that the various factors that induce/ compel for migration were economic reasons, better education, health care facility and entertainment, better employment opportunity, expected hike in income, existence of surplus work force in rural areas, nature of employment sometimes temporary or seasonal, reduce the risk of income loss, individual migration because of less land holding and family migration because of marriage and less land holding, pursuing higher education, to get social protection, women migrate for increased employment opportunity and social conditions, migration because of geographic proximity, for the improved standard of living, children migration for search of job etc.

KEYWORDS: Migration, rural, urban, employment & education

An overview

Migration is a physical shifting of an employee or work force from one place to other. It may be permanent in nature or temporary also. The transition of people from rural areas to urban areas having various internal dynamic, most of the times it is due to compulsion and inadequate infrastructure facility, medical care, education etc. In India migration related data is mostly captured by two organizations, viz. Census and National Sample Survey Organization. Both these two organization defined migration as follows:

Census defines migrant as a person residing in a place other than his/her place of birth (Place of Birth definition) or one who has changed his/ her usual place of residence to another place (change in usual place of residence).

NSS considered the change in Usual Place of Residence (UPR Approach) to define a migrant.

Migration may be due to different factor like economic development, social cultural, environmental, political factors, due to violence, political instability, drought, flood, landslide and low fertility of land.

Objective of the study

- ✓ To conceptualize the determinants of migration
- ✓ To undertake the in-depth study of migration related issues in eastern India.

Methodology of the study

The study is based on secondary data. In this regard various libraries were visited and some on-line journals were also reviewed in this direction.

Ankrah Kwaku Twumasi (1995) Rural Urban Migration & Socioeconomic Development in Ghana: This article discusses the case of Ghana, where rural urban migration creates major change in social and behavioural pattern of migrant people when these migrants decide to shift their base due to availability of better education, healthcare facilities and entertainment and then this force them to resocialize their behaviours which ultimately leads to change in behavioural pattern. ¹

Afsar Rita (2003) Internal Migration & development Nexus – The Case of Bangladesh: The paper focuses on the core concept of rural – urban migration, which explains, that people move for better employment options as they are less dependent on agricultural sector. These migrants normally face job insecurity, poor working condition & discrimination in the urban work place. The paper also challenges the very basic fact that rural urban migration brings rural poverty to urban areas. The actual fact is that due to increase in remittances, savings rate as well as standard of living has improved remarkably.. And this becomes possible due to movement of people from less developed rural areas to well developed urban areas. ²

Kennan John, Walker R. James (2003) The Effect of Expected Income on Individual Migration Decisions: The paper tries to develop a model on the basis of a factor, i.e. the role of expected income that influences the migration decision. The analysis of the paper indicates that the link between expected income and decision of migration depends on the geographic differences of mean wage and technology to move in search of a better Locational match when the income differences exist in present location. ³

Dubey Amaresh, Jones Palmer Richard, Sen Kunal (2004) Surplus Labour, Social Structure & Rural to Urban Migration – Evidence from Indian Data: This paper mainly focuses on surplus labour, social structure and rural to urban migration. The empirical analysis on India's rural urban migration suggests that the key prediction of Lewis Model is that the rural urban migration is influenced by the existence of surplus labour. States with high labour – land ratios and low agricultural productivity are likely to see more out the migration. The other major findings of the paper is that unlike Lewis model the rural urban migration phenomenon is complex in nature and basically depends on socio economic conditions as well as possessions of skills. This suggests that an individual, whose level of education is low, is less likely to move to urban areas. This also indicates that they failed to acquire higher education because they are poor. The major policy implication is that the policy makers should not conclude that because of rural urban migration, rural poverty decreases in the surplus labour regions as poor people are less likely to move. ⁴

Deshingkar Priya (2004) Understanding the Implications of Migration for Pro Poor Agricultural Growth: The paper highlights on the fact that increasing mobility of rural urban migration is happening because of nature of migration is temporary or seasonal. This type of migration helps the migrants to increase the flow of remittances mainly from non - farm activities in urban location, which is easily available. This creates a demand for income generating opportunity in non - farm activities rather than agricultural income, although these temporary migrants are living in rural areas.⁵

Black Richard, Hilker Mclean Lyndsay, Pooley Clarie (2004) Migration & Pro Poor Policy in East Africa: The paper focuses on the nature of migration and its impact in East African countries. In general it is observed that rural families often place the family members in different location to reduce the risk of income loss. Apart from that, role of education is also one of the important determinants of rural urban migration in general.⁶

Kuhn S. Randall (2005) The Determinants of Family & Individual Migration – A Case Study of Rural Bangladesh: The paper discusses the issue of rural urban migration considering the role of family as one of the important parameters. The individual migration decision is more likely among those who has less land holding, whereas in case of family migration, marriage of people and those who don't have any land holding are important determinants. These people tend to migrate along with their family members. The important aspect is that, after marriage chances of individual migration decreases and family migration increases.⁷

Hashim M Iman (2005) Exploring the Linkages between Children's Independent Migration & Education – Evidence from Ghana: The paper focuses on the issue of children's independent migration in Ghana. The study found that a large number of children in Ghana migrate in order to pursue their education or to arrange schools fees through their earnings from rural urban migration process, which give them sufficient income in urban counterpart.⁸

Gardner Katy & Ahmed Zahir (2006) Place, Social Protection & Migration in Bangladesh – A Londoni Village in Biswanath: The paper highlights on the relationship between migration, poverty and social protection in an area of Bangladesh where the rate of migration towards London is very high. These migrants are able to create a socio economic impact during their short or long stay in their respective places. Their investment increases the livelihoods conditions and provides the poor people some kind of social protection. This not only help the poor in that region but it also attracts the people from other regions where this kind of economic development is absent due to lack of international migration. Thus, the paper suggests that this migration nature not only benefit the society at large, but it also provide the desired social protection, that the poor people are looking for.⁹

Shanthi K. (2006) Female Labour Migration in India: The objective of the paper is to identify the pace of employment oriented migration. Traditionally, in case of women, it was observed that the marriage is the main reason for migration, but the recent trend also emphasise the rise of independent women migration on the background of increase in employment opportunities in garment sector, export industries etc.¹⁰

Katseli T. Louka, Lucas E.B. Robert & Xenogiani Theodora (2006) Effects of Migration on Sending Countries: The paper tries to develop the synergies between migration and development. The paper focuses on the issue that how migration can be managed so as to maximize the net gain, both for sending countries as well as receiving countries. It was also observed that the case of migration is not only income driven but also geographic proximity related. Moreover common language also created equal impact on rural urban migration.¹¹

Report on Migration by Department for International Development (2007) Moving out of Poverty – Making Migration Work Better for Poor People: The report discusses how migration can improve the economic conditions of the poor people and hence reduce the poverty. Although there are different reasons for migration, still today globalization plays a crucial role. Due to globalization, movement of resources becomes easier, thus it helps the countries to reduce labour shortage and improves the standard of living among rural poor. Whereas at the national level, movement of people towards well developed areas can provide an opportunity to improve their living conditions.¹²

Thorsen Dorte (2007) “If Only I get Enough Money for a Bicycle” A Study of Childhoods, Migration & Adolescent Aspirations against a Backdrop of Exploitation & Trafficking in Burkina Faso: The paper focuses on children’s independent migration towards urban areas for search of a job. The paper categorically pointed out that these children are the victims of their parents’ ignorance as well as the consequences of poverty. The ignorance is mainly in terms of providing education. Rather, they try to engage them for some kind of income generating productive activities which can eliminate poverty. Other than this, access to education in the rural areas is also a matter of concern which force them to leave the education mid way and leave for nearest urban location to live their life in their own way.¹³

Aier Amungla & Kithan Thungchanbeni (2007) Rural Urban Migration – A Thematic Report on Nagaland: The paper discusses the issue of rural urban migration from the point of view of urbanization. Rural people try to leave the place of origin because they feel that there is a rural stagnation in terms of low socio economic opportunities for self improvement. This, results in non availability of education and training facilities in rural areas, forcing them for out migration. Thus this creates the pressure on urban areas.¹⁴

Black Richard et al (2008) Demographics and Climate Change: Future Trends And their Policy Implications for Migration: The paper discusses the issue of climate change and its impact on migration. The climate change factors like low rainfalls change in temperature or weather conditions adversely affected the poor sections of the world population and affect their sustainability. To make their conditions better, these people are forced to migrate from rural to urban areas.¹⁵

Karlsson Ida (2008) Rural Urban Migration in Babati District, Tanzania: The paper revolved around the rural urban migration decision in Babati district of Tanzania. While identifying the factors that motivate rural urban migration, it was found that mainly, education, employment, business motives are important for rural urban migration. These are some differences between men and women migrant’s reasons for migration. The most

interesting part is that most of the respondents are found to be positively associated with the decision to migrate.¹⁶

Grun E. Rebekka (2009) Exit & Save – Migration & Saving under Violence: This paper tests whether violence leads to migration and lower savings. The model developed in this paper argued that violence will increase migration. Moreover, even after violence, mostly in the form of guerrilla attack in Columbia, people doesn't move, but as a consequence of attack their savings amount decreases and to compensate for the loss of assets they are forced to leave the place of origin.¹⁷

Deshingkar Priya (2010) Migration, Remote Rural Areas & Chronic Poverty in India: The paper discusses the issue of migration with respect to remote rural areas and chronic poverty in India. The paper reveals that rate of migration is high among extremely poor, who lives in remote rural areas. Although, the paper accepted the fact that migration is hardly able to make these poor as non poor, but due to migration, these people are now in a position to repay the debt, spend money for education and health. More interestingly they are in a position to borrow higher amount as loan to invest in agricultural sectors. These facts certainly improve their standard of living as well as socio economic status. The positive aspects of migration is partially downgraded by some of the negative dimensions such as riskier jobs, exposure to disease and most importantly long separation from family members.¹⁸

Sultana Zelina (2010) Impact of Monga on Rural Urban Migration – Its Socio Economic Consequences: The paper pointed out the socio economic consequences of migration during 'monga' season in Northern Bangladesh. As during 'monga' or 'famine' the poorest do not have the access to livelihood and work, people tend to migrate for the fear of hunger. The paper also pointed out that these socio economic consequences can be resolved by developing an agro based industrialization process as well as non agricultural productive activities in the selected study region, so that the socio economic impact arising as a consequence of famine, can be minimized.¹⁹

Shonchoy S. Abu (2011) Seasonal Migration & Micro Credit in the Lean Period – Evidence from Northwest Bangladesh: The paper investigates the relationship between access to micro credit and its impact on rural urban seasonal migration. As seasonal migration is not a permanent migration, people love to migrate during lean period when agricultural productivities are low. It is often highlighted on the fact that poor people migrate, because they are suffering from lack of finance during lean period and micro credit can minimize the financial shortfall. But the author concluded that due to strict weekly repayment rule, it reduces the ability of borrowers to react to shocks. Thus, they prefer to migrate instead of depending on micro credit during lean period. Sometimes, even if they are accessing microcredit, the purpose remains as a cost of arranging movement from rural areas to urban areas. Thus, it can be said that although, the purpose of microcredit is to provide some alternative livelihood opportunities, but its real impact is questionable.²⁰

Deshingkar Priya & Sandi Matteo (2011) Migration & Human Development in India – New Challenges & Opportunities: The paper discusses the linkage between migration and human development through an analysis of outcomes for health and education among different social groups. The paper finds that in case of lower class people international

migration is low due to high cost of movement. The analysis also indicates that migrants are able to satisfy immediate consumption needs, but they see spending on education as risky investment. Thus, the paper concluded that health and education policy should be migrant friendly in order to achieve higher economic growth.²¹

Hazra Anupam (2012) Rural India – Still Floating towards Cities: The paper mainly focuses on the push and pulls factors of migration. Out of the different factors, poverty is considered as the main push factor for rural urban migration, the author also pointed out that migration primarily occurs due to disparities in regional development. So, instead of alleviating the poverty of people, govt. should work on the policies to reduce the poverty in that region.²²

Jahan Momtaz (2012) Impact of Rural Urban Migration on Physical & Social Environment – The Case of Dhaka City: The paper mainly focuses on the impact of rural urban migration on physical and social environment in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. The migration process created equal socio economic impact in both urban cities as well as rural areas. The main reason for migration as highlighted in this paper is due to gross socio economic disparities between urban as well as rural areas.²³

Imran Faisal, Nawaz Yasir, Asim Muhammad & Hashmi H. Arshad (2013) Socio Economic Determinants of Rural Migrants in Urban Setting – A Study Conducted at City Sargodha, Pakistan: The study is designed to identify the socio economic determinants of rural urban migration. The paper observed that poor educational facilities, health, entertainment and limited income opportunities create the rural urban migration. On the other hand, this migration leads to poor sanitation, environmental pollution, crowded housing and over population in urban areas.²⁴

Concluding note

Nobody wants to leave their home land, however especially in the context of rural and urban migration. People in rural areas migrate to the urban area because of inherent problem in these rural areas. This problem is due to the imbalanced economic growth in these rural areas. India lives in villages. At present more than 6,00,000 villages in India. These villages do not have any access to minimum infrastructure facilities. It is not that development have not taken place after the independence, the study found that most of development taken place in the urban periphery rural areas. The sagas of interior rural areas are remaining same as it was during pre-independence era in India. Unless the initiatives are not taken immediately the migration problem will remain there and it will ultimately destabilize the urban area. Through this paper we tried to understand various internal dynamics that contributes the migration of rural mass to urban areas. They are economic reasons, better education, health care facility and entertainment, better employment opportunity, expected hike in income, existence of surplus work force in rural areas, nature of employment sometimes temporary or seasonal, reduce the risk of income loss, individual migration because of less land holding and family migration because of marriage and less land holding, pursuing higher education, to get social protection, women migrate for increased employment opportunity and social conditions, migration because of geographic proximity, for the improved standard of living, children migration for search of job, for better training facility, climate change factors like low rainfall, change in temperature or weather condition, business motive, violence, extremely poor who lives in extreme remote area migration is high, fear of famine, strict repayment of loan to the micro-credit organizations during the lean period, lower class

people international migration is low due to high cost of movement, poverty, socio economic disparities between rural & urban areas and limited income opportunities in rural areas.

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