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IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: A REVIEW OF EVIDENCE, EMERGING ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides a review of the literature on the development impact of migration remittances in developing economies also emphasis on reasons of migration. This research paper focused on economic, social and political issues of migration in India. This paper suggested solutions to solve problems of migration. National level migration between different states is an ever-growing phenomenon that has important development implications for both sending and receiving states. For sending states, migration and the resulting remittances lead to increased incomes and poverty reduction, and improved health and educational outcomes, and promote economic development. Yet these gains might come at substantial social costs to the migrants and their families. Since many developing states are also large recipients of national migrants, they face challenges of integration of immigrants, job competition between migrant and native workers, and fiscal costs associated with provision of social services to the migrants. This paper also summarizes incipient discussions on the impacts of migration on climate change, social statues, political interest, democratic values, demographics, states identity, and security. In conclusion, the paper highlights a few policy recommendations calling for better integration of migration in development policies in country and states, improving data collection on migration and remittance flows, leveraging remittances for improving access to finance of recipient developed states and nation , improving recruitment mechanisms, and facilitating national labor mobility through safe and legal channels.



KEYWORDS: Migration, Labour, Employment, Agriculture, Development, Income.

INTRODUCTION

The large population of workers forced to migrate is becoming a symbol of the challenges of the fast growing Indian economy. It is natural to increase the movement of people in search of jobs, businesses, education in India, chasing dreams of prosperity. Especially at a time when the country is moving towards globalization reports and studies from across the country point out that 'a new wave of migration' is moving not only from villages to cities but also from relatively underdeveloped north, central and east states to southern and some western states . This type of migration should be seen in the context of the emerging reality of the Indian economy. These realities are: rapid increase in per capita income which has failed to generate sufficient employment opportunities; Sustainability of the unorganized economy; And the organized sector's move towards unorganization, which means a large

section of employed people are insecure, they get very little pay and are forced to do unstable jobs. Increasing regional disparities should also be seen from the perspective of migration.

Since the early 90s, rural India and Indian agriculture have gone through a long period of crisis. It is also becoming clear that a large number of small and marginal farmers and daily laborers are failing to live or prosper in agriculture. Therefore, diversification of livelihood, including redistribution of family labor, has emerged as a major strategy for the poor sections to survive. Due to lack of work other than farming at the local level, migration to remote cities and towns has become a major livelihood option.

Poor workers often make their living through a variety of occupations. This diversity often appears as a scattered labor market. Thus when some family members migrate, there is neither a permanent relocation to housing nor a complete end to the relationship with agriculture and rural areas. Of course, there are many other types of migration. Good professionals, trained workers in urban areas and many affluent people are also becoming more and more dynamic. In fact, many studies have revealed that migrants as a group are more educated, more resource-rich and spend more on consumption than immigrants. This is probably because migrating is also difficult for very poor people.

Why do people migrate?

- The agricultural base of rural areas does not provide employment to all the people living there. Inequality in regional development forces people to move from rural to urban areas.
- Due to lack of educational facilities, specially the higher educated people motivate rural people to migrate to urban areas to fulfill this purpose.
- People also move away from their homes due to political instability and inter-ethnic conflict. For example, a large number of people have migrated from Jammu and Kashmir and Assam due to unstable conditions in the last few years.
- Poverty and lack of employment opportunities motivate people to move from one place to another.
- People also migrate on short-term basis in search of better medical facilities to avail better tertiary health and financial services.
- Other factors like food scarcity, climate change, religious persecution, civil war also lead people to internal migration.

Importance of Migration in Indian Economy

Having migrant workers is mandatory for the Indian economy. In many other states like Gujarat, these migrant workers play an important role in the development of the state by providing cheap labor in many small and medium enterprises related to manufacturing and construction sectors.

The Economic Survey (2016–17) covers an entire chapter on migration. Accordingly, between 2001 and 2011 the average interstate labor migration was 5–6 million annually.

Issues related to migrants :

1. Political Issues :

- The political class ignores the problems of migrant workers, especially interstate migrants, as they are not counted as vote banks.
- Due to their migration nature, they also find no place in the manifesto of trade unions.
- Lack of proper documents makes their situation more vulnerable leading to harassment by the police and other local authorities.

2. Socio-cultural issues :

- Millions of unskilled and migrant workers live in makeshift huts (usually made of tin sheets) or on the streets or in non-recognized slums and illegal settlements by municipalities.

- They are neither able to improve their conditions in their homes and save more, nor are they able to save enough to live comfortably in the place where they work.
- Cultural differences, language barriers, isolation from society, lack of quality education in mother tongue are also some other issues to be faced.
- Very few migrants are aware of their legal and economic rights. At the same time, the majority class citizens also remain indifferent to the plight of the victims.
- Migrants have to suffer from heartburn due to limited job opportunities, as people in the state see their occupation as an encroachment on current jobs.

3. Economic Issues :

- Seasonal migrants are forced to do informal jobs like construction, hotels, textiles, manufacturing, transport, services, domestic work etc. These jobs are risky and underpaid.
- Migrant workers have to face adverse health due to lack of proper access to health services. Since they cannot afford private hospitals, Therefore, they often return to their villages after falling ill. This leads to loss of employment as well as wages to them.
- A large number of migrants find work as unskilled laborers as they enter the job sector at a very young age and are stuck in the most unskilled, low-paid and risky jobs for their entire lifetimes.
- In an unorganized and chaotic labor market, migrant workers regularly face disputes at the workplace.
- Common issues faced by migrant workers include non-payment of wages, physical abuse and accidents.

The pandemic has taught us everything that we did not take seriously. It has highlighted the specialties of our labor force and their plight. India's economy, especially the urban system, is governed by migrant workers. Our labor force is recognized by its diversity, self-employment and informality. 90% of the total number of labor force the plurality of more informal workers reflects the high sensitivity and low levels of social security in the country, and the lack of adequate institutional provisions for such workers and the lack of social agency. They bear the burden of the economy, make it clean, build and operate it. They nurture the rural economy by sending about one lakh crore rupees (one-third of the earnings) to their homes, which feeds four crore families.

Road Ahead

- If migrant workers are forced to move from the state, the industry will lose its competitiveness as labor costs will increase significantly.
- The state will have to follow a more holistic policy to provide more employment incentives rather than higher recruitment of local people.
- Enforcement of labor laws and extensive legislation should be enacted at workplaces, stricter enforcement of existing labor laws, including the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, is required.
- For migrant workers, the labor market should be divided across India and a separate labor market should be developed with security of tenure.
- Identity cards can be issued to them by the government so that the migrant laborers can avail necessary basic facilities.
- Small and medium industries like rural and cottage industries, handlooms, handicrafts and food processing and agricultural industries should be developed to reduce rural-urban migration.
- The focus should be on ensuring basic rights and social security. Migrant families should be provided with civil rights in the destination areas so that they can access basic amenities, benefits of public programs and social security schemes to the poor and a major policy will be needed to ensure all these services.

- Special policy should be focused under the Right to Education (RTE) Act to ensure the migrant laborers access to education. Skill development should also be given priority to include them in organized sectors.
- Panchayats should emerge as a resource pool for migrant workers residing in their region. They should maintain a register of migrant workers and issue identity cards and passbooks.

CONCLUSION :

Diversity and free dialogue between different groups make states and countries stronger economically, socially and culturally. The challenges are still complex and the problem of migrants' lack of recognition remains to be fully resolved. We will not be able to solve the problem of migrant workers until we see migrant workers as a dynamic part of a changing India.

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