Government Induced Programmes to Mitigate Rural-Urban Migration under Climate Change Dynamics

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Authors’ contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Climate change has much impact on regular drought and flood conditions of India, in result it influence agriculture. Agriculture is major means of livelihood and nearly 80 per cent of rural population of India depend on it. But this profession is not being sustainable for the livelihood because of regular flood and drought situation which results in migration of rural youth. Some main causes of migration of the rural youth to the urban areas are lack of economic incentives coupled with other factors like less opportunities for employment and lack of infrastructure for education. Human population can migrate as both interstate as well as intrastate for establishing a new permanent or semi-permanent residence. During 2001 census the total number of migrants was 314 million by the last residence. Out of which 85% of the migration was intrastate. While 13% of migration was residences interstate. About 20 million people had migrated from rural areas to urban areas.

Keywords: Climate change; Agriculture; Livelihood; Next generation; Migration; Government policies.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a great challenge to meet the demand of food along with nutrition supply in climate change condition for current policy makers and for the scientists [1,2]. This brings agriculture to focus worldwide diminishing the increasing demands of increasing world population, changing food habits and rise in living standard. On the one hand the world has facing an upsurge in demands of food commodities, along with greats awareness for the security of nutrition which has
led the increase of constraints due to climatic changes, land utilization and reducing workforce in agriculture. Agriculture has led the among of the concept of the current issues of “Sustainable agriculture” which forms the basis of formulation of all activities and policies globally related to the agriculture. Agriculture in India depends upon active rural population engaged in farming professing beside the most part of urban population is always needed to solve out the problem based on poor infrastructure at rural context. As well know agriculture plays an important role in economic activity of India by its contribution of approx 12.54% of total GDP of the nation. It also supports the rural economy and livelihood by providing rural population with the food, fuel and other inputs along with the economic inputs provided by the agricultural at national levels people in urban area mostly depends upon agricultural activates for the households need for daily need for their sustenance directly as indirectly. Whole farming together involve in agricultural activities [3,4]. Indian agriculture has been facing many challenges such as the migration of the rural youth to the urban areas and declining interest of the youth in agriculture activities which is of the major concerns. The total population of India was about 1,028 million in which 532 million were male and 496 million were females according to census 2001. This census also reported that 315 million people have migrated from the place of last residence which was about 31 % total population of India in intentionally migrate from their residence place. 30% of them were youth out of 315 million migrant population [5,6]. People below the age of 30 is highly percentage of its population and a labour force expansion of 95 million by 2020 (a 12 % gain from 2001). India is uniquely positioned to reap the benefits from the demographic dividend. Expeditious urbanization integrated with high decadal growth of about 13.8% is the driving factors for the migration of the population which is estimated that by 2011 about 33% of the total population will be migrated from their native residence [7,8,9]. It is essential to perceive the driving forces for this migration and also evaluate its affect on the rural economy as this migration will lead to the drain of workforce from the rural areas to urban areas. Attractive employment opportunities or facilities for higher education in the urban areas are the main reason for this migration which is lacking in the villages or remote areas. Rural youth are attracted towards these opportunities instead of farming profession. This trend cause two major burden on the economy as on the one hand migration of the youth from the rural areas leads declining workforce there and another one is that unskilled youth causes a burden on urban economy. Hence, it is necessary to understand the causes of migration of youth from rural to urban area and find effective solution and make strategies for their interest in agriculture & other rural activities. At the same time it is needed to promote agriculture based occupation and to increase awareness in rural youth about the employment opportunities generated by the farming profession.

1.1 Migration of Rural Youth in cities

The ratio of distribution of population in rural and urban areas are 1:2.5 in India (Fig 1). Migration of the youth from village to cities is directly affecting in farming. Additionally this is a social concern as this causes an imbalance in the workforce in rural and urban area [10]. When the migrated people is unskilled and drop out from the education system then this issues becomes more conspicuous. This migration of the human capital from one place to another within the country is known as internal migration and it facilitates by high wages and employment opportunities in cities are compared to the rural areas.

![Fig. 1. Distribution of rural and urban population in India](image-url)

The migration of youth from the rural areas to urban areas is contribution of multiple factors. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted a survey during July, 2007 to June, 2008. According to this survey the causes of internal migration are variable and attributed to the migration for education or migration for employment [6, 11]. The age group of maximum migration and the trend is same for both males.
and females. The migration trends are shown in Fig 2. Though the driving factors may be different in case of male population the migration is derived by the need of employment opportunities or economic factors while for females migration took place due to marriage or family movement from one place to another some major causes for migration as briefly explained as follow:-

Fig. 2. Trends of migration, Source: Census of India GOI 2001 (Population in million)

1.2 Migration for Education

Indian government has adopted different polices and planes for achieving 100% literacy. In different parts of country, the literacy rates are variable. Some states of India Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha lack the infrastructure for the formal primary and higher education. Therefore, these states observed to be maximum population migration for better education. This lead to outflow of the capital from one region to the other and thus lead to interstate migration for higher education. As every state has some development cities where there is availability of better infrastructure for primary and higher education and thus this migration is usually intrastate from the rural areas of a state to the urban areas of similar state. The education level of the migrated population of both males and females is below matriculation or Gradation, highly educated and qualified population have fewer tendencies for migration. Lack of educational infrastructure is responsible for the migration from rural areas to cities, which is cleared from this trend of education level [12,13]. Rural female migrants have the largest share of illiterates in India at 65.50%. In remote areas and villages, educational opportunities are yet to be made available for females. In other words, the educated youth choose for better education and employment opportunities and migrate to urban areas where they found facilitated infrastructure. Most important area for development of the education policies for rural areas is to observe the regional discrepancies occurring throughout the country. While improving the format of education system overall development of education is required. Hence, educational policy should focus on development of all forms of education including vocational education and skill development. All the modern courses should be provided as urban area. Curriculums of the educational institutes should meet the demands in rural area to like urban requirement and should take into consideration the gender aspect. Young women should be encouraged through the polices for participating in income generating activities and are self employment by easy access to funds & credit. At the small time parents should also be encouraged for supporting their children in educational activities. Social issues like child marriage & child labour should be discourages. Changing traditions is a long process especially for those parents who are not educated and who do not need to prioritize school.

1.3 Migration for Employment

The distribution of workers in different sectors are follows in agriculture sector consist of 53.20%, secondary sector 21.5% and tertiary sector with 25.3% according to a survey conducted in 2009-10. Other than in case of education the migration was primarily an intrastate phenomenon where 46% of individual migrate to work in other states whereas 54% choose to work in the same state employment has facilitated higher job opportunities to the youth as the share of non-workers is low in migrated population compared to the total population male working are observed to be in urban areas (69.9% of the total urban male migrants) whereas, numbers of female worker are higher in the rural areas (24.8%). Offering high incentive and cash income will attract the youth towards agricultural activities [11,14,15]. It has been realized that lack of employment opportunities resulting migration for rural youth from rural areas to urban areas. It must needed for them to provided agricultural activities and other employment generation activities. There activity may include.

a. Small livestock production:- Rural youth should be educated about the potential of small livestock production like poultry, Pigs and goat production. Youth should be made well trained by initiating training programs for them for production of livestock and small funding
schemes should be initiated for making availability of the credits.

b. Fishpond or aquaculture:- youths are required to provided them with improved skills and knowledge regarding construction and maintenance of fishponds, nutrition, health breeding and fingerling management.

c. Field and Horticultural crop production:- Apart from cereals production, a range of crops including fruits, vegetables and Ornamental plants, have the potential for both food security and selling so suitable training must be required.

d. Processing of NTFPs:- A wide range of items and commodities that could form very lucrative income generating businesses for rural youth. This activity of adding value via processing on other marketing techniques like packaging, labelling etc will help then in expanding the marketability of NTFPs.

e. Mushroom Production:- Mushroom production can be a viable alternative for the farmers harvesting small and holdings or without land. Since mushroom farming is an indoor practice, labour intensive and high profit endeavour. Thus the unemployed youth, women and small farmers need to adopt this activity. Involvement in mushroom production provides for the economic gains and secondly it supports the much desired nutrition security.

1.4 Migration and National Youth Policies

Many problems faced by the youths while migrating from one location to another and these are conditions for both social economical and demographical situations of the area. In migration of the youth from rural to urban areas, there is an important role played by the policies framed by government [16]. The negligence of the government policies towards the requirement of the rural need and lack of infrastructure caused the migration of the population from rural to urban areas. This phenomenon leads to the poor quality of life, risk, vulnerability and human trafficking of migrated population. These problems affect the acceptability of the migrated population in the new area. Thus, it is necessary to ensure the social harmony with effective policies. The multiple pillars of inequality faced by the young migrants which makes the situation chaotic for the government and migrants too.

Organised labour unions, employer organisation and civil society can play a significant role in lobbying for the effective formulation of public policies on migration in India. The enforcement of comprehensive migration policies will have a lasting impact on human development outcome not only for the individual migrants and their families but also for the communities at origin and destination. National youth Policy of the Government of India (NYP-2003) youth developments in India have been hampered because of a lack of adequate research on youth. Few policies for Empowerment of Rural Youth:

1.4.1 Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP)

To provide assistance to poor in rural areas in the farm of subsidy and Bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successionplans period, IRDP was first introduced in 1978- 1979. To uplift rural youth. Various programs were launched in succession of IRDP [17, 18].

1.4.2 Training of Rural Youth for self Employment (TRYSEM)

This scheme aims for the age group of 18 to 35 years for providing basic technical and entrepreneurial skills to the rural youths. This scheme enables them to take up income generating activities.

1.4.3 Development of women & children in Rural areas (DWCRA)

To strengthen the gender component of the rural population DWACRA was initiated. This scheme was started in 1982-83 which covered 50 districts initially. Presently, all the districts of the country has been covered by the scheme. The aim of the scheme is to improve the conditions of the country, thereby improving the diving conditions of the women in the country. It has also been working for the improvement of the status of the children and providing the rural woman with the opportunities of self employment by giving them for skill up-gradation.

1.4.4 Supply of Improved Tool kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA)

This scheme was launched in 1992 in some selected district, but now it has covered almost all the districts of the country. Improved hand tools were provided to the rural crafts persons through the scheme under the ceiling of Rs.
2000. People of all age groups are trained under this scheme. Age bar of the TRYSEM scheme was removed under this scheme.

1.4.5 Ganga Kalyan Yojna (GKY)

This yojna was started in 1996-97 to support small scale and marginal farmers, specially for them who belongs to backward classes (BCS) scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs). This scheme also provides for the subsidised loans to the farmers for bore wells and pump sets. Thus, the scheme aims for the improved infrastructure to the farmers for better productivity [17].

1.4.6 National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was launched in 2006 is an act of parliament. It is an Indian labour law and social security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, NREGA also helped in empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity among others.

1.4.7 Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

The Employment Assurance Scheme was introduced on 2nd October, 1993. It covered 1778 selected blocks under drought prone areas, desert, tribal and hill areas. The primary objective of EAS is to provide gainful employment during lean agricultural season in manual work to all able bodied adults in rural areas who are in need and desirous of work but cannot find it.

1.5 Possible Attempts to Restrict Rural youth migration

It is inevitable to make the agriculture are the foundation stone for employment generation to address the problem of youth migration. It will help in increasing productivity of agriculture and will also facilitate more workforces in the agriculture sector. This approach will open the opportunity to generate employment and improve the social architecture of rural India. Growth in agriculture sector will stimulate the growth in the allied sector while improving the rural condition in India. Perhaps, it will provide conditions for greater employment opportunities in other sector as well. These scenario and environment associated to the overall growth of the economy will develop. It is necessary for adoption of the polices with priority for education and up gradation of skills of rural youth instead of providing them with menial work with meagre salaries. The linkage should make strong bonding between agricultural research and extension activity and to provide training about agriculture there should be at village based farm schools. There is need to make the availability of agricultural credit easier so that farmers may improve their financial condition. Crop loans and crop insurance should be made more accessible. Linkages between market and farmers should be made vaster. So that small farmer can also benefit from the emerging super market and value chains if linked effectively.

2. CONCLUSION

Climate change in form of regular drought and flood are lowering down the employment opportunities in rural India. It has been realized that lack of employment opportunities resulting migration for rural youth from rural areas to urban areas. It must needed for them to provide agricultural activities and other employment generation activities in addition to proper government policies and programmes.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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