

Assessing the inter-relationship between rural –urban migration and rural development: A case study of Delhi

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Abstract: Rural development can have both effect, it may encourage migration or may discourage. But the present study found that due to the unavailability of opportunities, facilities and resources, most of the people migrate to urban regions. The most important reason of migration for male is found to be employment while for female it is due to the migration of parents or earning member of the family. The household facilities index has improved for the Non-General category migrants while it is not so in case of General category migrants. The Standard of living index of migrants was found to have improved after migration.

Keywords: Migration; Rural Development; Informal Sector; Household Facilities Index; Standard Of Living Index.

Introduction

India is basically a rural country because 68.84 per cent of the India's population is rural. In this way, we can say that the development of India depends on the development of villages. So the development of the rural areas should be given paramount importance. "India lives in villages", a very true saying by Mahatma Gandhi. According to Gandhi ji's idea of Gram Swaraj, India can develop only through the rural development. He believed in self-sufficient village economy. He also felt that regeneration of India is not possible without reconstruction of village. Rural development is not possible through agriculture development only but also through the development of rural industries like handlooms, handicrafts, etc.¹

Migration, in general, means movement of individual or group of people from one place to another. The United Nation (UN) defined migration "as a form of geographical or spatial mobility from one geographical unit to another. It involves a change in residence from the place of origin or departure to the place of destination or arrival."² Whereas, according to National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO, 2008) "A household member whose last Usual Place of Residence (UPR) any time in the past was different from the present place of enumeration was considered as a migrant member in a household."³ Moreover, in Population Studies "migration implies a permanent or at least a semi-permanent change in the place of residence of an individual from one location to another".⁴ According to Census of India, 2001 "A person is considered as a migrant by place of last residence, if the place in which he enumerated during the census is other than his place of immediate last residence."⁵ In a nutshell, one can say that the basic characteristic of migration is the permanent and semi-permanent change in the place of residence of the people.

¹ Panday, A. (2008) "Gandhian Perspective of Rural Development", *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 69, No. 1, pp. 141-148.

² National Sample Survey Organisation (2010) "Migration in India 2007-08", Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, NSSO 64TH Round, Report No. 533 (64/10.2/2), New Delhi.

³ Ibid., p.22

⁴ Singh, J. P. (1980) "Population Mobility In India: Studies And Prospects", *Sociological Bulletin*, Indian Sociological Society, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 33-62

⁵ Census of India (2001), Registrar General and Census Commission of India, Government of India, New Delhi.

In the process of economic development and social transformation, migration plays a very important role. Though the pattern of labour migration and absorption is common to all the section of the economy; yet in case of India, more of the worker migrate from the agricultural sector to find employment in urban areas but they end up with getting employed in the informal sector. This sector provides employment to a large proportion of migrants. That's why this sector has become very important in recent time. "Informal sector provides about 92% to total employment and contribute about 60% to Net Domestic Product (NDP)".⁶

Statement of the Problem

Generally, people migrate in search of employment/better employment opportunities. Migrants are forced to leave their place of origin due to the lack of opportunities. They move to the urban centres with the hope that they can acquire a better life. In this way, we can say that migrants are attracted by the better employment opportunities, facilities and higher wages in the economically developed regions whereas pushed by absence of employment opportunities and resulting adversities in the developing or under-developed regions. Unequal regional development leads to internal migration.

Migration can transform the person who migrate, the region to which they migrate and even the region from where they migrate. Nowadays rural-urban migration has become a very common phenomenon. It is a common belief that people from rural areas migrate mainly due to the non-availability of the opportunities, facilities, resources, etc. in short due to the lack of rural development. In this way, we can say that migrants are attracted by the better employment opportunities, facilities and higher wages whereas they are pushed by absence of the same. They move to the urban centres with the hope that they can acquire a better life. So by studying the reasons, patterns of migration and the associated aspects one can understand better the problems/requirements of rural areas and accordingly develop the rural development plan.

As Indian villages are economically, politically and socially underdeveloped, it is not only the villagers who suffer continuously but also people who are educated refuse to work in the villages and hesitate to help them to develop. People from rural areas who migrate to cities in search of employment, generally work in unorganised sectors on low wages without any protection of labour legislation and often live in slums.

Objectives

The present study aims to capture the aspects of rural development with main focus on rural- urban migration

- To study the inter-relation between rural-urban migration and rural development.
- To analyse the patterns and reasons of rural to urban migration keeping in view the rural development.
- To study the conditions of migrants before and after migration.

Study Area

Delhi is situated in northern India. It extends from 28°-24'-17" to 28°-53'-00" North latitudes and 76°-50'-24" and 77°-20'-37" East longitudes. Delhi extends over an area of 1483 sq. Kms and is surrounded by Haryana on the north, south and west (Sonapat, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Faridabad districts) and by Uttar Pradesh on the east (Meerut, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar districts). Delhi was once part of the Indo-ganga water divide, but due to its expansion over the decade, Delhi had developed along to the right bank of Yamuna River and at the edge of the Gangetic plain. In the North and East, it is surrounded by the Indo-Gangetic alluvial plains, in the West by Thar Desert and in the South by Aravalli hill ranges.⁷

Delhi as a capital of India is one of the most important city for a long time and many rulers have ruled India from Delhi. It is the place where the presence of places of National importance and also a centre for national-level governing bodies, contribute to the overall development of Delhi. According to the 2011 census, the population of Delhi is about 16 million and is ranked the 18th most populated state in India. It has urbanization rate of about 97.5 per cent between 2001-2011. The Density of population in Delhi is highest (11297 persons per sq. Km.) among all

⁶ Bairagya, I. (2009) "Informal Sector in India: Contribution, Growth and Efficiency", Paper prepared for the Special IARIW-SAIM conference on "Measuring the Informal Economy in Developing Countries" This paper is posted on the following website: <http://www.iariw.org>

⁷ District Census Handbook, Census of India (2011), Directorate of Census Operations, Delhi, series 8, Part xii.

States and Union Territories in 2011. Delhi has been showing vigorous growth in infrastructure as well as economic growth, and all these have led to an increase in employment and other economic opportunities in the city.

Database

The present study is based on the Primary Survey conducted during October, 2014 to January, 2015. The data has been collected for migration and related aspects from five institutions of NCT-Delhi.

Methodology

A sample of 100 migrants, fifty Security Guards and fifty Safai-Karamcharies, have been selected for the present study. Security Guards and Safai-Karamcharies employed in unorganised sector have been interviewed using questionnaire from five institutions of NCT- Delhi namely: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Safdarjung hospital, All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) and National Institute for Family Welfare and Health Survey (NIFHS). The methodology which has been used in this study is analytical, descriptive as well as theoretical. Tables, charts, diagrams and choropleth maps have been used so that analysis, findings/ results would become easy to understand.

The Household facilities index (HFI) has been calculated for before as well as after migration using seventeen variables such as Pacca house, Own house, More than 2 rooms, Separate kitchen, LPG facility, filtered water for drinking, Legal electricity connection, private Laterine facility, flush Toilet facility, enclosed bathroom with tape, mobile Facility, percentage availability of TV, fan, cooler, refrigerator, motor cycle, and cycle. These variables converted into appropriate indicators by converting into percentages. To make the data comparable it was necessary to remove the scale bias, which has been done by dividing by mean and then summed up. After summing up, these are then divided by the number of indicators. It is calculated in order to analyse the condition of migrants in terms of the amenities and assets they possess before and after migration. HFI is calculated for General and non-General.

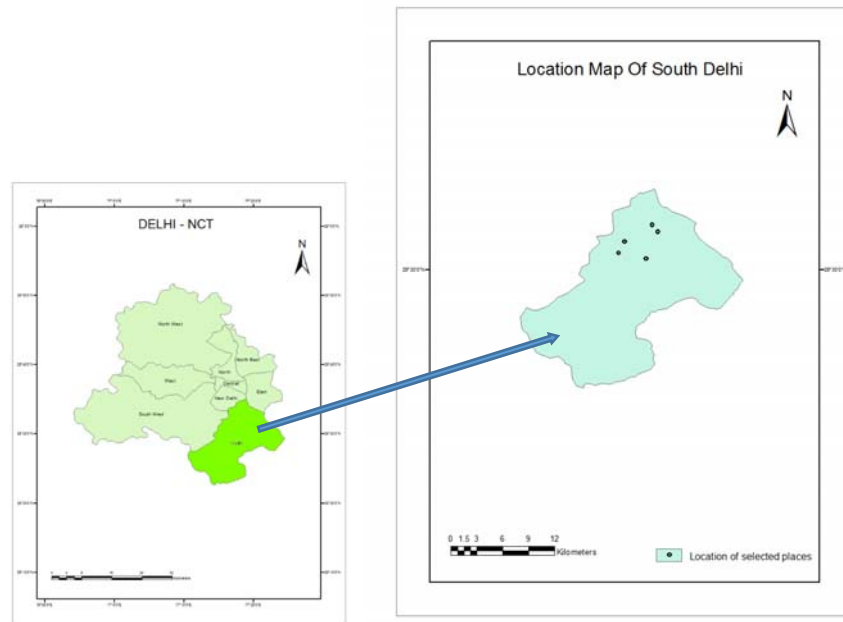
A composite index, i.e. standard of living index has been calculated in order to compare the households in terms of living standard using the weighting method. The standard of living index (SLI) used for the present study is based on the SLI calculated by NFSH-3⁸. In this method, each household amenities and assets is given a score. These scores then summed up and then the households are divided into quintiles i.e. five groups.

SLI has been calculated for household for both before and after migration, in order to assess their standard of living before and after migration and to see whether there is any improvement in their condition or not after migration.

Analysis

Migration is a process in which economic, social, educational, and also demographic factors play a very important role. On the basis of these factors, one decides to migrate or not. The decision to migrate are complex and differs with individual, household and community. Many a time psychological factor also play a very important role in migration. However, it is very difficult for women than men to take such decision, as women's decision is not only based on economic factor but also on norms, value, and cultural factors.

⁸ National Health Family Survey-3 2005-06 (2007), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, International Institute for Population Sciences, Vol. 1

Map no. 1: Location of South Delhi

Source: Census of India 2001

South district of Delhi ranks third in terms of area. It has 16.7 per cent of the total area of the state. In terms of population, it is second largest district. It comprises of 3 villages, and its two tehsils are totally urban. It has a density of 11060 persons per square kilometre, which is the 6th highest among all district of Delhi while it is placed at a seventh position in terms of Sex-ratio. With literacy rate 86.6 per cent it is on sixth position. In case of female work participation rate it is higher than state average having fourth position.

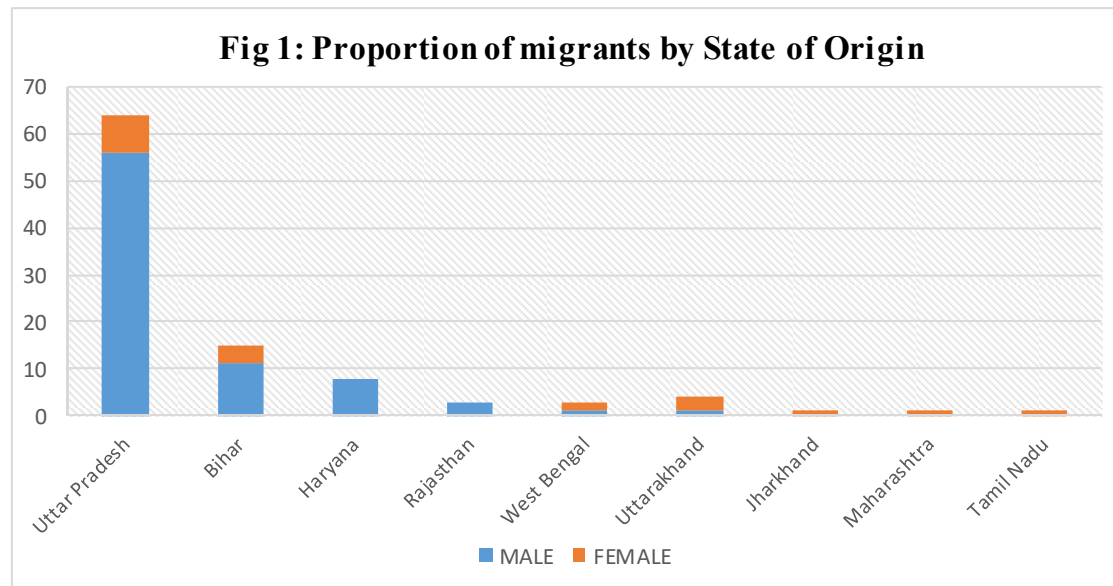
Table no. 1: Distribution of Respondents by selected Institutions

Study Area	Number of Migrant		
	Male	Female	Total
JNU	10	10	20
IIT	14	6	20
NIFHS	20	0	20
AIIMS	19	1	20
SAFDERJUNG	17	3	20
TOTAL	80	20	100

Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015
Proportion of migrants by state of origin

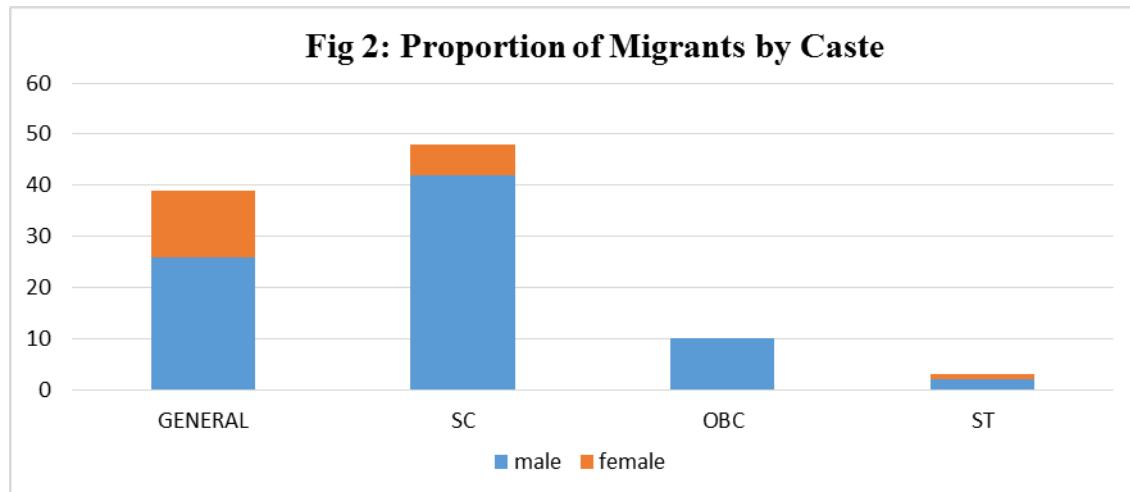
Migrants in Delhi has been found mainly from the states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand. Among them, most of the migrants were from Uttar Pradesh (64 per cent) followed by Bihar (15 per cent) and Haryana (8 per cent). The migrants coming from neighbouring states confirms that distance matters in case of taking decision for migration. The less the distance, the more the chances of migration would be. There is an inverse relationship between the distance and quantum of migration to Delhi.

Caste Composition of migrants



Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

Most of the migrants belong to the SC category followed by general category. In other words, one can say that the SC category people migrate more than other category. Several studies have also confirmed this, according to their findings, seasonal/temporary migration is found to be more rampant among the socially and economically depressed groups, such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and also among the poorest of the poor as well as landless households. These are mostly compelled by hardship that is a form of livelihood strategy of the rural poor (Deshingkar and Akter 2009; Keshri and Bhagat 2010). Moreover among the SCs, it is the Balmiki (32 per cent) caste people whose proportion is highest in terms of migration to Delhi followed by Brahmin (20 per cent) and Rajput (9 per cent). All the Balmiki migrants are found to be engaged in sanitation work whereas Brahmins and Rajputs are found to be working as a guard. This shows that still in present times, there is caste restriction in the types of occupation one involves in. It is also found that these were working as sweepers in their origin states also, the only difference is that the salary paid to them is higher in Delhi as compared to their states of origin. That is why they came far away from their home to get higher paid work and also for some stability.

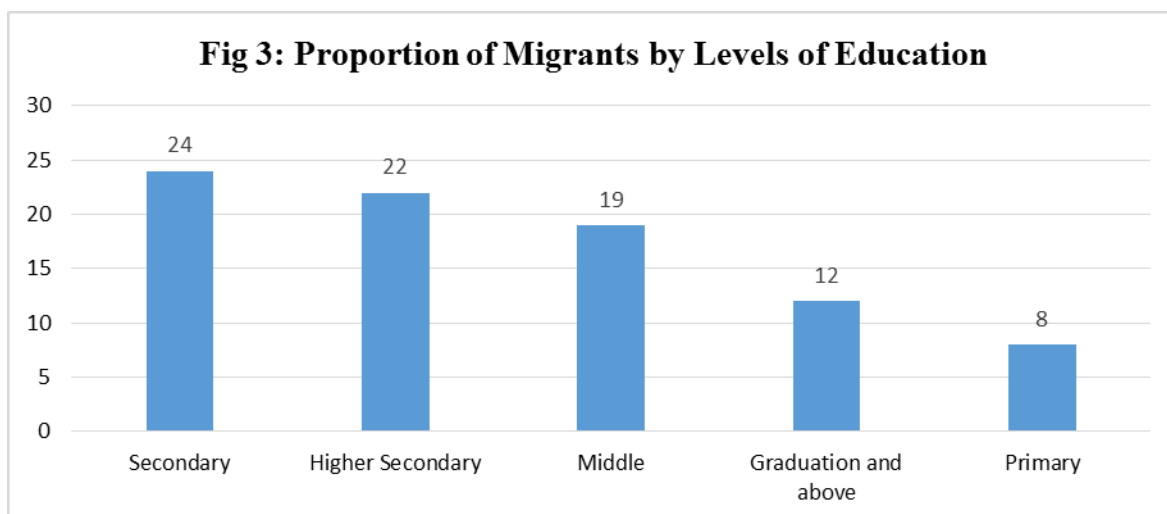


Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

Migrants by Levels of Education

Education is regarded as the key to prosperity and hence levels of prosperity, can be directly expressed in the terms of standards of education of the people.

It is found that most of the migrants have acquired Secondary level education (24 per cent) followed by Higher Secondary (22 per cent) while lowest proportion of migrants has completed Primary level education (8 per cent). About 15 per cent of migrants were illiterate, and they were generally working as Safai-Karamchari. Migrants having completed Secondary level of education are generally those who were working as Guards whereas migrants who are illiterate or have the lowest level of education are engaged in sanitation work. It is also found that "Nearly 70 per cent of the illiterate population in the sample was concentrated in four types of settlements, viz. *Jhuggi Jhopri* (JJ) clusters, unauthorised colonies, JJ resettlement colonies and urban villages in Delhi."⁹ It is found that about 95.29 per cent of migrants acquired education from government school while only 4.71 per cent acquired from private schools. This may be because in private schools fees are high whereas it is less in government schools.

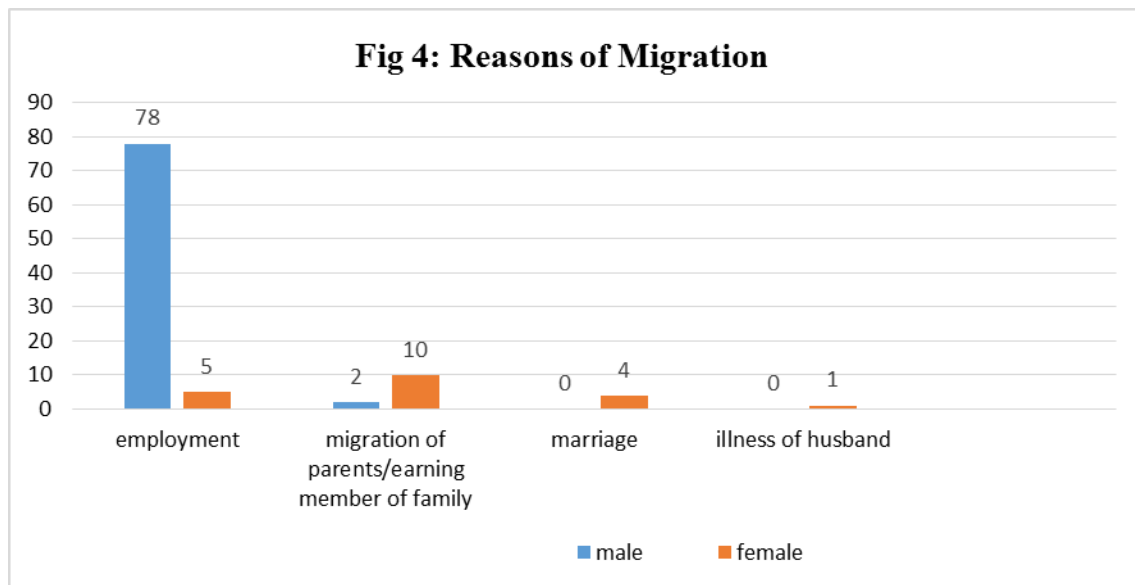


Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

⁹ Perceptions Survey of Delhi (2013), Government of India.

Reasons of Migration

Migration is a kind of movement in which people change their location of residence across well-defined administrative boundaries for a multiplicity of reasons. The reasons for the migration can be voluntary or involuntary, or a mixture of both. The decisions of whether to move, how, and where are complex, and it could include a multiplicity of actors in different ways. It is found that large proportion of males migrated because of economic reasons. According to 2007–2008 NSS Survey, 28.5 per cent of rural male migrants and 55.7 per cent of urban male migrants cited economic reasons as a major reason for migration. Migration took place for various reasons which are different for different individual or groups of people.



Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

The present study also confirms the fact that most of the migration is taking place even now for employment purpose. It is found that about 83 per cent of migrants migrated either in search of employment or in search of employment with better salary followed by migration due to migration of parents or earning member of the family (12 per cent). In case of gender, 78 per cent of the total migrants were the males who cited employment as a reason for migration whereas only 5 per cent female gave employment as a reason for migration. A major proportion of female (50 per cent) migrated due to the migration of earning member followed by marriage (20 per cent). Migration by the female for marriage is mainly due to the prevalent social custom of exogamous marriages. Some female also mentioned illness of husband for the reason of migration. It is found that who were involved in agricultural activity in their place of origin, migrated in search of new employment that is for non-agricultural activity whereas who were already involved in non-agricultural activity migrated in order to get higher salary. They mentioned that for the same work for which they used to get a salary of 200-300 at the place of origin, in Delhi they get 6000-7000. So from this one can infer that in cities like Delhi, people are not coming only in search of new employment opportunity but also for the higher salary.

Patterns of Migration

Respondents who came to the city were single migrants, with or without their family or with or without friends. Most of the respondent had someone known (either family members, relatives, friends or someone from the same community/locality) to give initial support and help. Generally, it is seen that after coming to the city, they lived with one of these known persons for few days, till they get familiar with the place. In most of the case, these new migrants mentioned that they are introduced by their contact persons to someone who can help them in finding the job. The early migrants/settled persons also found referring/introducing (or provides information) them to some of

the possible new openings. As the shift of labour force from agriculture to industry and the tertiary Sector is increasing, temporary migration has acquired importance in India.¹⁰

Table no. 2: Pattern of Migration

	Sex of Respondent		
	Male	Female	Total
Temporary	33	5	38
Permanent	47	15	62

Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

About 62 per cent of migrants mentioned that they have migrated permanently while 38 per cent of them reveal that they are staying in Delhi temporarily and gave several reasons for this. It has been found that 36.84 per cent of temporary migrants wished to go back to their native places while only 1 per cent showed his interest to go to another urban area that is Mumbai for work. The most common reason mentioned by them for temporary migration is that in their native place they have still land and property either in the form of agricultural land or build house. About 31.58 per cent of temporary migrants revealed that they want to go back to their native place because other family members are staying over there while 28.95 per cent stated that they don't like city life and want to go back to their place of origin to enjoy calm, peaceful, pollution free environment. "If individuals migrate leaving their families, land and property in the area of origin, they may do so with the intention of reverting back to the area of origin."¹¹ It is found that about 60 per cent migrants stated that their family members are residing with them at the current place of residence whereas 40 per cent kept their family at their village/hometown. Those who dislike the city life also include those who face discrimination at the place of destination. Discrimination at the place of destination forced migrants to their place of origin.¹²

Household facilities Index among General and Non-Generals caste Groups

From table no. 2, it is clear that General caste people's household facilities index have deteriorated after migration although not very much (only 0.4 point) whereas in case of non-General it is improved (by 0.5 point). This result shows that general caste had better facilities before than after migration. It may be due to the fact that in Delhi due to high cost they were not able to maintain the same facilities and amenities after migration. In case of SCs, they were able to improve their conditions may be because of better opportunities and salary they received after the migration which helped them to improve their condition.

Table no. 3: Household Facilities Index by General and Non-General

	HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES INDEX (HFI)	
	BEFORE	AFTER
GENERAL	1.07	1.03
NON-GENERAL	0.93	0.97

Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

¹⁰ Keshri, K and R B Bhagat (2010), "Temporary and seasonal migration in India", Genus, 66(3): 25-45.

¹¹ Srivastava, R and S K Sasikumar (2003): "An Overview of Migration in India, its Impacts and Key Issues". Paper presented at Regional Conference on Migration, Development and Pro-Poor Policy Choices in Asia, at Dhaka.

¹² Chandrasekhar, S. and Sharma (2012) "On the Internal Mobility of Indians: Knowledge Gaps and Emerging Concerns", WP-2012-023, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

Problems faced by Migrants

The most common problem faced by migrants before migration was joblessness (67.52 per cent) followed by money scarcity (26.44 per cent) whereas after migration less salary (51.06 per cent) is found to be biggest problem followed by inflation (36.17) as mentioned in table no. 4. About 13 per cent people mentioned that they didn't have any problem at the place of origin whereas 53 per cent at the place of destination said the same. During the interview it seemed that they are very reluctant in expressing any problem because they believe that even after expressing their problems, no one is going to solve them, so they weren't willing to express their problems. Other problems like no electricity, no road, no proper transport system, etc. were cited by migrants faced by them before migration whereas problems like air, water pollution, electricity, drinking water, etc. were the very common given by most of the migrants after migration.

Ramesh, a guard, expressed somewhat different problem that should be mentioned is that he said as he has to live in rented house, nobody is willing to give cylinder and he can take only one cylinder in one month.

Table no. 4: Problems faced by Migrants

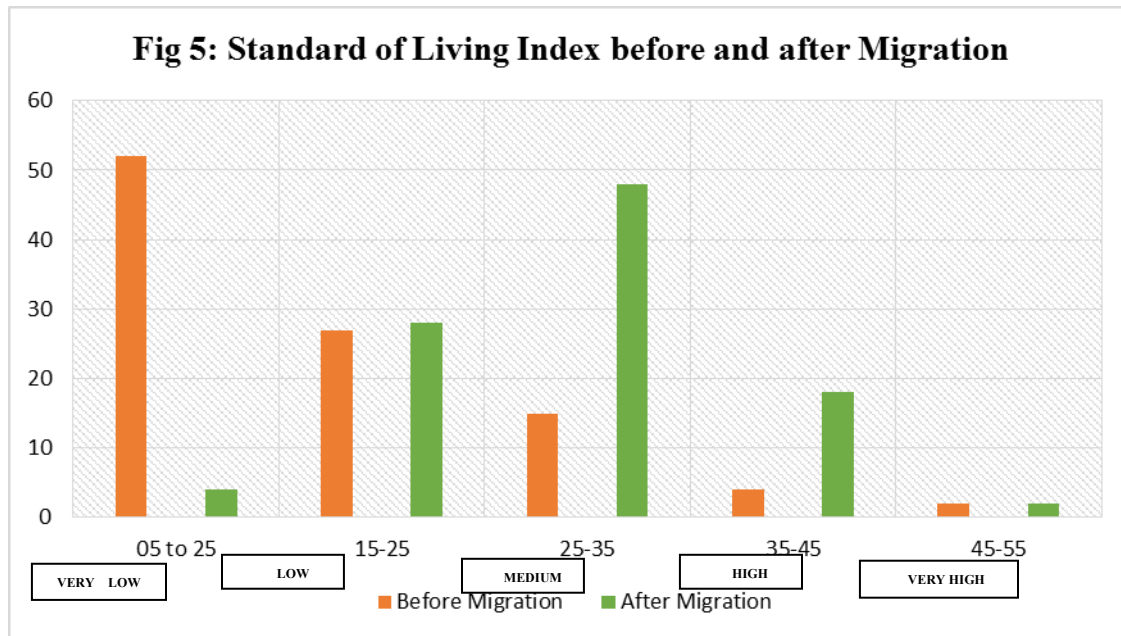
Problems			
BEFORE		AFTER	
Joblessness	65.52	Less Salary	51.06
Money Scarcity	26.44	Inflation	36.17
Fight Between Family	1.15	No Husband	2.13
Husband Working In Delhi	2.30	Water Scarcity	2.13
Less Salary	4.60	Salary Not Given On Time	2.13
		Not able to Save	4.26
		Fight with Other State people	2.13

Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

Standard Of Living Index (SLI)

Distribution of Households on the basis of Standard of Living before and after migration

Income of the household largely determined the standard of living of any household. Fig. 5 revealed that highest proportion of households have very low standard of living (quintile 1) before migration while after migration most of them have improved as 48 per cent of them found to be in the medium quintile. There is almost negligible change in the categories of low SLI and very high SLI, meaning thereby, no household was added or removed from this level of standard even after migration. The highest improvement have been seen in the third quintile followed by the second quintile. This may be because they didn't get enough wages to afford more than what they have to live a better life than the present.



Source: Researcher's construction based on primary survey carried out during October, 2014 to January, 2015

Findings

Rural development can have both effect, it may encourage migration or may discourage. But the present study found that due to the unavailability of opportunities, facilities and resources, most of the people migrate to urban regions. The most important reason of migration for male is found to be employment while for female it is due to the migration of parents or earning member of the family. The household facilities index has improved for the Non-General category migrants while it is not so in case of General category migrants. The Standard of living index of migrants was found to have improved after migration.

Conclusion

Rural development is very important for the country like India, as the percentage of rural population in India is about 68.84 per cent while percentage of urban population is only about 31.16 per cent. This rural population instead of liability can become asset of development.

Various factors such as low level of agricultural productivity, large scale unemployment and under employment, backward technology, dearth of capital, lack of proper infrastructures and job opportunities as well as other facilities (communication, connectivity, etc.) in rural areas force people to move to the areas and big cities for the search of better facilities, opportunities and livelihood.

Most of them don't get job in formal sector and end up getting employed in informal sector, mainly because, large proportion of them have low skill and less capital. As a result, the size of the informal sector has been increasing over the time. In the informal sector, there are more chances of getting the job but the workers get exploited here than in other sectors. It is largely because, there is no social and employment security benefits given to them. The workers of informal sector are provided poor working conditions, lower wages, denial of social standards and worker rights, and less freedom (in terms of decisions and action), this led to their vulnerability and impair the bargaining strength of workers.

So to prevent the above mentioned problems, there should be proper rural development. In order to regulate the movement of migrants and to prevent excessive concentration of population in the metropolitan cities it is essential to provide them with proper living facilities and better job opportunities in the rural areas. This will facilitate the growth in rural areas which ultimately results in shifting of the population from the metropolitan cities to these rural areas.

The technological innovation is needed as it will promote better agriculture production and markets to decrease the disparities in different regions. So for this, it is very necessary to develop improved redistribution policies. This will

in turn require the study to be done on internal migration in relation to rural development to point out some key areas in which such planning and policies are needed. A detailed study is required on internal migration, population redistribution and rural development for different regions and for different time period, in order to come out with policy decisions for the above mentioned objectives.

It would have been better for both rural and urban areas had the government gone for the smart villages instead of the smart cities. Rural development is beneficial not only for rural areas but also for urban areas, as this will check migration to urban areas and can reduce the urban congestion, pollution and scarcity of resources.

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