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## Rural Migration: A Strategy For Livelihood Enhancement In Agra District, Uttar Pradesh

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**Abstract:** *This research paper attempts to assess the impact of rural migration in expanding the horizon of rural livelihood. It investigates the various dimensions of rural migration in order to enhance the rural livelihood. The entire research work is based on primary sources of data generated through the field survey that has been carried out during 2020 in Agra District in Uttar Pradesh. The study finds out the share of migrants to the whole population. Moreover, the determinants or causes of the migration are found out on the basis of their social or economic motivation. Furthermore, the destination places of the migrants are also analysed, Delhi is the most attractive destination for the migrants of Agra District. The types of work adopted by the migrants are examined and found out that construction and sewing are the occupation that are widely adopted. The households generally migrate to meet their economic needs. Therefore, the income of the migrants is also fathomed and the remittances sent to home for the survival of the family, or the wealth accumulation, will be beneficial for everyone.*

**Key Words:** Livelihood, Rural migration, Migrants, Households and Income, rural livelihood, investigates, generated.

As indicated by DFID's feasible jobs glossary the term occupation methodologies signifies: the reach and mix of exercises and chances that individuals make to accomplish the job objectives. Job procedures include: how individuals join their pay generating exercises; the manner by which they utilize the resources; which resources they decided to put resources into; also, how they figure out how to protect existing resources and pay. Job are different at each level, for instance, individuals from a family might reside and work in better places participating in different exercises, either briefly or for all time. People themselves might depend on a scope of various pay creating exercises simultaneously (Solesbury, 2003, DFID, 2001). Occupation studies was not in the focal phase of the formative examinations, yet in the last part of the 1990s the work studies came in the primary smooth out when the economical Business Structure was solidly exposed by the Division or Global Turn of events (DFID) (Haan, 2012).

The means of livelihood are very complicated and dynamic in various rural spaces of countries, but the vulnerability of survival is common everywhere. The concept of livelihood is about to make ease for reducing the uncertainty of survival and expanding the horizons for new opportunities for individuals, households, or groups (Marschke and Berkers 2006, de Haan and Zoomers 2003). "A livelihood strategy can be defined as an activity or a set of activities in which a household engages to make a living which could be in agriculture, non-agriculture or cuts across both sectors. Both economic and set of factors constitute critical decision parameters that shape activity choices of households. Assets, skills, incomes or generally, endowments are as important as social class and caste, opportunities, social class, and caste, opportunities, social capital, and household's perception of risk in determining which activities household participate in (Takasaki et al. 2000)". More clarification in the definition of livelihood was made by Ellis (1998), he asserted "A livelihood strategy encompasses not only activities that generate income, but many other kinds of choices, including cultural and social choices, that come together to make up the primary occupation of a household." There are a number of determinants of livelihood strategy. The livelihoods are also widely predetermined by birth. Livelihoods of such category may be seen in rural India. The children may be introduced to any specific occupation such as washer man, weaver, tailor or sweeper according to the caste of their parents. Gender as socially characterised is additionally an unavoidable ascriptive determinant of livelihood activities. It is not necessarily applicable everywhere, a child may be born, into a family of farmer with land and agricultural tools, a shepherd with sheep, or a goldsmith with gold and moulding skills; and each of these may lead him to generate a new means of livelihood in the same stream (Chambers and Conway 1991).

Migration, in physical terms refers to the movement of individuals, households or group from one place to the another one. Migration is basically intentionally step; it makes the better opportunities for human to survive. It is found out that the globalisation is responsible for the higher rate of migration throughout the globe, within the borders and beyond the borders (Sundari 2005). Migration is the major cause of population change and population reallocation in a region. The study of migration is essential to get through the transforming stage of development of a country or a region by acknowledging the



inclination of people of rural area towards urban area for a period of time (Singh, 2016). In fact, "Internal migration is an integral part of development and should be recognised as such" asserted Mr. Louis-Georges Arsenault, UNICEF Indian Representative. Lucas point out that rural-urban migration offers chances to the people to increase their income, transform the people's attitude from subsistence production to wage labour and skilled work, switch from subsistence farming to cash cropping and commonly offers livelihood during risk periods (Jagger et al., 2012, Lucas, 1997).

The diversified livelihoods are often adopted by the rural households in developing countries in order to make them secure from deprivation and vulnerability, to preserve the expenditure means for household individuals and to stock up money (Jiao et al., 2017; Ellis, 1998). In developing countries, migration in the subsistence farming area is one of eminent non-farm economic practice. The researches have revealed that the remittances sent by migrants to home helped to erase poverty and enhance their livelihood as well as standard of living (Gautam, 2017). Migration is considered as one of the way embraced by the individuals, households or communities for livelihood enhancement. Migration remained so common to adopt among all the people in past. For instance, the studies tell that two-third of the farmers in Vietnam migrated for work in 1930s. The Indian census data suggests that one out of every two household was a migrant labourer in some districts of Bihar at the beginning of the century (Hann, A., 2000).

**The Study Area-** Agra Locale has been chosen as the review region for this examination paper. This locale positions first in quite a while of region in the territory of Uttar Pradesh. The headquarter of Agra Area is arranged in the city of Lakhimpur. The locale lies in the Lucknow Division (Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh). The region lies in the directions of 27°6' to 28°6' North and 80°34' to 81°30' east with an elevation of 152 meters from mean ocean level. The review region is rambling in the Terai fields of Uttar Pradesh. Sharda and Gomti stream are the fundamental waterways depleting the region.

The review is described by a novel element, Bhud-the sand plots lying over the waterway bed commonly along the stream course and furthermore past that in the occasional streams' catchment region. Kheri is a Minority Focused Locale based on 2001 statistics information, which distinguishes it as requiring dire guide to work on expectations for everyday comforts and conveniences. A 2010 study distributed by the Service of Metropolitan Improvement set Lakhimpur as the second-most reduced positioning city in India with regards to disinfection.

#### **Objectives-**

- \* To examine the status and the dimensions of rural migration.
- \* To evaluate the impact of rural migration on rural livelihood.

**Data base and Methodology-** Financial study requires information of essential beginning for its unwavering quality and realness. For the assortment of information, as a rule, three particular devices are utilized in friendly exploration. They are Perception, Interview and Timetable. They are extensively used to discover new realities and confirm the old realities of the issues attempted for the review. As the paper means to assess the financial states of families and the country out movement in the locale, where optional information related to different financial pointers are not accessible, it is completely relied upon essential wellspring of information, and a financial overview has been directed during 2020 for this reason.

\* A method of random stratified sampling has been taken into consideration and six villages and have Jhalas (Sikh farmsteads) of Kheri district has been taken under survey. One village of each block has been surveyed using random sampling method considering five percent of households. The purpose of data collection, a questionnaire with both open and close ended questions has been prepared. Respondents have been subject to direct investigation and questions related to various socio-economic indicators were asked to them. The paper starts the data analysis by defining migration. Given the fact that our sample includes rural households whose members might out-migrate temporarily and come back home during the crop planting and harvesting periods, a migrant is defined in our study as a household member who moves to urban areas outside of the original province for at least one month" (Nguyen et al., 2015)

**Results and Discussion-** Migration is one of the important variables of the population distribution. Migration is essential for development and it is a desirable phenomenon. But what is not desirable is the distressed migration, found in most of the developing countries resulting in overcrowding of cities and mushrooming slums" (Das and Saha 1992). The results and findings of the data collected in the study area is discussed with help of tables and analysis.

Table 1 reveals the status of migration among the respondents. It is evident from the data that female migrants are more than the male migrants. The female migration accounts for about 13 percent and the major cause behind the female migration is marriage. But for the male out migration, mostly the economic determinants are responsible and about 11 percent of the population moved to other places in order to find the work. This research paper does not examine the female migration

that occurred due to marriage; except this all migration categories has been keep in the following analysis.

For the better study the causes or determinants of the rural male outmigration has been categorised in social and economic. The migrants weremotivated more economically rather than socially. About 54 per cent of the migrants were moved for economic causes while about 46 per cent of the migrants were migrated by social causes. In the economic causes, unemployment and landlessness or smallholdings were the major causes for the migration, that accounts for about 33 percent and 23 per cent respectively. Moreover, the

**Table I: Migration Status**

Sr. No.	Migration Status	Percentage
1.	Non-Migrant	76.19
2.	Female migrants	12.8
3.	Male Migrants	11.01
	Total	100

Source: Calculation Is Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2022

**Table 2: Socio-Economic Causes of Rural Migration**

Economic Causes	Percentage	Social Causes	Percentage
Unemployment	32.52	Poverty	39.84
Landlessness/Small land holding	23	Lack of Education	12.29
Irregular work	14.28	Marriage	12.75
Low wages	10.02	Construction of House	10.26
To Pay Debt	9.64	Medical Need	9.55
Late Payment	7.75	Family Pressure	8.94
Others	2.79	Others	6.37
	100		100
Total	(54.47)*	Total	(45.53)*

Source: Calculation is Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2020

workers were also irritated by irregular work, low wages and late payment in the rural areas so they opted to move other places for work. Data also compelled the people to migrate for work that accounts for about eight per cent. On the other hand, the social causes have also variation in order to determine the movement of people. Poverty, the major cause alone responsible about 40 per cent migration. However, there are other various social causes that are responsible for migration i.e. lack of education, marriage, construction of house, medical needs, family pressure and so on. Table-3 depicts the destination places that were aimed by the rural migrants. The interviews with the respondents revealed that initially, the migrants were more inclined to Uttarakhand, but later they were more attracted by New Delhi. New Delhi only attracts 33 per cent of male migrants. Uttarakhand is on the second place to offer opportunities for livelihood; about 15 per cent of the male migrants moved to Uttarakhand state to fulfill their requirements. Rural Haryana always has been remained a attractive place for migrant labours; about nine percent of the population of Agra District has been migrated to Haryana. During the Indo-Pak partition, thousands of Sikhs migrated and settled in Tarai region. They imported the agriculture machinery from Punjab and made this area more capable for agriculture.

As a result, the Punjab and Tarai region have still a strong link. The workers migrate to the karkhanas of agricultural machinery; about five per cent people were migrated to Punjab state in rural areas as well as urban areas. Bihar state also attracted the migrants that accounts five per cent, mostly in rural areas. A number of individuals, and groups also found migrated within the state. Lucknow, Bareilly, Gorakhpur and Saharanpur are the main destination for seasonal migrants. Migrants in the Muslim community also migrated to Saudi Arabia as skilled workers. Similarly, in Sikh community people have migrated to Canada.

**Table 3: Destination of Migrants**

Sr. No.	Destination	Percentage
1.	New Delhi	32.91
2.	Uttarakhand	15.19
3.	Haryana	08.86
4.	Punjab	05.06
5.	Bihar	05.7
6.	International	06.33
7.	Others	25.95
	Total	100

Source: Calculation is Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2020





Table 4 shows the type of work that was adopted by the migrants. The destination also relates to the type of work; migrants that were migrated to Uttarakhand mostly engaged in construction work that accounts for about 27 per cent. Delhi attracted the migrants who have skill in sewing. Many time unskilled workers went there with skilled workers and started to learn with them. About 24 per cent of the migrants are engaged in sewing.

A chunk of migrants involves in unskilled work that accounts for about 13 percent. Haryana pulled the agricultural workers who works in the field; these migrants had a share of about 11 per cent. The eastern Tarai region and Bihar have demand for drivers of tractors, combine harvesters and straw reapers. Mostly the migrants in this region during harvesting season of wheat and rice. Driving was adopted by nine per cent of the migrants. The migrants specially in groups went for the brinklin works in the nearby regions for months; these type of migrants' accounts for about 9 per cent. The other type of work adopted by the migrants is manufacturing that is more beneficial and money oriented for the migrants. Manufacturing has been adopted by about 7 per cent of migrants. These migrants pulled by the karkhanas of agriculture machinery and tools speciilly combine harvester in Punjab state.

Table-5 explains the monthly income of the migrants. This point is to be keep in mind that the migrants did not leave their home for entire year. Some of them are migrated for whole year. But some are seasonal. There was a huge variation among the migrants in their incomes.

In general, the unskilled workers had very low wages, while the workers engaged in sewing and manufacturing had a very good amount as well as skilled workers are more secure on their work. About four per cent of the migrants had their monthly income less than ₹3000 per month.

The monthly income ranging from ₹3000 to ₹6000 went to 18 per cent of the migrants. Most of the people got their income between ₹6000 and ₹9000 that accounts for about 30 per cent. High wages were given to the workers who were engaged in manufacturing and driving; mostly this type of migrant workers was getting their income between ₹9000 and ₹15000. The highest income was gotten by the migrants who were migrated to Saudi Arabia; they were getting the monthly salary between ₹20000 an ₹30000.

**Table 4: Type of Work of Migrants**

Sr. No.	Work	Percentage
1.	Construction	27.46
2.	Sewing	23.94
3.	Unskilled Work	13.38
4.	Agriculture	10.56
5.	Driver	09.16
6.	Brinklin Labour	08.45
7.	Manufacturing	07.04
	Total	100

**Source: Calculation is Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2020**

Table 6 analyses the remittances sent to home by the migrants. A good amount of remittances is sent to home that supports the family needs and reduce the vulnerability of the people. The remittances are utilised in the survival of the family, construction of houses, marriage of the girls, pay the debt and many other requirements. About 32 per cent of the migrants sent ₹5000 in a year, while 25 per cent of the workers sent money between Rs. 15000 and 30000. The remittances between Rs. 30000 and Rs. 45000 were sent by about 23 per cent of the migrants.

It is clear from the table that more amount of remittances was sent by less migrants. However, about 15 per cent of migrants were having sent remittances between ₹45000 and ₹60000. The high income and regular works lead to the high remittances back to home. Only migrants who were migrated to other countries had the regular work and good money; about six percent of the migrants sent more than Rs. 60000 to their homes.

**Table 5: Migrant Workers Income**

Sr.No.	Income in Rupees (monthly)	Percentage
1.	0-3000	03.51
2.	3000-6000	18.00
3.	6000-9000	29.89
4.	9000-12000	21.12
5.	12000-15000	15.38
6.	>15000	12.1
	Total	100

**Source: "Calculation is Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2020"**



**Table 6: Remittances Sent to Home by Migrant Workers**

S.No.	Remittances in Rupees (annual)	Percentage
1	<15000	32.24
2	15000-30000	24.57
3	30000-45000	22.6
4	45000-60000	14.87
5	>60000	05.72
	Total	100

**Source: Calculations Based on Sample Survey, Mar.2020**

**Suggestion and Policy Implications** Although, migration is good for the rural development as well as it also fulfils the labour supply in the urban areas; but it creates a number of problems in the urban areas. In fact, the households are compelled by the adverse social and economic conditions for their survival, therefore, they leave their native place. If, all the facilities are available in the rural areas, the migration can be reduced to some extent. Some of the remedial measures can be adopted to reduce the migration. The agro-based and agro-ancillary industries should be developed in the rural areas which will offer work to the people in the agriculture slack season. The fragmented landholding should be consolidated for better agricultural productivity.

**Conclusion-** The study summarises that mobility of households is important for the prosperous life of the rural household. The migrants are moving to the other states as well as within state and doing different type of works. The people, in general are targeting those places for the work where the work is easily available and payment process is efficient. Even the skilled labour is ready to do unskilled work if work is regular and payment is good at the site. The construction work is easily available everywhere and wages are mostly available instantly in the eve of the day. So, most of the migrants go for the construction work. Because of this nature, the migrants are not getting wages as higher as they should get. A small chunk of migrants is getting a good amount who are permanent at their work for the entire year and engaged in manufacturing.

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