



Indian Farmer
Volume 8, Issue 01, 2021, Pp. 11-14
Available online at: www.indianfarmer.net
ISSN: 2394-1227 (Online)

POLICY PAPER



Migration of youth from agriculture

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Article Received on: 11 December 2020

Published on: 1 January 2021

ABSTRACT

In India, youth are the primary production resource of socio economic development. The population in the age-group of 15-34 in India has increased from 353 million in 2001 to 430 million in 2011. More than half of India's population is under the age of 25 with 65 per cent of the population under 35. The fact says that India is losing more than 2,000 farmers every single day and that since 1991, the overall number of farmers has dropped by 15 million. The rural population is about 70 per cent and the indications are that the migration of rural youth to cities is around 45 per cent in the country. The share of workforce employed in agriculture has been declined from 65 per cent in 1993-94 to about 50 per cent in 2011-12.

Keywords: Agriculture, Consequences, Migration, Youth

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is an important economic activity in India, contributing around 50% of the employment generation and 16-17% to the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation. Most of members in rural areas major occupation is agriculture, agriculture is base for food security, it has a great potential towards creation economic growth in rural families. Being a subsistence activity, agriculture shares maximum contribution in the national economy. Nearly 70 % of India's population is below the age of 35 years (2011 census), But their participation in agriculture only 3.5%.

It is estimated that percentage of agricultural workers of the total work force would drop to 25.7 per cent by 2050 from 58.2 per cent in 2001. However, the income generated from agriculture is not sufficient to engage the rural youth in farming

profession. Lack of economic incentives coupled with other factors like lack of infrastructure for education, and opportunities for employment lead to the migration of the rural youth to the urban areas. This phenomenon has resulted in decrease in the work force in the villages, leading over labor population in urban areas and results in low wages due to competition and wide spread poverty. The situation becomes worse when the youth drop out from the agriculture and move to the urban areas in search of better employment opportunities, if this is the case who will feed our growing population, and for food products we should depend on other countries. This situation is aggravated by the biased government policies for the rural youth, lack of awareness and ever spreading poverty. One of the factors affecting rurallabour supply needed for agricultural production. In the past few years, rural youth have been shying away from agriculture and consider farming as unattractive and globally there is an increasing interest in finding ways of engaging youth in agriculture. In the last 50 years the rural population has decreased from 82.0 to 68.9 per cent. Migration from rural to urban areas is up from 27.8 to 31.1 per cent since 2001. It is estimated that approximately 2 million people are shifting from rural to urban area annually and approximately 22 million people have migrated from rural to urban areas since 2001. and If such rate of migration will continue, there will be big threat to our food security. Such a large migration of youth from rural to urban areas presents a complex challenge before the academicians, researchers and policy makers and call immediate attention. Thus, it is important to understand the factors responsible for the youth migration from rural to urban areas and effect of this migration on both rural and urban economy.

YOUTH DEFINITION

United Nations' definition of youth is people from 15 to 24 years of age. urban pattern of migration is the shortage of agricultural. Youth are defined as those aged **15 to 29** in the national youth policy (2014) in India.

Migration

Movement of people from one place to another temporarily, seasonally or permanently, for a host of voluntary or involuntary reasons." (According to the United Nation's 2008).

Types of Migration

Reasons for Migration

Migration is mostly influenced by social structure and pattern of development. Uneven development is the main reasons for migration and this can be grouped has a push and pull factors.

Push factors: The rural situation push the individuals towards urban areas like Low agricultural productivity, Unemployment, Poverty, Poor Education, Natural calamities, Lack of food, Landlessness and war.

Pull factors: Pull factors are reinforced by a variety of factors, ranging from the high wages and worker's protectionism offered by urban sectors like Rapid urbanization, Industrialization, Expanding transport sector, Employment

Opportunities, Higher wages, Better opportunities for education and Sources of entertainment.

CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION

1. Economic Consequences

A) Positive consequences:

- ❖ The remittance (payments) sent by migrants to their homes help in the growth of economy of the region.
- ❖ This money is mainly used by the family for purchasing food, repayment of debts, medical treatment, marriages, children's education, purchasing agricultural inputs, etc.
- ❖ Many poor villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, depend on this money for their survival.

B) Negative consequences:

- ❖ Unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding.
- ❖ Development of slums in industrially developed states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi is the result of unregulated migration.
- ❖ The under-development gets even worse due to out migration of skilled people.

2. Demographic consequences

A) Positive consequences:

- ❖ Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country.
- ❖ It results in balanced distribution of people according to resources.
- ❖ Rural-urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population growth of cities.

B) Negative consequences:

- ❖ It results in imbalances in sex composition due to selective male or female migration.
- ❖ Large cities have unfavourable sex ratio as compared to rural areas due to high male immigration.
- ❖ Shortage of skilled people in rural areas because most of skilled and semiskilled people migrate to urban areas.

3. Social consequences

A) Positive consequences

- ❖ Migration also leads to intermixing of people from diverse cultures and results in the evolution of composite culture.
- ❖ Migrants act as agents of social change. The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girls' education, etc. get spread from urban to rural areas through them.
- ❖ The mind set of people changes. They start thinking broadly and the narrow views changes.

B) Negative consequences:

- ❖ It also causes anonymity, which creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals.

- ❖ Continued feeling of dejection may motivate people to fall in the trap of antisocial activities like crime and drug abuse.
- ❖ Migration affects the women more. In the rural areas, male selective out migration leaving their wives behind puts extra physical as well mental pressure on the women which increases their vulnerability.

4. Environmental consequences

- ❖ Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas.
- ❖ This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies.
- ❖ Apart from this, due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, and disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

CONCLUSION

Thus there is a need to encourage rural youth involving them in farming and the challenges they face are to be addressed. To address this big challenge besides the many programs, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated a scheme Attracting and Retention of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) to encourage youth to take up farming. Migration is a common phenomenon and results in imbalance in the workforce in rural and urban areas. It is important to understand the changing needs of the rural youth and address the same with targeted policies and schemes. Instead of subsidizing the demands of the rural people, emphasis should be given to skill development and self-employment and youth should be educated about startups, so that migration can be mitigated.

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