



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Rural To Urban Migration-Opportunities and Challenges

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### Abstract

This paper analyzes the rural to urban migration opportunities and challenges in the study area. Primary data of this paper is collect from manvi taluk of Raichure district, here we find that 95% of the labourers are migrating because of seasonal unemployment, 98.2% labourers were revealed that poverty is the reason to migrate and most of the migrants belong to the marginalized group of the society. Most of the respondents fall into the young age group between 15 to 30 years, 99.6% migrant labourers income has increased due to seasonal migration. The expenditure of every migrant increased whereas 92.0% labourers savings have also increased. And the volume of debt has decreased due to increase in their income.

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## INTRODUCTION

Migration has been broadly defined as a spatial shift or “movement by humans from one locality to another, sometimes over long distances and in large groups” (Wikipedia 2009). UNESCO (2009) provides a more structured definition of migration as crossing boundaries and communities; the crossing of the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a certain minimum period of time.

India had the second highest urban population in the world in 2012 and will be amongst the fastest growing urban populations globally between 2013 and 2020. This urbanizing trend holds significant investment and consumer market potential but also creates challenges like over-crowding, pollution and rising crime levels.

Urbanization is unstoppable and is generally associated with rural underdevelopment and migration. Sustained economic growth and higher urban wages are providing a new impetus to urbanization in India. “People move for work and/or for higher income. Urban work is more productive than rural work, and as a result, urban wages are higher. Whether one has a college degree or a primary school education, an equally skilled individual will almost certainly earn more in urban settings by working in a factory, office, shop – or even the informal or shadow economy – than in a village.”

No one element can be considered the single contributing force in fostering migration pressure, and the relative importance of each may be highly context-specific. Moreover, whatever the types of ‘free’ migration in terms of both time and space (i.e. excluding forced migration due to natural calamity or conflicts) usually it is the difference in circumstances that matter (Taylor and Martin, 2001): the perceived gap in potential incomes, the prospect of greater household security, the existence of social networks, the availability of information about migration outcomes at origin and destinations. These motives would be different by age and sex selectivity, level of education, skills and the requirements of receiving countries. In a recent work combining main theoretical approaches to explain Albanian migration, Carletto et al. (2005) show how individual, household and community (networks) factors have a significant role in the decision to migrate. They also find evidence of the importance of heterogeneity of these factors in influencing different types of migration and destination (i.e. permanent or temporary migration, Greece or Italy).

Rural to urban migration is an inevitable component of the development process, and does not necessarily have to result in adverse impacts. With the right mix of policies, this process can occur at a socially acceptable level. However, given the distortion of opportunities in favor of cities in most developing countries, the costs associated with rural-urban migration often outweigh the benefits, leading to excessive urbanization. In Developing Economies the level of urban wages tends to induce more people to seek employment in the towns than can be employed at this wage level. The existence of these urban unemployed causes the private costs of migration to diverge from the social costs. The individual rural resident decides to remain or migrate on the basis of perceived private costs of migration.

**Following are some of the literature reviewed to identify the research gap.**

**Mariapia Mendola (2006)** Labour migration is a pervasive feature of economic development. People mobility for temporary or permanent labour purposes is a routine part of agricultural activity. There are very significant migration flows in some developing areas, with considerable impacts on individuals, households and regions at origin. Despite the growing debate about motivations and impacts of recent migration flows, costs and returns of this global phenomenon are still unclear and remain far outside the public policy realm. This is true especially with respect to migration of people from rural areas of developing countries. The purpose of this author is to review key issues relating to rural labour migration and its links to economic development at origin. What is the impact of migration, both internal and international, on rural and agricultural development in sending regions? This paper examines the empirical research that, despite the paucity of data, offers a basis to glean some insights into the migration-development nexus.

**Arjan De Haan (2011)** this paper discusses the relationship between labour migration and poverty in India. The paper focuses on the migration patterns of deprived social groups, analyze whether migration form a route out of poverty, and what specific policies for these groups exist or should be recommended. The paper first discusses general findings on the links between poverty and internal labour migration. These stylized facts are used to structure the insights into the changes in migration patterns in India, highlighting the under-recording of migration of most vulnerable groups. The third section discusses the implications of these insights for a notion of Inclusive Growth, concluding there is a need to address the invisibility of migrants and to review common policy aspirations to reduce migration. The conclusion reflects on the analysis of migration and policies to enhance migrants' well-being and ability to participate in India's desexualizing growth.

**Y. Haberfeld et al (1999)**, examine both the determinants and impact of seasonal migration. Detailed information was gathered from all members of 624 households, thus enabling analyses at both individual and household levels. The findings indicate that seasonal migration among rural laborers is wide-spread. Rural households in India use migrant labor offered by their members to improve their well-being by both reducing the impacts of inferior conditions and by raising household's income levels. Migrant labor is a compensating mechanism used by households to reduce their disadvantageous position. Migrant households are characterized by lower education levels, lower levels of income from agriculture, and by an inferior geographical location. However, those households sending migrant labor are found to have higher income levels than those not sending migrant labor.

**J. R. Rele (2002)** the trends in the extent of internal migration and urbanization in India are analyzed in this paper in the context of the development process within the country. The economic significance of these population movements is discussed.

**Richard E. Bilsborrow (1992)** this paper examines possible relationships between demographic processes and the environment in rural areas in developing countries. Evidence is reviewed on increasing degradation in the forms of deforestation, soil erosion and soil desiccation. The conceptual frame work considers changes in demographics as well as economic behavior being induced by population growth and increasing pressures upon the land, but the focus here is on economic changes in the form of land intensification-Often involving internal migration-And land intensification. Despite data problems, the expected relationships are observed: countries with higher rural population growth tend to have larger increases in the arable land area and associated deforestation, but the intensification effects appear stronger. The paper concludes with implications for policy and further research.

**Objectives**

- 1) To examine the socio-economic status of migrant agricultural labourers in Manvi Taluk of Raichur District.
- 2) To analyses the reasons for migration.
- 3) To understand their living conditions before and after migration.

**Hypotheses**

The study has set the following hypotheses for investigation.

- 1) Migration has improved the socio-economic status of migrant agricultural labourers.
- 2) Majority of migrants are from socially backward classes and economically depressed classes.

## Methodology

The methodological section envelops a brief discussion of the study area, sample design, nature and sources of data and analytical framework employed in the present study, for addressing the set of objectives.

### Study Area

The present study is undertaken in Manvi Taluk of Raichur district of Karnataka state for an in-depth analysis. The selection of Taluk was purposive and for the following reasons.

- a). The Taluk has provided the necessary background for the study due to highest agriculture labourer migration from this Taluk to other districts and states.
- b). The labour migration from Manvi Taluk to other districts/states is common in this district/region. The semiskilled and most of unskilled labourers are migrating from the Taluk.

Against this background, Manvi Taluk of Raichur district has become an ideal choice for conducting the present study on socio-economic status of migrant agricultural labourers.

The data collected during the time of enquiry were scrutinized and tabulated. The descriptive statistics of frequencies, weighted averages, cross tabs.

### Socio-Economic Conditions

The Above-1 table shows the respondent details regarding age and caste. Most of the respondents fall into the young age group between 15 to 30 years, and they represent 53.3% of the total number of migrants. Whereas the respondent belongs to age between 31 to 45 years represents 37.8% of the total. The age group of above 45 years constitute third highest and represent 8.9% of the total.

Details regarding the caste of the respondents are also shown in the table. The agricultural labourers belongs to Schedule Caste are more likely to migrate in the study area. Whereas the labourers belongs to Other Backward Class and Schedule tribe are almost same and with marginal difference represent second and third position respectively.

The data in the above table depicted in the pie diagram below. The table as well as diagram shows education levels of the respondents. According to the data most of the respondents are illiterates, who even don't know their signature and they represent 58.7% of the total. Whereas 24.4% of the respondents studied only primary level and they constitute the second highest. The percentage of the respondents who got the high school and college level is 12% and 4.9% respectively. This speaks about the economic need behind this type of migration. Since most of them were working on the land the migration to rural areas also poses a challenge to the agricultural productivity in the field study area.

The table 3 highlights the availability and conditions of the basic living facilities of the respondents at the destination. According to the information given in the table 85.8% of the migrant labourers were living in the tin sheds at destination place which were not in good condition whereas 14.2% of the people living in rented houses. They were somewhat in good condition compared to sheds. 87.1% of the migrants living in the sheds near to the construction fields and outside the field are getting clean water for drinking in the urban migrated place whereas the 12.9% of the people are not getting clean drinking water. 86.7% respondents in their sheds and homes having good electricity facility in the destination. Whereas 13.3% of the migrant labourers not having even a single bulb in their shed or house in the destination.

There are many reasons behind the seasonal migration of agriculture labourers. The above bar chart shows the reasons behind the seasonal migration of agriculture labourers in the study area. The 95% of the labourers are migrating because of seasonal unemployment, 98.2% labourers were revealed that poverty is the reason to migrate, 53.3% labourers said high wages in urban areas is the reason behind their migration where as only 7.1 labourers given small holdings as their reason to migrate and 53.8% labourers were migrating due to lack of irrigation facility. The above data reveals that majority of the migrants are poor, and belongs to backward communities. and the main reason for migration is poverty and they start their migration on a temporary basis as it is always seasonal migration.

The table 4 shows the Economic impact of seasonal migration on income, expenditure, savings and debt position of seasonal migrant agricultural labourers. Migration helped to increase the income of 99.6% respondents. Whereas expenditure of every migrant labourers has increased. Migration also increased the savings of the 92.0% seasonal migrant labourers. Seasonal migration also helped labourers in repayment of debts. Therefore 73.3% migrants said that their volume of debt has decreased.

## Major Findings

1. The primary data collected during the field survey have shown that most of the seasonal migrants fall into the young age group. Within this group number of male and female migrants is 44.24 and 34.54 respectively. This shows that there is seasonal unemployment in the villages of study area.
2. The study proved that there is significant association between seasonal unemployment and seasonal migration. 95% of the migrants were migrated due to seasonal unemployment in the study area. The poverty also playing a significant role in seasonal migration. 98.2% of the labourers migrating due to poverty.
3. 99.6% migrant labourers income has increased due to seasonal migration. The expenditure of every migrant increased whereas 92.0% labourers savings have also increased. And the volume of debt has decreased due to increase in their income.
4. According to primary data 94.7% of the people are migrating within the state boundary and 73.3% of the labourers are migrating for a period between 3 and 6 months. Whereas 26.7% labourers are migrating for a period less than 3 months. This stream of migration shows that this is a seasonal and rural out migration.

## Conclusion

The rural to urban migration has its own advantages and disadvantages. It creates lot of opportunities to the rural youth who are in search of wage giving employments and are suffering from seasonal unemployment in agricultural sector. The case study reveals the significant rise in their income level after the migration. This increased income will definitely improve their standard of living. Since most of the migrants are from backward communities, urban migration is also making them better placed economically.

But there are challenges to face. As it is well known factor that the migrants are agricultural labourers on whom the agricultural productivity is depending. With their migration the land lords and land holders in Manvi are finding it difficult to cultivate the land. Along with this the region is also facing severe drought leading to no work on land and no agriculture productivity. Therefore there is a threat to agricultural development in the area of study.

In the destination places also lot of challenges are there for the migrants to face as there is no proper facility provided to them in the urban areas. the migrants though getting reasonably good income the cost of living in the urban areas is relatively high and these migrants are provided with no proper infrastructure facilities, housing facilities and other essential facilities like drinking water, sanitation, schools and hospitals leading to generation of slums in urban places by the migrants .This social cost has become a challenge to the society where the migration is taking place.

Finally we can conclude that the unfettered flow of rural migrants imposes tremendous pressure on existing infrastructures of the towns and cities creating undesirable fallout in the form of unemployment, congestion, slums & squalor, environmental degradation and spiraling crime rate. Economic plans by focusing their allocation in urban centers contributes to the problem by aggravating the urban-rural disparity which accelerates the rural to urban flow of migrants.

Seasonal migration is due to a number of push factors operating in rural areas and pull factors emanating from urban areas. The development of industries, transport, communication etc. made people to be rational because even working less hours they are getting good wages in urban areas than rural areas especially in agriculture sector. This type of migration is very natural in the development process and a comprehensive policy to regulate this form of migration must address relevant factors both at the place of origin and at the place of destination.

**Table- 1**Age-wise and Caste-wise Respondents Details

Age group	Frequency	Percentage	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Between 15-30</b>	120	53.3	<b>SC</b>	102	45.3
<b>Between 31 - 45</b>	85	37.8	<b>ST</b>	61	27.1
<b>Above 45</b>	20	8.9	<b>OBC</b>	62	27.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

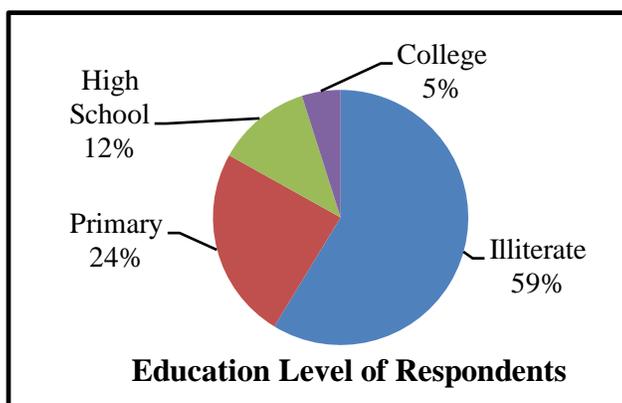
Source: field survey

**Table- 2.** Educational Level of the Respondents.

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	132	58.7
Primary	55	24.4
High School	27	12.0
College	11	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: field survey

**Fig: 1 Education Level of the Respondents**

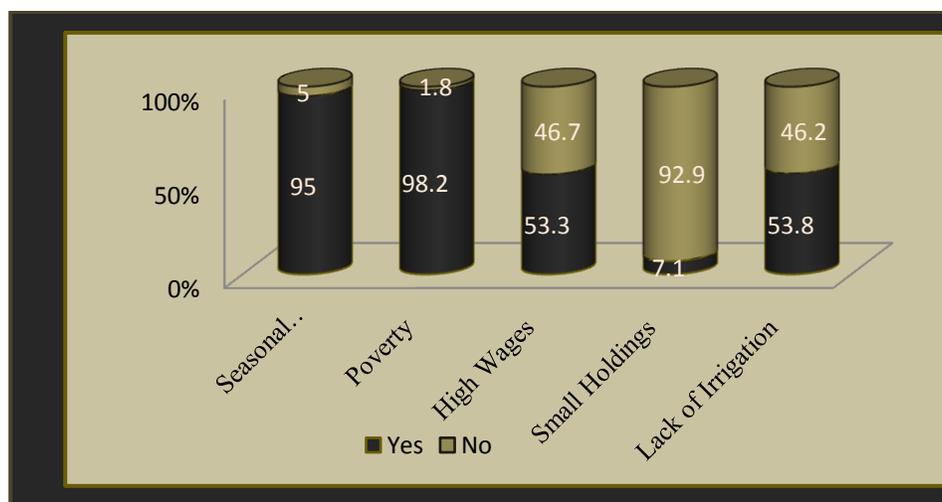


**Table-3 Facilities at Destination**

	Housing		Drinking Water		Electricity	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Not good	193	85.8	29	12.9	30	13.3
Good	32	14.2	196	87.1	195	86.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: field survey

**Fig: 2 Reasons for Seasonal Migration**



Source: field survey

**Table- 4. Economic Impact of Seasonal Migration.**

Impact	Income	Expenditure	Savings	Debt Position
Same	0.4	0.0	2.7	11.1

Decreased	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.3
Increased	99.6	100.0	92.0	0.0
Nil	0.0	0.0	5.3	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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