



Socio-Economic Conditions Of Migrant Labourers In Rural India: A Case Study Of Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal

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Abstract: Uttar Dinajpur district is one of the backward areas of West Bengal. This district is economically very poor and also deprived of the industrial development. It constitutes the maximum number of villages or rural areas where a large number of people are below the poverty line. So, migrant labourers play important role in the economic development in their families or society. Many rural areas of West Bengal suffer from low-income and people leave their places in search of better livelihood. Poor living conditions, lack of sanitation facilities etc. are responsible for making the lives of the migrants vulnerable. Proper elementary education rate of these labourers is very low, automatically their representation in higher education is also very poor. Obviously, migrant workers face many problems in their workplace. They face different kinds of harassment in the workplace. This situation exists even though there are many statutory provisions for their welfare under central and state laws. So, the present study deals with the various aspects of socio-economic conditions of migrant labourers of Uttar Dinajpur district.

Key Words: Migration, Rural Areas, Socio-Economic Condition, Uttar Dinajpur District.

INTRODUCTION:

Human migration is not a new phenomenon and it is a common phenomenon in recent times. It is the process of movement of people from one place to another place, within the country or out of the country. It may be temporally or permanent in nature. It may be done by the labourers in their desire or they may be compelled to go outside in search of better work for the maintenance of livelihood. Therefore Rural - Urban migration plays a vital role for the transformation of a society. Because, in Uttar Dinajpur District, many of peoples left their home in search of work, shelter, better opportunities or some other reasons, especially in rural areas. In recent years, lack of educational institutions, better healthcare facilities, financial institutions, and improved financial independence influence the rural people of this district to move to urban areas. Basically, Rural-urban migration is categorized into two types - Internal migration and External migration. Internal migration refers to people moving from one place to another within a country or state. For example, migration from a village in West Bengal to Punjab, Delhi, and Chennai will be considered internal migration. On the other hand, External migration is when people shift from one place to another outside a country. For example, migration from India to Dubai refers to the external migration category. So

the present research work seeks to indentify the impact of Rural out migration in India in generally and in Uttar Dinajpur in particularly.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To analyse the socio-economic profile of rural out migrate people of Uttar Dinajpur District.
2. To examine nature of the Rural-out migration in Uttar Dinajpur District.
3. To find out the impact of rural out migration on rural people of Uttar Dinajpur District.

REVIEW OF LITERATURES:

Verma (2011) in his book *Labour Migration in agricultural sector A socio-economic analysis* published in 2011 by Discovery Publishing House has made an attempt to explore the varied aspects of migrant labourers working in the agricultural sector. It provides also comprehensive analysis or issues relating to determinants, trends and factors associated with migration. This book also shows a picture of socio-economic background of the migrant labourers. Besides this, it also made an analysis of the social parameters such as caste, family size, and marital status, age group and number of children as well as economic parameters as education level of the migrants, nature of employment etc. Moreover, this book also discusses the issues of impact of migrant labourers on the employment of local labourers.

Parande and Nagoor (2022) in their book *Rural Labour Migration* discuss reasons of migration, impact of migration on various facets of society, and kind of migration. In This book, it has been tried to bring about the advantages and disadvantages of migration from rural to urban areas in a particular region. This book also highlights the socio-economic and other associated challenges during the post migration faced by the migrated rural labours. Besides analysis the push and pull factors of migration and suggests policies to regulate migration related issues. This book can be considered as a way to understand the causes, challenges, effects, and policy on issues relating to migration at the micro level.

Tripathy and Dash (1997), *Migrant Labour in India* in this book, the authors discuss the history and origin of labour migration, problem of migrant workmen, theoretically perspective on migrant issues, migration and methodology design, socio-economic characteristics of migrant and immigrant families, labour migration and its effects.

Agasty & Patra (2019) in their book *Rural – Urban Migration Theory, Determinates and Impacts* have make an attempt for a comprehensive research on economically motivated and employment linked inter-state rural –urban migration and the main features of national migration as well as the empirical evidences on determinates and economic consequence of job oriented inter- state migration at the rural urban level. Studying the book a researcher can find out a detailed analysis of rural urban migration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is descriptive in nature. For the purpose of the study both primary and secondary data have been collected. The primary data have been collected from 90 respondents. For selecting the 90 respondents, purposive random sampling method has been used. And, for the secondary data various sources have been used including books, Article, news paper, magazines and libraries. So, the present study is both descriptive and analytical in nature.

V. About the Study Area:

Uttar Dinajpur district lies between latitude 25°11' North to 26°49' North and longitude 87°49' East to 90°00' East. This district is one of the districts of the state of West Bengal. It was formed on 1st April, 1992 by bifurcation from erstwhile west Dinajpur. It comprises of two sub-divisions namely Raiganj and Islampur. The district has 4 municipalities, 9 blocks and 98 Panchayats covering 1516 villages according to census 2011. The total population is about 25 lakhs of which mainly rural people. Bengali is the main language of Uttar Dinajpur district but some proportion of Urdu and Hindi speaking people live in the Islampur sub-division. It is one of the most educationally and economically backward districts in state of

West Bengal. The tourist Place of the district is Kulik Bird Sanctuary, the largest bird Sanctuary in Asia is part of the Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary.



VI. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Profile of rural out migrate people of Uttar Dinajpur District:

Uttar Dinajpur is one of the backward districts of West Bengal and this district comprises a maximum number of rural areas and un-development border areas. It is one of the most educationally and economically backward districts due to lack of development. They have no adequate large-scale industries. Basically, rural people of Uttar Dinajpur district depend on Agriculture which is the main source of income. They face various problems such as harassment, domestic violence, accidents especially lack of communication from the workplace to their native place for daily work. Therefore, they migrate willingly or unwillingly out of state or within a state for good earn.

Table: 1
Gender Basis Age of Respondents

Gender Basis Age respondents	Age				Percentage of Respondents
	18-25	26-34	35-44	Above 45	
Male	19	16	12	7	60%
Female	13	11	7	5	40%
Total	32	27	19	12	100%

Source: Field Survey

Table 1: Shows the age groups of the selected respondents. It indicates that out of the total number of respondents, 60% are male labourers and 40% are female labourers. It also indicates that out of the total number of respondents, 32 respondent labourers who belongs to the age group of 18 - 25 years. On the other hand, 27 respondents of them belong to the age group of 26 - 34 years and 19 of the labourers belong to the age group of 35 – 44 years. Moreover, 12 respondents of migrant labourers are from the age group of above 45 years. So, most of the respondents belongs to the age group of 18 - 25 years i.e. 32 in numbers. The table also indicates that a large number of young generation labourers. At this age, the tendency towards work is more, because they are willing to stay independent while choosing their profession.

Table: 2
Level of Family Income of Respondents

Level of Family Income	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	39	43.33%
Weekly	33	36.67%
Monthly	18	20%
Total	90	100%

Source: Field Survey

Table 2: The above table explained the levels of income of migrant labourers. Out of the total, 43.33% of respondents have a daily income. On the other hand, 36.67% of respondents have a weekly income and 20% of respondents have a monthly income. This table also shows that a maximum number of respondents earn daily income. Their level of income is very low because they do not able to go to work outside every day. As a result, the level of their expenditure is higher than their level of income.

Table: 3
Educational Qualification of Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	36	40%
Elementary Education	20	22.22 %
Secondary Education	18	20 %
Higher Education	10	11.12 %
Graduates Education	6	6.66 %
Total	90	100 %

Source: Field Survey

Table 3: Illustrate that the educational qualification of the migrant workers. Out of the total, 40% are illiterate, 22.22% are elementary, and 20% are secondary. On the other hand, only 11.12% are Higher Secondary and 6.66% are graduate respondents. This study indicates that the maximum respondents are educational literacy rate is very low. Because most of the respondents belong to the weaker section of society and also deprived from better education due to their lack of money. Besides, they do not aware of many issues for their improvement due to illiteracy.

Table: 4
Types of family of the respondents

Type of Family	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear Family	63	70%
Joint Family	27	30%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4: shows that the types of families of the respondents. Out of total 70% are nuclear family and 30% are joint family. In case of nuclear family number of earning members in the family is one. Therefore, the family becomes economically weak.

Table: 5
Types of House of Respondents

Types of Houses	Frequency	Percentage
Bricks House	18	20%
Tin Sheet House	40	44.44%
Kancha House	32	35.56%
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 5: this table shows the percentage of types of houses of migrant labourers. Out of total houses, 20% houses of labourers are of bricks, 44.44% houses of labourers are of Tin sheets and 35.56% houses of migrant labourers are of Kancha Houses. From this field study, it is clear that most of the respondents have Kancha and Tin sheet houses and others i.e. a very few have brick-made houses. Therefore, many of them go out to work with a desire to build their own homes.

Major Findings of the Study:

The major findings of the study are as follows:

1. Most of the migrant labour belong to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.
2. The maximum number of rural people felt that there is no security of their life, both residence and work place.
3. The monthly and annual family income of rural people is not enough to maintain their livelihood.
4. There are no adequate health care facilities and good living conditions.
5. A large number of rural people migrated from one place to another due to economic and family trends.
6. In the study area, a maximum number of peoples have Kancha houses.
7. In this area, a huge number of the rural family residence where all the members are migrant workers and income level is very low.
8. The educational background of migrant labour is very poor. Most of the migrant labours are either elementary educated or illiterate because they don't aware governmental scheme and facilities.
9. A large number of migrant labours are unskilled labour. So, they face various problems in the field of their work.

Conclusion:

Though migration is an old concept in human history but it is still going on. It has a great impact on the social, economic and political life of rural out migratory people. In India sometimes, it is also influenced by different types of social structures such as caste, religion, gender, education and family size etc. But the main reasons for behind the migration are due to poverty, lack of employment opportunities and natural calamities. This causes a speed up the breakdown of traditional socio-economic relations in the rural people.

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