Statistical Study on Role of Migration in Agricultural & Rural Development of Odisha

Chinmayee Patra1 and Subrat Kumar Mahapatra2*

1Palli Siksha Bhavan, Visva Bharati University, Bolpur, West Bengal (731 204), India
2College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), Surya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (751 003), India

How to cite this article?

Abstract
Migration is a burning socio-economic issue especially in agriculture sector and cause contraction in agricultural production. Different types of migrations include Emigration, immigration, internal migration, international migration, rural-urban migration & seasonal migration. More than 30 million people in India are seasonal migrant laborers. The workers are migrated to other districts as daily wage labours in different farms, industry, and brick clins. The Pattern of Migration is Seasonal in nature. The migration prone district of Odisha includes Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sonepur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Nowrangpur, Koraput & Khorda. It is concluded that migration significantly depends on area and production of different crops. For all the Major crops likes Cereals, Pules & Oil Seeds crops of the state, the district having higher area & Production attracts more migrants in 2001 & 2011 Census year.

Introduction
Migration denotes any movement of groups of people from one locality to another and takes different forms. It is ranging from ‘permanent’, ‘semi-permanent’ and ‘temporary’. Where people move for a few months in a year, the migrants are also known as ‘short duration’ migrants, ‘seasonal’ migrants or ‘circulatory’ migrants. It can also be termed as voluntary or forced, legal or illegal. Migration can be classified as four streams mainly rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban. Further, stream can be intra-district, intra-state, inter-state. Majorities of the migrants are moving within the state, i.e. move within same districts or move from one district to other within the same state. Migration arises out of various social, cultural, economic, spatial and demographic reasons summarized as push and pull factors. Various theories and models were propounded to perceive the intended meaning of migration. The study of migration among population helps to understand the dynamics of the society.

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life & economic well-being of people living in rural areas, often relatively isolated & sparsely populated areas. Rural-urban migration cause both beneficial and negative effects on the rural development as well as the agricultural development of the state. India constitutes 11.4 million emigrants and 309 million internal migrants. Agriculture & Rural Development can address the root causes of migration, including rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment, lack of social protection as well as natural resource depletion due to environmental degradation & climate change (FAO).
Status of Migration in India

In 2018, 3.3 percent of the world’s population are international migrants. Over 40 million internal migrants and more than 22 million refugees were recorded in global displacement. World estimates states that in 2013, out of 232 million international migrants 150 million people were accounted as migrant workers. The State of World Population report stated that the number of populations in urban is steadily raises. As per 2011 census, urbanization in India increased from 27.81 percent in 2001 to 31.16 percent in 2011. India constitutes 11.4 million emigrants (The World Bank 2011) and 309 million internal migrants (Census of India 2001). In 2010-11, India hits the top with 2 million people by accounting for one-fifth of all tertiary educated immigrants in OECD countries. In 2015, the immigrant population of India was 52,40,960 or 0.4 percent of total resident population and 1,55,73,953 or 1.17 percent of all citizens of India lived outside their country of origin (International Organization for Migration).

Migration in Odisha

The economy of Orissa is predominantly agricultural and the performance in this sector is crucial to the development of the state. The prevalence of small farmers having small sized land holdings, seasonal unemployment, the non-application of modern technology in agriculture in Orissa had forced the people to search for alternate sources of livelihood. People of the rural areas migrate to urban areas within and outside their districts and also to the neighboring states. Migration is an outcome due to the repeated disasters that strike Orissa at regular intervals. Cyclones, floods, droughts and famines hit the state at different times in different regions. There have been more than 30 natural disasters during the period 1963 to 1999. From last 10 years (2010-2020), Odisha faces so many Cyclones & Floods. The coastal region is more prone to cyclones, floods where as the western districts and southern region are vulnerable to droughts and famines and have created a vacuum in livelihoods. The manifestations of disasters are seen in the poverty, malnutrition, distress sale of paddy, property and even children. Landlessness, indebtedness and lack of livelihood force the people to seek survival options in other far away places. Endowed with natural resources, Orissa is the hot destination of the multi nations and transnational companies for mining leases and industry based on them. Migration is a survival strategy in Orissa. For the landless and marginal farmers who are in constant debt, migration is the only choice for livelihood. The push arising out of lack of livelihood options in the village and indebtedness and crop loss leads to the pull factors such as the attraction of livelihood in the lean seasons. Today every year thousands of people across the length and breadth of the region leave their native village in search of food and employment. More than 30 million people in India are seasonal migrant labourers. Orissa’s share is 2.5 million and considered a key state for supply of migrant labour.

Effect of Migration on Growth & Development of Odisha

During the last few years, a socio-economic growth has steadily widened the gap between agriculture and industry as well as rural and urban sector. People are also motivated to migrate from their own places to comparatively advanced locations, which creates both regional and spatial imbalances. This type of situation is mainly seen KBK regions of Odisha. The MGNREGA had shown tremendous responses for rural and tribal regions but unfortunately it fails to show any fruitful result for rural Odisha. More over the preference for daily wages is one of the major factors for which people prefer to migrate and join as daily labourers. The multifaceted factors such as geographical, economic and social factors are responsible for the deprivation and backwardness of these regions. (Mahapatra and Patra, 2020)

Suggested Measures to Check the Effect of Migration on Agricultural Growth & Development

Proper development policy must be prepared for the Labourer & workers in the rural areas. Various projects such as irrigation projects, infrastructure development projects must be promoted to deal with the issues of seasonal migration and rural-urban migration. As per the Tendulkar Committee methodology, the southern region which includes the KBK region (i.e., Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts), has the highest incidence of poverty followed by the northern region. From 2004-05 to 2011-12, all these regions have witnessed substantial reduction of poverty. Among these regions, the northern region has recorded the highest reduction of poverty with 30.53 percentage points, followed by the southern region with 25.40 percentage points and the coastal region with 19.95 percentage points. The State Government should focus for agriculture and food safety programmes in order to avoid malnutrition in such areas. The Food Security Act, public distribution system, cold storage facilities all other information and awareness system must be facilitated to bring overall improvement of these schemes. (Samantaray, 2016)

Conclusion

From the above study, we can conclude that continuous raise in trend of total number of migrants in Odisha from 1991 to 2011. More number of migrants are observed in mostly in Western Part of Odisha i.e. KBK regions. Even
though the migration cannot be entirely stopped but due focus must be made for the holistic development of the migrants and worst affected regions most of the migrants are non-workers. The proper growth and development strategy must be implemented to utilise both manpower and natural resources. As per latest RBI report, Odisha is considered as the hottest investment destination for new projects but due to lack of awareness, failure of planning and coordination, it fails to grasp the yield of growth. Even though a huge employment opportunity can be created through the set of industries, but ideally no compensation strategy has been successful to meet the socio-economic and environmental challenges of the State. With the coordination of private sector, public sector and stakeholders an entire theme of agricultural growth & rural development can be ideally realised.

References

