

Migration as a Livelihood Deviation Method of Poor Rural Household in Telangana State, India

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Abstract - Migration is largely seen as key component of livelihood diversification strategies to overcome poverty in difficult situations in developing nations. The paper examines migration as a livelihood strategy adopted by rural households to overcome poverty in Telangana State. The majority of the rural households in Telangana State use migration as a way to moderate against risk and unpredicted circumstances. For livelihood diversification, households decide to send members of their families to urbanize cities, where they could gainfully be employed and start sending remittance back home as a way of diversifying the family income sources. These remittances, therefore, form a substantial part of the household's incomes. The paper, therefore, shows that remittance incomes from migrants positively contribute to improving the living standard of the households.

Index Terms - Diversification, Empowering, Livelihoods, Income, Migration, Remittance, Deviation

INTRODUCTION

Over the year's migration has become a tool used to overcome the risky situations in most States and Districts in India. Rural households in India have continued to increase their economic activities diversification. It is gradually becoming clear that rural households in India are expanding into non- farm activities as a means of improving lives and reducing poverty. Increasing non- agricultural income diversification livelihood strategy has been growing in India for quite some time now. Thus, there is increasing support for non-farm diversification opportunities for rural households in developing Districts. This study focused on migration as the non-farming activities for rural households. In poor households, in the developing Districts income is unsteady and they trend to developed different complex strategies to be successful. In some cases, households or individuals or families may take decisions to migrate, to get better opportunities to

increase the income of the household and reduce the impact of poverty in the family. Poverty is a complex concern relating to household income and livelihood strategy. People may decide to migrate to areas where they are presenting better opportunities or other sources of income that may improve living standards. The increasing popularity of off-farm prospects in rural areas in India, demonstrated by the increase in rural enterprises and the rising rural-urban migration, has motivated the experimental research on migration as livelihood diversification strategy of the poor rural household in India. This study examines migration as a strategy taken by households to reduced susceptibility and maximizes household income.

REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Livelihood Strategy

Rural households in India employ different livelihood strategies and activities for them to increase their income and create wealth to overcome poverty. Household livelihood is more than economic resource and complex in nature. Household livelihood strategies are not completely described simply by income resources. Rural households in India are constantly involved in diversification as a endurance strategy. Diversification provides a surplus of income to rural households to invest in agricultural production and another micro-enterprise in the rural economy. The agricultural optimistic theory believes that the success of agriculture drives the non-farm business activities in rural areas. While the agricultural sceptical theory is of the disparate opinion, that diversification occurs in response to the failure of agriculture to generate sufficient resources for the livelihood of the rural households. In rural India, households depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Non-farm diversification is an efficient way for a rural household in India to reduce their income risk and

increase their living standard. Financial risk and insecurity in the agricultural sector play a strategic role in the diversification process. Income, poverty, welfare risk, and lack of social security systems in India are the major push factors that encourage rural households to diversify into migration as a livelihood strategy. Diversification into non-farm activities allows a rural household to reduce the risk associated with income generation through agriculture. Therefore, allowing the surplus income generated from the diversification to be invested in diverse business activities creating more income for the households.

CONCEPT OF MIGRATION

Migration refers to the movement of people from one geographical place to another. This movement may be permanent or temporary. The people move from rural villages to urban cities in search of better economic opportunities to improve on their living standards. Universal analysis of migration is mostly negative. Internal migration creates a series of issues such as unplanned urbanization, neglect of agriculture in the rural areas, rural poverty, increased in urban crime. Most contemporary literature sees internal migration as a problem for development, which can be controlled or contained with the view that internal migration is associated with negativity. Despite the negative views associated with migration, it has been accepted that migration contributes positively to the development of the sending communities. Migration can have a direct impact on the livelihoods of rural poor households. It could serve as a social security mechanism for the poor vulnerable households who have low-income sources. Migration is a crucial part of the income diversification strategy by rural and urban households. Migration allows rural households to receive economic remittance, social remittance and accumulation of assets, and capital for investment. Social remittance refers to information, new practice, and ideas. However, internal migration in India is far more significant in the number of people involved and is vital in the amount of remittance to be sent. The remittances received have a high positive potential for poverty reduction among rural households. Remittances flow directly into the individual receiving households changing their financial position and increasing their purchasing power instantaneously.

Since the early 1980s, it has been identified that migration plays a significant role in the livelihoods of migrant households. This has spawned much debate about the positive effect of migration on the sending communities despite the challenges presented by migration, such as urbanization. Migration is one of the actions taken by the rural household to fight against poverty. Rural-urban migration is the leading migration stream among the people in India. The rural dwellers move from rural areas to cities in search of social and economic opportunities to make a better life and improve on their living standards.

Theoretical Understanding of Migration

In understanding the causes and factors of migration, different theoretical models were designed to explain the same thing using different concepts and hypotheses. Most of the existing literature on factors of migration, within a given place of origin and destination, predicted that migration results from micro-level economic incentives and disincentives created by the larger structural economic changes in the country. The neoclassical theory is of the view that an individual migrates when the expected wages in the destination is greater than the income of the migrant in the place of origin. Individuals would be expected to migrate when the benefit of moving is greater than that of staying, and the financial return on human capital is high.

New Economic of Labor Migration Theory

The new economics of labor migration (NELM) propose that households send migrants to migrate in other for them to improve on the household income and increase their standard of living as well as to reduce their relative deprivation concerning other reference groups in their community. The NELM highlights that family is key in migration decisions. The individual migrant does not take that decision for migration. It is collectively made by the family unit. Migration is used by the rural household as a risk pooling strategy, against any foreseen circumstances. According to NELM, the primary purpose of migration is for the family to receive remittance. The remittance received helps the rural household to overcome poverty and any forms of risk linked with market failure. Migration is a measure taken by the households and community to overcome economic risk and any form of credit. In India, the government

does not provide households with any form of social security. Thus, the rural household takes migration as sources of alternative income for the family. In the case of this study, the poor rural household in rural areas in Telangana State takes migration as an income-generating strategy for their livelihood survival and to reduce the impact of poverty.

In the NELM, the cost-benefit calculation of migration is determined by the household. The decision to send migrants is taking by the household. The household sends a member of the family to migrate as ways to solve the problem of uncertainty and risk resulting from market failure. Thus, migration is a means to improve on the well-being of the household and the migrants. In this study, migration is a strategic plan of the household in the rural area to improve on their economic level and assist the non-migrants members of the family to receive remittance and improve on their living standards.

STUDY AREA

Telangana State is a state located in the South region of India. The major towns in Telangana State include Hyderabad, Warangal, Nizamabad and Khammam. Telangana state has two notable climates, which are sub-equatorial with high rainfall for about 4 months and with an average temperature of about 29oC and less rainfall in the winter. The primary economic activities in Telangana state include farming, local craft, rubber processing, informal trading, palm oil production, and livestock rearing.

Methodology

In this study, qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for the inquiry into a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of migration as a livelihood diversification strategy. Primary and secondary data were analysed in the study. The primary data were collected from a field survey carried out in November 2014 using the questionnaire. 120 questionnaires were administered to rural households in Telangana State. 14 key informant interviews were conducted. The key informants were selected using the purposely sampling method. The participants for the questionnaire were randomly selected. The secondary data were derived from journal publications, books, and archived materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The demographical information of the respondents

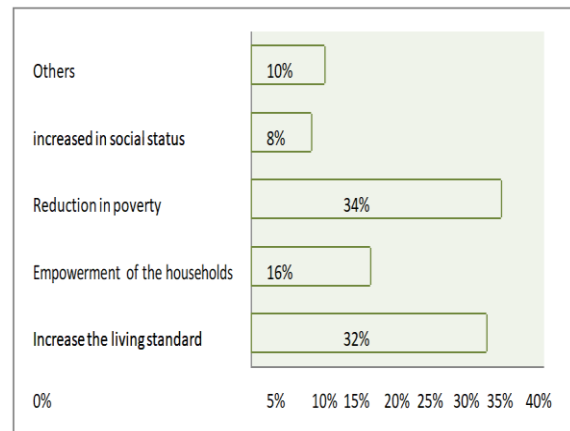
The respondent consists of (53%) male and (47%) female. The family prefers to send a male member of the household to migrate than the female. This means migration is gender selective. The age of the respondents ranged from 15 to 75 years, respectively. Human migration is age selective, the younger male or female between the ages of 16 years to 25 years of age move easily that older once due to feasibility and less responsibility attached to them.

Migrants Income flows and poverty alleviation

The flows of income from the migrants to their home of origin are ways of alleviating poverty among the households. One of the objectives of the research was to examine the effect of the income flows of the migrant on alleviating poverty and bringing financial security. The migration of the youth out of the rural areas to cities has contributed directly to the reduction of poverty in the migrants' community through the flow of income to their households and the spill-over effect of the income received. Various studies revealed that remittance sent by migrants to their home of origin has been one of the important benefits that have directly assisted the households. Previous studies in India on the implication of remittance from migrants on poverty concluded that remittance reduces the share of people living in poverty in the country.

The effects of income flow on household living standard

Figure 4.0: Migrants' income flows on their Household living standard



Sources: Author's Field survey November -2019

The flows of income from the migrants have a multiplier effect on the livelihood and living standard of the migrant’s families. Figure 4.0 illustrates that 34% of the respondents claimed that the income flows from the migrants has led to reduction of poverty among the family members in their households and in the community because they now have more money to spend on things they need, while 32% of the respondents claimed that the remittances they received from the migrants had led to an increase in the standard of living of their families and households. However, working in the cities has also supported about 8% of the respondents to be living well and to have an increased financial status in society. The opportunity to be empowered in their households through the flow of income by the migrants was claimed by 16% of the respondents, while 10% of the respondents stated that the income flows from the migrants have helped the community.

The flow of income to the family of the migrants has led to an increase in the standard of living of household members of the family in the rural community. It has increased their financial well-being and they now have increased financial confidence. Most households receiving the remittances tend to use the proceeds mainly for consumption and also for investment in health care, children’s education, and contribution toward the improvement in household food security.

Remittances and their impact on poverty alleviation
 Remittances are considered as essential sources of income for the migrants’ households who invest some part of the income and spend some part of it on consumption expenditures. Remittance incomes also improve the basic needs of the household and the living standard of their families. They provide a foundation for the household to have sustainable income security. Remittances assist in empowering, the household to overcome poverty. As one of the objectives of the research was to ascertain the effect of the income flows of migrants on the alleviation of poverty and financial security, Figure 4.1 indicates the responses of the respondents on the income flows on alleviation of poverty.

Figure4.1: The roles of remittance in poverty alleviation in the villages

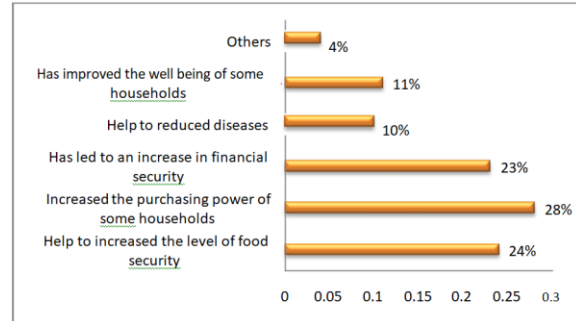


Figure 4.1 shows that the larger proportion of the respondents (28%) claimed that remittances received by the migrant’s families have increased the purchasing power of some of the households in the community, while 23% of the respondents were of the view that remittance received had led to an increase in financial security among the households making them more comfortable and living above poverty. Twenty-four percent (24%) of the respondents stated that the income flows from the migrants as remittance has led to the increase in food security in the community and the rural households are now able to invest more into food production. Besides, 11% claimed that the income flows of the migrants in the forms of remittances has made them and their respective household to better off and now have a better life. Moreover, 10% stated that the income flows from the migrants have led to the reduction in the spread of disease, because the family can eat well and some projects in the community carried out through the support of the remittance have led to the progress in accessing welfare facilities.

Four percent (4%) of the respondents claimed that the income flows from the migrants has created a better living standard for them, enabling them and their household to have a good life.

Previous studies on rural poverty reduction have indicated that alternative livelihood strategies have a direct positive implication on alleviation of poverty. The rural household that is involved in non-farm livelihood strategies were able to earn more income.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings from the study reveal that rural households employ migration as an income diversification strategy to increase their source of income and improve on livelihood. The rural household diversification of income was necessary

due to the failure of agriculture to generate sufficient resources for the household to overcome poverty. Thus, rural income diversification contributes to the growth of the rural economy. Migration contributes to the improvement in rural household income potential in the Telangana States to improve on their livelihood standard. The study found that remittance income received from the migrants played significant roles in increasing the income of the rural household in rural communities in Telangana State. The remittance income increases the standard of living of the rural households. It also contributes to increased household potential to invest in micro-enterprise in the rural area. Migration plays a significant role in the reduction of the level of poverty among rural households. The study, therefore, recommends that measures should be put in place by the various stakeholders to exploit the developmental potentials of the remittance. Adequate measures should be put in place by the government to improve on the rural banking infrastructure in the country to facilitate the easy transfer of money to the rural areas.

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