



## Rural migration: A continuous challenge

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Migration from rural to urban areas is a regular part of the economic development process and modification of societies. The process of urbanization historically continues, even people from small towns are moving towards larger towns/cities. People move out of agriculture into other sectors of higher productivity—manufacturing and services in urban areas resulting into economic growth and higher incomes for migrants from rural areas. However, India's demographic dividend couldn't be maximizing because of lack of new livelihood opportunities to the young entrants of labour force as well as potential migrants from rural areas. In India, migration also has deeply affected the rural areas of origin, both positively and negatively. These are transmitted through three main channels. First, the out flow of

people has direct impacts on his family affecting—supply of household labour and household composition as well as on rural labour markets. Second, remittances sent by rural migrants back to their families allow for increased household consumption and/or investments. Finally, there are many non-monetary gains like transfers of ideas, skills and social patterns from migrants to their places of origin.

**Impacts of migration:** Migration is a very important part of our city as well as rural life. Many problems of rural areas and simultaneously the opportunities and attractions of big cities pull large number of people to urban areas. Here we enumerate some positive as well as negative effects on the life of the rural migrants.

### Positive impacts:

- Unemployment in rural areas is reduced and people get better job opportunities.
- Migration improves the overall quality of the life of people.

- Migration of skilled workers leads to a better economic growth of the region.

- Children get better opportunities of schooling as well as higher education.

- The population density of the area of origin is reduced and the birth rate decreases.

- Migration helps people to diversify their sources of income, build wealth and invest in new assets.

- Reduced labour supply can lead to increased wages of remaining rural labour.

- Migrants' remittances may increase demand for locally produced goods and service that can boost the local economy and lead to increased incomes.

- Migration helps

people to improve their social life as they learn about new culture, customs, languages and etiquettes which ultimately help to improve brotherhood among people.

**Negative impacts:** The loss of skilled and raw labour from rural areas can affect the level of output and development of rural areas.

- Rural migration may lead to shortage of agricultural labour as well as farmers may not afford increased wages.

- Migration may demoralize people engaged in agriculture.

- Prolonged absence of male decision makers can result into indiscipline in family specially children.

- A massive inflow of workers in urban areas increases competition for the jobs, abode, schooling facilities etc.

- Increasing urbanization puts too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services.

- The survival of a villager in urban areas is quite difficult due to unavailability of natural environment, pure



air and open space. People have to pay for each and everything.

– Migration changes the demography of a place; it creates many disturbances to the residents.

– Many migrants are completely illiterate and uneducated; so they face as well as create many problems in day to day life.

– Costliness of cities makes people unable to live a normal and healthy life. The children growing up in that poverty have no access to proper nutrition, education or health.

– Migration increased the slums in big cities which increase many problems such as filthiness, crime, pollution etc.

– Sometimes migrants are exploited and deceived.

– Migration is one of the main causes of increasing nuclear family where children grow up without proper socialization.

**The challenges:** There are so many challenges arising out of this migration process. This progression affects both the area of origin of migration and the areas of destination. Some challenges of migration can be discussed briefly as under.

*Demographic challenges:* Migration changes age and sex composition of population with the rate of growth. The number of old, children and females increases due to out-migration in area of origin. As population density decreases in rural areas and increases in destination region, both create many complex issues among respective societies.

*Social challenges:* Migration results in amalgamation of different cultures and leads to the evolution of composite culture. It seeks innovation, creates awareness, breaks

the narrow thoughts and widens the mental horizon of the people. But, the process of cultural accommodation is not a simple phenomenon. So, it may create bustling in both societies. Rising migration leads to haphazard growth of cities and increases slums and due to lack of all sort of life amenities in these slums they become the centers of many social evils.

*Economic challenges:* Migration changes the population ratio of both, area of origin as well as destination. Sometimes migration occurs from an area of under population to over population or optimum populated; the results are harmful to both the areas. Migration affects the work force and occupational structure of both populations. Brain drain is another concern of migration. Skilled people migrate from poorer regions to developed regions in search of better economic opportunities.

*Environmental challenges:* Large scale migration of rural people towards urban areas causes overcrowding in cities and puts heavy pressure on all type of resources. It results in haphazard growth of cities and increases slums lacking basic infrastructural facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, sewage etc. Overcrowding also creates all type of environmental issues like air, water, land and noise pollution and management of solid wastes etc.

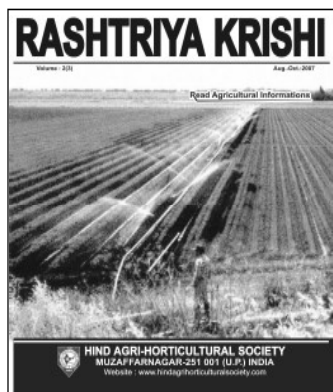
*Miscellaneous challenges:* Other than above discussed issues, there are so many challenges arise in rural areas like discipline in family, division of joint families, social security, problem of decision making for some sudden situations and struggle of females etc. Further, some general issues in destination areas are language barriers, traffic, congestion in public transport, different food habits, costly schooling of children etc.

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