

Out-Migration in Rural India: A Study in Assam Hastinapur Area under Kamrup District

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Abstract: *One of the major factors influencing the process of migration is the cost of transportation. Analyses of the data on region basis find that people are interested in migrating a short distance than a long distance because it is not only less costly but also easy for them to get more information about culture, language and opportunities in nearby places. Working on developed and developing countries, Richey (1976) and Gardner (1981) found that especially the tendency of short distance migration is true for low income and less well educated group of migrants. Sharp (2007) in his study of Ethiopia assessed poverty by applying both qualitative and quantitative methods combined. He found that accesses to livelihood resource are important determinant of poverty. He found that household is poor because their productive resource has depleted to fulfill their need of subsistence. Household has classified into four categories, destitute (unable to meet household needs by own effort and dependent on support), vulnerable (struggling to meet household needs), viable (able to meet household needs), doing well (making extra for stores, saving or investment). More than half of the household in this area is found as Vulnerable and in the past year many household has shifted in the category of vulnerable and destitute due to depletion of natural resources. It shows the asset (livelihood resources) plays the Key role to understand the dynamic and multifaceted concept of poverty. In this paper an attempt to be made on the reason of migration i.e. poverty, Jobless and illiterate are the three factors which has lead migration to take place everyday into this place Hastinapur Area which is fall under Assam Kamrup District.*

Key Words: migration , culture, language, Assam, Kamrup District.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Migration is a global phenomenon and internal migration is a phenomenon associated with the process of globalization. Internal migration is the movement of people within a country which indirectly reflects the extent of development in a particular region and the imbalances between regions in terms of economic opportunities.

According to Srivatsava and Sasikumar (2003), migrants are disadvantaged as labourers as they are employed in the unorganized sector. Though involving a small proportion of the workforce, international migration has important local impacts. After Independence two distinct categories of people have left India: (a) people with professional qualifications and technical expertise migrated to industrialized countries; and (b) semi-skilled and skilled workers migrated to the Middle East in search of better job opportunities (Srivatsava and Sasikumar, 2003).

Upreti (1981: 5) defined the migrant as a person who has moved from his place of birth to another place with idea of settling down there more or less permanently. Migrant possesses certain unique socio-economic and cultural characteristics which differentiate him from the local people of the place of destination. Moreover, migrant occupies the position of marginal man by sharing the sub-systems of both native village and present city respectively called as Donor sub-system and recipient sub-system (Leyplay: 1970: 117).

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In his book, 'the law of migration,' Ravenstein (1885) has stated certain assumptions regarding the process of migration. These are: 1. A majority of the migrants go only a short distance in search of better livelihood, 2. Migrants move upward in the urban hierarchy in different stages – the first step is towards the nearer small town, and the second one is towards a city, and in the next step, towards a metropolitan city, 3. A major number of migrants flow from agricultural areas to industrial areas or town, 4. The major causes of migration are economic 5. Most of the migrants move from the place of origin to the place of destination at an early age, and 5. Migrants tend to move with their families (c.f. Sundari 2007). Sundari and Rukmani (1998) have termed this pattern of migration as 'chain migration'. According to them, chain migration is a kind of the movement in which prospective migrants learn opportunities, and one provided with employment arranged by means of primary social relationship with previous migrants

Rigg (2005), in his study shows that livelihood in rural area is continuously being delinked to agriculture, which means that land is losing its importance as determinant of prosperity or poverty or the mechanism of production or reproduction of poverty is now less dependent on land. According to De Haan et al. (2000), migration is not an

atomistic reaction to economic or environmental pressure, but it is embedded in societal rules and norms. Two kinds of institutions have a significant impact on migration: migration networks and households' structure and management. These institutions determine the contribution migration can make to improving livelihoods, but this link is by no means direct or simple.

De Haan (1999), in his research of forty Indian villages suggests that high emigration from a village is intimately associated with unequal distribution of resources (usually land). The poorer and the richer migrants tend to come from the same villages, the ones that are more commercialized and more unequal. Migration also increases intra-rural inequalities, because better-off villages and villagers learn first, and are able to avail of new job opportunities. Better-off migrants are 'pulled' towards fairly firm prospects of a job (or education), whereas the poor are 'pushed' by rural poverty and laborer placing methods. In summary, "push' and 'pull' migrations are twin children of inequality in the same sort of village; but they are also sources of new inequality'. There is little doubt that migration - like rural diversification can enhance inequality. As discussed earlier, the literature clearly indicates that migration is a very selective process. The extremely poor are generally excluded from migration opportunities (Skeldon, 1997).

Migrants do usually not come from the poorest districts, as is currently witnessed in China (Mallee, 1995). Murton's research in the same Machakos districts as Tiffen et al. also suggests that differential access to non-farm income and urban remittances led to a polarization of land holdings (McDowell and de Haan, 1997). Research on migration in Western Kenya shows that, it has increased differentiation, not through agriculture but through investing in education. At the same time, research among the poorest migrants like Breman's (1996) suggests that they have very little room for improvement.

Thus, migration in many cases does alleviate poverty, but it can also increase inequality. de Haan (1997) concludes that the crucial question is not about migration itself, but what kinds of opportunities are available for what groups of people, and whether the type of migratory work allows the migrants and their families to improve their assets and 'human capital'.

In the decade of 1980 a pluralist thinking emerged in the study of migration which was very much closer the basic approach of livelihood. The recent theory which has provided a new ground to optimist thinking on migration was developed by Stark, Levhari and Bloom, is known as New Economics of labour migration. In this theory migration of an individual is considered not as his independent decision but the part of livelihood strategy of a household. Migration can be seen as one of the main elements of the strategies to diversify, secure, and, potentially, durably improve, rural households, which is often combined with other strategies, such as agricultural intensification and local non-farm activities (Bebbington 1999; Ellis 2000;

McDowell & de Haan 1997; Scoones 1998). It is increasingly recognized that labour migration is often more than a short-term survival or crisis coping strategy or a stereotypical "flight from misery".

3. INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA:

Hastinapur is one of the most populated places with high density of different communities residing into this area. It is located in the border areas of two states Meghalaya and Assam. It falls under the state of Assam under Kamarkushi Gaon Panchayat Demoria Block. Presently it has a total no of 10,000 populations staying into this area. The different groups of communities who are staying into this place are Nepali, Muslim, Assamese, Bongoli, Bihari, Punjabi, Marwari, Manipuri and Christian. The Nepali community covered the population of 40% in this area followed by Muslim community with 20%, Assamese community with 15% and others with 25%. The local people in this area are the Nepali, Assamese and the Muslim. Other groups of people who recently came and stayed are the Bihari, Bongoli, Punjabi, Marwari and the Christian. Hindu was the major religious practice among them, followed by Muslim and Christian. Presently it has one Lower Primary School, and one Private School, with one Anganwadi Centre, around ten Hindu Temple, One Mosque, One Christian Church, One Namghar, One Cancer Rehabilitation Centre Palliative Care Centre, One Christian Community Hall. The area has one market in which the residents itself sit and run the shops it has around 100 shops in an around the area.

4. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP:

Though different communities are residing together but a peaceful environment they are staying and eco-friendly relationship among them. They are willing to help each other in times of emergency. Assamese and Hindi are the two language used during interaction. It has been found that the Community people used to organized health awareness campaign, maintenance of cleanliness, control birth rate population to all the residents including the migrants and also the ASHA workers used to give equal treatment to the migrants pregnant women and children.

5. OCCUPATION:

In this area it has been seemed that different occupation have been performed by diverse community group like the Government Job, Private Job, Labour and others occupation. It has been found that in this area labour Work was the majority in which people work in this kind of job which constitute of 40% this kind of job are performed by majority the migrants coming from different part of Assam they are mostly the Assamses, Muslim and Bongoli. Prior

to labour work in their native place this people used to work as cultivators or daily wagers in other people house. But after shifting to other place they have adopted new kind of occupation which is labour work whereby most of them are unskilled labour. Everett S. Lee (1975: 195) in his very broad definition emphasizes the change of residence as a basic feature of migration. Theodore Caplow (1954: 60) points out occupational change as an important characteristic of migration, followed by the Private Job with 30% this kind of Job the Local people they are the Marwari, Bihari, Assamese, Muslim and the Nepali people. Government Job with 2% they are the local residents, the Nepali, Assamese and Muslim people and others kind of job which is 28% this include agriculture.

5.1 TYPES OF OCCUPATION:

The Nepali community followed occupation in Dairy Framing.

The Bengoli community followed Private and Bussiness Job.

The Muslim Community followed private and Labour job.

The Assamses followed Private, labour and Bussiness.

The Bihari Community followed private and labour ajaob.

The Punjabi follweed Bussiness Job.

6. IMPACT OF MIGRATION INTO THIS AREA:

In this area it has been found that half of the population into this area is residing by the migrants coming from different place of Assam like Dhubri, Barpeta, Morigoan, Nalbari, Kokrajhar, Majuli, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. The landless poor in economically backward regions constitute the major portion of migrants. Indian agriculture has not become remunerative, taking the lives of 10,000 peasants during the period from 1996 to 2003 (Rao Sarde, 1991). They are tempted to take decision for migrants and move to other place the main reason is that: lack of money and land, lack of working opportunities, and they are poor and they don't have any single plot of land in their native place but to work in other house as daily wagers and sometimes it's hard for them to get job and feed for their family for two square a meal. In contrast more than 87 percent of the population is landless or land scarce (Ahmed et al. 2012). Subsequently, landless and poor households are particularly prone to seasonal food insecurity but also resulting issues like health problems. David Canning (1994) in his study notes that the family is one of the most robust institutions in existence. It survives when all other social relationships disintegrate. Household or family works as the basic unit of society where people stay with a deep emotional and psychological bonding and provides a sense of security to the members. It has been argued that members of household or family act jointly within a broader institutional framework, with their set of resources, react in unison towards any adverse situation to achieve better socio-economic security and mobility (Scoones, 1998). Presently half of the total population of this area Hastinapur is being occupied by the migrants labour with a total number of 5000 they are residing into this area. Migration takes place every day into this area with the hope of leaving their native place in search of job and livelihood so that they can earn for their family and to improve livelihood status. World over, migration has become an important means of securing the basic necessities of life for people in poverty. Therefore, poverty and physical mobility have always been inter-related. Though migration does not give the poor a permanent solution, it most certainly brings many benefits and relief for the poor (Deshingkar & Grimm, 2005).

However, such migrants remain on the periphery of the society with no political voice or right (Kaber, 2005 cited in Deshingkar and Akter, 2009). Migrants residing to this area since they are not the permanent residents into this place they are not allow participating in political arena. Also most of them during election period these migrants hardly go and cast their vote because of financial problem during transportation. Except few used to go and cast their vote mostly the elder member. Also it has been found that the young children they have not yet enroll their name in the voter list from their own constituency so as to get and cast their vote in their native place. Most of the youth are uneducated and pick up any kind of job just to support them and for their family. According to Srivatsava (2003), unlike in the other countries of South East Asia and East Asia, a large section of the migrant workforce in India has little or no education. The majority of the migrants are poorly endowed all-round. That is, they hail from poor families where access to physical, financial and human capital is limited. Further, there are no prospects for improving their living standards as they are constrained by inferior social status. Historically, people belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society such as the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Castes are heavily represented in migration (Deshingkar and Akter, 2009). Majority of the migrants are coming from rural areas and they are belonging to lower class.

7. LIVING CONDITION OF THE MIGRANTS:

The migrants coming along with their family into this new place and staying over for a long period of times of 10 to 15 years bringing with their family and relatives they stayed in rented, where local landowners have some security of tenure and are able to develop systems that allow migrants access to it, land can be shared, and migrants tend to use it sustainably (Black 1994, Black and Sessay 1998, Kibreab 1997, Unruh 2004). Most of this migrants are labour workers working in an around the areas of Assam and Meghalaya as daily workers both men and women they

earned for a living with an amount of 300 to 500 per day their job is not permanent and it has been found that during the monsoon most of the family members are jobless and they have to live a very hard life while their children some of them they stay at home helping in domestic works and very few of them joint school. They stayed in rented house in which they have to adjust with the environment. This migrants are staying as tenants even though they have stayed for a long period of time but they cannot consider themselves as permanent residents because they don't have an Identity Prove individually.

It has been found that migrants children they practice child labour since the income of the family cannot effort to run the family. Most of the children work as child labour in shops, hotels, car wash services and in public transport as handyman just to support the financial to the family. It has been also found that majority of the migrants children are drop out school children the main reason is poverty. Thus, it is clear enough that poverty leads to child labour in this type of cases.

Parents early morning they left home for daily wagers and return home in the evening they don't have free time to spend with their relative and staying ideally in the house because they have to work hard to earned and provide the family. Since they don't have saving for the day a single day cannot be spent out of waste because that matter for providing food in a single day to the family.

These migrants are working mostly in Factory, construction sites; go down, domestic maid, Drivers and others. They work under poor conditions, lacking proper infrastructure, security and the absence of adequate health services. They are also discriminated against with regard to job opportunities, wages and the nature of work performed. They do not have bargaining or negotiating powers. Therefore, it is natural that women construction workers are vulnerable to exploitation (Hossen et al. 2004). Most of the migrant's women working in the different kind of factory they have to perform difficulty task and carrying heavy goods and risky Job.

8. PROBLEM FACED BY THE VILLAGE PEOPLE:

It has been found that many problem are being faced by the native people because of the migrants who acme and stayed into their place one of the main problem is that the congested of the area since migration take place everyday into this area and the migrants who come and find shelter into this area they are staying in rent house bringing along with their family, presently half population of this areas have been occupied by the migrants group. Another problem faced by the native people is the unhygienic living condition of this migrants groups, they brought different kind of illness disease like Tuberculosis most of the children are malnutrition and most of the migrants are illiterate, they don't practice birth control. Even though the native people have take up certain steps to organized awareness campaign for the migrants regarding health care awareness.

The problem of housing, traffic congestion, water and electric supply, sewerage and drainage, and environmental population are multiplying at a rapid rate into this area. Above all, the exploding population growth in association with daily migration taking place in to this area and adding of new residents of various migrant families group leading into over population. And sudden experienced of climate change over few past year. Mortality due to climate change is therefore very likely to increase through a range of direct effects (such as more intense heat waves, floods, and fires), indirect effects (such as declines in water quality and food security, and changes in disease vectors), and through social and economic disruptions (Confalonieri et al. 2007). Thus, this entire problem is being faced by the residents of this area.

Lastly majority of the migrants have no contribution to the community, there is no attitudes towards high thinking, no welfare to the family to improve a better standard of living. Vulnerability is even more pronounced when such people live in already degraded and variable environments (Leary et al. 2006). As deprivation is complex and takes many forms, a more complex and localized understanding of poverty is needed. Income is just one dimension of deprivation and in many cases income has not been identified as the most important dimension of deprivation or wellbeing. Jodha (1998) in his study of Rajasthan revealed that getting less dependent on patron is an important dimension of wellbeing cited by villagers. Even though the absolute income of villagers has decreased, they accepted betterment in their life due to less dependency and better level of consumption. Chambers (1995) identified eight main dimension of deprivation, which are poverty (lack of physical necessities, assets and income), social inferiority, isolation, physical weakness, vulnerability, seasonality, powerlessness and humiliation

9. CONCLUSION:

The report of the planning commission also show that Northeast India about 69 lakh people (25% of the total population) had to live below poverty line in the year 1983-84) (NEC, 1990). Simultaneously, due to limited employment opportunities, the number of unemployment persons is growing high and big number of poor and jobless family tends to migrates to other place. Which can be witnessed bin this present area Santipur. It is observed that the exploding population growth has been pervasive throughout the area both due to high natural increase and heavy influx of migration family taking place into this area coming from different part of the state of Assam. Such a growth is leading to the emergence of a variety of demographic and socio-economic problem, and consequently, it is exerting a great impact on the demographic, socio-economic and political set up of this place.

This includes assistance with visas (if they cross a border), finding a job, finding housing, development of language skills, networking with other migrants, and understanding public services such as the taxation and health care systems (Zetter et al. 2002). It is also important that public authorities promote a positive image of migrants, and do not allow them to be scapegoats for social and economic problems. These efforts will help maximize the benefits of migration to the host community as it will speed up their entry into the workforce and minimize the social frictions that may arise when migrants are disenfranchised (Kuhlman 1990). Certain groups in the society often encounter discriminatory treatment and often need Special attention (Chatterjee and Sheoran, 2007).

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