



Mgnrega and Rural - Urban Migration In India : Role and Impact

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ABSTRACT : With the rapid increase of the world population MIGRATION has become the major obstacle of India Specially in rural India and which in turn give rise to many other socio-economic problems, to tackle all these problems in a coordinated and systematic manner the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was launched. The Programme had a significant positive impact on seasonal and general, Rural – Urban Migration by providing ample work for rural workers with employment during the non agricultural season MGNREGA income provides a significant value addition to meet the higher order needs critical for their survival or growth and development of their family. Thus the employment offered are effective in slowing Rural – Urban migration and thereof.

Keywords : MGNREGA , Rural development, Migration, income, COVID.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi national Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) though notified in, 2005 was implemented in all the rural districts of India in April 2008. It is the biggest employment providing Programme ever started in a country for the development of its rural areas. It aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake. India accounted for nearly half of worlds rural poor and migration led urbanization in India is expected to cross 50 percent mark by 2032, Thus it becomes imperative to focus on ever increasing rural urban migration and other related issues. Since MGNREGA has provided not only the assured employment but also enhanced women role in rural labor force participation. It not only provide employment to them but by giving wage rate equal to that of a man, it has empowered the women economically as well as socially that in turn share the economic burden to both men and women which ultimately resulted in controlled and checked migration. Along with plethora of positives there are certain migrational drawbacks as well. Due to non availability of authentic migration data till 1990s the role of migration could not be explored. For the landless and marginal farmers who are in constant debt

and poverty ridden, Migration led income is the only choice for their livelihood. with the launch of MGNREGA the policy got directly connected to the migration and other rural development component like asset creation, employment, saving, poverty reduction, education, agricultural development and more importantly migration which has played a very important role in countering the adverse impacts of hasty migration in rural as well as urban areas. Though the migrants and their households might benefit individually from migration but there is a cumulative disaster and harm connected with the migration which adversely impacts the society either urban or rural in general .overcrowding and increased population in urban destination areas and a greater regional concentration of wealth, income and human capital. MGNREGA emerged as a controlling tool for it.

MIGRATION

Migration means people moves from one place to other (rural to urban) or vice-versa in search for better and improved livelihood so as to get better social mobility in society there are two types of migration like.

- 1) **Long Term Migration** - when one migrate for a period of at least 1 year, (12) month from his native birthplace to a new temporary residence.
- 2) **Short Term Migration**- when one migrate for period of At least 3 month or more from his birthplace to a new temporary residence.

CAUSES FOR MIGRATION- All the causes or reason for migration was group into PULL FACTOR (which induces or promote the migration process from like : better living condition in urban areas) and PUSH FACTOR (which is induced by the local residential areas to act like a pushing agent to initiate migration

RURAL – URBAN MIGRATION AND MGNREGA

Constituting the largest number the rural- urban migration, rural to urban migration needs special focus as it directs people from rural background to urban spheres in search of some good quality of living standards, However many urban problems like over burdened infrastructure, urban poverty hygiene and increased slums and crime, have been blamed on this ‘rural spill over’ . Some other factors like access to government services based on resident criteria such as subsidized food healthcare and education which are ment exclusively for the local residents further deteriorates the surviving condition of migrated rural poor. MGNREGA with the provision of guaranteed 100 days employment has played a vital role in controlling this situation from getting more worsen off ,as people are getting jobs in-situ thus controlling the access rural urban migration to happen The workers seem to prefer temporary or seasonal migration because firstly they do not have the facility to settle down in an urban area, where rent is very high and the area itself would be quite unfamiliar and secondly if they permanently shift to the slums, they face a high risk because there is no guarantee that they will be employed throughout the year . Wage Employment Programme Is an important component of the anti poverty drive. The scheme not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons and but also in time of floods, drought and other natural calamity like recent pandemic (corona). They create rural infrastructure like ponds, roads,

panchayatbhawan, schools, market buildings that in turn create and support further economic activity. Talking about the area of migration on pan India scale rural to urban migration constitutes 87 percent of the total economic migration, main reason being the overdependence on monsoon of agriculture, unemployment and desire for good standard of life. The area of UP, BIHAR, JHARKHAND, RAJASTHAN, M.P. these are the area which contribute maximum to the total number of person migrating out. It is generally accepted that people move in search of employment and also from low wage to higher wage region.

URBAN -RURAL MIGRATION

The concept of URBAN RURAL migration was not a new and with the advent of corona and announcement of increased employment of MGNREGA and also after the increase in minimum daily wages (during the pandemic) the reversal trend in migration can be noted and migration from rural to urban is now gaining the currency people are migrating on reverse basis to get themselves enrolled in the only source of income at that period of complete lockdown that is MGNREGA this is the reason along with rise in demand of wage employment in rural area that there is increase in the issue of total job cards during the pandemic period.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To access overall socio economic impact of MGNREGA led migration on rural laborers.
2. To Study the pattern and type of labor migration in India.
3. Find out the Impact of MGNREGA led Migration on Agriculture.
4. To examine the relation between MGNREGA and education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on primary and mainly secondary source. Books, reports, articles and previewed literature constitutes the main secondary sources. As data on the migration is not well documented in India neither by government nor by any formal institution on regular basis the survey will be carried on approximation rather putting out exact numbers conducted a survey of MGNREGA workers in the region at the active worksites for the primary set of data.

MGNREGA AND LABOR MIGRATION IN INDIA

Labor migration has been the integral part of India's history starting from Vedic period, in Search of habitat, economy and settlement To forced labor migration by Britisher for their self colonial interest but the difference lies today in the approach of the migration earlier migration was intentionally forced but now migration has become Situationally forced (like in search of employment, Unstability in the region,

pandemic etc). The meaning of labor migration in India today and its causes vary from place to place and from migrant to migrant, it is very difficult and often problematic to generalize it migration now been considered an important developmental issue in the country as there emerged demand of a national migration policy post COVID crisis. In urban migration nearly 90 percent of the migrants are coming from the rural areas only, depending on the socio economic reason which varies from place to place and person to person only 10 percent or so constitutes from urban areas which shows devastating condition of the rural laborers existence. In gender terms the male migration constitutes higher share. Reason for more migration for male migrant was dominated by search of employment. Nearly 79 percent of rural male migrants and 56 percent of urban male migrants have migrated due to employment related reasons thus MGNREGA is a vital player in managing the out- migration of rural workers from villages to urban centers with its right based employment nature. A higher percentage of person were found to be engaged in economic activities post migration; for males the percentage of workers have increased from 51 percent before migration to 63 percent after migration in rural areas while for females, it has increased from 20 percent to 31 percent post migration, this validates the fact that income security through MGNREGA can ease out the rate of out-migration in India.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF OUT MIGRATION

On Rural Areas	On Urban Areas
Decreased Labor Availability	Demographic Changes
Decreased Agricultural Productivity	Increased Social Tensions
Psychological Imbalances (As Migrant is Away From Family)	Development of Slums
Less Salary Result in Less Saving at Home (Rural Area)	Most Vulnerable to any Change
Result in Misery of Laborers	(There Suffering During Covid)

MGNREGA AS AN REMEDY TO- OUT MIGRATION- One of the significant objectives of the MGNREGA is to arrest out- migration of unskilled landless labor force from the rural areas to urban or semi urban center by ensuring them to entitled to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment within their residential jurisdiction so that these guaranteed wage employment can be judiciously and rationally utilized by the landless peasants during lean and distress seasons and thus can cause socio-economic Upliftment of rural laborers. As far as possible the work site is to be within a five Km radius of the applicant's home. In case it is not the laborers must be paid 10 percent of their wages as extra to meet the additional travel and living expenses. MGNREGA has become a powerful source of local employment and therefore reduces forced migration. In this respect MGNREGA contrasts with other rural development programme will have significant positive impact on seasonal rural-urban migration by providing rural workers with employment during the lean season. The lack of exact official data on migration is a matter that should be corrected as soon as possible as it is quite important to quantify this as accurately as

possible as rural-urban migration can become quite a problem for both the source and destination areas. MGNREGA has proved its worth in overhauling the rural condition and transforming a distressed, poverty laden and migration oriented rural India to become the growth engine of new India by achieving certain goals for development like-

Asset creation As the primary task of MGNREGA to provide guaranteed employment, with the increased rate of rural to urban migration the aforesaid task was impossible to achieve. MGNREGA has played a pivotal role in controlling the out-migration of non-skilled and semiskilled workforce and thus help in creating modern, growth oriented sustainable infrastructure like school, road, etc for rural development.

Women empowerment with women being equally entitled to same wage and work under MGNREGA and this feature of MGNREGA makes it only wage employment scheme that undermines the gender disparity within the rural society and ultimately for India too, with guaranteed direct income support women became self sustained and self dependent as economic empowerment of women leads to her social political and cultural Upliftment.

Increased labor supply in villages as MGNREGA successfully controls the out-migration, it eases the desired labor supply in the rural areas and thus help in labor availability for other more productive works in No work phase.

Agricultural productivity As MGNREGA provide on sight work to village semiskilled or unskilled labors, village labors now have two source of income (source one agriculture, source two MGNREGA) with them, which does not let them to migrate to other urban centers for non seasonal temporary work .as migration is optimized and low the workforce employed in agriculture will be substantially increased which further result in increased crop production and agricultural development of the region and hence agriculture employed about 50 percent of the total workforce significant improvement can be seen in the rural productivity.

Optimum use and distribution of resources As the level of Optimacy is retained in the distribution of population in rural and urban area through controlled migration by successful implementation of MGNREGA the government will be more comfortable in sharing the national resource with the population as per its socioeconomic condition , which is difficult in access migration situation as there is no migration data either formal or informal got tabled by government.

Solve the situation of ultra urbanisation With increased migration from rural to urban areas the rate of unsustainable migration got surged which gives N number of concern to migrated region like slum area development, demographical imbalances, ecological problems (encroachment of lakes and seas) thus MGNREGA has not only improved rural condition but also urban socio-economic-ecological landscape by having controlling hand on outmigration. Thus MGNREGA ha guaranteed In situ employment guided decreased migration led increased income and thus finally resulting rural development.

MGNREGA led controlled migration improves education status of children - The rural labor tend to migrate along with their families hoping that they might be able to employ their children in cities leading to children dropping out of school during the academic year which shows how migration was directly connected to lack of education. It was found that some of the villagers spent their MGNREGA income to improve the quality of education of their wards by paying the admission fee, purchasing books, providing

tuitions, buying of school uniform, etc. Due to the construction of a connecting road through MGNREGA now children are more regular in terms of attending the school. There is a clear tendency of using the additional wage income for the education of children, It builds a case of inherent demand for children's better education Most of the MGNREGA benefited families utilized their income for accessing children's education.

CONCLUSION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) that was launched in the year 2005 as a social security measure aimed at providing employment security to the poor in villages. MGNREGA was also meant to use this labor to construct rural infrastructure that is clearly wanting in India and hence MGNREGA was formulated with the triple objective of RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT and controlling the HASTY OUT-MIGRATION from the village and all three the objectives are of utmost priority in rural India. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guarantees 100 days of work to all households. The factor that determine the smooth functioning of MGNREGA in rural area I its implementation and reach to the people through provision like social auditing in it, it should be clear that the primary aim of the Act is to provide welfare for the section of the population that does not earn the minimum wage – the fact that it can also curb distress and undesired migration and other socio economic eventualities of the region is just a positive secondary impact of the Act. Therefore it is very much effective in curbing the rural urban migration, hence it will be yet another benefit from this Act, which will keep on exploring other areas apart from migration and rural development and where it becomes the real driver of the growth engine of India that is villages.

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