

In Search of a Sustainable Future: Finding Remedies For Rural Migration through Political Interventions- An Appraisal

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Abstract

This paper focuses on various innovative government policy interventions to create a sustainable future for rural youth as an approach on containing rural migration. Indian rural youth are suffering from finding a sustainable employment in rural areas due to decline of agricultural productivity and agro related subsidiary jobs. Rural youth are reluctant to continue farming and they wish to find alternate employment opportunities in urban centers and are willing to shift to urban centers. The number of youth migrating is increasing and this exodus has created several problems both in their new place of settlement and back home in their villages. The urban jobs which are being pursued by migrating rural youth are unskilled jobs and these unskilled jobs do not fetch a decent living in urban centers. This is motivating them towards anti social activities and urban crime. The Government of India has made several schemes for rural youth to create employable opportunities but the policies have failed to hold youth back in their villages. But there are several new avenues which the government can prioritize and help rural youth find a decent living in rural areas.

Keywords: Rural migration, sustainable future, remedies, political interventions

Introduction

The Indian society which was a stronghold of agrarian life was disorganized due to the influx of liberal economic policies. The country began to move towards globalization and the economy became more urban oriented. The congregation of the needs and requirements of the expanding urban population was the major concern of the liberal economic policies. The multitude of corporate offices which were set up after 1991 focused on urban consumers and this made the rural sector orphan.

Factors Leading To Exodus of Migration in India

A significant cause of rural-to-urban migration socio economic living conditions in India and several other causes have been briefed below.

1. Lack and insufficient economic opportunities in rural areas leave the people to look for sustainable living. They find it very hard to get basic minimum wage in rural side. This motivates them to move to towns and cities in search of employment.
2. The Report of the census of India 2011 showed that India's urban population has grown faster than its rural population since the last census 2001. This was exclusively due to the increasing migration to urban centers.

	2001	2011
Rural	72 %	69%
Urban	28%	31%

Source: The Report of the Census of India 2011

In 2007-08, the National Sample Survey measured the migration rate (the proportion of migrants in the population) in urban areas at 35 percent.

2007-08	35%
2014-15	47%
2017-18	52%

In addition to migration, natural population increase and the inclusion in census data of newly-defined urban areas also account for some of this urban growth. Despite India's impressive rates of economic growth over the past three decades, vast numbers of Indians are unable to secure a meaningful livelihood. In 2010, 29.8 percent of all Indians lived below the national poverty line, while 33.8 percent of rural Indians lived below the national rural poverty line, according to World Bank data. While wage and education gaps between rural and urban Indians are declining, rural India is still characterized by agrarian distress, a chronic lack of employment, and farmer suicides.

Thus, the rural-urban divide has been one of the primary reasons for India's labor mobility. While migration data from the country is not as comprehensive or as recent as needed to the 2001 Census counted about 191 million people—or 19 percent of the total Indian population at the time—as internal migrants who had moved long distances to other districts or other Indian states. About 70 percent of all internal migrants are women, and marriage is the primary reason for female migration, accounting for 91 percent of rural female migrations and 61 percent of urban female migrations. By contrast, men migrate mostly for employment-related reasons. Fifty-six percent of urban male migrants move in search of employment. Other top reasons for migration among Indian men include family, business, and education purposes

Role of Government

1. Creation of productive employment opportunities through development of community leadership, political participation, involvement in decision-making. Involvement in policy making is needed. There is a need for making the youth aware of digital developments as well.
2. Creation of sustainable living opportunities in rural areas is the need of the time. Rural youth leave villages because they find urban centers more attractive for earning a decent livelihood.
3. Rural development strategies through good irrigation projects, good seed distribution, subsidy support prices to cultivated products starting of agro processing industries etc can make the productive support for rural youth.
4. Spread of education can create sustainability. The rural youth migrate to urban centers for educational purposes. The higher education sector can support rural youth with establishment of higher educational institutions.
5. Strengthening the agricultural sector through crop insurance , rain harvesting solution , energy solutions, solar energy systems, universal health insurance coverage etc
6. The corporate social responsibility (CSR) is needed to achieve integrated rural development. They can provide leadership & entrepreneurial support to rural youth.
7. The corporate support can be given in training the rural youth specially women in establishment of Micro enterprises, preparing them to inclusive finance & banking services etc.

Conclusion

To sum up, there is a need to formulate an integrated rural development policy, covering sustainable agriculture policy, land ownership pattern, development of tertiary sector, promotion of crop insurance, rural health & rural tourism etc. Only an integrated policy towards making the rural youth become sustainable future can solve the migration problem. The government needs to look at the new strategies to contain the increasing percentage of migration by strong political interventions. The prioritizing the government can consider policies to enhance alternate agro based employment, sustainable agricultural policies and all season employment of rural youth. Strengthening the agricultural sector through crop insurance, rain harvesting solution, energy solutions, solar energy systems, universal health insurance coverage etc.

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