

## **FLOOD-INDUCED MIGRATION AND ITS SOCIO- ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WOMEN- A CASE STUDY OF KOSI FLOOD IN NORTH-BIHAR**

**Ajeet Kumar** \*

**Dr. Ashiwini Kumar Singh** \*\*

---

### **Abstract:**

No one wish to leave home unless it becomes difficult for her/him to survive. Men are social by nature, therefore, they wishes to stay in their own society. It is always painful to leave the place which you love the most. Unfortunately, millions of the people in India are being displaced and migrated from one place to another place. Migration is not only a painful and horrific experience but also a package of miseries and the distresses. The migration has two ends e.g. place of origin and place of destination. It often used as a coping mechanism for the people who are in distress, that they could not survive at their native places. However, it is never a guarantee that people will not suffer at the place of destination; in fact, it leads them into another series of sufferings. Flood is the most terrible cause of the migration in Bihar. It has a direct co-relation with poverty, unemployment and other distresses which forces people to migrate. When it comes to the agony of migration, women are the prime sufferers. In the case of male migration, the entire household's responsibility lies on women with no economic and social security. They are vulnerable to physical, sexual, social, economic as well as psychological exploitations. This paper is an exploration of the causes and effects of migration in general and the issues of women in particular.

**Key words:** - Flood induced migration, socio-economic stress, Push and Pull factors of migration, Kosi River, Flood.

---

\* **PhD Scholar, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University) New Delhi, India**

\*\* **Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (a central university) New Delhi, India**

**Introduction:**

Bihar is one of the most vulnerable states to flood. Roughly, 69.70 lakh hectares of land and 74% of its geo-geographical area in Bihar is affected severely by the devastating and frequently occurring floods (NIDM-National Institute of Disaster Management Report-2011, p-363). Flood has multi-dimensional impacts on socio-economic development in Bihar. This is also one of the biggest reasons for the lower level of development in Bihar. The impact of the flood could be assessed by comparing the level of development in Bihar with other parts of the country. The large scale migration from Bihar has a direct co-relation with the frequently occurring floods. Millions of flood affected people are being forced to migrate every year. Further, migration has its own tales of sufferings.

North-Bihar suffers from different types of migrations e.g. permanent, seasonal and daily migration. These are mostly distressed and forceful migrations. Moreover, women are the most sufferers in these types of migrations. They are critically vulnerable for psycho-social and economic exploitations. They are facing a series of challenges. Therefore, it is vital to explore the issues of women in distress.

**Geography of Bihar**

Bihar is located at 25.09 N Latitude and 85.3 E Longitude. It is bounded by Nepal in the north and Jharkhand in the south, West-Bengal in the east and Uttar-Pradesh in the west. The Bihar plain is divided into two by river Ganga. The entire North-Bihar is crisscrossed by multiple rivers including Ghaghra, Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla-Balan, Kosi, Sone, Pun-pun and Mahananda. These rivers contribute to the devastating floods in North-Bihar. The most disastrous among them is the river Kosi. It is because the river kosi is famous for frequently changing its course; therefore, it causes severe damage to lives, cattle, crops, infrastructures etc. It is famously known as the “**Sorrow of Bihar**”. The flood in Bihar is associated with south-west monsoon which causes huge rainfall within the short span of time. At the same, time majority of rivers which flows in Bihar are originated in Nepal or Tibetan Himalaya. Since, Bihar lies in the lower riparian area. Therefore, any change in water level in these rivers causes massive floods in North-Bihar. The most affected districts include Saharsa, Madhepura, Purnea, Araria, Khagaria, Supoul, Katihar, Kisangani, Sitamarhi, Bhagalpur, Begusarai and Darbhanga, Madhuwani. The

average rainfall in Bihar is 1200 mm however, it receives majority of rains within a short span which leads to the overflow of the rivers.

### **Demography of Bihar:**

Bihar is the second largest state in India with 10.8 crore population. The population density in Bihar is 1106, which is highest in India (Census-2011). The huge population density is another cause of poverty in Bihar. It creates enormous pressure on already scarce resources in Bihar. More than three-fourths population (87%) in Bihar (Census-2011), resides in the rural area and heavily dependent on agriculture. The proportion of youth population is higher in Bihar. However, they are not yet cultivated as the demographic dividend because they lack the required skills and education. They are unemployed as well as unemployable; therefore, the youth in Bihar are excessively vulnerable. They often migrate to other states in the search of employment.

### **A Brief history of Floods in Bihar**

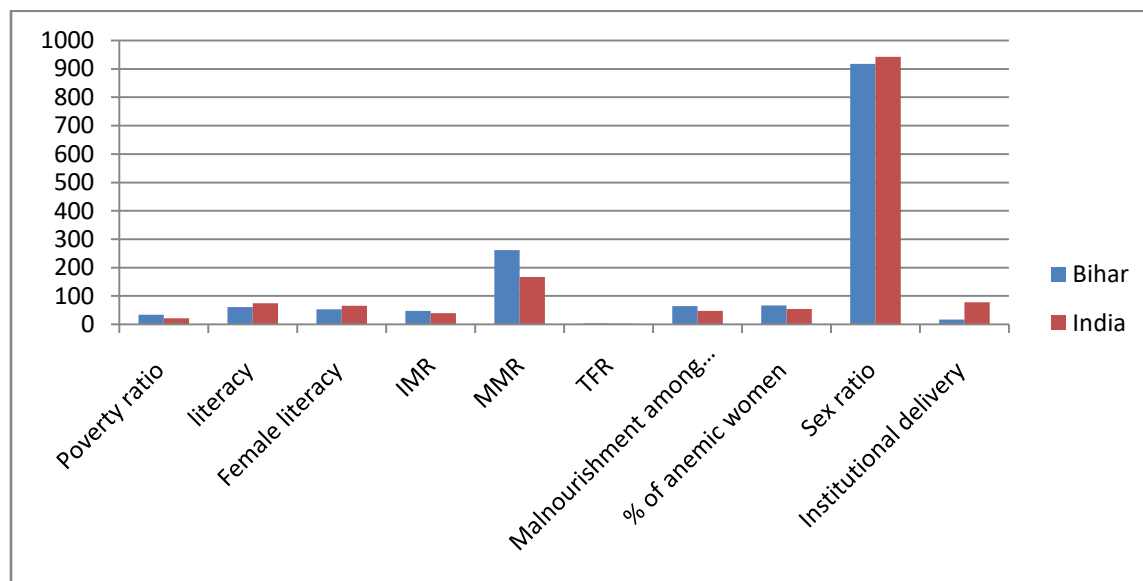
Flood has become synonymous with North-Bihar. Almost every year during the month of July-August, floods of different intensity occurs in North-Bihar. However, in some particular years, when there is a high amount of rainfall in Nepal Himalayan and Tarai region, massive floods occur. First such massive flood witnessed in 1954, followed by 1974, 1987, 1999, 2004 and the biggest among all in 2007-08. In 2007, the losses were unprecedented which caused the losses to 300 million worth of crops, 1183 people lives (officially declared), houses and the land. Thousands of people have become homeless, foodless and landless. It has affected 20 million people and 0.18 million ha land directly (NIDM Annual Report-2011, p-243). There was over 400% above to the normal rainfall within the short span which causes rivers to overflow. Meanwhile, river Kosi had changed its course which washed out thousands of villages and agricultural land. It forced people to take shelter in relief camps. Further, the post-flood epidemics and the spread of water-borne diseases have spoiled the health of women and children. The schools were forced to close for many months. It has ruined the economy and infrastructure in Bihar.

**A comparative analysis of the level of development in Bihar and India:** Bihar is one among the BIMARU states in terms of the development. Bihar performs poorly on each of the

developmental indicators. It is placed at the bottom of the development. The following chart shows the status of Bihar on the major developmental indicators.

<b>Development indicators</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>India</b>
Poverty ratio	<b>33.7</b>	<b>21.9</b>
literacy	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>
Female literacy	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>
IMR	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>
MMR	<b>261</b>	<b>163</b>
TFR	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Malnourishment among women	<b>64</b>	<b>47</b>
% of anemic women	<b>67</b>	<b>54</b>
Sex ratio	<b>918</b>	<b>943</b>
Institutional delivery	<b>17</b>	<b>78</b>

Source-NFHS (National Family Health Survey) 2015-16



### **The Rationale of the study**

The migration is a universal and widely known phenomenon. The type of migration, its causes, effects and the intensity varies from place to place. However, one thing which is common to all types of migration is the sufferings of women. There are numerous studies and reports available which have highlighted the issues of women with respect to migration. Nevertheless, questions of women are still un-answered which needs to be re-explored with the vision of the sustainable and inclusive world. The eco-feminist perspective provides us the lenses to see the women issues at the center of any environmental or disaster related causality. The devastating Kosi flood in Bihar which is the sole cause of large scale migration has its own tales of miseries and sufferings for women. It needs to be re-examined and re-explored, so that an in-depth understanding of gender issues could be established. This paper has attempted to explore the migration related women issues with respect to flood. As far as the migration in North- Bihar is concerned, it is mostly flood induced and forced in nature. Floods, in North-Bihar causing large scale devastations, losses to lives, crops, cattle, houses, spreads of epidemics and water-borne diseases, lack of wage employment, scarcity of food etc. Therefore, millions of people migrate from Bihar to other places every year. This type of migration is forceful and not the voluntary, therefore, it involves greater pains and stresses. Moreover, the sufferings of women are manifolds which include social, economical, psychological challenges. The challenges of women get intensified also because of the dominant patriarchy in this region of Bihar. Women members enjoy very lower status in the families. The concept of “women eat last and last” is still prevalent in these areas. Therefore, the first level of sufferings of women starts in the family itself. For example, when a poor household is trapped in flood and has very limited food to eat then obviously, it is women in the family who may go on the bed without food. At the societal level also, woman suffers tremendously. It has been reported (TISS Flood Assessment Report-2008, p-286) that the daily wage for women workers in flood affected North-Bihar was just Rs 15 per day. This is the manifestation of the worst form of economic exploitation of women workforce. It is because of the lack of wage employment availability in the flood affected region. Secondly, when the male member migrates to other places leaving women alone in a distressed situation, she is exposed to new series of miseries and challenges. An important study has been conducted among migrants and non-migrants in Bihar by Shukla, P. (2015), which has revealed that, there is a direct correlation between the male migration and the distressed living of women. Women members of

migrant`s families tend to work almost 1.5 times more as compared to women members of non-migrant`s families. This is because, when a male member migrates, the entire responsibilities of household lies on women. Therefore, women work more in order to fulfill those responsibilities and to survive in difficulties. The rationale of this paper is to explore the issues of women in different types of migration which have been caused by the flood.

### **Objectives of the study:**

- To understand the pattern, issues and challenges of flood-induced migration in North-Bihar.
- Understand the cause-effect relationship of flood-induced migration and its socio-economic impact on women.

### **Methodology**

This study has two parts. The first part is a qualitative study which includes five detailed case studies. The second part is quantitative which is supplemented with the review of twenty-articles and papers on the issues of migration. Nevertheless, the larger emphasis has been given to qualitative case studies to have an in-depth understanding of the issues of women with respect to the migration. Therefore this study employs the mixed (Triangulation) method, including both, qualitative and quantitative methods.

### **Research Design:**

The study is based on the ex-post facto research design which involves the experience sharing of the respondents.

### **Sampling techniques**

The criterion of the selection of the sample is based on the snow-ball method of sampling. The respondents have been chosen on the basis of certain exclusion and inclusion criteria, as per the convenience and the purpose of the study.

**Sample size:** - Five in-depth case studies and review of twenty research papers to substantiate the findings of case studies.

**Area of the Study:** - Lakshminagar and Shakarpur area of East Delhi.

### **Exclusion and inclusion criteria**

The purpose of this study is to explore the issues of women with respect to the migration which is caused by the floods in North-Bihar. Therefore, the first criterion was to choose women respondents instead of men. Secondly, respondents are chosen among those who have been migrated from flood affected region of Bihar. Thirdly, researcher also wanted to study the issues of only those women who are migrated out of distress and difficulties. Therefore, researcher has excluded the well-off sections of migrants and the demand driven types of migration.

### **Tools of data collection**

Primary data has been collected through five detailed and in-depth case studies. The case studies have been done in two or more sessions. The Interview Guide has been used to help the researcher. These interviews are structured but conducted in informal set up as per the convenience of the respondents. Firstly, researcher has established a Rapport with the respondents through interaction and home visits. Thereafter, interviews have been conducted. Subsequently, quantitative data has been collected through the review of twenty articles and papers.

### **Ethical consideration**

The prior consent of respondents has been taken. The participants have been well informed about the purpose of the study. The confidentiality of the shared informations has been maintained. Prior consent to take photographs and recording of the interview has been taken. Throughout the study, proper citation and references of data included to maintain the purity and originality of the study.

### **Case studies**

1. Case-1, F-46- Lakshminagar, East Delhi. She is working as a domestic maid and also run a small shop near a temple in Lakshminagar. She along with her husband and four kids has been migrated from Kumudpur village of Begusarai District of Bihar to Delhi in 1996. She has shared the experiences of the difficulties and tortures she had faced, both at the place of origin (Bihar) as well as at the place of destination (Delhi). It includes the lack of wage employment, food and

income insecurity, torture and molestation from local money-lenders etc. She has said in Hindi “Hum To Na Ghar Ke Rahe Na hi Ghat Ke” it means they left their native place out of difficulties and with the hope of better life at the city. However, they are facing more difficulties in the city.

2. Case-2, F-27- Shakarpur, East Delhi. She along with her husband and three kids has migrated from Amour purnia district to Delhi due to the massive flood of 2008 in Bihar. She suffered tremendously during her initial years at Delhi. They were forced to live on street without having proper food and shelter for many months. She was tortured and molested by Police and Locals at Delhi. Currently she is working as house maid and her husband works in a Hotel.

3. Case-3, F-34-Sakarapur, East Delhi, has been migrated from Pokharia Village Saharsha district of Bihar due to flood induced difficulties. She along with her husband works in a Garment Factory at Shakarpur-Delhi and together they earn approx 30,000 per months. She has shared the difficulties during the disastrous massive flood of 2008. They were left shelter less, foodless for many days as the entire village was completely washed out in the mid-night. The standing crops, cattle, houses, stored food grains in the houses; everything was washed out with the flow of the flood. They were forced to stay in the flood relief camps; there also she has experiences severe challenges including caste and gender discrimination in the distribution of relief services. Meanwhile, she has got infected with water-borne disease. It was difficult for her and family to survive there in the camp. Therefore, they have decided to migrate permanently.

4. Case-4, F-35-Lakshminagar Metro-station, East Delhi. She runs a small tea shop near the Lakshminagar metro-station. She has two daughters and one son. She wants her children to be educated. However, her earning is not enough even to survive with ease and therefore, could not afford the education of children. She has shared the difficulties they are facing at Delhi. She could not afford a rented house in Delhi and stay on the street. She is facing severe challenges for the access of drinking water and electricity. Moreover, she also faces the torture from locals and municipality officials.

5. Case-5, F-29-Sakarapur, East Delhi. Her husband was a seasonal migrant for many years. She used to stay alone in Bihar and maintain all the household responsibilities. However, due to frequent occurring of floods at the native place, she could not able to survive there. Lack of wage-employment and the severe income and food insecurity have been the sole cause for her



migration from Bihar to Delhi. She is living with her husband and kids. She works as domestic maid and her husband is a daily wage worker. **Discussion:** - With the help of case studies and review of numerous articles, researcher has identified the causes of migration and the consequences of migration.

### **Causes of migration in North-Bihar**

There are numerous causes of migration which may be natural or manmade. The natural causes of migration include disasters such as flood, droughts, earthquakes, tsunami, landslides, unseasonal rains, melting of glaciers, global warming and climate change etc. The manmade causes of migration may be the displacement due to so-called developmental projects, the conflicts like riots, communal or caste based tensions and conflicts, wars, ethnic clashes, land acquisitions, land degradation, deforestation, industrialization and urbanization etc. The other causes of migration are the poverty and un-employment. As far as migration in North-Bihar is concerned, it is directly or indirectly induced by the devastating floods. The Kosi River, which is considered as the ‘Sorrow of Bihar’ brings massive flood almost every year in North-Bihar. In some years the intensity of flood is very high, it occurs 5-6 times at the interval of 15-20 days. Therefore, the affected areas are being flooded for almost 3-4 months a year. The kosi flood is considered, one of the massive floods in the country because of the scale of the devastation it brings. In the affected areas, the villages get totally disconnected from any other localities and from the nearby cities. The roads and other critical infrastructures are often being washed out. The villages, houses and the agricultural fields get submerged under water. Therefore, there is no wage employment available during those difficult months. Since the agricultural fields are also under-water so the agricultural works are not possible, hence there is no agricultural wage-employment available for the daily wage workers who are dependent on the agricultural works. It creates severe hardship for such poor and agriculture-wage dependent families. They are often unable to feed themselves during the peak of the flood and have to be dependent on limited flood reliefs by the government or NGOs. They are in the absolute scarcity of food and other basic needs like health care, nutritional requirements etc. In such difficult phase, women and children are the worst sufferers. The pregnant mothers are unable to get basic health care check-up, medicines and nutrition. Lactating mothers are not able to get the required calories intake. These affect the health of the mother and newly born children. Apart from these, another exploitative

and dominant character here is the local money-lenders. In order to survive in the difficulties, the poor people and daily wage workers often go to the local money-lenders for loans in cash or in kind, at a very high interest rate. The interest rate of money-lenders is reported in TISS Assessment Report-2008 as high as 120% per annum (10% per month to the principal amount). This is nothing but a worst and in-humane form of exploitation of the poor. This is the trap of indebtedness which forces the people into the vicious cycle of poverty. These all difficulties create a combined distress to the affected poor families. Therefore, the Flood could be seen as the major cause of migration in North-Bihar. Flood is the leading cause of the poor development indicators in Bihar. The flood directly or indirectly contributes to the massive poverty and unemployment. The major causes of migration from Bihar are the followings.

#### **Analysis:-**

The study of these cases reflects the inter-linkages of the sufferings of women and the migration. There is a range of issues associated with women, which have multi-dimensional impacts on health, social status, education, economic independency, psychological state etc. Women are the most vulnerable section for the exploitation and sufferings caused by the migration. **Case-1, F-46** has shared that she was attempted for sexual abuse while returning from work in the late evening. A similar incident has been shared by **Case-2, F (27)** as she was attempted to rape by her own relative. These are the manifestations of the level of vulnerability women faces in their day to day life. In North-Bihar region, one can find numbers of women carry their newly born infants on the shoulder or tied up on the back and working in the field. These women migrates daily 6-7 K.m to find the wage employment. Analyzing the cases in detail, researcher has identified several issues such as the poverty and hunger, debt trap and oppressive money lending practices, domestic violence and physical and Sexual abuses of women in distress, unemployment and lack of daily wages, lack of skills and employability, water-borne Diseases among women and children, poor health and education among women etc. Some of these issues are directly associated with floods and others are indirectly impacted. The first direct impact of the flood is the large scale migration from the affected region. The migration is a phenomenon which is caused by several factors. It is either Distress-pushed or Demand-pulled migration. However, the flood induced migrations are generally distressed push migration in which people are being forced to migrate. The major causes of such types of migrations are the poverty,

hunger, unemployment and distressed living conditions. In the case of male migration, women member of the family has to bear all the responsibilities of the household. Female members of migrant`s family become extremely vulnerable. They have to take care of the kids. They often face the severe economic crisis. At one hand, there is less availability of wage employment. Therefore, these women are forced to work on the nominal wage rate. Secondly, the remittance from male counterparts is neither regular nor sufficient to maintain all the household requirements. It also has been observed that there is the regular practice of taking the loan from local moneylenders at the time of migration. Once male members migrate, it is women who have to repay the high interest loans of moneylenders. Therefore, women are forced either to repay the interest and loan or to bear the abuse and tortures of moneylenders. These moneylenders often force women to work as Beggar. They also do sexual and physical abuse of these poor women (Reported by NIDM-2011). Moreover, these women suffer from extreme poverty and hunger which critically affects their health. Due to the lack of money, they often ignore their health concerns which lead them into severe health consequences. Therefore, a very high level of maternal and child mortality have been reported in this region of Bihar. These extremities also affect the education of children. They are forced to be drop-out from schools and often engaged working as child labour. As per the TISS Assessment report, one out of every three children is engaged in child labour practice in north-Bihar. The National Crime Record Bureau has reported the high prevalence of women trafficking from Bihar to other parts of India. As per the report, nearly 20000 women from flood affected 12 districts have been reported missing during 2007-11 period. However, the actual number of missing women may be many times greater than this reported numbers as claimed by different NGOs.

**Findings:** - On the basis of the detailed analysis, researcher has found that the flood is both the direct as well as the indirect cause of migration from North-Bihar. The poor development indicators in Bihar are the indirect impacts of the frequent occurring floods and flood-induced disasters. These make life of the people vulnerable and force them to migrate to other places. Following are the few indicators which highlight the impact of flood in general and the causes of migration in particular.

**Poverty:** -On the basis of Tendulkar committee poverty calculation criteria, 33.7% population in Bihar lives at below poverty line. The Irony is that, more than two-thirds populations are engaged and dependent on agriculture. And the agriculture itself extremely affected by the floods. Therefore, it results into a massive level of absolute poverty and hunger in Bihar.

**Landlessness:** - The landlessness is a major structural problem in Bihar. 67% population in Bihar is landless (NSSO-70<sup>TH</sup> Round) and dependent on daily wage work. Due to the frequent floods in Bihar, agricultural work often interrupts, which directly impacts the lives of these daily wage workers. They are being forced to be wage less for peak 3-4 months therefore, it is difficult for them to survive at their native places. They are being forced to be migrated to other places.

**Education:** - Literacy rate in Bihar is only 61 %. The female literacy is just 51% (Census-2011). The literacy and education contribute for the skill development and enhancement of the employability. Since the education level is lowest in Bihar, therefore, people lack the required skills. This also contributes to the massive unemployment in Bihar. Flood is also one of the biggest reasons for the low level of education in Bihar. Schools in flood affected region often get flooded or submerged under water which forces children to be out of school for 3-4 month in a year. Due to massive poverty and other distresses children are being forcefully drop-out from the schools.

**Health:** - The health is an important development indicator which has multi-dimensional impacts. As per NFHS 2015-16, 67% women are anemic in Bihar. The maternal mortality rate (MMR) in Bihar is 267 which is the highest among all the states in India. In the flood affected region in Bihar, only 17% institutional delivery has been reported. It causing to the high level of neo-natal and maternal mortality. Post-flood spreads of the epidemic and water-borne diseases are the leading cause of female and child mortality. Further, the low level of educational attainment among women and lack of health awareness causes enormously to the health of women and children.

**Unemployment:** - High rate of unemployment is the bitter truth in Bihar. The proportion of youth in Bihar is higher which could have been an advantage. However, due to the lack of skills, lack of demand and lack of employment opportunities resulted into massive un-employment in Bihar. The workforce participation in Bihar is only 43%. It means almost 57% populations in Bihar are un-employed. This has made the life of people, critically vulnerable. They are being

trapped into the vicious cycle of poverty. They are being forced to migrate to other places in the search of livelihood opportunities.

**Factors of the migration:** (SRLM Bihar, Annual Report-2013, p-282)

- **Push factor:** - It is also called **Distress Push Factor**. The Push factors are associated with the place of origin whereas the Pull Factors are associated to the place of destination. These are the factors which force people to migrate to other places in order to survive. These include poverty, un-employment, social tension, religious tension, displacements, economic in-security, hunger etc. When the survival of people at their native places has become difficult, then the people have no option but to leave or migrate to other places. The push factor led migration is more painful because it forces the people to migrate. They have to migrate unwillingly. People have emotional attachments to their society, native place and home. Therefore, it is very painful for them to migrate to un-known places by leaving all the social relations. Secondly, these people are also worried about the job, shelter, food, living conditions, education of the children etc.
- **Pull Factor:** - It is also called **Demand Pull factor**. This type of migration is not forced but willingly chosen by the people due to the better living, better job prospects and demands in cities or relatively developed places.

### **Types of migration in North-Bihar**

(SRLM-State Rural Livelihood Mission Annual Report-2013, p-273)

**Permanent Migration:** - It is the type of migration in which the entire family migrates from one place to another place. This type of migration could be happened either due to the distress or because of the demands. The displacement led migration and the disaster induced migrations are the critical example of permanent migration. In this case of migration, male and female both migrate with their family. This is more painful migration as the families leave the original places permanently and often losses the social contacts and relationships.

**Seasonal/periodic migration:** - This type of migration is very common in India. Here, mostly the male migrates to different places in the search of employment for a limited period of time. Once the hardship is over and employment opportunities are being available at their native place, they often return to their home. At the same time, female members stay at home alone or with in-laws. In this type of migration women member suffers the most. She stays at home alone. And she has to bear the entire household responsibilities and liabilities.

**Daily migration:** - The daily migration is more common among women. It is a type of migration in which people migrate for work in the daytime and returns back to their respective homes at night. During peak 2-3 months of the flood, a majority of the agricultural fields get submerged under water and the agricultural works could not be possible. Therefore daily wage workers who are dependent on agricultural works have to search for wages in nearby villages. They often migrate daily to 7-8 k.m for the search of daily wage.

### **Interventions of the Government**

In the process of writing this paper, researcher has reviewed the National Disaster Management Act, National Disaster Management plan and Reports. Surprisingly, researcher has found very few numbers of initiatives to address the gender issues associated with disasters. This is well established facts that the women are the most sufferers in disasters. However, the issues of women are not yet addressed effectively. As far as the flood and migration in Bihar and the associated issues of women are concerned, the governmental initiatives are rarely focused on women issues. Most of the issues of women are un-addressed and un-answered which needs particular attention and a paradigm shift in the policy. Nevertheless, the MGNREGA Scheme of the government has provided a platform to address some of the issues. It could solve the issue of wage unemployment to some extent. The NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) initiative is worth mentioning. It has promoted the SHG led Movement in Rural Bihar. It contributes to the economic empowerment of women through channelizing women into federations and linking them into institutional credits. It promotes the self-employment initiatives among poor women. However, these initiatives are not sufficient to address all the issues of women. There is a need for multiple approaches as the issues are manifold.

### **Suggestions:-**

- Rescue, Rehabilitation and Relief 3R-Strategy (National Disaster Management Plan Document-2011, p-366) are the critical part for minimizing the sufferings of the flood. Rescue must be gender sensitive, rehabilitation should be proper and relief must be enough for the survival of people and for the re-establishment of the damages.
- A complete ban on oppressive local money lending practices. There should be the provision of institutional credits for promoting the self-employment initiatives.

- Large scale skills training among youth to enhance the employability. At the same time, there should be enough employment opportunity for youth.
- Promotion of MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) in rural Bihar. This will create the employment and generate the income for rural poor.
- Promote the SGH movement in the affected area and link every woman into SHG led initiatives. The promotion of income generation activities could be channelized through SHG federations.
- Large scale afforestation and embankment along the banking areas of the rivers to check the intensity of flood. It could be instrumental in reducing the damages of the flood and minimizing the sufferings of the people.
- Effective implementation of MGNREGA scheme. It will provide the un-interrupted wage-employment to a large number of people. Therefore, the economic and food security will prevent the massive migration from these areas.
- Promotion of fisheries, ponds creation, MAKHANA productions etc. In the flood affected region there is a huge scope for developing fisheries as an industry. It could provide direct as well as indirect employment to large number of people.
- Land reforms in Bihar are due, because almost 67% people are landless. Moreover, the women rarely have ownership rights over the land. This also prevents women to access the relief provided by the government for the loss of the crops. Re-distribution of land will lead to the reduction of poverty in this area.
- Promotion of better health and education among women. This will help in enhancing the employability and reduce the economic burden on the family.

**Conclusion:-**

The flood is considered as both the natural and manmade disaster. Majority of the cases of flood could be controllable and manageable. However, sometimes it is beyond the control of anyone. If we could not control flood, at least we could minimize the sufferings of the people. It could be possible by developing the resilient infrastructures, effective, inclusive, integrated and sensitive disaster management. The embankments along with rivers, check dams and channelizing water may reduce the intensity of the flood and could minimize the sufferings of the people. Though this paper has explained flood as a major cause of the migration in North-Bihar, it is not the

isolated cause. If flood alone is the cause of migration, the entire population of the area could have been migrated. This means flood has associations with numerous issues. Therefore, this study has explained various other responsible factors like poverty, un-employment, landlessness etc as associated with the flood. These all have combined impacts in forcing people to migrate. This study is not limited to exploring the issues at the place of origin but also at the place of destination. The first most important area of intervention should be focused on reducing the instances of migration. This could only be possible by minimizing the impacts of the causes of the migration. Addressing the causes of migration will minimize the sufferings of the people which may prevent the migration of the people. Secondly, the focus should also be made equally on creating opportunities at the place of origin itself. This may not only prevent migration but also may promote the reverse migration.

## References

1. Das, K. C., & Saha, S. (2006). Inter-state migration and regional disparities in India. *IUSSP*, 13(3), 342-357.
2. Datta, A., & Mishra, S. K. (2011). Glimpses of Women's lives in Rural Bihar: Impacts of Male Migration. *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 54(3).
3. Forth, J. (2016). Migration, Gender and Bihari Families. *Leiden University Publication*, 1(winter-3), 26-82.
4. Roy, A. K. (2015). Impact of Rural-Urban Labour Migration on Education of Children: A Case Study of Left Behind and Accompanied Migrant Children in India. *Space and Culture*, 2(4).
5. Roy, A. K., & N, P. (2010). Impact of Male Out-migration on Health status of Left behind Wives: A study of Bihar. *IJSW*, 1, 54-58.
6. S, A. (2002, July). Spatial Poverty Traps in Rural India : An Exploratory Analysis of the Nature of the Causes. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 4(2).
7. S, J. (2006). Impact of Male Migration on Rural Females. *Economic and Political Weekly*, WS(7), 47-53.
8. S, M. (2016, March). The Impact of Flooding in Bihar, India on women: A Qualitative Study. *Asian Women*, 32(1), 31-52.
9. Shukla, P. K. (2015, August ). A Study of Migration Pattern in Bihar Districts. *Remaking*, 2(3), 32-68.
10. Singh, R., Singh, K. M., & Jha, A. K. (2006, August). Effect of Migration on Agricultural Productivity and Women Empowerment in Bihar. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2, 27-33.