

***MIGRATION OF POPULATION INFLUENCING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE
SOCIETY IN MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT (BIHAR)***

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The present paper tries to depict the impact of migration that occurs at many different scales and on many aspects of human activities is a subject of change in terms of time and space. During early days, people were wandering from one region to another in search of livelihood and their life remained very simple. The impact of their migration was confined to only primary activities but the day to day developing human civilization has largely broadened the dimensions of the impact of human migration from primary activities to secondary and tertiary activities.

Key words : Migration, aspects, wandering, livelihood, dimensions

Introduction

The places of destination of migrants and experiences multi-dimensional economic impact. The impact of migration is also felt on the intervening areas, where transport facilities increase, employment structure changes and growth centre develop. During personal survey, it has been found that there was vast track of land, engaged under forest, barren and uncultivable land, permanent pasture and other grazing land, cultivable wasteland, current and other fallow lands. The physical bases like location, surface-configuration, drainage, soil, sub-surface stratas, temperature, precipitation were responsible for the then land use pattern. Out-migration has positive and negative economic impact when young energetic and qualified working group moves out from a region, the shortage of labour is experienced and the progress of the region adopts downward trend but when out-migrants start pumping money into the areas of origin, the economic conditions starts improving.

Aims and objectives :

To find out the economic impact of migration of people on the tri-aspects ie. Host society, donor society and migrants. It has also been tried to quantify the Impact.

Methodology :

Besides the available primary data, the research paper has been supplemented with the primary secondary data. The primary data has been collected with the help of questionnaire and schedule by a group of trained research scholars in three visits to randomly seven selected sample villages.

Geographical Perspective :

Muzaffarpur district is situated in the northern Ggetic plain in north Bihar that has been the divisional as well as district headquarters. Out migration from any region release pressure of population on land and influences the demographic economic social characterises of the area of emigration. No doubt, there is dominance of cultivation over other uses of land in the region. Immigration in the region has also increased the land under cultivation. It is mainly due to day to day increasing population pressure. Land under different categories other than net area sown has been brought gradually to agricultural uses. The extension of cultivation to meet the growing demand of food gains to further limit, extensive deforestation and decrement of area under orchard and pastures, barren land, cultivable waste land are more significant. The amazingly fertile plain has long chronology of occupancy and increasing population. Forest survive somewhere in patches of the regions. The people of the fertile region have less migration consequently nominal marginal lands left for further operation of agricultural activities as they have utilizes even the beds of runnels channels and rivers at the cost of flood and devastation.

Impact on Land Use:

The existing land use in changed as due to the impact of migration of population. Migration process also brings some changes in land use and agriculture based on the earnings of

the migrants or experiences gained elsewhere. In case of increasing home-stead land higher percentage was also recorded in migrant families as in expressed by the following table:

IMPACT ON LAND USE

S.N.	Sample Villages	Increased home- Stead land				Increased Orchard & Plantation			
		NOMF	%	NNMF	%	NOMF	%	NNMF	%
1.	Rajapur	372	43.11	676	24.30	249	28.85	126	4.53
2.	Fatehpur	386	46.67	956	36.28	236	28.54	151	5.73
3.	Roksa	45	22.96	316	5.97	45	22.96	16	0.30
4.	Mohanpur	56	20.66	184	5.74	49	18.08	56	1.75
5.	Chainpur	689	39.10	842	26.91	598	33.94	140	4.47
6.	Bakhri	475	36.65	612	12.36	154	11.88	203	4.10
7.	Ladaur	819	39.45	951	17.91	105	5.06	15	0.28
8.	Thatia	41	13.90	952	35.95	106	35.93	16	0.60
	Total	2883	38.00	4537	15.15	1436	18.93	707	2.36

Source : Field Work, 2011-12.

Index – NOMF-No. of Out-migrant families, NNMF-No. of Non-migrant families.

In the village Rajapur 43.11% migrant families increased home-stead land compared with 24.30% non-migrant families who increased their homestead land. In the village Fatehpur also 46.67% migrant families increased homestead land and 36.28% non-migrant families increased homestead land. In the village Roksa, Mohanpur, Chainpur, Bakhri, Ladaur and Thatia 22.96%, 20.66%, 39.10%, 36.65%, 3.45% and 13.90% migrant families increased homestead land

respectively while only 5.97%, 5.74%, 26.91%, 12.36%, 17.91% and 35.95% non-migrant families increased homestead land in the respective sample respectively.

Impact on Land share :

Before migration most of the landless labourers and small land holders were leading very miserable life. But most of the out-migrants of the study area have improved their economic conditions by earning at the place of destination see the table given below:

IMPACT ON LAND SHARE

Sample Villages	Rajapur	Fatehpur	Roksa	Mohanpur	Chainpur	Bakhri	Ladura	Thatia	Total
After migration, 2011-12									
<1 Hectare	18	21	24	21	14	12	16	22	148
%	24.00	28.00	32.00	28.00	18.67	16.00	21.33	29.33	24.67
1-2 Hect.	23	24	23	18	16	23	21	23	171
%	30.67	32.00	30.67	24.00	21.33	30.67	28.00	30.67	28.50
2-3 Hect.	16	15	16	18	24	21	18	20	148
%	21.33	20.00	21.33	24.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	26.67	24.67
“3 Hect.	18	15	12	18	21	19	20	10	133
%	24.00	20.00	16.00	24.00	28.00	25.33	26.67	13.33	22.17
Total	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	600

Source :Field work & Questionnaire, 75 families selected on random sampling basis., 2011-12

In Rajapur village, out of 75 selected migrants families, 39 (52%) migrant families had less than 1 hectare of land, 25 migrant families had 1 to 2 hectares of land, 11 (14.67%) migrant families had 2 to 3

hectares of land and no migrant family had above 3 hectares of land before migration. But after migration the land-share of most of them has increased. At present, i.e after migration 18 (24%) migrant families had less than 1 hectare of land, 23 (30.67%) migrant families had 1 to 2 hectares of land, 16 (21.23%) migrant families had 2 to 3 hectares of land and 18 (24%) migrant families migrant family had above 3 hectares of land after migration. In this way, the number of families having less land has decreased and consequently that having more land has increased.

Impact on Agriculture :

Impact on agriculture may be described distinctly during different phases of agricultural practices. During earlier period, permanent habitation was lacking and people were practicing shifting cultivation which brought significant changes in agricultural landscape. People moving often from one place to another used to burn the bushes to develop agricultural landscape and grow crops for a few years and then abandon those areas for fresh agricultural land because the farmer used to consume its fertility. Within permanent settlement came into picture, large scale changes in agricultural landscape appeared and land put to different uses, experienced transformation due to growing population and human skill. Land engaged under pasture and forest was converted to cultivable land. During recent years, intensification of agriculture has become more prominent than land use changes because people tried to put land into agricultural uses. The methods of agricultural have also experienced the impact of migration. Most of the farmers are poor and have little capital to invest it in agriculture.

Use of fertilizers:

The impact of out migration. May be assessed on following aspects like use of fertilizers, Irrigation, better seeds, cropping pattern etc. Impressive impact of migration may be seen also in using fertilizers. 37.66% cultivators in Rajapur, 46.07% cultivators in Fatehpur, 29.08% cultivators in Roska, 34.31% cultivators in Mohanpur, 39.22% cultivators in Chainpur, 53.66% cultivators in Bakhri, 51.01% cultivators in Ladaur and 33.53% cultivators in Thatia use fertilizers in their fields.

USE OF FERTILIZERS

S.N.	Sample Villages	Out-migrant families			Non-migra families		
		NOMF	OMFF	%	NNMF	NMFF	%
1.	Rajapur	863	325	37.66	2782	287	10.32
2.	Fatehpur	827	381	46.07	2635	268	10.17
3.	Roksa	196	57	29.08	5291	710	13.42
4.	Mohanpur	271	93	34.32	3205	364	11.36
5.	Chainpur	1762	691	39.22	3129	456	14.57
6.	Bakhri	1296	698	53.86	4951	984	19.87
7.	Ladaur	2076	1059	51.01	5309	1064	20.04
8.	Thatia	295	93	31.53	2648	291	10.99
	Total	7586	3397	44.78	29950	4424	14.25

Source : Field Work, 2011-12.

NOMF-No. of Out-migrant families, OMFF-Out-migrant families using fertilizers, NNMF-No. of non-migrant families and NMFF-Non-migrant families using fertilizers.

The economic status of non-migrant people is not sound hence they hesitate in using fertilizers in their field. Out of 75 non-migrant respondents from each sample village, 10.32% cultivators in Rajapur, 10.17% cultivators in Fatehpur, 13.42% cultivators in Roska, 11.36% cultivators in Mohanpur, 14.57% cultivators in Chainpur, 19.87% cultivators in Bakhri, 20.04% cultivators in Ladaur and 10.99% cultivators in Thatia use fertilizers in their fields.

Impact on Industry :

- (1) Dairy industry-The impact of out-migration has been also on the development of cottage industry, dairy activities, pisciculture etc.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE/SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

S.N	Villages	No. of Migrant families	% age	No. Non-migrant Families	% age
1.	Rajapur	31	62.00	7	14.00
2.	Fatehpur	29	58.00	4	8.00
3.	Roksa	0	0.00	0	0.00
4.	Mohanpur	3	6.00	0	0.00
5.	Chainpur	37	74.00	9	18.00
6.	Bakhri	24	48.00	6	12.00
7.	Ladaur	14	28.00	1	2.00
8.	Thatia	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Total	138	34.50	27	6.75

Source : Random sampling of 100 (50 mig.+ 50 non-mig.) respondents, 2011-12

The migrant people take interest in initiating any kind of industrial activities so as to enhance their monthly income. The field survey report says the 39.43% migrant people have initiated small scale or cottage industries while among non-migrant people only 7.71% initiated small scale or cottage industries either at their home or at the nearest market place. In 62% migrant people at Rajapur village, 58% migrant people at Fatehpur village, 6% migrant people at Mohanpur village, 74% migrant people at Chainpur village, 48% migrant people at Bakhri village and 28% migrant people at Ladaur village initiated small scale or cottage industries but no migrant people at Roska and Thatia villages initiated small scale or cottage industries while among non-migrant people 14% non-migrant people at Rajapur village, 8% non-migrant people at Fatehpur village, 18% non-migrant people at Chainpur village, 12% non-migrant people at Bakhri village and 2% non-migrant people at Ladaur village initiated small scale or cottage industries. No non-migrant people at Roska, Mohanpur and Thatia villages initiated small scale or cottage industries.

Pisciculture- Migrant and non-migrant families are also interested in the development of pisciculture. The report prepared on the basis of field survey shows the following performance of migrant and non-migrant people towards it:

S.N.	Sample Villages	Out-Migrant Families		Non-migrant families	
		Number	%	Number	%
1	Rajapur	12	24.00	7	14.00
2	Fatehpur	21	42.00	5	10.00
3	Roksa	0	0.00	0	0.00
4	Mohanpur	10	20.00	11	22.00
5	Chainpur	42	84.00	16	32.00
6	Bakhri	31	62.00	10	20.00
7	Ladaur	37	74.00	15	30.00
8	Thatia	9	18.00	0	0.00
	Total	162	40.50	64	16.50

DEVELOPMENT OF PISCICULTURE

Source : Random sampling of 100 (50 mig.+ 50 non-mig.) respondents. 2011-12

The above mentioned table indicates that in almost all selected villages, more migrant families have preferred pisciculture. In the village Rajapur 24% migrant families have developed pisciculture, but only 14% non-migrant families have involvement in pisciculture. In the village Fatehpur have also involvement in the development of pisciculture. The migrant and non-migrant families consist of 42% and 10% respectively. Similar is the case with the village Mohanpur, where migrant and non-migrant families having interest in the development of pisciculture. The migrant and non-migrant families consist of 20% and 22% respectively. The village Chainpur recorded 84% migrant families and 32%

non-migrant families having involvement in pisciculture. The village Bakhri recorded 62% migrant families and 20% non-migrant families having involvement in pisciculture. The village Ladaur recorded 74% migrant families and 30% non-migrant families having involvement in pisciculture. The last sample village, Thatia recorded 18% migrant families and no non-migrant families having involvement in pisciculture.

Impact of Housing Condition :

The condition of houses is also the index of economic status of the people Rich people have pucca houses while poor people have brick or mud wall and tiled roof houses. Poor people live in the thatched houses or mud walled and thatched roof houses. It is significant to note that in Muzaffarpur district, a large number of houses are still made of mud wall and thatched roof or titled roof Thatched houses are also plenty in number.

Most of the selected villages are characterized by frequent floods. Only a few well to do persons have Puccs houses. But these days the condition of houses owned by out-migrant families have improved considerable due to the earnings of the out migrants. To contrary, most of the non-migrant families have failed to improve the conditions of their houses. There were only 4.25% out-migrant families of village Rajapur having pucca houses before migration, but at present, there are 38.24% pucca houses owned by out migrant families. Improvement is seen also with the family having brick wall and titled roof houses and changed from 8.17% to 31.16%. Also the percentage of families having mud wall and tiled roof houses has improved from 8.38% to 17.24%. The percentage of families having mud wall and thatched roof houses has decreased from 31.74% to 13.36%. While the percentage of thatched houses decreased from 47.46% before migration to zero percent after migration.

Impact of house-hold items:

The number of house-hold items of a person depends upon his economic status. Household items are also the measure of economic development. When non-migrants earn money at the place of destination, they enrich their house with the house-hold items. In comparison to them non-migrant

families remained poor in house-hold items. The analysis of house-hold items of migrant and non-migrant families of the sample villages of the study area shows improvement in the economic conditions due to out-migration. In the village Rajapur, the percentage of out-migrant respondent families having house-hold items like TV (14.24%), Motor-cycle. (11.69%), power tiller (2.14%), tractor (0.00%), thresure (2.14%) pumping set(4.58%), Palang (7.65%), chair and table (9.47%) and sofa set (0.0%) before migration. After migration, the number of families having such household items increased as TV(26.35%), Motor-cycle. (23.14%), power tiller (7.24%), tractor (2.36%), Treasure (9.63%), Pumping set (24.62%), Palang (33.24%), chair and table (19.47%) and sofa set (4.59%) after migration.

Impact on Per Capita Income :

As a result of migration, the level of income of most of the migrant families has improved. Before migration, these persons were either unemployed and jobless or were semi-employed. This is why, their income level was low. But after migration, they started earning at the place of destination and thus, their income increased. Contrary to it, non-migrant families have failed to increase their level of income. As such the level of income of non-migrant families is lower than that of the out-migrant families.

In Rajapur village, 50.40% migrant respondent families had an income of less than Rs. below 2500 per month, 33.60% families had Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 per month, 12.80% families had Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 per month and only 3.20% families had above 10000 per month income before migrant respondent families have an income of less than Rs below 2500 per month, 21.60% families have Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 per month, 25.60% families have Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 per month and only 12.00% families have above 10000 per month income. Roksa village have 64% non-migrant respondent families have an income of less than Rs. below 2500 per month, 21.60% families have Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 per month, 14.40% families have Rs. 5000 to Rs. 1000 per month and no non-migrant family has above 10000 per month income. Mohanpur village have 57.60% non-migrant respondent families have an income of less than Rs. below 2500 per month, 34.40% families have Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 per

month, 8% families have Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 per month and no non-migrant family has above 10000 per month income.

Purchase of Vehicles :

Migrant families get their income at the place of destination and purchase vehicles promptly. In case of number of cycles the highest percentage was recorded in the village Mohanpur (93%) being followed by the sample village Bakhri (87.35%), Fatehpur (82.62%), Ladaur (82.36%), Rajapur (76.34%), Chainpur (69.36%), Thatia (54.32%) and Roska (52.76%). In case of number of motor-cycles, scooter and scooty the highest percentage was recorded in the village Chainpur (47.89%) being followed by the sample village Thatia (37.62%), Bakhri (29.65%), fatehpur (25.16%), Rajapur (23.14%), Roska (18.78%), Ladaur (18.21%), and Mohanpur (13.54%). In case of number of three or four wheelers, the highest percentage was recorded in the village Ladaur (22.11%) being followed by the sample village Chainpur (12.15%), Rajapur (9.37%), Roska (1.98%), Thatia (0.0%) and Mohanpur (0.0%). Non-migrant families get their income at the place of origin and purchase vehicles by degrees.

Impact on food habits:

The attitude of the most of the out-migrant families towards food changed due to out-migration up to some extent. Consumption of particular food depend upon the economic condition of the people. Majority of the people use rice as the principle food. Bread made of whet, maize and marua flour is also consumed particularly by poor people. Poor people oftenly use coarse grain as principal food. Rich people use milk, fruit or meat and fish. The analysis of food habits also reveals the impact of out-migration on changing food habits and as such the economic conditions of the people.

Impact on Clothing :

The sharp impact of out-migration on clothing of their children was seen during field visit. While moving in the villages street and from door to door of migrant and non-migrant families, it was seen that children of the migrant families were well dressed. School going children as well as teenagers were in well dresses. Family members of the migrants were also seen in well dresses, even old age people of some migrant families were seen in better clothing as compared to those belonging

to non-migrant families. Even children of migrant families have more than two or three sets of dresses while children of non-migrant families have generally single set of dress that belong to traditional fashion. Only a few children belonging to non-migrant family.

Educational Awareness:

In particular context to the study area of Muzaffarpur district the impact of out-migration on educational awareness appears to be very positive. Whenever, seasonal migrants go to their places of destination, they come into contact with the people of other cultural background and also observe the progress made by them in the field of education, economic production and socio-cultural life and when they return to their native places, they try to convince their family members or fellow-villagers to provide better education to their children. They prefer to send their children in private schools with utmost care for their children as compared to government managed school where carelessness of teachers and govt. machinery is well known to all.

In the village Rajapur 25.33% respondents of migrant families preferred to send their children to government schools, while 74.67% prefer private schools because they think that in private schools, more care is paid to children. But in case of non-migrant families only 30.67% preferred to send their children to private schools and 69.33% families preferred government schools because of economic hardship. In the village Fatehpur 81.33% migrant respondents preferred private schools for their children and only 18.67% revealed their preference in favour of government schools but in case of non-migrant families 66.67% preferred government schools for their children and only 33.33% preferred private schools.

For the sum up, the act of out-migration has strengthened the economic status of the migrant people while non-migrant people depend on their existing property.

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