

IMPACT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF POPULATION MIGRATION IN MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT

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Introduction:

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.

Various types of migration exert their influence distinctly. Out migration from any region release pressure of population on land and influences the demographic economic social characteristics of the area of emigration. 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.

Migration has also the economic impact in the host society. It leads to the change of land use and environments. The congregation of working force brings efficiency in the work and increases production leading to regional progress. Migrants coming from various economic strata having diverse way of life transform the existing economic status in the region.

But in case of voluntary migration, the impact becomes reverse, because when migrants are forced to leave their places of origin due to political and social reasons, they lose their belongings and restart economic pursuits. At the place of origin, significant changes are marked in agriculture, industries and occupational structure of the people.

The places of destination of migrants and experiences multi-dimensional economic progress. The impact of migration is also felt on the intervening areas, where transport facilities increase, employment structure changes and growth centres develop. During personal survey, it has been found that there was vast tract of land, engaged under forest, barren and unculturable land, permanent pasture and other grazing land, culturable wasteland, current and other fallow lands. The physical bases like location, surface-configuration, drainage, soil, sub-surface strata, temperature, precipitation were responsible for the then land use pattern. 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, land, culturable waste land are more significant. The amazingly fertile plain has long chronology of occupation and increasing population. Forest survive somewhere in patches of the regions.

Impact on Land Use:

The existing land use is 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 is expressed by the following table:

Dist – Muzaffarpur – sample Villages

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.	Ladair	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, Ladair and Thatia 22.96%, 20.66%, 39.10%, 36.65%, 3.45% and 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. In fact, most of them used to starve. Some of them depended on the mercy of large farmers for daily wages. But now some of them earned money out side and invested them in their villages in land assets. Before migration many of them were either landless or had only homestead land. But after out-migration, they have improved their share of land as is shown in the following table:

Dist-Muzaffarpur-Sample Villages
IMPACT ON LAND SHARE

Before migration (2000-01)	Dist-Muzaffarpur - Sample Villages								
	Rajapur	Fatehpur	Roksa	Mohanpur	Chainpur	Bakhri	Ladura	Thatia	Total
<1 Hectare	39	37	51	46	29	28	32	39	301
%	52.00	49.33	68.00	61.33	38.67	37.33	42.67	52.00	57.33
1-2 Hect.	25	31	23	21	21	18	33	32	204
%	50.00	62.00	46.00	42.00	42.00	36.00	66.00	64.00	38.86
2-3 Hect.	11	7	1	8	19	21	5	4	76
%	22.00	14.00	2.00	16.00	38.00	42.00	10.00	8.00	14.48
>3 Hect.	0	0	0	0	6	8	5	0	19
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	16.00	10.00	0.00	3.62
Total	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	600

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

The study also compares their land share with that of the non-migrants' families. The study is based on 75 migrants families (before and after migration) along with that of 75 non-migrants families of the sample villages. Thus, altogether 600 families have been intensively studied.

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 practising shifting cultivation which brought significant changes in agricultural landscape. People moving oftenly 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 culturable 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. They used traditional methods. They tilled their land either by spade or by traditional ploughs. They sprinkle their tilled land depending upon nature. But migrants from the region earned money, knew different kinds of agricultural methods in order regions of the state or country and tried to implement them in their in own lands. They invested extra-capital in the agriculture purchased iron ploughes, power tillers, tractors etc. and tilled their land deeply. They sowed their seeds in line, irrigated them sincerely and pay proper attention to their crops. Thus, agriculture that was totally dependent upon natural rainfall now was brought under the man power. Careless tilling with traditional instruments were also transferred. One cropped land was turned into double or multiple cropped land by farmers.

Development of electricity has provided the facilities of irrigation to the farmers. Migrants who have earned money, purchased pumping set individually to compensate the absence of electricity. Migrants led to the development of commercial farming in different parts of the region. Sugarcane, Potato, Onion, etc. crops are grown as cash crops. To increase the production of these crops farmers invest extra capital. Rich

farmers as well as the ordinary and families having out-migrants invest capital in agriculture to grow various cash crops with the help of irrigation. As the demand of vegetables has increased, farmers paid special attention in the production of vegetables. They also paid attention in growing fruits and dairy products. Some small farmers purchased cows and buffaloes and earned by selling milk. Small and cottage industries are growing. Migrants, sometimes transported some plant from the area of their destination.

Impact on house-hold items:

The number of house-hold items of a person depends on 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 houses 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. Table listed below provides information about house-hold items of the out-migrants families before and after their migration:

Expenditure on other items :

A number of socio-cultural functions like Durga Puja, Diwali, Chhath, Holi, Marriage ceremony etc are celebrated either on family or society level, Personal observation in the selected villages along with interview the respondents reveals the fact that migrant people or families having out-migrants engage themselves keenly interested in participating several socio-cultural functions and expend a lot gladly, while non-migrant people fail to participate actively in these functions so as to withdraw themselves from expending activities. Non-migrant people having lower economic status want to keep themselves untouched from expensive functions.

On the occasion of Durga Puja, Holi, Deepawali, marriage ceremony etc. migrant people expend lavishly while non-migrant are not in such a position to expend like them. They expend but within a limit. They participate but indifferently.

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