

# Migration problems and solutions; a study of how out-migration can be work to alleviate of poverty and help in economic development of the inhabitants of Uttarakhand.

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## Abstract

Migration has not just been a problem with many of the areas of the World but it also has been the way how people move around in search of their livelihood. There are many causes which forces one to leave their homeland and move to the unknown world. All through there has been a plethora of researches that have been done on the topic not just on national but also on the International level. This paper is an attempt to look a bit deep inside the causes leading towards modern day migration and provide the possible pathway which can help to reduce the rate of migration of the hill areas of Uttarakhand. A throw study has been attempted to review the studies conducted all over the world, which highlights that how migration has helped the immigrants and their families in uplifting them out of the vicious circle of poverty. Personal observation has been used to better understand the migration problem in the uttarakhand hills with the help of the researches worldwide a broder view of how the migration of natives can be used to revitalise the economy of the hills has been analysed.

**Key Words:** Livelihood strategy, Migration pattern, Uttarakhand, remittances,

## Introduction

At the start of the twenty-first century, it was estimated that about 175 million people—roughly 3 percent of the world population— lived and worked outside the country of their birth (United Nations 2002). Migration is not just a problem that it is perceived to be, it is also the way how the human civilization changes its environment and relocate oneself in search of better opportunities and growth. Migration has existed in the world since time immemorial; only the need for migration has changed overtime. Labour migration has been one of the most powerful opportunities for prosperity for many countries, states, and regions. “labour migration has been a feature of Nepalese livelihood strategies for at least 200 years.” In mid-western and far-western hill villages, labor migration represents a vital part of rural systems without which life, for most people, would not be sustainable. Since the economy relies on two main sources of income, rural systems may be described as “agri-migratory.” Gill (2003). Labour from Nepal has been migrating to various places in India specially in the region of Uttarakhand in search of an extra income for in addition to the agricultural being taken up by them in their Country. In Nepal, remittances are responsible for almost 20% of the poverty decrease since 1995, against a

background of armed insurgency and economic downturn (Lokshin, M; Bontch-Osmolovski, M; Glinskaya, E 2007). Wide-spread migration has taken place from the less developed regions to the more developed ones due to unequal growth. In the recent time even in the hills, the rate of migration has increase more due to more awareness being created about the opportunities through the use of information technology. The increasing rate of migration in the hills in the recent times can also be attributed to the betterment of the infrastructure and cheap sources of travelling that have been developed in the recent past.

## Review of Literature

Migration has been done in various ways by the people i.e. International Migration, Rural-Urban Migration, and Seasonal Migration etc. Undoubtedly there has been a plethora of researches done worldwide to show how Migration has helped the economies in developing the resources in the countries with the help of the remittances received by the out-migrants. This section has an analysis of such studies which will help us to better understand the situation world over.

It could be argued that internal migration and remittances are much more important for poverty reduction compared to international migration, since internal migration between regions, districts and municipalities, and between rural and urban areas, are more likely to involve poorer people (Deshingkar 2006; Migration DRC 2009). In fact some contrasting studies it is also observed the volume of each individual internal remittance transfer is likely to be much smaller than a typical international remittance, as previous evidence has shown (Adams 2005; Adams, Cuecuecha and Page 2008; Gray 2009). But looking at the larger picture it can be observed that most of the internal remittances are unaccounted for as mostly it is done through transfer of money by hand or through friends and relatives having no formal account for it. But all such studies has an undeniable fact that migration has helped the economies that have received remittances back home. Migration can be an effective strategy for livelihood adaptation and can contribute to the sustainable alleviation of poverty in mountain areas. Results from macro-economic studies suggest that, on average, a 10% increase in per capita official international remittances leads to a 3.5% decline in the proportion of people living in poverty (Adams and Page 2005). One such study was conducted by The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development; ICIMOD in Uttarakhand also shows similar results the findings indicate that migration has indeed contributed towards poverty eradication in Uttarakhand. Among the sample households, it was found that the percentage of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) decreased from 68% (at the time of migration) to 35% (at the time of the study). (Ballard, R 2005) has rightly mentioned that, The living standards of the inhabitants of areas from which mass overseas emigration has taken place are significantly higher than those in areas from which emigration has not occurred.

(Ballard, R 2005) also observed that Absolute poverty, lack of capital, and lack of entrepreneurial ability have not been the central obstacles to the generation of more sustained patterns of economic growth from these inflows. Rather, institutional, structural, and infrastructural constraints—in many cases the same constraints that provoked migration—account for the poor development results of these opportunities. In Uttarakhand one of the early

causes of the initiation of migration was perhaps due to the jobs created by the British Indian Army, which led to diversification of the rural economy and initiated a tradition of migration of able-bodied men (Jain and Nagarwalla 2004). ICIMOD in its study has discovered many push and pull factors leading towards migration in the hills of Uttarakhand. Few of the prominent of them being Low agricultural productivity, Lack of employment opportunities, Lack of infrastructural development, Educational status of migrants, spatial differences and Friends and relatives. It also observed Climate change was also attributed to be one of the drivers of migration, as people feel that changes in climatic conditions have led to a decline in agricultural productivity in recent years. In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) opined that the greatest impact of climate change could be on human migration, as millions of people the world over could be displaced due to coastal flooding and the disruption of agricultural systems.

### Objective of study

Migration has been a very popular term in labour economics and there have been a wide spread discussions on the topic so far. Even after so much work has been done in the field, there is lot to be deciphered even today. The current study focuses on the following specific objectives.

- Migration pattern so far and how it has helped the economies around the world in uplifting their economies out of poverty.
- What are the main reasons of migration from the hills of Uttarakhand?
- How the remittances back home has helped the hill people to uplift their economic and financial status.
- How the migration can be minimised through focusing the policy framework more towards the developmental strategies specific to the hill people.

### Research Methodology

During the course of writing of the paper, many reports published by the international organisations like the World Bank, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Mountain Society etc. were reviewed to analysis the pattern of migration and the strategies adopted to cope up with them. A throw study of the researches conducted on the topic worldwide have been read to understand more deeply how the migration has been a problem and solution in a few cases to the nations worldwide. Also, an observational survey has been done by taking to many Nepalese migrants that have migrated to the Uttarakhand hills in search of a job, that can be taken up by them to enhance their income and how they are using this temporary migration for uplifting their financial and social status in their country. Mostly secondary data has been used and compiled in a systematic manner to understand the problem of migration in the world and hills of Uttarakhand in specific.

## Conclusions

For households in hills of Uttarakhand, agriculture is the prime activity which is often complemented by the wage employment and earning through various other odd jobs that are taken up by them in and outside the Country to enhance their income. Livelihood strategies definitely comprise diversification of income sources and mobility patterns. In Uttarakhand, the armed forces have traditionally been the most preferred occupation for the youths. Apart from that, the majority of migrants are employed by the private sector as managers, clerks, chefs, waiters, and even drivers. Migration has helped many households in getting better education for their children, skill development for them and others in their villages rise in the social status of the family members who are still living in the villages. Some negative aspects of Migration in the state have been the drain of human capital from the state, conditions of women being worsen as the women has to work both on the fields and the houses all alone. In the study by (ICIMOD), it has been categorically stated that Women's drudgery has clearly increased due to migration. Those heading nuclear families (in the absence of migrant husbands) worked 12 to 14 hours a day (an increase of about 4 hours per day), while those living in joint families worked for 10 to 12 hours a day (an increase of about 2 hours per day).

Even after problems being stated it can also be observed through various studies worldwide that the people how have migrated has helped their families and nations to bring economic prosperities back home. Running a cheap food outlet enables migrants not only to step out of the labor class but to earn more money and even to bring their family to India. One of their two main aims is to send their children to private school, the other one is to buy land in the Terai plains of Nepal. In the long run, temporary migration to India may lead to permanent migration within Nepal, from the mountains to the plains. (Brusle, T 2008). Earlier studies on migration and poverty have tended to underplay the significance of internal remittances because individual transfers are much smaller than international remittances. But our calculations highlight the fact that these individual transfers reach a larger number of households and are greater in total. Our findings also show that internal remittances are more likely to be received in poorer regions or states (Castaldo A, Deshingkar P and McKay A 2012). So there is enough evidence to show how the plugging back of money through various sources from the place of migration to the place of migration has helped to uplift the societies and families of the migrants out of abject poverty and given them a chance to grow and make big strides of progress. The money being remitted combined with the policies developed by the state government of Uttarkhand can help us out is establishing small scale center of production and small establishments for providing more employment at the place of migration. Many developmental policies can be implemented in the state to check the large outmigration from the state a few of the most viable option can be state as below:

- Agricultural diversification is required and more market oriented cultivation like floriculture, horticulture, cultivation of off-seasonal vegetables, beekeeping, and pisciculture should be adopted so that the people

cannot only get a meaningful employment but also be able to produce the product that is marketable and help them in developing a source of livelihood.

- Efforts should be made for improvement of irrigation, soil and water conservation, Extending timely and proper agricultural credit to the farmers which will lead to enhanced productivity of agriculture, creating of cold storage and development of proper marketing channels for selling the goods in the market will help them in selling and securing enhanced earnings.
- Many agricultural sub-sectors can be developed like the dairy sector and poultry farming that can help the people from the villages to get them employed in meaningful occupations.
- There is a need of establishing skill based vocational training that can be imparted to the youth so that they can start their own establishments that can help in generation of more jobs within the state.
- Tourism has always been a field that has attracted many peoples to the hills, Many new places can be developed as tourist destinations, tourism is not a single entity based economic system it is a combination of many ancillary activities which has a potential to create many more opportunity for the state.
- Uttarakhand also has the potential to become the second fully Organic production based state after Sikkim. But, It will come with challenges which might lead to low production due to change in the method of crop production. Also, the people will have to be made aware about the benefits of organic production. to buy the product. John Reganald, professor of soil science and agro ecology at Washington State University, says that “Organic agriculture has an untapped potential role in global food and ecosystem security because it has been able to provide jobs, be profitable, benefit the soil and environment, and support social interactions between farmers and consumers,”.
- An initiative can also focus on Orchard cultivation along with tea cultivation as the land is pretty good for both the cultivation. Britishers brought tea cultivation to India and started cultivating it in the hills of Kumaun and Garhwal which was profitable even than when tea was not so popular in India. Few initiatives have been taken by the government like starting tea cultivation in a few districts of Kumaun and Gharwal which needs to be replicated in the other districts as well.

### **Limitations and future researches**

- The paper is based on the secondary data and compilation of the facts by various authors, further researches can be carried on the topic of remittances of migrants in the development of Uttarakhand.
- The method of compilation used here could be criticized on the grounds that an analysis of unobserved characteristics has been presented in the study. But the studies included in the study are the information accumulated by the academic and orgainasation working towards development and progress of the regions. While the instruments used have these potential weaknesses, they have been validated by those who have used it in previous studies.
- Uttarakhand's economy being one of the youngest state has a potential of lots of development and research. It has been on an exponential growth path since the separation from the state of Uttar Pradesh. A



report published in the first post quotes a report published on 2014-15 Statistical Diary, Uttarakhand, according to it, the per capita income of Haridwar, a district in the plains that is 53 km from state capital Dehradun, is Rs 122,172. But Uttarkashi, the northern-most Himalayan district, reports half that per capita income at Rs 59,791. This is one of the most interesting topics to be dwell upon and will attract many researchers towards it.

- Education based on skill development is one such field that people can focus their attention on. Many jobs have been created in the state after the establishment of SIDCUL industrial belt but the problem is about the employability. “With the kind of education that we are offering our children, there are no jobs for them here in Uttarakhand,” said Shekhar Pathak, former professor at the Kumaun University and founder of the People’s Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR). So one of the interesting field of education development also is an open topic on development.
- Last but not the least the problem of migration has been wide-spread in the state of Uttarakhand. According to the census of 2011, There are 1,048 villages in the state that are uninhabited—“ghost villages”, Here migration has emptied out entire villages. So a lot of work on rehabilitation of the migrated families can be other interesting topic to be discussed on.

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