

Out – Migration and Social Change

A Case Study of Harnaut (BIHAR) Development Block

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ABSTRACT - Bihar is the 11th state in area 3rd big state in population. Harnaut Development Block is a part of Nalanda district in Bihar. This part of the district is lack of modern infrastucture. Most Development parts of the world have been experiencing either rural-urban unbalanced development or unbalanced regional development. As such relatively better development rural areas or urban areas or other economic regions have become the focal point of rural out-migration. In this context the Indian sub-continent deserves due consideration. India has recorded considerable development in the mineralised areas, in the urban areas, in the urban areas, in the industrial areas while vast rural areas have remained devoid of modern development which have taken place during post independence period. As regards impact of geographical conditions on out-migration the selected villages have recorded considerable out-migrations. As a result relatively less developed areas have been contributing rural migrants to relatively better development agricultural areas of Punjab or Haryana or industrial areas of Delhi, Mumbai and other urban centres.

INTRODUCTION:-

The present paper attempts to analyse the impact of rural-urban migration on social transformation. It is observed that a good number of agricultural labourers or others have moved out from their villages for some towns or for better developed regions or have constructed their dwelling in a better way and are providing better education to their children, spending more money on religious functions, funeral rites, marriage functions or some other social occasion. Comparative study of families where from some members are living outside and earning more money and families where from family members have net moved out for better job or are not earning more money reveal constrasting features.

Objectives –

The Present Paper has the following Objectives:

1. Impact of migration on Socio-economic life
2. To find out spatial variation in social function.
3. To find out the contributing out-migrant have relatively better economic and social development then the families not contributing any migrant.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

For this purpose the study of development block of Harnaut has been taken for consideration. This development block has 81 villages, out of which five villages have been taken as samples for generating primary data. For the analysis of social transformation in five villages the socio-economic conditions of the family members have been analysed. For this purpose several questionnaires have been framed relating to economic conditions of the migrant people, social life and changes in their socio-economic conditions during the post-independence period. Generally families in the rural areas seem to have not experienced significant changes. Certainly some of those families who have not contributed out-migrant for urban areas or industrial areas or even to relatively better developed agricultural areas like Punjab or Haryana still lack progress in their socio-economic conditions. It becomes obvious by the comparative analysis of families where some members have out-migrated for other areas and the families where from not a single member has moved out for outside earning. It may be noted that members earning outside try to remit their savings to the families for improving socio-economic conditions. Most of the families having economic problems like pressure of debt poor living condition, poor clothing etc. have considerably changed. Such families have not only got freedom from the family debt but have also started purchasing land from the resourceful persons of the village. Such families are in a position to spend more on construction of better house, purchasing domestic animal, investment on fertilizer, seeds agricultural implements on fertilizer, seeds agricultural implements and other items. On the other hand families without outside income and depending mainly on agricultural income feel more difficulties in meeting such expenses. Even the resourceful families reveal unsatisfactory progress. Almost similar contrasting conditions are observed in terms of religious activities and social function like performance of religious functions funeral rites, worship of god or goddess, marriage of sons and daughters, and other social occasions. It has been also observed that families lacking outside income from the migrant people feel much difficulties in even constructing even modest house. Such families even fail in getting regular repair of the house. They do not think of constructing a new house and purchasing any domestic items. The family members do not afford to put on better cloth. On the other hand families having some members living in urban areas or industrial areas bring some modern dresses for their children living in the village and other family members. As such conditions appear improved in the families living some migrant than the families lacking migrants, whenever the performance of social functions take place contrasting features are observed. Families having outside income spend more money on religious functions in decoration and other activities. They spend more money on dowry or decoration or food on the occasion of marriage ceremony but family lacking outside income have low budget on such things. They are even compelled to dispose off their land.

Table 1

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Area in Hectare	Population	Density or Population per Hectare
1.	Sherpur	257.78	1569	6.09
2.	Rupaspur	149.33	1812	12.13
3.	Alipur	82.96	537	6.47
4.	Gangta	78.91	793	10.05
5.	Surhari	324.55	2865	8.83
Schedule Caste	Literate	Main Workers	Cultivators	
276	617	504	225	
437	1024	689	213	
112	98	185	61	
214	142	167	89	
510	967	915	457	
Agricultural labourers	other workers			
204	75			
425	51			
118	6			
51	27			
460	18			

In Harnaut block there are 81 villages, out of which 15 villages are un-inhabited. The inhabited, villages have different populations size varying service amenities according to locational advantages. As such only five villages of Harnaut block have been taken for consideration for assessing the impact of out-migration on social change. For this purpose only those villages have been selected where from over 30 persons have out-migrated for different destinations. Certainly in the selection of sample villages preference has been given to villagers of different social groups or economic levels and locational significance. These villages are Rupaspur, Alipur, Gangta, Surhari and Sherpur. These sample villages have distinctive locational advantages, geographical conditions, population size, village amenities and differential pressure of man on land. These villages have contributed out-migrants not only in different proportion but also in different social orders, economic levels, etc.

As regards impact of geographical conditions on out-migration the selected villages have recorded considerable out-migration due to several socio-economic conditions prevailing at the selected villages as well as the destinations of out migrants, certainly villages located near the rail route connecting, Bakhtiapur railways station on the main line linking Howrah-Delhi-Rajgir and the road connecting remote rural areas with market centre or urban centres. The village Rupaspur lies very close to the rail route and the National Highway and this village has better advantages in terms of connections with major industrial and Urban centres of the country. The people of the village hardly feel any difficulties in moving out from the village.

Alipur is only one and a half K.M away from the rail route connecting Bakhtiarpur and Rajgir. However, it is not well linked with metalled road. Gangtas has a remote location in the interior areas. It is two K.M. away from the metalled road connecting Rahui & Harnaut. Sherpur has connection with metalled road connecting Harnaut and Karjan. The rail route is at a distance of 3 K.M. and the people hardly feel difficulties. Surhari is located in interior area. The metalled road connection lies at the distance about 2 K.M. The analysis of the primary data generated through questionnaires and schedules reveal distinct features. Out-migrants of these selected villages have mostly gone to urban centres or market centres of Harnaut, Bakhtiarpur or have concentrated in Patna town because of the administrative linkage in the headquarters of Patna and convenience in managing rural properties from an urban base.

Table – 2
Destination of out-migrants in percent

Sl.	Village	Towns of Bihar	Towns & Villages of Delhi, Haryana & Punjab	Towns of Wn. India	Others
1	Sherpur	46.67	20.00	16.67	16.67
2	Rupaspur	16.67	63.33	13.33	6.67
3	Alipur	13.33	26.67	53.33	23.33
4	Gangta	26.67	46.67	3.33	23.33
5	Surhari	23.33	30.00	33.33	13.34

The study reveals the fact that there are two types of families in terms of developing social and economic conditions. Families contributing out-migrants have relatively better economic & social development than the families not contributing any migrant. They are in a position to purchase agricultural land. These people also have started providing better education to their children and spend more money on social functions. On the other hand families not getting income from out-migrants are leading difficult life because of heavy expenditure on social functions like marriage, funeral rites, house constructions as their agriculture income has not increased. These people are selling land for maintaining social position in the rural society.

It has been mentioned earlier that rural migrant of the selected villages have gone to different destinations in the country. Their destinations in the country. Their destinations have varied depending upon their fellow villagers living at different places. The table two presents destination of migrant of the selected villages. In case of migrants of the selected village working in the town of Bihar Sherpur scored the highest percentage of 46.67% followed by Gangta (26.67%) Surhari (23.33%), Rupaspur (16.67%) and Alipur (13.33%), migrants, who have preferred the towns and villages of Northern India preferably Delhi, Haryana and Punjab are more in the villages of Rupaspur and Gangta. The village Rupaspur scored 63.33%, while the village Gangta scored 46.67% and other selected villages scored rural out-migrant less than

30%. These villages included Sherpur, Alipur and Surhari. Rural migrants of these selected villages have also gone to towns of Maharastra and Gujarat. The highest percent age has been the in the village Alipur (53.33%), being followed by Surhari (33.33%), Sherpur (16.67%), Rupaspur (13.33%) and Gangta (3.33%). The remaining rural migrants of these selected villages have gone to the towns of other provinces like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam etc. In this case highest percentage has been noted in the village Gangta (23.33%) been followed by Sherpur (16.66%) and Surhari (13.34%). The remaining selected villages recorded 6.67% each.

Table – 3
Level of Education in Percentage

Village	Upto Secondary	Inter level	Degree	Technical & Professional
Sherpur	66.41	10.39	14.66	8.54
Rupaspur	62.12	9.00	15.81	13.07
Alipur	78.21	8.34	9.09	4.36
Gangta	75.94	5.87	10.44	7.75
Surhari	63.81	10.34	15.16	11.32

Sources : Primary Data

Changes in social conditions also become obvious by the consideration of level of education. It has been noted earlier that during pre independence years only limited persons were educated and female education was negligible but during recent years by the sfforts of the social reforms and others considerable changes have taken place in educational level. Certainly even today most educated persons have educations up to lower level and higher degree holders and technicians and professionals and other professional are less in number. The table three reveals level of education in the selected villages. In the village Sherpur 66.41% persons were educated only up to secondary level, persons educated up to inter level consisted to 1089% degree holders were 14.66% and professional and other were 8.54%. In case of village Rupaspur 62.12% educated persons were only upto secondary level, Inter level educated persons were degree holders and 13.07% educated persons were technical degree holders or professional. In the village Alipur and Gangta degree holders and technical degree holders were less in number. In the village Alipur 78.21% educated persons have education up to secondary level. Inter level education was among 8.34% educated persons.

Changes in social conditions also become obvious by the analysis of dress used by the people. Even in the rural areas educated persons and even some illiterates have started using modern dress. Use of traditional dress like Dhoti-Kurta or Dhoti-Kamij is more popular. Pajama-Kurta Pant-Shirt and other modern dress have become common during recent years.

Celebrations of social function like marriage, Shradh, 'pooja' and other social function also recorded remarkable changes during recent past. Previously people used to spend more money on Shradh (last rite) these days marriage and other religious festivals are given more

priority. People spend more than their capacity on such occasion. Only a few persons spend much more than their capacity on these occasions because they want to give better show in the village. The table five reveals celebration of social function according to capacity or more than capacity or much more than capacity. In Sherpur 74.02% percent respondents spent money on these social functions. 18.38% spent respondents money more than their capacity on social occasion and only 7.60% respondent expend money on the occasion much more than capacity. In the village Rupaspur 81.25% respondents spent money on social according the capacity 10.27 and 8.48% respondent spent money on social occasion more than capacity respectively. The village Alipur recorded 70.85% respondents spending money according to their capacity, 18.65% respondents more than capacity and 10.50% respondents spending much more than their capacity. In the village Gangta 75.81% respondents spent money according to their capacity but 17.84% and 6.35% respondents spent money on their social occasion more than their capacity and much more than their capacity respectively . The village surhari also recorded similar features. In this village 77.90% respondents spends money according to their capacity on the celebration of social functions but 16.64% respondents spend money on social occasion more than their capacity and 5.46% respondents spend money much more than their capacity.

Table – 4
Celebration of Social Function In Percent

Village	According to capacity	More than capacity	Much more than capacity
Sherpur	74.02	10.38	7.60
Rupaspur	81.25	10.27	8.48
Alipur	81.25	18.65	10.50
Gangta	75.81	17.84	6.35
Surhari	77.90	16.64	5.46

Source : Primary Data

CONCLUSION

The study reveals the fact that during last 20 years considerable changes have taken place in the social out look of the respondents families having rural out-migrants living in urban areas of Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and other cities. Families not contributing rural out-migrants have not recorded changes in social out look at par with out-migrants families.

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