

Impact of Rural Migration on Educational Attainment and Human Capital

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to explain the impact of rural to urban migration on educational attainment and human capital in tumkur district of Karnataka state in India. Most developing countries are experiencing the condition of migration of the rural population to urban areas to find a better life. Generally there are many push and pull factors which are root cause for migration, in which higher education is also one of the important factor which is attracting more number of people from rural areas to urban areas even international migration is taking place due to higher education as a result there is increase in income levels, improvement in standard of living which results increase in human capital in a country. "Migrant remittances can impact positively on the education of family members Mueller and Sharif" (2009), and Research in Pakistan conducted by Mansuri also finds large positive effects of migration on education in Pakistan. Migration has many positive and negative impacts. The important positive impacts of migration include reduction of unemployment and better job opportunities to people. Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people. It helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which help to improve brotherhood among people. Children get better opportunities for higher education due to migration and very importantly migration increases income levels which can reduce the poverty in rural India which leads to human development. The present study was carried out in Tumkur district; the primary data was collected through questionnaire indicating the different parameters to analyze the impact of rural migration on educational attainment, income levels, savings, and expenditure. Random sampling technique was used to collect data from 60 respondents who have migrated from villages to Tumkur and Bangalore etc.

Key words: Migration, Educational Attainment, Remittances, Human development.

I. Introduction

India is country which is made up of more number of villages, even today there are more than 7 lakhs villages in India. In the year 1950-51 around 78% population were in rural areas, remaining 22% population which was in urban areas but according to 2011 censuses around 62% population is in rural areas and 38% is in urban areas, this data clearly says that today more number of people are migrating from rural areas to urban and semi urban places in search of higher education, employment opportunities, better life and for many reasons. The rural to urban migration has its own positive as well as negative impacts on both rural as well as urban areas, in the one hand it creates lot of opportunities to the rural people who are in search of more income generating jobs and in the other hand it leads to shortage of labor force in agricultural sector. Backward economic conditions along with many other factors have been identified as the reason of migration. However, there has been a shift from the low-income brackets before migration to high-income brackets after migration. I observed that there is a positive relationship between migration with educational attainment, income level, savings and investment habits among the migrants is found to be increasing. It is an attempt to study the relationship b/w migration with the income, educational attainment, health attributes and other important attributes of the migrants and there will be positive relationship b/w migration as well as migrants overall development.

Rural migration and human development

The concept of human development is very significant and it is used as indicator to measure the development of any nation at present, The concept of human development is basically introduced by Pakistani economist Mahbubul Haq in the year 1990 in the annual Human Development Reports produced by the Human Development Reports Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) it is introduced with the explicit purpose "to shift the focus of development economics from national income accounting to people-centered policies". Apart from the Mahbubul other development economists like Paul Streeten, Frances Stewart, Gustav Ranis, Keith Griffin, Sudhir Anand, and Meghnad Desai and Nobel laureate Sen. Contributed to develop the index and they believed that a simple composite measure of human development was needed to convince the public, academics, and politicians that they can and should evaluate development not only by economic advances but also improvements in human well-being of the nation.

By definition the Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index of life expectancy, educational attainment and real per capita income, the average of three indicators is used to calculate HDI index. My present study is all about how rural migration contributes towards human development in tumkur district. Many studies which have done across the world clearly explains that there is positive relation between migration and human development, many studies proved that migration from rural to urban areas plays an important role on human capital which results in an increase in income levels of the people, education attainment, living standard; life expectancy of the people in the form of increase in income, savings, expenditure and investment is improved. Therefore this study is undertaken.

II. Objectives of the study

1. To study the socio- economic characteristics of migrants
2. To identify the causes for rural migration
3. To study the impact of migration on educational attainment
4. To analyse the relationship b/w rural migration, and human capital

III. Methodology

The present study is based on Primary data which is verified by observations or the collected data. The present study was carried out in Pavagada taluk, of Tumkur district. The primary data was collected through questionnaire to analyze the impact of migration on human capital in the form of educational attainment, income levels, status of savings, remittances, spending's etc. Random sampling technique was used to collect data from 60 respondents who have migrated from one village namely Bommathanahally and Pavagada city.

Migration and educational attainment

“Migrant remittances can impact positively on the education of family members Mueller and Sharif” (2009), and Research in Pakistan conducted by Mansuri also finds large positive effects of migration on education in Pakistan. These two statements clearly says that there is positive relation b/w migration and various parameters of human development, today in search of higher education there are many people who are migrating from villages to cities and even international migration is taking place and more importantly human development is being made through the increase in rate of higher education in country.

Migration as a driver of human development

Migration is considered as driver of human development because the people who are migrating in search of better livelihood, all streams of migration have been taking place for the betterment of standard of living of the migrants. Many studies have already proved that there is positive relation b/w migration and human development; higher the migration higher will be the human development. The important positive impacts of migration include that it reduces unemployment conditions in rural areas and will give better job opportunities to migrants; it also helps in improving the quality of life of the people and social life as they experience about new culture, customs, and languages which help to improve brotherhood among people. And more importantly Children will get better opportunities for higher education which increases income levels and can reduce the poverty in rural India which leads to human development.

IV. Review of literature

Akter Priya and Shaheen (2009) in the article titled “Migration and Human Development in India, Authors explained the gaps in both the data on migration and the understanding of the role of migration in livelihood strategies and economic growth in India, This study said that there is inaccurate policy prescriptions and a lack of political commitment to improving the living and working conditions of migrants.

Archana K Roy (2004) in the study of Migration and Human development .She stated that the impact of temporary labor migration of parent(s) on school attendance of the children between 6–14 years and their dropping out from the school through an analysis of the cases from both the ends of migration stream in India. Data was collected from thirteen construction sites of Varanasi Uttar Pradesh and nine villages of Bihar by applying both qualitative and quantitative techniques. It is evident from the study that the migrants through remittances improve school accessibility for the left behind children and bridge gender gap in primary school education

Harpreet Singh (2006) in the study titled “Increasing rural to urban migration in India: A challenge or an opportunity”. Author explained the impact of rural to urban migration in the form of positive and negative aspect. The purpose of this paper is to study the trends in rural to urban migration in India and studying migration as advantage (development of urbanization) and migration as a disadvantage (development of slums). This study used secondary data in which he importantly stated that the rate of net rural to urban migration has increased from 21.2 percent in 1991-01 to 24.1 percent in 2001-11. As per census 2011

Jean-Pierre Vidal (1998) in the research article entitled “The effect of emigration on human capital formation” He explores on a possible effect of emigration on human capital formation. Emigration to higher returns to skill country provides an incentive to invest in human capital. The level of human capital formation in the source country can therefore be positively correlated with the probability of emigration. Incidentally a surge in emigration can lead the source country

Madhu G. R and H. R. Uma (2014) in the research article “Rural to Urban Migration-Opportunities and Challenges”. Author explained mainly the opportunities and challenges at destination place due to rural –urban migration. The main objective of this paper is to study the socio- economic status and reasons for migration of agricultural labors of Manvi taluk of Raichur district of Karnataka. Authors used primary data in which they concluded that more than 95% labors have migrated due to seasonal unemployment and 98.2% agricultural labors have migrated due to poverty, most of the migrants fall in the age group of 15 to 30 years. The income, savings and expenditure of most of the migrants have increased and the volume of debt decreased due to increase in their income

Table 1: Personal Profile of the respondents

| Demographics | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Age of the respondents | | |
| 20 – 30 years | 10 | 16 |
| 30 – 40 years | 22 | 36 |
| 40 – 50 years | 20 | 34 |
| More than 50 years | 8 | 14 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Educational qualification of the respondents | | |
| Illiterates | 10 | 18 |
| Primary | 10 | 18 |
| Secondary | 17 | 28 |
| Degree + | 23 | 39 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Occupations | | |
| Employees (private& govt.) | 28 | 46 |
| Agricultural labors | 08 | 13 |
| Construction workers | 10 | 18 |
| Self work | 02 | 05 |
| Students | 12 | 20 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Type of family | | |
| Nuclear | 40 | 66 |
| Joint | 20 | 34 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows the details of the demographic profile of the out-migrant respondents. Out of 60 respondents majority of the respondents (36%) belonged to the age group of 30 – 40 years, it is middle age group which is showing more inclination towards migration to improve their economic status, and out of 60 respondents (34%) are in the age group of 40 to 50. majority of the respondents (39%) have completed degree education, majority of the respondents (46%) are employees in private/ public sector and majority of the respondents (66%) live in nuclear families in the study area. It is clear from the table that the migration is very pronounced in the highly productive age group i.e. 30-50 years. The data has been classified on the basis of gender also. It is (85%) men who are more migratory in this group. And the 15% of female population is normally the dependent wife who follows husband to his working place. In most of the cases they are also joining the hands of their husbands to improve the family income and they expressed their willingness to work in an alien place than in their native.

Table 2: Reasons for the migration

| Si. No. | Reasons for Migration | Frequency | Percentage of respondents |
|---------|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Getting employment | 08 | 13 |
| 2 | High wage | 07 | 11 |
| 3 | For higher education | 34 | 56 |
| 4 | Meeting household expenditure | 04 | 07 |
| 5 | Accumulation of Savings & repayment of debt | 02 | 04 |
| 6 | Marriage of dependents & Financing education of dependents | 05 | 09 |
| | Total | 60 | 100 |

In table 2 it is observed that the reasons for the migration of Respondents from the study area to other areas. As per the opinion received from respondents 56% of the respondents have migrated to other areas in order to provide higher education, 16.5% of the respondents have migrated for high wages at cities 11% of the respondents have migrated Availability of work, 11.5% of the respondents migrated for meeting Meeting household expenditure The analysis indicated that majority of the respondents (56%) have migrated for education purpose only.

Table 3: Before and after the impact of migration on education, health, income, savings and expenditure.

| Si. No. | Particulars | Before Migration | | | After Migration | | |
|---------|---|------------------|----------|-----|-----------------|----------|-----|
| | | High | Moderate | Low | High | Moderate | Low |
| 1 | Educational status | 12 | 11 | 27 | 32 | 13 | 5 |
| | Percentage (%) | 24 | 22 | 54 | 64 | 26 | 10 |
| 2 | Health status | 5 | 8 | 37 | 23 | 16 | 11 |
| | Percentage (%) | 10 | 16 | 74 | 46 | 32 | 22 |
| 3 | Availability of educational opportunities | 7 | 24 | 19 | 33 | 9 | 8 |
| | Percentage (%) | 14 | 48 | 38 | 66 | 18 | 16 |
| 4 | Income levels | 8 | 18 | 24 | 26 | 16 | 8 |
| | Percentage (%) | 16 | 36 | 48 | 52 | 32 | 16 |
| 5 | savings | 12 | 26 | 12 | 32 | 13 | 5 |
| | Percentage (%) | 24 | 52 | 24 | 64 | 26 | 10 |
| 6 | Expenditure | 31 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 29 |
| | Percentage (%) | 18 | 24 | 58 | 62 | 22 | 16 |
| 7 | Social status | 3 | 15 | 32 | 38 | 8 | 4 |
| | Percentage (%) | 6 | 30 | 64 | 76 | 16 | 8 |

Source: Primary data

Table 3 shows the percentage changes in the opinions of respondents, (Educational status, health status, income levels, Savings, Expenditure status) before and after migration. The percentage values clears that there is an increment in the high opinions of respondents after migration. Before migration there is 45.42% low opinion about the impact of migration on human development is observed which has reduced to 20% after migration. At the same time the study recorded 55.15% of high opinion about the impact of migration which was only 22.29% before migration. Therefore from above table it is very clear that there is positive relation b/w migration as well as income, educational attainment and other attributes.

V. Conclusion

Migration is the result of lack of amenities at resident places which made many people to migrate from rural to urban areas in search of facilities. Importantly in my study we found that there is a positive relation b/w migration and human development which strongly said that before migration there is 45.42% low opinion about the impact of migration on human development is observed which has reduced to 20% after migration. At the same time the study recorded 55.15% of high opinion about the impact of migration which was only 22.29% before migration. In the study it is clearly observed that after migration there is positive impact on all parameters of human development.

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