



Socio-economic Consequences of Migration in India: The Crisis of Mass Exodus from Kurnool District

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Abstract

Migration is a global phenomenon. It suggests the movement of a group or person from one area to another generally in quest of greater economic possibilities. Usually, patterns of forced or voluntary migration are connected to relocation resulting from war or natural disaster. Furthermore, driving the rise of domestic and cross-border climate-induced migration are severe climatic events including floods, cyclones, rising sea levels, heat waves, and drought. With more than 41 million individuals driven from their homes between 2020 and 2021 owing to climate-related displacements, the nation ranks fourth among all the countries affected. Rising as a migrant problem, the climate issue demands deliberate and aggressive policymaking. Low agricultural income, agricultural unemployment and underemployment are the main forces driving the migrants towards regions with more employment possibilities in our nation.

Adverse economic circumstances resulting from poverty, low productivity, unemployment, and resource depletion are known as push forces. Pull factors are those elements that draw immigrants to a given location, including chances for better jobs, greater salaries, improved working conditions and better amenities of life, etc. The fact that the urban labour force is large, the urban unemployment rates are high, and there are also pools of underemployed people define push-back elements. All these elements cooperate to discourage the new migration from rural to metropolitan areas.

Key words: Internal migration, pull factors, push factors and push back factors

Introduction

There were plenty of global migrants in the nineteenth century. People who migrate—that is, those who depart from their customary place of residence—along either internal (within the country) or international (across borders). Often seeking higher income and better living standards in cities, even if it means leaving their rural homes and livelihoods behind, labour leaves India mostly due to a lack of economic possibilities in agriculture, including low wages, inconsistent work, poor rural infrastructure, increasing use of farm machinery and small landholdings, pushing people towards better-paying jobs in urban sectors like construction and services. Based on origin and destination, migration can be classified as follows: i. Rural to Rural (R-R); ii. Rural to Urban (R-U); iii. Urban to Urban (U-U); and iv. Urban to Rural (U-R).

Objective of the Study

The paper aims to explore the trends of urbanisation and understand the operation of pull and push elements. The study uses Indian Census data from 2011 to try to clarify the urbanisation process in India with special attention to rural to urban migration and its connections.

Methodology

The continuous process of intra-state and inter-state migration in India, particularly its urban dimension, has been examined and interpreted based on consecutive Census data and other related reports. The present situation is demonstrated using the secondary data sources on migration tables.

Push and Pull Factors

Push factors: Detrimental economic conditions resulting from poverty, low productivity, unemployment, and depletion of natural resources. Adverse economic conditions provide the primary impetus for migration in Kurnool district.

Pull factors: Pull factors denote the elements that entice migrants to a region, including enhanced career prospects, elevated income, improved working conditions, and superior quality of life facilities. The primary determinant of the rate of outward movement is the growth of employment in alternative occupations. This factor elucidates the elevated pace of migration in recent years inside developed metropolitan areas such as Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Chennai.

Pushback factors: The urban labour force is substantial, urban unemployment rates are elevated, and there are also reservoirs of underemployed individuals. All these elements collectively serve as deterrents to the influx of migration from rural to urban areas.

Analysis of Interstate Migrant Workers in India:

The urbanisation and economic growth of India depend much on interstate migration. According to Census 2011 statistics, more than 41.4 million people crossed state lines in search of job possibilities. Key driver of labour mobility, migration helps to balance labour demand and supply in many different sectors. Based on 2011 Census data on interstate migrant labour, this in-depth study examines the share of migrant workers among total workers across main sectors in India.

table .1 inter state migrant labour in india, 2011

S. No.	States/UTs	Persons
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	52,129
2	Andhra Pradesh	37,37,316
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,19,244
4	Assam	5,72,064
5	Bihar	7,06,557
6	Chandigarh	2,06,642
7	Chhattisgarh	10,21,077
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	63,779
9	Daman & Diu	73,782
10	Goa	1,15,870
11	Gujarat	30,41,779
12	Haryana	13,33,644
13	Himachal Pradesh	2,96,268
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,22,587
15	Jharkhand	8,24,259
16	Karnataka	28,87,216
17	Kerala	7,13,934
18	Lakshadweep	6,135
19	Madhya Pradesh	24,15,635
20	Maharashtra	79,01,819
21	Manipur	22,750
22	Meghalaya	52,797
23	Mizoram	62,828
24	Nagaland	1,10,779
25	New Delhi	20,29,489
26	Odisha	8,51,363
27	Puducherry	70,721
28	Punjab	12,44,056
29	Rajasthan	17,09,602
30	Sikkim	46,554
31	Tamil Nadu	34,87,974
32	Tripura	92,097
33	Uttar Pradesh	31,56,125
34	Uttarakhand	6,17,094

35	West Bengal	16,56,952
	India	4,14,22,917

Source: Census of India, 2011

In 52% of India's districts now, there are more agricultural labourers than farmers. Agricultural labourers now account for more than farmers and growers combined. In all of their districts, Bihar, Kerala, and Puducherry have more agricultural labourers than farmers. India's farmer count dropped by approximately 15 million in the first 20 years we adopted the new economic policies. Over 2,000 primary growers were quitting their fields daily on average. The count in the Census 2011 showed a further drop of 7.7 million. They hardly get minimum pay anyway. Under MGNREGS in 2024–25, the Andhra Pradesh Government has fixed minimum wages for an agricultural labourer at ₹300 daily. Still, there are many variations throughout the states. The worker has a big family. They lack skills, are sick and illiterate. Moreover, farming is a seasonal employment; hence, they have to look for alternative low-income employment during the non-farming season. There is enough of a workforce available, hence labour forces to operate at lesser pay are abundant. The tenant farmers and agricultural labourers are therefore the poorest since they lack the financial stability or assets (such as land ownership) that could enable them to create long-term prosperity and stability. They are at the will of outside elements including crop output.

table .2 activity-wise distribution of migrant workers

Sector	Rural		Urban	
	Male %	Female %	Male %	Female %
Primary	4	75	20	65
Manufacturing	13	59	38	51
Public Services	16	69	40	56
Construction	8	73	32	67
Traditional Services	10	65	29	55
Modern Services	16	66	40	52
Total	6	73	33	56

Source: Census of India, 2011

The Trends of Migration in India as per Census of India, 2011.

In 2011, India had 45.6 crore migrants—38% of the country's population. The number of migrants rose by 45% while the population grew by 18% between 2001 and 2011. Of all the migration, 99% was domestic; immigrants—international migrants—made up 1%; Of the 21-crore rural-rural migrants, 54% of them fit classifiable internal migration; Of all the internal migration, roughly 88% came from within states; The biggest suppliers of inter-state migrants were Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; the biggest receiving states were Maharashtra and Delhi. Of intra-state migration, most (70%) were motivated by marriage and family; Comprising 37% of the population, India boasts about 45.36 crore internal migrants. With an expected workforce of 48.2 crores and reaching 50 crores by 2016, annual net migrant flows accounted for roughly 1% of the working-age population.

Socio-economic Consequences

Labour availability might raise output. Unchecked migration to India's big cities has also resulted in slums and crowding. The rural demographic structure suffers in age and skill-selective migration from the rural area. Additionally, causing feminisation of agriculture is the migration of rural men. Migration results in the mingling of people from several civilisations and helps a composite culture to grow. But it also has major negative effects, such as migrant depression. As people destroy land for agriculture, abuse natural resources, and bring new invading species, migration can cause deforestation and loss of biodiversity. As people abuse water supplies and contaminate them, migration can aggravate water shortage.

Challenges Faced by Migrant Workers

- Insufficient social security and health advantages; also, the minimum safety requirements Regulation is not applied correctly.
- Insufficient mobility of state-provided benefits, particularly food given under the public Distribution system (PDS).
- In metropolitan regions, lack of access to reasonably priced homes and essential Conveniences.
- Effect of COVID-19- Concerns experienced by such migrant workers relate to food, shelter, healthcare, fear of getting sick or spreading the infection, loss of pay, concerns about the Family, worry, fear. .

Pull or Push forces in Kurnool District:

It is quite debatable whether pull or push elements mostly explain the migration of rural people to cities. Many fervently believe that the rural issues, rather than the urban attractions, are the bigger push factors since they significantly influence the urban change of the population. Conversely, the declining cultivable land per capita and rising Rural unemployment and underemployment create problems; on the other hand, the improvement in the rural educational levels and the communication and interaction between the rural and urban areas have made rural folk increasingly aware of their problems and realise that these are maybe not inevitable and can be solved by their moving to the cities.

The Kurnool district boasts strong agricultural potential, plenty of water supplies, and a great expanse of rich terrain. Still, many workers travel to other states in search of employment while accompanied by families. Due mostly to factors like inconsistent agricultural income, drought conditions, and a lack of local employment opportunities, rural-to-urban migration is a major trend whereby many agricultural labourers and marginal farmers leave their villages to seek employment in nearby cities like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Guntur, and Bellary. In the western portions of the district—that is, Kosigi, Mantralayam, Nandavaram, Kowtalam, Aspari, Devanakonda, Alur, Peddakadubur, Pathikonda, Chippagiri, Halaharvi, Belagal, Kodumur and Gonegandla mandals—this is rather severe. An estimate suggests that within the past four months, about 2 lakh rural poor people have moved in quest of work elsewhere. Today one can locate hundreds of deserted settlements in the western section of the area. Long-term actions must be carried out to establish rural businesses and hence create employment for rural people. For the kids, what they need is decent and consistent education.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

Improving Social Security: Increasing labour law coverage to safeguard interstate Migrants—including improved housing and healthcare—by improving labour regulations.

Training and Skill Development: Programs for migrants' formal workforce integration under Vocational training. Establishing a national migration strategy will help to guarantee labour. Rights across states and ease of travel across them.

MGNREGA: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) strengthening to offer consistent employment

Smart Urban Planning: Creating reasonably priced, sanitary, healthcare-oriented Migrant-friendly cities with affordable homes.

Summing up

Migrant workers form the backbone of India's urbanization and economic growth, contributing significantly to key sectors such as construction, manufacturing, services, and agriculture. However, policies need to address their vulnerabilities and create an inclusive urban environment where they can thrive. With better social security, skill development, and urban planning, India can maximize the potential of its migrant workforce while ensuring sustainable urbanization. Agricultural labourer migration in the Kurnool district is a complicated problem motivated by several socioeconomic and environmental elements. Migration presents major obstacles to rural development even if it offers some financial relief. Infrastructure upgrades and focused governmental interventions are required to generate sustainable livelihood possibilities and lower migration motivated by hardship.

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