

# Impact of Increase in Income by Way of Rural Out- Migration of Labour on Share Cropping Agriculture (Bataidari Farming) and Economic Condition of Migrating Labour Households at Origin: A Case Study of Vaishali District.

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## ABSTRACT

*Migration is a world- wide Phenomenon that seems to be a human necessity irrespective of time & place since ages. Man has a tendency to leave the areas in which life is easier & better. Many adventurous and enterprising people migrated to different places outside the country in search of food and shelter or for other commercial purposes. Migration phenomena have been influencing socio-economic conditions of the people from the very beginning of human civilization .Earlier, certainly impact of migration phenomena was not so complex and multidimensional in character because of less complex migration processes.*

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## 1. Introduction

These migration has become equally complex. Infact, impact of migration of people is mainly realized in both of the areas : the places of origin of migrants and the places of destinations. At the same time the impact of migration phenomena on both the areas concerned changes in ecological conditions, economic conditions, sociopolitical conditions etc. Moreover, different types of migrations have distinctive impact on above mentioned conditions. In a developing part of the world having multicorner development in rural and urban areas, the impact of migration phenomena has been more remarkable. The Indian sub-continent has recorded phenomenal development in different sectors of economy and other migration motivating conditions and the impact of migration phenomena has been equally important.

This research paper tries to make an assessment of the impact of increase in income by way of rural out migration of labour on share cropping agriculture (Bataidarikrishi) and its impact on the economic condition and income level of the migrating labour households at their origin in Vaishali district of Bihar. Uptil now , there has been a generalized conclusion that rural out –migration of labour has only negative impact on the agriculture and agricultural activities in Bihar because it creates paucity of labour at rural level and has also a considerable impact on land-use & agriculture in the area of origin. The natural corollary of out-migration leads to shortage of man power as mostly young male labourers move outside. This directly results into shortage of labourers as a result, untimely cultivation or delay in agriculture process take place, which is a very common problem in the study area. This also leads to rise in labour wages which have been keeping an upward trend. The paucity of male labourers has given way to female labourers which affect the quality of work as well as period of working hours. In order to agument this problem of labour supply, the diversification of land-use & mechanization of agriculture has taken place. The resourceful & rich farmers

have in recent years preferred agroforestry which is in great demand in the market.

But the present paper tries to make an assessment of the positive impact of out-migration of labour by way of increase in income of the migrant families on share cropping agriculture, land-use and cropping pattern which has ultimately much improved the economic condition of the migrant families at their origin. This study becomes even more important for a labour based agricultural economy of a resurgent state like Bihar which is marching on the path of socio-economic development in the trio-age of liberalization, Privatization & globalization.

## 2. Research Methodology:

Since the study area is a village, hence in the present study, primary data have been collected from the migrant labour households at the origin with the help of questionnaires and intensive field study, in few places, data from secondary sources have also been used to arrive at the conclusion.

Sampling:- For the selection of the blocks, all the 16 blocks in Vaishali district were first grouped into two blocs-as More Developed blocs (MDB) and Less Developed Blocs (LDB) using different composite Development Indicators (CDI) namely, rural literacy rate, urbanization, rural non-agricultural employment and area cultivated more than once in a year to capture different blocks in development perspective in the district.

Then three blocks from each developing bloc/group have been selected according to the convenience of the field study. After that, one gram panchayat from each selected block has been selected randomly and interviewed with the pre-tested questionnaires. Thus the survey covered a total of 300 beneficiary households from 6 panchayats, 6 development blocks and one District during the period from May 2016 to Nov 2017 for the present research work.

The following Table-1 presents the respondents' profile.

**Table-1**

Name of Blocks		Name of Gram Panchayat	No. of Respondent Households
More Developed Blocks	Hajipur	DaulatpurChandi	50
	Lalganj	Shadullahpur	50
	Mahua	Phulwaria	50
Less Developed Blocks	Raghopur	Mallikpur	50
	Patepur	Dabhaich	50
	Vaishali	Amritpur	50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

**Table-2**

**Income Status Before Migration Through Share Cropping Agriculture And Allied Activities :- (Monthly Income in Rupees)  
(Out of 300 Respondents)**

Village	DaulatpurChandi	Shadullahpur	Phulwaria	Mallikpur	Dabhaich	Amritpur
Less than 2000	52%	48%	50%	46%	52%	48%
2000 to 4000	24%	22%	34%	28%	34%	40%
4000 to 8000	16%	14%	10%	18%	10%	8%
More than 8000	8%	16%	6%	8%	8%	4%

**Table-3**

**Income Status After Migration Through Share Cropping Agriculture And Allied Activities:-(in Rupees per Month)**

Village	DaulatpurChandi	Shadullahpur	Phulwaria	Mallikpur	Dabhaich	Amritpur
2000 to 5000	60%	64%	58%	64%	68%	60%
5000 to 10000	30%	34%	26%	36%	38%	40%
Above 10000	8%	16%	4%	6%	10%	16%

**Table-4**

**Land holding taken/leased under share-cropping/contract farming by rural labour households at origin (Out of the Total 300 Respondent families)**

Land holding	Status before Migration	Status after Migration
Less than 10 Katthas	180(60%)	66(22%)
10 Kattas to 20 Katthas	102 (34%)	114 (38%)
20Kattas to 30 Katthas	12(4%)	78(26%)
More than 30 Kattha	6(2%)	42(14%)
	<b>Total-300</b>	<b>Total-300</b>

### 3. Main Findings :-

It is clear from the comparative analysis of the Tables-2, 3 & 4 that before migration, about 50% of the agricultural labour households and marginal poor farmers' households have income less than Rs.2000 per month. But after migration, no rural labour households and marginal farmers have income less than Rs. 2000 per month. Instead, more than 60% of the rural labour households and marginal farmers have income between Rs. 2000 and Rs. 5000 per month which is a very remarkable and positive impact of the income sent to their families at origin by the migrant rural labour at destination.

When we take the comparative analysis of the data from table-3, we find that about 50% of the agriculture labour and poor farmers' households have increased their income above Rs 5000 per month. Some agriculture labour households have made a big fortune in their life by doing share cropping agriculture on patta basis and by other allied agricultural activities.

Table-4 says that before migration, 60% of the respondent agriculture labour households were doing farming and other allied activities on land holding less than 10 katthas. After migration, only 22% households have less than 10

Katthas landholding. Tabel-4 clearly shows that their quantity and size of land holding have increased reasonably and now they are taking more and more landholdings on lease/patta basis for doing agriculture and allied activities.

All secondary & tertiary services are provided by nearby towns, mandis, hats and markets to the people of this districts. And the vegetables, dairy products and many types of crops are sent from the village to towns and nearby mandis. Many people & labourers also come to town in early morning and go back to the village in the evening. Roadways play a significant role in the commuting characteristics. There is no regular bus service but three wheelers, two-wheelers, bicycle and even walking became principal means of daily commuting.

#### 4. Changing Pattern Of Agriculture And Land Use:-

The climate has never been completely suitable for proper cultivation practices due to its indefinite nature hence farmers, agricultural labourers and the poor who totally depend upon cultivation are bound to migrate from the region. Poor farmers often felt helpless due to agricultural failure. They have to face generally the food problem particularly in the famine year. Agriculture, being the only source of farmer's income remained failing year after year. Their all-round development remained stunted. They left the idea of progressing and engaged in solving their problems of their fundamental needs. Economic conditions of the people of this district became acutely pitiable with the passage of time. Their economic condition went from bad to worse by degrees. Farmers in their poor attire found themselves in perplexed and pitiable condition. All agro-allied activities remained stunted. Neither trade nor commerce developed. Educational attainment for their children remained stunted. Thus, the people of the region started searching space for earning to sustain their livelihood. They want to increase their poor purchasing capacity. They want to enrich and modernize their traditional irrigation system so as to boost up their only means of livelihood, i.e. agriculture.

Among 300 migrant households, 22% out migrated along with their family members locking up their houses. But 16% and 62% persons migrated who were small farmers and agricultural labourers respectively keeping their family members at the place of origin. Such migrants sent their surplus money after their maintenance to their family members at the place of origin every month. These money became the great support to their family members staying at the place of origin. Their hard life and economic suffocations were minimized. With the passage of time, they started flourishing due to regular financial support to their family members staying at the places of origin. Migration generally enables movers to improve their economic status by getting better job. At the place of origin, significant changes are marked in agricultural practices as well as on land use. Industries and occupational structure of the people are also influenced.

Land use pattern shows very undulating profile. The net sown area (NSA) has always been fluctuating. In the year of sufficient rainfall, the net sown area increased along with the population pressure on it, while in the year of draught and famine, the net sown areas have decreased considerably. There is minimum stability in NSA, particularly due to traditional means of irrigation in different years. Lack of farmer's income minimizes the use of compost and manure to the standing crops that ultimately discourages the growth of

crops. The reports collected from the migrant respondents indicate the very positive sign on the route of economic progress. No doubt, the secondary data shows that a little bit of barren land has been put to agriculture uses. Pastures and playgrounds have been turned into cultivable land. Vegetative cover is often destroyed and turned into other uses. The settlement area increased and barren land decreased with the passage of time. After the year 2000 onwards, current fallow and cultivable waste land decreased. It shows that area under cultivable land has increased by turning non-arable land into arable.

So far as agricultural performance is concerned, progressive trend is being experienced in this regard. Before 1961-62, irrigational facilities were either negligible or completely dependent on rainwater. Tube-well based on boring was rare. The result was that the entire agricultural land was single cropped in spite of ample manpower. Chemical fertilizers were rarely used.

Before migration, single cropping was general. But after migration, remarkable progress has been made in the area of double and multiple cropping. Private boring was quite negligible before migration but after migration the number of private boring and pumping sets started increasing. Migrants earned and purchased pumping sets and privately bored to get the ground water and facilitated their agricultural practices. Tractor was also introduced during this period. Migrants were influenced by the agricultural development in the society and dared to purchase tractors in order to provide impetus to their agriculture. Use of chemical fertilizers, Manures and composting was also initiated. People took interest in providing fertilizers and composts in their agriculture so as to increase the agricultural production.

With the passage of time, when the rate of migration intensified income of migrants increased and they invested their increased income in promoting their agricultural condition. Irrigational facilities were multiplied and agricultural implements were improved. On the ground of such courageous endeavors of promoting irrigational facilities and modern scientific agricultural implements, they started multiple cropping system to get much and more agro-products.

Majority of the migrant labourers and marginal farmers' families and small farmers have purchased cows, goats & buffaloes and earn extra money by selling milk, flesh & dairy Products to nearby towns and villages. Those farmers who cannot survive in the changing rural environment have settled outside and this has given way to patta system a new trend seen here recently. The families of migrants labours who have extra cash in their pockets take land to do agriculture in lieu of advance cash payment in the beginning of agriculture season to the absentee farmers.

#### 5. Summary:-

The above illustrated facts, even though they are in brief and concise, explicitly demonstrate that a new aura of vicissitudes, when the old modes of cultivation has gradually been substituted by a new and developed mode of cultivation through substituting the old instruments of production by developed scientific instruments such as oxen driven plough by tractors, latha by diesel pumps for irrigation, manual harvesting and crushing by power driven harvesting machines and crushers, the old agrarian production relation require to be

changed to facilitate the conditions for smooth economic activities in the agrarian sector of Bihar. Sequel to a gradual transformation in the instruments of production there has grown a contradiction between the forces of production and the relation of production. The remnants or vestiges of feudalism, which are still very strong in the agrarian sector of Bihar, and have been allowed to operate in absence of land reforms, now, resort to increase their surplus value through various modes of exploitative mechanisms which contribute to the process of unemployment, pauperization of agrarian masses, lowering down the real wages of agricultural workers etc. In most cases institutional credit to agriculture becomes rather unproductive. i.e. in the absence of land reforms, rich farmers extract more profit than what they could have extracted by modernization of their agricultural holding. A single example is enough to explain how the non-implementation of Bataidari kanoon has constrained the capital investment on agriculture. The big land holders, who have capital, and whose investment could have given agriculture. Because by leasing their land on share cropping (Bataidari) they often receive at least 50 per cent of the total produces without investing even a single coin on it. To divert their extra money on agriculture they now, require to have from their agricultural yield the profit equal to what they receive from their share-croppers and what they receive as their profit from their capital invested elsewhere. The combined amount of their two heads profits become so large that the agriculture in Bihar can not provide them. Consequently, modernization of Bihar agriculture has become a thing of days gone by.

## 6. Conclusion:-

The present study reveals that out-migration has led to considerable changes in terms of better land-use pattern, agricultural practices, nature & types of agriculture crops and the cattle wealth. A good proportion of land owners and farmers have left agriculture and have migrated to towns and industrial places because they have much better opportunities there. One effect of this migration and movement has been increasing absence of land owners, particularly the upper castes from rural habitat. This has resulted in an increase in leasing and giving their land holdings on patta to the families of migrating labourers and marginal farmers at origin for pursuing agriculture and other allied activities. At the same time, this phenomenon has stopped the land remaining fallow and has also assured a definite income to the land owners who have left agriculture - thereby adding to the income of migrant labour households and poor farmers at origin.

No doubt, the commercialization, mechanization & diversification of agriculture has started and economic condition of the toiling farmers in the study area has improved a lot but this has been achieved at the cost of balanced demographic composition & social ecology. Conclusively, it can be said that if tenancy and other related land reforms are implemented with sound political will and practical way, patta cum share-cropping agriculture will improve and it will give a big boost to the agricultural income of the farmers and migrant labour families living at origin. And it will increase employment and income in rural areas.

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