

# Impact of Out-Migration on Agriculture Sector in Nalanda District : A Geographical Study

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## ARTICLE DETAILS

### Article History

Received: 22 February 2016

Accepted: 04 March 2016

Published Online: 10 March 2016

### Keywords:

Migration, Capital formation, Subsistence agriculture, Wages.

## ABSTRACT

Migration is a worldwide 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 difficult, he migrates to the areas, where life may be easier and better. However, in the case of the Magadh plain of South Bihar, this process has been found to be more intense, severe and complex. This process has an impact on the area experiencing out-migration primarily on agricultural activities as still majority of the rural people depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

## STUDY AREA :

This research paper attempts to analyse the cause of out-migration, selection and changes of destination of the migration in general and impact of out-migration on agriculture in particular at a Nalanda district lying in South Bihar has been selected keeping in view the intensity of the out-migration seen here. Nalanda district stretches from 24°48' N to 25°28' N latitude and 85° 11' E to 85° 56' E longitudes and covers an area of 2370.7 sq. km. Its population is 23,68,327 this area is bounded on the north by Patna District, on the South by Nawada and Gaya District, on the East by Munger District and in the West by Jehanabad and Patna District. This District consists three Sub-Division 20 C.D. Blocks and 1036 Villages. This region has purely agricultural dominated economy. Very few people engaged in secondary and tertiary activities.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

Since the study area is a Nalanda district in the present study, primary data have been self generated through questionnaires and field study. In few places, data from secondary sources have also been used. The primary data has been analyzed by arithmetic method. Thus inductive as well as deductive method have been applied. In some villages comparative method also been used.

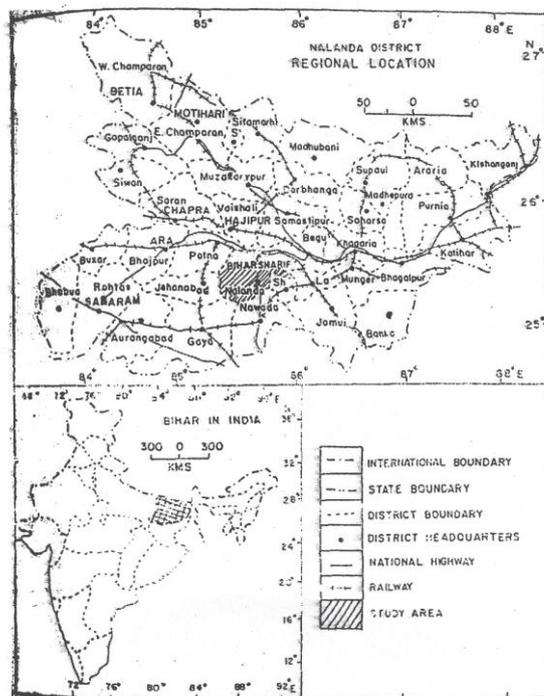
## CONCEPTUAL INTRODUCTION :

The idea of mobility implies a movement from one place to another and over some distance. Place may refer to any space at any level demarcated on the basis of selected criterion for administrative, economic or any other purpose. spatial movement also brings in the concept of distance which may take three forms:-

- (i) Geographical distance within geographical space.

- (ii) Economic distance within economic space and
- (iii) Social distance within social space.

Migration implies a movement to stay somewhere else which requires definition of what constitutes staying and the duration of stay. Commonly migration is used to define long distance moves with permanent change of residence, though the limit of distance moved to qualify as a migrant may be arbitrarily fixed in different studies or estimates for different purposes.



## CAUSES :

The causes of migration may be numerous and these operate both in the area of origin and areas of destination.

Generally in the rural area appalling poverty non-guaranteed daily work, low and uncertain wages uneconomic landholdings, social unrest in the form of caste tensions, inter-personal rivalry, naxalism movement poor facilities for education, health, recreation and other civic amenities work as push factors. However, in the case of study area, it has been found that it is almost the economic factor which is compelling the rural young people to leave the area in search of better opportunities for employment.

**IMPACT :**

**A. Employment, Wages and Income :** The positive impact of migration, highlighted by the different studies are as follows :-

- (i) Shift of labour from the less productive rural, agrarian sector to the more productive urban industrial sector reduces disguised unemployment in the rural areas and raises the average rural incomes.
- (ii) The consumption expenditure saved due to out-migration may raise the per capita income of the origin area.
- (iii) Increased employment in the urban sector with higher wages may create an increased demand for rural output which may alter the rural urban terms of trade by raising agricultural prices relative to urban goods.
- (iv) The above point may stimulate agriculture production, thereby increasing the demand for rural labour and leading to more employment.

**B. Rural Income Distribution :** The effects on rural income distribution may vary over time and space. It is likely to depend on the following factors :-

- (i) Relative propensities of migration among different segments of rural population.
- (ii) The flow of remittances to different segments of rural population.
- (iii) Characteristics of return migration.

**C. Rural Capital formation, modes of production and technological change** outmigration from rural areas is likely to

push up the rural wage rates and encourage labour saving technological change and or greater work participation by the remaining family members.

**D. Fertility and Demographic Structure :**

- (i) Migration effects the level and distribution of rural income which is expected to influence fertility on the one hand higher household income may enable the family to support more children, while on the other, after certain minimum level fertility tends to decrease with increase of income as increased income affects the norms of disposal of that income by raising the relative desire for material goods.
- (ii) Heavy out-migration of young unmarried males or females can lead to an imbalance in the sex ratio, making it more difficult for persons to find marriage partners.
- (iii) Large scale emigration of married males in search of employment opportunities can have adverse effects on family structure including the possibility of family dissolution.
- (iv) Migration may lead to postponement of marriage as the decision to migrate and to start a family tend to occur at the same age in the life cycle.

The present study has been based on the primary data generated through questionnaires and scheduled by sampling survey. One village was intensively studies dealing with all families of the village and migration concerning features. For this purpose, the village Mauryachak of Rahui development block has been selected. It is 20 km north of Biharsharif town. It is hardly 3 km east of National Highway. The village is 2 km away from Bakhtiyarpur Rajgir railway line. With an area of 207 acres, the village has a population of 1150 as per 1991 census. Physiographically, village is situated on relatively higher land.

**POPULATION OF VILLAGE**

Description	Population		
	1981	1991	2001
Total population	515	930	1150
Literacy	233	475	709
Percentage of Literates	45.24	51.08	61.65
Density of population	2.48	4.49	5.56
Per Capita Land	0.40	0.22	0.18

Source : DCH

This Village consists of 154 families. These families have social groups of different castes and different economic levels. They have been grouped as per land holdings.

Size of holdings	No. of families	Percentage
Landless	04	2.62
1-2 kathas	08	5.19
3-10 kathas	16	10.39
11-19 kathas	11	7.14
1-5 bigha	54	35.06
6-15 bigha	43	27.92
16-25 bigha	08	5.19
More than 25 bigha	10	6.49
	<b>154</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source : Field Survey

The above mentioned table shows that out of 154 families 4 families are landless, 39 families have less than one bigha of land. 54 families fall in the group of 1 to 5 bigha of land holding. Most of these are marginal farmers With the land

holding of 6 to 15 Digha, 43 families has been grouped as middle class farmers. Rest of the 18 families having 16 to over 25 bigha of land are rich farmers.

#### LAND HOLDING MIGRANT AND NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES

Size of Holdings	No. of families	Fully Migrated families	Partially migrated families	Non-migrated families
Landless	4	3	×	1
1-2 katha	8	3	4	1
3-10 katha	16	14	10	2
11-19 katha	11	3	6	2
1-5 bigha	53	20	22	12
6-15 bigha	43	5	30	8
16-25 bigha	8	3	5	×
More than 25 bigha	10	5	5	×
	<b>154</b>	<b>46 (29.87%)</b>	<b>82 (53.25%)</b>	<b>26 (16.88%)</b>

Source : Field Survey

Out of 154 families 3 families of landless group have fully migrated from the village. Out of 8 families having land between 1-2 katha three families left the village. Some family members of four families of this group migrated to Patna to work as labourers. Out of 16 families in the category of 3 to 10 katha of land holding four family belong to the category of partially migrated families. Some children and males of these families went to Patna and Delhi in search of their livelihood. Three families of the group of 11 to 16 Katha land holding fully migrated from the village. They come back to their native place off and on. Some family-members of this group also went to Patna and Surat to work as rajmistry, labourers and domestic servants. The families of the group of 1 to 5 bigha of land come under marginal farmers. Out of 54 families 20

families migrated fully from the village. Some family members of 22 families migrated to Delhi, Patna and Punjab. They are running small dhabas, working in offices, banks and schools.

Some of them are engages as insurance agents. Among rest marginal and rich farmers mostly have migrated or partially migrated. They are working in Patna, Delhi and other cities as Doctors, Engineers or private and government servants. Some of these families have shops dealing with cement iron-rod, Almirah, grill, food-grains, garments etc. These rich farmers have given their land on lease basis to their close relatives. Their children are getting education in the cities of Patna and Delhi.

**MALE MEMBERS OF LANDLESS AND MARGINAL FARMERS**

Age Group	No. of Members	No. of Migrated Members
1-10	124	9
11-16	83	68
17-60	300	202
above 60	144	26
	<b>651</b>	<b>307 (40.16%)</b>

Source : Field Survey

93 families of the village come in the group of 1 Katha to 5 bigha of land holding. The male members of these families migrated in fair number to earn money for or the family. In the age group of 1-10 only nine numbers out of 124 have migrated to work in teas stalls, hotels and as domestic servants. Out of 83, 68 members in the age group of 11-16 migrated to Biharsharif and Patna either for study or to work as daily wage labourers. In the age group of 17 to 60 maximum people migrated to Surat, Delhi, Punjab and Patna. They are working as factory workers, Rajmistry, daily wage labourers, office workers and in private companies. Some of these run their own shops in towns. Nearly 40% of male population of the landless and marginal farmers have migrated in search of their livelihood. Female members of these families do not like to migrate. They work in fields. Some of them have migrated with their families, but percentage is negligible. Rich farmers of the villages does not like to live in villages. Out of 18 families 8 have migrated to Patna, Delhi and Pune. Nearly total working age members of rest 10 families have also migrated to do jobs in the cities. Only elderly people are left to look after houses.

Migration of labourers has affected agricultural practices of the village. Relation of labourers and farmers is not good. This situation has annoyed farmers. They do not like this tension and migrated to the towns in search of peaceful life and better environment.

**CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

The present study reveals that out-migration has led to considerable changes in terms of better agricultural practices nature and type of agriculture crops the cattle wealth. No doubt, the commercialization mechanisation and diversification living of agriculture has started and condition of farmers in the study area has improved a lot but this has been achieved at the cost of balanced demographic composition and social ecology.

To stop out-migration government should develop growth culture specially based on agricultural activities. Government has tried in this direction such as Harnaut Railway factory Rajgir ordinance factory ultra-tech cement factory near Diawan. But it is not sufficient small scale skills development programme should be initiated. This will defiantly give positive results.

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