



## A study on factors responsible for rural urban migration

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### ABSTRACT

Rural India is yet a larder of problems like malnourishment, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, sottishness and lack of basic infrastructure like schools/colleges, hospitals, sanitation, etc. This has pushed to rural youth moving out of villages to work in cities. Present study entitled “A study on factors responsible for rural urban migration” was conducted to explore the causes behind migration. The study was conducted in two industrially backward districts of Uttar Pradesh viz. Fatehpur and Banda. From each district one block, from each block four villages and from each village 10 respondents were selected through purposive random sampling from the list of families of rural migrants. Thus the total sample size was of 80 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview through structured schedule and simply analyzed through mean score and rank order. After making an exhaustive list of factors with the consultation of local people, causes were categorized in to five categories viz. economic factors, social factors, natural factors, good facilities of cities and other factors. Results of the study revealed that the major economic factors of migration are employment opportunities, poverty, low agriculture productivity, fragmentation of holding and Indebtedness. Prominent social factors encouraging migration were large size of family, desire to overcome of poverty, better educational opportunities, attraction towards better ways of living and loss of social prestige. Among natural factors exhaustion of natural resources was reported of highest importance. Important good facilities attracting to people are more avenue for earning better livelihood, educational facilities, medical facilities, communication facilities and good electric supply etc. Some other factors reported important by the respondents were lack of basic amenities in rural areas, better working conditions in the urban areas and hope of bright future. At the end, investigators felt that there is much more scope to conduct micro studies on migration process and its consequences to the urban as well as rural areas.

### KEYWORDS

Rural, Urban, Education, Employment, Migration, Illiteracy, Unemployment, Poverty

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Indians are still rural dominant society with the 68.86 percent population of villagers fully or partly dependent on agriculture and its allied cottage industries. The increased pressure of population on land caused fragmentation of holdings. These, small piece of holdings compelled most of the villagers to go outside the village in search of jobs, other than agriculture. Although, the politically free India have been launching various rural development projects but all these efforts could not be able to provide sufficient livelihood to the villagers. Hence, certain

amenities like health, education and social security etc. have created a desire among the villagers to go cities to earn more and provide better chances to their off springs. Rural urban migration may well be understood as a residential relocation from predominantly agricultural areas to one in which a majority of employment is non-agricultural. Thus the migration is a form of social interaction by which people due to economic and social factors change their place and occupation to improve their quality of life.

Practically migration occurs when people move from backward areas, where economic opportunities are drastically restricted, to the advanced areas having much employment opportunities. The pitiable rural poverty characterized by unemployment, under employment and low income level may be taken as factors of rural-urban migration. Precisely, fragmentations of holdings, low income from agriculture, low wage-rate and lack of employment opportunities have been the main forces acting behind the large scale migration. The increasing trends of migration of rural population towards towns and cities and consequent problems, inspire one to go deeper and prove in more detail, the various aspects of problems and look for various solution in order to minimize the effects of such migration.

### Research Methodology

The study was conducted in two industrially backward districts of Uttar Pradesh *viz.* Fatehpur and Banda. From each district one block, from each block four villages and from each village 10 respondents were selected through purposive random sampling from the list of families of rural migrants. Thus the total sample size was of 80 respondents. After making an exhaustive list of factors with the consultation of local people, causes were categorized in to five categories those are presented through 5 tables. The data were collected by personal interview through structured schedule and analyzed using statistical techniques like percentage, average, mean score, rank order etc.

### Results and Discussion

Factors of migration from rural to urban area were observed under five categories of cause's *viz.* economic factors, social factors, natural factors, good facilities of cities and miscellaneous factors. Response were recorded through three point scale and analyzed with mean score and rank order as presented in the following tables. Here, it is necessary to quote that the maximum persons of the study area migrated due to more than one/miscellaneous causes *i.e.* we cannot say that only this cause has pushed/pulled him to migrate. Even though, we can understand the prominent factors of rural urban migration from the following results.

It is evident from the above table 1 that the top most reason behind migration was employment opportunities. Other important economic factors directing people towards migration were poverty (II) followed by low agriculture productivity ranking III, fragmentation of holding (IV) and indebtedness (V) respectively. Further, rest three factors *viz.* uneconomic cottage industries (VI), low wage rate (VII) and proprietary tensions (VIII) were also played role up to some extent to encourage migration of rural people.

The data depicted in table 2 indicate that biggest social factor of migration was large size of family. Other important social factors were desire to overcome of poverty, followed by better educational opportunities and attraction towards better ways of living with rank order II, III and IV respectively. While some other social factors were also found responsible forcing people to migrate towards urban areas. These factors are loss of social prestige, reciprocal social tensions, sottishness in villages, pressure of social control and dazzling life of metros with rank order V, VI, VIII, VIII and IX respectively.

Data presented in the table 3 shows that the factor "exhaustion of natural resources" is the most important natural factor of rural migration. It received I<sup>st</sup> rank order followed by drought (II), flood (III), fire breaks (IV), epidemic/contagious diseases (V) and earthquake (VI) respectively. During investigation, many respondents explained that exhaustion of natural resources is an important drawback for the rural poor followed by draught; while other reasons are not much more affecting them.

Although in the different areas all these factors can compel people to leave their place. As table 4 indicates, the factor at serial no. 6, *i.e.* more avenue for earning better livelihood received I rank order followed by educational facilities II, medical facilities III and communication facilities IV were important pull factors of rural urban migration. Some other factors attracting rural people to move towards urban areas were good electric supply (V), good conveyance/transportation (VI), freedom from informal social pressure (VII) and attractive markets (VIII). The factor like more avenue for earning better livelihood and educational facilities are most helpful to pull rural people towards urban setting.

**Table 1. Economic factors and rural migration**

S. N.	Factors	Mean Score	Rank Order
1.	Employment opportunities	2.62	I
2.	Proprietary tensions	1.80	VIII
3.	Fragmentation of holding	2.38	IV
4.	Poverty	2.54	II
5.	Uneconomic cottage industries	1.94	VI
6.	Indebtedness	2.00	V
7.	Low agriculture productivity	2.44	III
8.	Low wage-rate	1.90	VII

**Table 2. Social factors and rural migration**

S. N.	Factors	Mean Score	Rank Order
1.	Loss of social prestige	1.86	V
2.	Attraction towards better ways of living	1.92	IV
3.	Pressure of social control	1.76	VIII
4.	Desire to overcome of poverty	2.34	II
5.	Large size of family	2.48	I
6.	Better educational opportunities	2.00	III
7.	Dazzling life of metros	1.74	IX
8.	Reciprocal social tensions	1.82	VI
9.	Sottishness in villages	1.80	VII

**Table 3. Natural factors and rural migration**

S. N.	Factors	Mean Score	Rank Order
1.	Exhaustion of natural resources	2.10	I
2.	Flood	1.74	III
3.	Drought	1.94	II
4.	Fire breaks	1.58	IV
5.	Epidemic/contagious diseases	1.52	V
6.	Earthquake	1.50	VI

**Table 4. Good facilities in city and rural migration**

S. N.	Factors	Mean Score	Rank Order
1.	Educational facilities	2.18	II
2.	Medical facilities	2.00	III
3.	Communication facilities	1.90	IV
4.	Good conveyance/transportation	1.78	VI
5.	Good electric supply	1.84	V
6.	More avenue for earning better livelihood	2.32	I
7.	Freedom from informal social pressure	1.76	VII
8.	Attractive markets	1.74	VIII

**Table 5. Other factors and rural migration**

S. N.	Factors	Mean Score	Rank Order
1.	Hope of bright future	1.94	III
2.	Various political stipulations	1.82	IV
3.	Religious/Caste Tensions	1.74	VI
4.	Better working conditions	2.10	II
5.	Means of Recreation	1.78	V
6.	Lack of basic amenities in rural areas	2.28	I
7.	Gym/ Fitness centers	1.72	VII

It is obvious from the above table 5 that some important factors those not covered in earlier tables also pushed/pulled the rural people to urban setting. Here the first ranked factor is lack of basic amenities in rural areas followed by better working conditions got II and hope of bright future stood at III. Although few other factors were not highly preferred by the migrants but still they allure many people towards cities and these are various political stipulations, means of recreation, religious/caste tensions and gym/ fitness center's having rank order IV, V, VI, VII and VIII respectively. Thus it can be concluded that lack of basic amenities in rural areas and better working conditions are the main factors encouraged rural people to leave their place of living and to settle in cities and town.

### Conclusion

The study concluded that the prominent economic factors of rural urban migration are employment opportunities, poverty, low agriculture productivity, fragmentation of holding and indebtedness. Major social factors found responsible for migration were large size of family, desire to overcome of poverty, better educational opportunities, attraction towards better ways of living and loss of social prestige. Among natural factors mainly exhaustion of natural resources was agreed and other natural factors were not playing any important role in the study areas.

While, significant number of families/part of joint families migrated to avail good facilities of the cities. Important good facilities attracting to people are more avenue for earning better livelihood, educational facilities, medical facilities, communication facilities and good electric supply etc. Some other factors reported important by the respondents were lack of basic amenities in rural areas, better working conditions in the urban areas and hope of bright future.

This is a small effort to take an overview of rural urban migration process and find out prominent factors behind it. There is much more scope to conduct micro studies on migration process and its consequences to the urban as well as rural areas.

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