

Rural Migration and Gender Budget

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Abstract

In an era of globalization, economic or labor migration is on the rise. Due to lack of employment opportunities in developing countries and increased demands for low-wage workers in developed countries or states, youth, women and men are pursuing work in other countries or states in order to support themselves and their families back home. Migration is an equilibrium process which reduces regional disparities at a different stage of development and a process which is as old as human civilization. This makes it as important for sociologists to develop empirical research and analysis on migration as it is to include it in their theoretical understandings of contemporary society. The study of migration is linked to research on economic migration but has its own specific research topics, methodological problem and conceptual issues. Migration needs to be analysed as a social process in which human agency and social network play a major part. It gives rise to loss of state control, especially in the context of recent concerns about migration and security. In this context, it is essential to question entire sociological approaches, which have been based on the principle of relatively autonomous national societies.

This research paper has tried to explain that How to be stopped rural migration In Chhattisgarh. What is the role of gender budgeting in migration?

Keywords: Migration, Gender, Budget

Introduction

Migration is one of the common trends in these days. In the same way agriculture labour migration is also common in these days. Labourer face so many problems in his living condition and these problems pull him from his native place and migrate to other places where he get good employment and income opportunity. Researchers have attributed this decline in population mobility to growth in transport facilities which has made commuting to work place increasingly easier over the period. In an unregulated labour market, the increase in supply lowers the wages and intensifies the competition for employment. The argument that migrants do not compete with native workers and create additional jobs as they are doing jobs the latter are unwilling to do is missing the point. The natives are not refusing certain jobs as a matter of principle; they are just unwilling to work below a certain wage level. In a closed economy there are two options to respond to the shortage of labour of, for example, domestic workers: either to raise wages or to clean the toilet yourself. With migration, the wage for cleaners can be suppressed and all cleaners be it native, present migrant and new migrant workers have to accept lower wages or lose their jobs to their competitors. There is plenty of evidence that in construction, retail, meat processing, catering, domestic work, etc. this is happening on a mass scale: the 'freer' the labour market, the 'freer' is the worker to lose. Obviously the strongest downward pressure in this race

to the bottom is exerted by the use of undocumented migrants as their desperate situation forces them to accept whatever is offered.

Desperate to find places to live, migrants are forced to rent comparatively small, overcrowded and overpriced apartments or houses. By pooling resources of several families they manage to pay these overpriced rents. Ironically they are not only the victims of a failed housing policy but they also become drivers of rising rents for everybody. “Politically correct” denial of these problems and repetition of the overall benefits of migration for growth, innovation and diversity will remain unconvincing as long as these genuine problems are not addressed.

Solving them is not rocket science. Here are five proposals that would go a long way to make sure that anti-migration xenophobia is reduced to a stupid idea from stupid people and loses its mass appeal.

- 1. Limiting wage competition:** In unprotected labour markets particularly low skilled workers are faced with wage competition from migrant workers. Therefore it is essential to create a wage floor through a living minimum wage at the poverty threshold of 66% of the median wage to guarantee at least a minimum income level for native and migrant workers. Furthermore governments should create legal extension mechanisms of collective bargaining agreements to rule out business models based on poverty wages and wage competition.
- 2. Affordable housing:** An unregulated housing market supported by cheap credit has caused asset inflation and massive underinvestment in affordable housing. Gentrification and ghettoisation are the mirror images of this failed policy. A dedicated progressive tax on high value property to finance council houses in wealthy areas would be a fair way to finance the creation of socially, ethnically and culturally mixed urban neighbourhoods as the basis for inclusive cities.
- 3. Universal quality education:** Good education for their children is a high priority for most parents and equal opportunities are a cornerstone of any genuinely democratic society. Progressive increase of funding for schools with above average numbers of pupils from families with below average income should provide the necessary resources to enable children from disadvantaged groups to get better educational opportunities. This would also decrease the incentives for middle income families to opt out of an underfunded state system.
- 4. Public investment:** With a growing population, in particular in large cities and the surrounding agglomerations, the need for a good public infrastructure increases. Given the low interest regime, today is the right moment for large public infrastructure investment in housing, transport, education and green energy to make our lives more pleasant and to bring down the unemployment rate.
- 5. Empowering undocumented migrants:** Exploiting the desperation of undocumented migrants is the worst form of abuse and the worst form of wage repression. These workers are paid barely a salary, they have no health or social insurance and they live under constant fear of the migration police. They cannot stand up for their rights. Employers can even refuse to pay them by threatening to denounce them to the police. Minimum wage or collective bargaining does not apply to them and they cannot officially rent a flat. Often they are afraid of sending their children to school. These workers are absolutely powerless and at the mercy of often unscrupulous employers and landlords. But this can also be changed easily.

A simple law would be needed:

- guaranteeing any undocumented migrant a work permit, if s/he reports the employer to the police,
- forcing the employer to pay retroactively the prevailing collective bargaining or minimum wage for

the work performed by the migrant,

- excluding the employer from any future public contract,
- setting serious penalties, including imprisonment for illegal employment.

Such a law would empower the undocumented migrants and instantly dry up the labour market for these illegal, exploitative and inhuman employment practices. The moment that employers become afraid that the undocumented worker can escape his/her desperate status by taking the oppressor to court, they will realise that there is a business case for legal employment. Migration has continues to have a major impact on human societies. The effects of migration are seen in both the societies that people leave called „sending societies“, and those in which they settle, called „receiving societies“. These societies are not always countries or nation. People may for instance, move from a rural society, such as a village, to an urban one, such as a city, within the same country. The impacts of these internal moves may be as serious for the villages as international movements are for notion.

Labour migration flows include permanent, semi- permanent, and seasonal or circular migrants. Much of the available data polls migrants in the permanent and semi- permanent categories and considerably less large-scale statistical data are available on the numbers and characteristics of circular migrants. Semi-permanent migrants are those who are likely to have precarious jobs in their destination areas. Or lack the resources to make a permanent move. While they may reside in their destination cities for years or decades, the likely have homes and families in their sending district. Seasonal or circular migrants by contrast, are likely to move from place to place in search of employment or to continue returning to the same place year after year. Such circular flows encompass migrants who may stay at their destination for six months or more at a time and hence need social services at their destination. Scholars have long characterized this migration as type in which the permanent residence of a person. Many of the women who migrate for marriage are also participants in the market, even if their primary reason for migration is marriage. For example is a rapidly growing sector that employs women, most of whom are rural – to – urban, migrants.

Gender budgeting as a tool to stop the woman migration. Now the question is what the gender budget is. How it affects women. Budget impacts women’s lives in several ways. It directly promotes women’s development through allocation of budgetary funds for women’s programmes and reduces opportunities for empowerment of women through budgetary cuts. Structural adjustment programmes and globalisation policies have directly increased women’s unpaid work burden, thereby increased women- provided subsidy in the economy. Devaluation of income for the majority of masses as a result of new economic policy coupled with price rise, erosion of public distribution system and reduction of services offered by the public health system have made women bear disproportionate share of burden, because in the patriarchal families women have to shoulder responsibility of providing meals and looking after the sick family members. Hence women have high stakes in preventing an increase in the proportion of indirect taxes on essential commodities and in budgetary provisions to guarantee food security and health care. Hence, careful study of the working of PDS and local taxonomy on food security and impact on nutrition, health and health services of budgetary allocations is a must.

If any government created by the gender budget then definitely stop the exodus of women. Migration is a serious problem in Chhattisgarh. Earlier human migration from present Chhattisgarh had reportedly occurred in the late 19th Century. Much later, drought years during the 1960s had triggered wide-spread

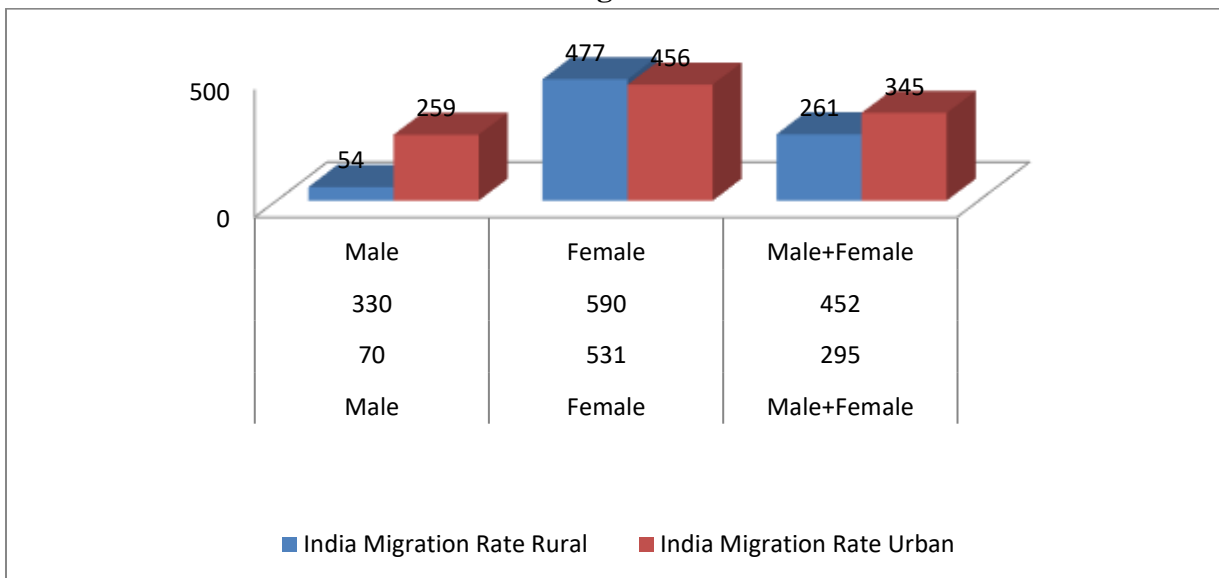
migration. However, in the recent years migration has become more of a norm than exception, accentuated by misguided development policies that force the poor to migrate in search of improved livelihoods.

Migration rate (per 1000 person) for Chhattisgarh in rural and urban areas with comparison to India.

Table-1

Chhattisgarh			India		
Sex	Migration Rate		Sex	Migration Rate	
	Rural	Urban		Rural	Urban
Male	70	330	Male	54	259
Female	531	590	Female	477	456
Male+Female	295	452	Male+Female	261	345

Figure-1



The systematic comparison of migration rate between Chhattisgarh and India shows that in Chhattisgarh migration rate in every respect is higher than the migration rate of India. And the migration rate is classified on the base of sex and area (i.e., rural-urban area). Table 1 show that the migration rate of male and female in urban areas is 330 and 590 respectively, which is higher than the migration rate noticed from rural areas of Chhattisgarh as shown in Fig. 2

There's a deathly silence in many villages across Chhattisgarh these days. The houses are locked as entire families have left for greener pastures for want of work, despite Central government's rural job scheme and availability of rice at Rs1 per kg. It's not a case of parched farm lands. It's not even the case of lack of food for thousands of poor rural folks who get rice at Rs1 per kg to cite a reason to migrate out of Chhattisgarh in search of work. But in this 'rice bowl' of India and the State with sufficient Government welfare schemes for the poor, it's still happening. Here is a catch, The Central Government schemes as popular as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MNREGS) being operational in the State for years had failed to keep villagers within their homeland in rural Chhattisgarh. Going by the Government data, as many as 95,324 people have left their homes during the last three

years in search of greener pastures to other States. There are also reports of migration from Balod, Kawardha, Gariaband, Durg and Dhamtari, Bemetara, with Janjgir-Champa district with the maximum 29,190 people migrating to work in other States. And it's not that the State Government does not accept the migration reality. State Revenue Minister Prem Prakash Pandey, in a written reply to Leader of Opposition TS in the Chhattisgarh Assembly has admitted on the migration issue himself. So where do the migrants go for work? It's in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and neighbouring Madhya Pradesh mainly to work as construction workers and in brick kilns.

The scenario isn't bright even with the educated rural women in Chhattisgarh. The State Government has decided to soon establish Working Women's hostels in cities of Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg. A provision of Rs15 crore had been made in the State budget for 2016-17. As per the 2011 census, a large number of State's rural women come in search of employment to cities within the State. Keeping this view, the State Government has decided to establish the hostels.

Official records in Maoist-hit Sukma district show that no villager has been given employment under MGNREGA in last nine months. This apart, government officials working on the scheme say they have not been paid for the past six to 10 months. Ironically, neighbouring Dantewada district, which is also Maoist-affected, was given a national award earlier this year for its good performance under the scheme. Statistics of Baloda district are stark with some 500 labourers migrating every month.

Chhattisgarh state government should establish conditions for and facilitate the safe return or resettlement of camp residents and other displaced persons who voluntarily choose to return to their villages. Chhattisgarh state government should take all necessary and appropriate measures to end unlawful Salwa Judum activities.

It is neither feasible nor desirable to stop migration. However, it is also true that migration forced upon people has brought innumerable miseries to them. Therefore, an ideal situation would be creating conditions where no one is forced to migrate for any reason whatsoever. This condition can be achieved by removing disparities in economic development and by removing social discriminations. As regards tensions between the locals and the migrants, it must also be understood that while giving a job or getting a job is a personal matter, every human being is entitled to a life of respect and dignity in any corner of the world.

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