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ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION FROM HILLS TO PLAIN: A CASE STUDY OF KATHUA DISTRICT, SHIVALIK HIMALAYAS.

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ABSTRACT

Migration is the physical movement of people from one place to another in search of improved health, education, livelihood and security. The hill and mountainous areas of India are the worst sufferers of migration. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the Indian Hilly Union Territory with twenty districts. The present study was carried out in 9 villages of Lohai Malhar Block of Kathua district. A total of 80 respondents were selected randomly for the questionnaire-based study to identify the major causes of migration from the hills to the plains. Finding revealed that the major cause of migration was unemployment (28%) which was followed by Lack of Quality Education (23%), drastic conditions for agriculture (20%) and road connectivity. In Kathua district more than 1000 homes have become ghost as hardly anyone lives in these homes. It is therefore suggested that policy makers should address the factors responsible for migration in order to control it.

KEY-WORDS: Migration, Hills, Causes, Kathua, Shiwalik Himalayas.

INTRODUCTION

The Word Migration is derived from a Latin word 'migrate' which means to change one's residence. People have moved from one place to another since ancient period, which is an international phenomenon resulted due to complex mechanisms, including social, cultural, economic, psychological, political and other deterrents. Migration is the movement of people from one place to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence. When a region or sector fails to provide livelihood and other facilities to its people, then the people of that region tend to migrate to other regions or sectors which will provide them better livelihood and security.

ii) Jammu and Kashmir is named after the two regions, it encompasses – The Jammu region and the Kashmir valley. Provision for the formation of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu

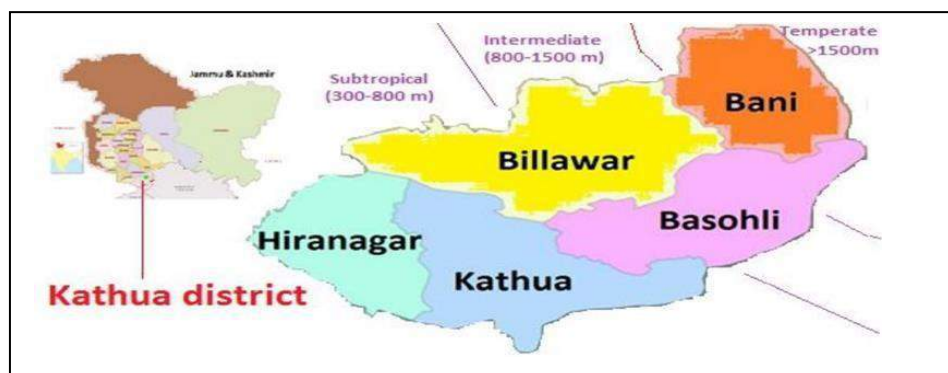
and Kashmir Re-organisation Act, 2019, which was passed by both houses of Parliament of India in August 2019. The Act reconstituted the former State of Jammu and Kashmir into Two Union Territories, one being Jammu and Kashmir and other being Ladakh

w.e.f 31 October 2019 Jammu and Kashmir occupies 42,241 of the total area of which 72% is mountainous and have a high rate of out migration.

3. The livelihood of mountains is insecure and venerable because of limited options and lack of basic facilities communication, transportation, healthcare facilities, educational and recreational facilities. However, People of mountainous region depend on subsistence farming, livestock and income generation from small scale trade and wage activities to meet with their livelihood. The dependence of residence economy and lack of sufficient Local employment Opportunities compel a large proportion of population to out migrate from hilly region in search of livelihood and employment. According to Population census (2011), 72.62% of Jammu and Kashmir Population lives in its rural areas and migration of all hill districts had been recorded except few. Since the place of migration from rural to plain areas of Kathua and Jammu is Accelerating, therefore, understanding the causes of migration will help policy makers to reduce the problems of rural inhabitants and to control migration. Keeping in mind the present study was planned to know the root causes of migration from hills to plain.

STUDY AREA

Malhar Block lies in the Tehsil Lohai Malhar of district Kathua. It stretches from 32.71585N latitude and 75.6102 E Longitude. The elevation of this region is 1200 metres from above mean sea level. It is located about 85 Km North of the district headquarters at Kathua. It lies in the Shivalik range of Himalaya. It has an area of 264.35 Square Kms. and population of 47,973. The nearest Town is Billawar which is about 35 Kilo Metres away from Malhar Block. People of Malhar Block are living in peaceful manner. This Village has very proud history. Agriculture is the main Profession of this village. Still village is waiting for industrial development, education, drinking water, electricity services are continuously improved.



Location of the case study: District Kathua

METHODOLOGY

The study was based on both field survey and secondary data. The present study was carried out in the month of January and February in 2022 in the Malhar Block of Kathua district. We selected 9 villages randomly and then 15 respondents from each of the villages for the questionnaire-based survey. During the field survey each of the respondents was asked to answer questions on the basis of her/his preference regarding the major causes of

migration from hills to the plains. After gathering complete information, the data were analysed and compiled with related literature and the report was then documented.

MAJOR REASONS FOR MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREA

The following factors are responsible for migration of peoples from rural to urban area:

1. Un-employment: - Unemployment is one of the major factors responsible for migration of peoples from rural to urban area. Highly populated country like India, employment opportunities are very meagre in comparison to increasing population, even sources are limited but population is unlimited which compels peoples of rural area to migrate from their birth place to urban area in connection with employment. Approximately 28% of respondents feels stated that peoples migrated to urban area due to lack of source of livelihood in prevailing inflation era.

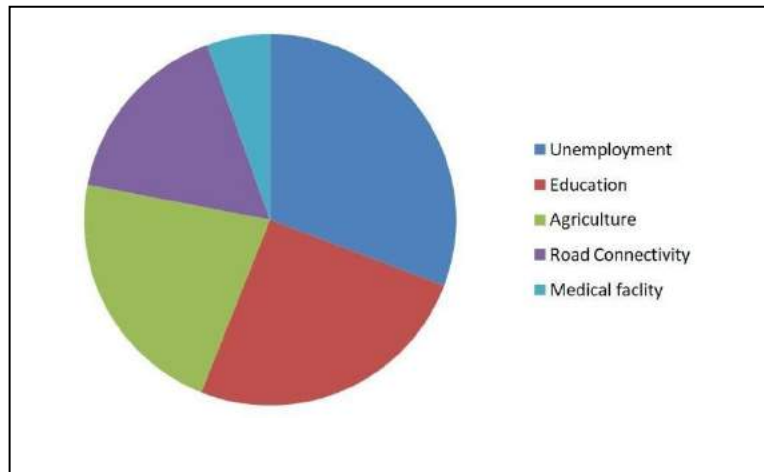
2. Drastic Condition for agriculture Works: -

In rural areas, majority of population depends upon agriculture practices as agriculture sector is the major source of income and source of livelihood of peoples in rural areas, but in majority of the area in rural areas, conditions for agriculture works are drastic, unsuitable for agriculture works especially due to lack of proper irrigation, facility, peoples used to invest their money earned by doing hard work but drastic conditions make them sad as they do not yield expected quantity and quality of sown crops which ultimately divert their intention from doing agriculture works to shift themselves from rural to urban areas. About 20% of respondents stated that people migrate to the plain due to the harsh agricultural conditions prevailing in the hills.

1. Education: -Education is also a major factor responsible for migration from rural to the urban area. In rural areas, education standard is not upto level as required. In rural area, there is always shortage of schools, whatever are, that is not of competitive standard, even proper and required staff is not available in schools at rural areas, on the counterpart in urban areas, there are so many schools in urban areas, that are too of good standard, advanced education, and for getting good standard education, peoples from rural areas, make their efforts for the sake of getting standard education to migrate from rural to urban areas. About 23% of respondents replied that education is another main cause of migration.

2. Road Connectivity: -Road factor is also a responsible for migration from rural to urban areas. In rural areas, road facility is not upto need which left hilly areas unconnected with other areas which have some facilities, due to unconnectivity of hilly areas, intention of people badly effected which deviates their intention towards migration from such area to urban areas which are fully equipped with facilities as required in present advance, competitive time. About 15% respondents have stated that, due to lack of road connectivity, people used to migrate from rural to urban areas for living a comfortable, well facilitated life.

3. Medical Facility: -In rural areas, rural areas always debarred from proper medical facility. In present times, people in rural areas debarred from getting cheap and proper medical facilities. In comparison to it, in urban areas, there is proper medical facility at its every corner which push peoples to migrate themselves from rural to urban areas. About 5% of respondents stated that due to better medical facility at urban areas in comparison to rural area where the medical facility is not of upto standard and even costlier in comparison to urban areas.



Pie Chart: Major causes of migration in study area (in%)

CONCLUSION

The villages of Hilly areas of Kathua district are going empty due to the shortage of necessary facilities. The People of the study area are migrating towards cities for attaining better economic conditions and for providing quality education to their children as in these hilly areas there is no alternative source of income and lack of quality education prevails. It is suggested that policy makers should address the decline of agricultural production as it is an important source of rural economy. Well educated and well qualified teachers should be appointed so that quality of education in these schools is improved. Primary and Middle Schools in the area should be upgraded so that they can easily get education in the nearby Schools. Basic infrastructure facilities should be provided in rural areas which are present in urban areas. The Govt. Should also generate employment for them by establishing small- or large-scale small industries and factories in hilly areas for checking migration and promoting reverse migration, other schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) should also be implemented. The Young should be motivated towards the sustainable startups in the hill.

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