

CAUSES OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION


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India is a land of villages which houses nearly 80 percent of its population. It is reasonable to say that villagers in India manifest a deep loyalty to their village, identifying themselves as residents of a particular village, connecting back to family residence in the village that typically extends into the distant past. A family rooted in a particular village does not easily move to another location. But today, the scenario has changed, as migration has obliterated this factor of life from villages and this new trend

of urbanization has created a profound social, environmental, political and economic dilemma for all segments of the society.

The rural to urban migration and the urbanization are associated with a vertical shift in the labour force from the agricultural sector to the urbanized-industrial sector. In India migration is from rural agricultural sectors to urban informal sectors as well.



CAUSES OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION:

Traditional rural-urban migration exists in India as villagers seek to improve opportunities and lifestyles. In 1991, over 39 million people migrated in rural-urban patterns of which 54 percent were female. Caste and tribe systems complicate these population movements. Seasonal urban migration is also evident throughout India in cities where many migrants move into the city during periods of hardship and return to their native villages for events such as the harvest.

The UN says that if urbanization continues at the present rate, then 46 percent of the total population i.e.634 million people will be in urban regions of India by 2030 (UN,1998). If such an exodus is not checked and corrected it would lead to extreme urban decay and malice where urban sustainability would then become one big utopian vision.

Large groups of landless, unskilled, illiterate laborers and petty farmers leave their villages and go to distant large towns or cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. They do not go to their neighboring smaller town centers or districts because these regions have already reached their saturation point and fail to provide even the minimum services to the migrants. The only alternative that is left to the migrants are the large unknown metropolises seen in movies as glamorous beds of comfort and wealth. Although the realization is bitter, their arrival causes undue stress to the urban system which has to deal with pavement dwelling,slums,squashors,disease,crime, and ultimate degeneration.

The urban system breaks down often due to this stress. Water shortage, electricity, transportation, education, housing, security and other services fail. When migration into urban regions continues, ongoing and increasing demands are made on the local economy which is anyways struggling for sustainability.

SOLUTIONS:

Over the past four decades, the Government of India has adopted many explicit population distribution policies and programs to decongest urban areas and facilitate a more balanced spatial development. The closed city programs were aimed at reducing migration

to metropolitan regions through such instruments as tax incentives, limitations on investments and demolition of squatter settlements. The Government also promoted intermediate-size cities and regions by extending support services to them, improving their infrastructure, and strengthening linkages between intermediate-size and large cities.

Moreover, land colonization programs were introduced by the Government to re-settle residents from overpopulated rural areas to frontier regions or underutilized areas. The policy instruments commonly employed for this purpose were the transfer of land titles and the provision of credit and other facilities to increase the productivity and income of settlers. Finally, the Government should take effective steps to implement the following Rural development Programmes to reduce the rural-urban migrants.

(i) Small Farmers Development Agency/ Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers projects.

(ii) Hill Area Development Projects.

(iii) Tribal Development Programmes.

(iv) Drought Prone Area Programme.

(v) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

(vi) Whole Village Development Programme.

(vii) Integrated Rural Development Programme.

(viii) Integration Of Women in Rural Reconstruction Programme.

(ix) Training Rural Youth For Self-employment.

(x) Food for Work Programme

(xi) And National Rural Employment Guarantee Programs, etc.

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