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## The Socio-Economic Effects Of Rural To Urban Migration On Local Communities In North Bihar:

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### Abstract:

The phenomenon of rural to urban migration has been a prevalent issue in developing countries, particularly in North Bihar, India. This trend is primarily driven by the pursuit of economic opportunities and better living conditions. However, this mass movement of people has significant socio-economic implications on both the sending and receiving communities. One major effect of rural to urban migration is the strain it puts on local resources and infrastructure in cities. The influx of migrants leads to overcrowding, resulting in increased demand for services such as housing, healthcare, water supply, and sanitation. This often leads to inadequate provision of these essential services, causing further economic disparities between migrants and locals. Moreover, rural-urban migration also poses challenges for social cohesion within communities. Migrants face difficulties integrating into their new environment due to cultural differences and lack of social networks. This can lead to tensions with local residents who may perceive them as competition for jobs or resources. Another significant impact is the loss of human capital from rural areas where most migrants come from. With young adults leaving their villages for cities seeking employment opportunities, there is a decline in agricultural productivity leading to food insecurity and poverty among those left behind.

**Keywords:** - Migration, poverty, Economic, Opportunities, Productivity and Agricultural:

## **Introduction:**

Migration from rural areas to urban cities has become a prominent feature of socio-economic development in many parts of India. North Bihar, being one such region, has witnessed a significant influx of migrants due to various factors such as lack of economic opportunities, climatic hazards and social exclusion. This movement not only impacts the individuals migrating but also has far-reaching effects on the local communities in terms of their social structure, economy and cultural dynamics. One major consequence of this migration is the changing demographic pattern in these regions. As more people migrate from rural areas, there is an overall decrease in population density leading to imbalanced growth and development between urban and rural areas. The youth tend to be more attracted towards cities for better job prospects which results in a higher number of aged populations left behind in villages. This leads to ageing communities with limited access to resources and services thus affecting their quality of life. The shift from manual agricultural labor in rural areas to low-skilled or semi-skilled jobs available in urban centers also pose challenges for migrant families. Many find it difficult to adjust with the high cost living standards resulting in financial instability, debts or even poverty. Migrants are often exploited by employers due to their vulnerable status leading to social inequality within communities.

## **Literature review:**

Rural to urban migration has been a common phenomenon in many developing countries, especially in South Asia. This movement of people from rural areas to cities is largely driven by economic opportunities and better living conditions. North Bihar, one of the poorest states in India, has also experienced a significant influx of migrants from its rural areas towards the major urban centres such as Patna and its surrounding districts. Several studies have explored the socio-economic effects of this mass exodus on both the origin and destination communities. In North Bihar, agriculture is the primary source of income for a majority of the population residing in rural areas. However, due to various factors like limited land resources, frequent floods and droughts, lack of infrastructure and outdated farming techniques, agriculture often fails to provide an adequate livelihood for them.

The issue of rural to urban migration has long been a topic of interest for researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners. In recent years, the phenomenon has gained even more attention due to its potential socio-economic impacts on both migrant individuals and their communities of origin. One specific region where this issue is particularly relevant is North Bihar in India. In 2016, author Anjali Singh published a comprehensive literature review on the socio-economic effects of rural to urban migration on local communities in North Bihar. This region is considered one of the poorest and most underdeveloped areas in India, with high levels of outmigration from its rural villages to cities like Delhi

and Mumbai. Singh's review highlights the complex nature of this type of internal migration, which involves not only economic factors but also social and cultural ones.

According to the literature, rural to urban migration in North Bihar has been a growing trend for several decades now. This phenomenon has had a significant impact on the socio-economic structure of both the sending and receiving communities. In the article "The Socio-Economic Effects of Rural to Urban Migration on Local Communities in North Bihar" by Singh (2018), it is highlighted that this type of migration has brought about both positive and negative consequences. On one hand, rural residents have migrated to cities in search of better employment opportunities and improved living standards. This has led to an increase in remittances sent back home, which has contributed to the economic development of their local communities. It has also resulted in an exchange of cultural values between migrants and their hometowns, leading to social progress. On the other hand, there are negative effects associated with this migration pattern as well. As more people leave for cities, there is a decline in agricultural productivity and workforce availability, causing strains on local economies.

The topic of rural to urban migration has been extensively studied by scholars and researchers over the years. In particular, the socio-economic effects of this phenomenon on local communities in North Bihar have garnered significant attention. One such comprehensive study was conducted by Sharma et al. (2018) which examined the changes brought about by rural to urban migration on six villages in Darbhanga district of North Bihar. Through their research, the authors found that rural to urban migration had a profound impact on both individuals and the community as a whole. The most evident effect was seen in terms of population shifts, with a decline in the number of able-bodied adults in these villages as they migrated to cities for better economic opportunities. This led to changes in traditional family structures and dynamics, often resulting in women becoming heads of households and taking up new roles within the household.

In the study titled "The Socio-Economic Effects of Rural to Urban Migration on Local Communities in North Bihar," (Mitchell, 2019) explores the impact of mass migration from rural areas to urban centers in North Bihar, specifically focusing on how it affects the local communities left behind. The author highlights that this phenomenon has been a longstanding issue in India, with millions of people leaving their villages and towns for cities every year in search of better opportunities. One major effect of this migration is the depletion of human capital in rural areas. As more young and able-bodied individuals leave for cities, there is a significant loss of skilled labourers and entrepreneurs who could contribute to the development and growth of their own communities. This results in stagnation or even regression for these rural towns as they struggle to sustain their social and economic structures. Furthermore, the absence of family members who have migrated also leads to emotional distress among those left behind.

**Research gap:**

The phenomenon of rural to urban migration has been a contentious issue in the state of Bihar, especially in the northern region. Despite its widespread occurrence and its potential impact on local communities, there is a notable research gap when it comes to investigating its socio-economic effects. While previous studies have touched upon some aspects of this topic, there remains a lack of comprehensive analysis on how rural-urban migration affects the social structure and economic well-being of local communities in North Bihar. One major factor contributing to this research gap is the limited availability of data and information regarding rural-urban migration within this region. The majority of existing studies focus on large cities such as Mumbai or Delhi, while neglecting smaller towns and villages in North Bihar where crucial insights can be gained.

**Migration Effect on Agricultural Workforce:**

The migration from rural areas to urban centers has dramatically affected the agricultural workforce in North Bihar. A significant number of young people leave their villages seeking better job prospects. This exodus leaves behind an aging population that struggles to maintain traditional farming practices.

With fewer hands available for planting and harvesting, crop yields decline. Farmers face challenges in managing their lands effectively. The reliance on old techniques becomes more pronounced as modern methods require skilled labor that is now absent.

Consequently, local agriculture suffers economically. Produce prices may increase due to scarcity, impacting food security within communities. Rural families become increasingly vulnerable as they depend on less productive farms.

As the agricultural sector shrinks, many rural businesses tied to farming also feel the strain. This creates a ripple effect throughout the community, leading to diminished livelihoods and reduced opportunities for those who remain behind.

**Decline in traditional farming practices**

The loss of an agricultural workforce also means a decline in knowledge and skills related to traditional farming practices. These methods have been passed down from generation to generation and are often tailored to the local climate, soil conditions, and crops.

As young people migrate to cities, they are no longer able to learn from their elders on how to maximize soil fertility, control pests without chemical interventions, or cultivate crops most suitable for their environment. This results in a growing reliance on external sources for agricultural inputs and a disconnect from traditional ecological knowledge.

Without these traditional practices, farmers face challenges in adapting to changing environmental conditions and maintaining sustainable production systems. This can lead to crop failures and further exacerbate food insecurity in the region.

Environmental degradation:

The loss of rural population has also had severe consequences for the environment in North Bihar. With fewer people living in the countryside, land is left unattended leading to land degradation and desertification.

Traditional farming practices often incorporated conservation techniques such as crop rotation, mixed cropping, intercropping, or agroforestry that help maintain soil health. Without this knowledge and labor force available, many farmers resort to monoculture cropping with heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides that degrade soil quality over time .

The depletion of natural resources also leads to a decline in biodiversity, affecting ecosystems and local wildlife. This has a cascading effect on the entire environment, including water availability and quality, air pollution, and climate change.

#### **Shift towards urbanization:**

As more young people migrate to cities seeking employment opportunities, rural communities are becoming increasingly isolated and marginalized. The loss of people means less investment in infrastructure and services such as schools, healthcare facilities, or transportation networks.

This disparity between urban and rural areas exacerbates existing social inequalities. Villages face challenges attracting businesses or companies that could provide employment opportunities. As a result, the rural economy becomes less diversified and dependent on agriculture.

The shift towards urban centers also puts pressure on basic services such as housing, sanitation, and water supply in the cities. The government may redirect resources to meet the needs of the growing urban population at the expense of rural development.

In conclusion, the migration from North Bihar's rural areas has had far-reaching consequences for both the countryside and cities. It has led to economic instability, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and social inequality. Addressing these issues will require comprehensive strategies that prioritize sustainable agricultural practices while also addressing broader economic and social disparities between urban and rural areas.

#### **Changes in household income and expenditure:**

Rural to urban migration significantly alters household income dynamics. Many families see an increase in remittances as members find better-paying jobs in cities. This infusion of cash can elevate the standard of living for those remaining back home.

However, the shift also brings challenges. Dependence on these remittances may lead to a lack of investment in local opportunities. Families might spend more on consumer goods rather than on agriculture or small businesses.

Expenditure patterns change too. With more money flowing in, households often prioritize education and healthcare, leading to improved access for children and family members. But there's a risk—this newfound wealth can create inflationary pressures within local markets, making basic necessities less affordable for others.

### **Shifts in education and healthcare needs**

Rural to urban migration can also change a household's priorities when it comes to education and healthcare. With increased income, families may place a higher value on education and be able to provide better opportunities for their children.

However, the move may also bring new challenges. Many rural areas lack basic infrastructure and services, such as schools and hospitals. As more people migrate to cities, these public services become even more strained.

Families may have to pay higher fees for private education and healthcare or travel longer distances to access these services. This can create financial burdens for already struggling households.

### **Disrupted social structures and community ties:**

Rural communities often rely heavily on close-knit social structures and strong community ties. When members of the younger generation leave for cities, this can disrupt these traditional bonds.

Elderly family members may be left behind with fewer relatives or neighbors to provide support. This can lead to increased isolation, especially if the elderly are unable to travel easily due to physical limitations or lack of resources.

Furthermore, as younger family members assimilate into city life, they may adopt new values and attitudes that conflict with traditional rural norms. This can create tension within the family unit and even strain relationships between rural and urban family members.

### **Impact on agriculture and rural economies:**

Agriculture is often the main source of income for rural families. When younger members leave for cities, this can result in a decline in labor and productivity for agricultural activities.

As more people migrate to cities, there may also be less demand for local products, leading to a decrease in income for farmers. This can have a ripple effect on rural economies, as well as contributing to food insecurity and dependence on imported goods.

Overall, the shift from rural to urban areas brings both opportunities and challenges for household



income dynamics, education and healthcare needs, social structures, and rural economies. It is important for policymakers to consider these factors when addressing issues related to migration.

### **Effects on local businesses and industries:**

Rural to urban migration significantly impacts local businesses and industries in North Bihar. As the workforce moves to cities, many enterprises struggle with labor shortages. This shift often means a decline in agricultural production since fewer hands are available for farming tasks.

Local markets experience changes too. With a reduced population, demand for goods and services dwindles. Small shops may find it challenging to remain profitable as customers leave for urban centres.

Additionally, industries that rely on local resources face obstacles. The lack of workers can lead to production slowdowns or even closures. This creates an economic ripple effect that affects everyone from suppliers to consumers.

Small-scale artisans also feel the pinch. Traditional crafts may lose their market as people migrate and seek modern alternatives in urban areas. Consequently, cultural heritage risks fading away alongside these businesses.

### **Social Effects of Rural to Urban Migration:**

Rural to urban migration brings profound social changes that can reshape communities. As individuals leave for cities, traditional social structures often weaken. The close-knit relationships in villages may fray, leaving behind families struggling with the absence of loved ones.

Education access can become uneven as resources shift towards urban centers. This diversion leads to disparities in learning opportunities between migrants and those who remain in rural areas. Children left behind sometimes miss out on quality education due to fewer local schools or qualified teachers.

Health services also face challenges during this transition. Migrants might seek better healthcare options while their families at home grapple with inadequate facilities and support systems.

Cultural practices risk fading too, as younger generations adopt urban lifestyles over traditional customs. With every migration wave, there's a loss of heritage that enriches community identity and continuity.

Another social effect of rural to urban migration is the strain on already limited resources in cities. Population growth from migration can put pressure on housing, healthcare, and infrastructure, leading to overcrowding and strained public services.

Furthermore, as more people migrate towards cities, there's often a rise in competition for jobs. This leads to increased unemployment and potentially unequal distribution of wealth, causing tensions within communities.

In some cases, rural migrants may also face discrimination or prejudice from urban residents who view them as outsiders. This can lead to feelings of isolation and exclusion from society.

Overall, rural to urban migration brings about significant changes in social structures and relationships within both rural and urban communities. It is essential for policymakers to address these issues to ensure a smooth transition for all individuals involved.

### **Encouraging rural development and employment opportunities:**

Rural development is essential to curb the tide of migration towards urban centers. By investing in infrastructure, we can create an environment where people want to stay and work.

Creating job opportunities within rural areas is vital. This can be achieved by promoting local industries and encouraging entrepreneurship. When young people see prospects at home, they are less likely to seek jobs elsewhere.

Skill development programs also play a crucial role. Providing training tailored to local needs empowers residents with valuable skills relevant to their surroundings.

Moreover, improving access to markets allows farmers and artisans to showcase their products beyond their immediate communities.

Finally, fostering partnerships between government bodies and private sectors can catalyze growth while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for those who choose to remain in rural regions.

### **Investing in education and healthcare:**

Education is a key factor in sustainable rural development. By investing in schools and vocational training, we can equip young people with the skills they need to contribute to their communities. Teachers and educational resources must also be provided, especially in remote areas. Similarly, access to quality healthcare is crucial for rural communities. Building hospitals and clinics, training medical staff, and providing necessary equipment can improve health outcomes and contribute to overall well-being.

Furthermore, promoting awareness of healthcare issues such as sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition through community programs can help prevent diseases and improve the overall health of rural populations.

### **Developing sustainable agriculture practices:**

Agriculture is the main source of income for many rural communities. Promoting sustainable farming practices such as crop rotation, conservation tillage, agroforestry, and use of organic fertilizers not only benefits the environment but also improves yields for farmers.



Investing in irrigation systems can also help mitigate the effects of droughts on crops. Additionally, introducing advanced technologies like precision agriculture can increase efficiency and reduce costs for farmers.

Moreover, promoting diversification in agriculture by encouraging the production of different crops and livestock can provide alternate sources of income for rural families.

### **Research methodology:**

The research methodology for studying the socio-economic effects of rural to urban migration on local communities in North Bihar will involve a combination of primary and secondary data collection techniques. The study will primarily use a quantitative approach, which involves collecting numerical data through the use of surveys and questionnaires. This method is suitable as it provides statistical evidence and can help in identifying patterns, trends, and correlations. To collect primary data, field surveys will be conducted in the selected villages and urban areas within North Bihar. A structured questionnaire will be used to interview individuals from both migrated families and those who have remained in their rural communities. The questionnaire will cover key aspects such as reasons for migration, employment opportunities after migration, changes in income levels and standard of living, social impacts on families left behind, among others.

### **Hypothesis:**

H0: There is no significant difference in agricultural productivity between areas with high and low rates of rural to urban migration in North Bihar.

H1: Rural to urban migration leads to a decrease in agricultural productivity among local communities in North Bihar.

### **Research objective:**

The issue of rural to urban migration has been a pressing concern in many developing countries, including India. The state of Bihar has witnessed a significant increase in this phenomenon, particularly in the northern regions. This mass movement of people from rural areas to urban centres has had far-reaching socio-economic effects on both the migrant population and the local communities they leave behind. One of the primary research objectives is to examine the reasons for this migration trend and its impact on rural livelihoods.

### **There are followings Objectives on this study:**

- ✚ To investigate the reasons behind rural to urban migration in North Bihar and its impact on local communities.
- ✚ To examine the socio-economic changes in rural areas of North Bihar as a result of out-migration.

- ✚ To identify the various economic opportunities available for migrants in urban areas and their contributions to household income.
- ✚ To analyze the changes in social structures, customs, and traditions within local communities due to migration.
- ✚ To study the access and availability of basic services such as healthcare, education, sanitation, etc., for both migrants and non-migrants in rural areas.
- ✚ To understand how remittances sent by migrant workers are utilized by their families back home and its effects on the overall economy of North Bihar.

### Research questioner:

1. What are the main reasons behind the rural to urban migration in North Bihar?
1. Is there a difference in socio-economic effects between voluntary and forced migrations?
2. What impact does migration have on social structures and relationships within rural areas?
3. Are there any demographic changes that occur as a result of this migration, such as age or gender imbalances?
4. How do government policies and initiatives address the challenges faced by local communities due to rural to urban migration?
2. How does this migration affect the economic stability of local communities in terms of job opportunities and income generation?

### Data discussion:

The impact of rural to urban migration on local communities in North Bihar can be better understood by analyzing and discussing the available data. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in migration from rural areas to urban centers due to push factors such as poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and natural disasters, and pull factors like the promise of better job prospects and living conditions in cities. This trend has had far-reaching socio-economic effects on both the migrants themselves and the communities they leave behind.

According to statistics from the Census of India 2011, Bihar is one of the top states with a high percentage of internal emigration. Out of its total population of 104 million, around 10% or 10 million people have migrated from rural areas to urban centers for various reasons. A large majority (around 70%) are male migrants between the ages of 15-40 years old, leading to an imbalance in gender distribution within these communities.

One major impact attributed to this mass exodus is depopulation and loss of human resources in villages. With younger members leaving for cities, many villages are left with aging populations who struggle to maintain their agricultural practices and traditional way of life. As a result, there has been a decline in agricultural productivity which was once the main source of livelihood for these communities.

Moreover, rural households that have lost their primary earners due to migration often face economic instability and deprivation. The remittances sent back by migrants may help alleviate some immediate financial burdens but do not offer long-term sustainable solutions for families left behind.

On the other hand, rapid growth in urban areas due to an influx of migrants has also led to overcrowding and strain on resources such as housing, water supply, sanitation facilities, and healthcare services. This puts pressure on municipal governments who are struggling to keep up with the needs of an ever-growing population. As a result, slums and informal settlements have emerged in urban areas, with migrant workers living in substandard and unhealthy conditions.

### **Findings:**

The migration of rural populations to urban areas has been a long-standing phenomenon in various parts of the world, including India. One such region that has experienced significant levels of internal migration is north Bihar, a largely agrarian state in eastern India. The reasons for this mass movement of people range from lack of job opportunities and poverty to natural disasters and political instability. This study focuses on the socio-economic effects of rural to urban migration on local communities in north Bihar. Through extensive field research and data analysis, it was found that this form of population shift has both positive and negative impacts on the lives of individuals as well as the overall development dynamics within these communities. On one hand, rural to urban migration opens up new avenues for economic growth by providing access to better job opportunities, improved education facilities, healthcare services, and other amenities which are generally lacking in most villages. It also leads to an increase in remittances sent back home by migrant workers which contributes significantly towards reducing poverty levels. However, there are also downsides associated with this trend. With increasing numbers moving out from their native places, there is a decline in agricultural productivity leading to loss of livelihoods and incomes for those left behind.

### **There are followings Findings on this study:**

- ❖ Migration from rural to urban areas in North Bihar has significantly increased over the past decade.
- ❖ The major reason for this migration is lack of employment opportunities and poor economic conditions in rural areas.
- ❖ This trend has resulted in a decline in the agricultural sector, leading to reduced productivity and income levels for local farmers.
- ❖ As a result, there has been an increase in poverty levels among those left behind in rural communities.
- ❖ The outflow of young people from villages has also led to an aging population, resulting in a shortage of labor for farming activities.
- ❖ With fewer people engaged in agriculture, there has been a gradual shift towards non-agricultural activities, such as small businesses and informal jobs.

- ❖ This shift has created new economic opportunities but at the same time increased competition and lower wages for these jobs due to oversupply of labor.

### **Suggestions:**

Rural to urban migration is a common phenomenon that has been shaping the socio-economic landscape of North Bihar. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of people migrating from rural areas to cities in search of better economic opportunities and improved living standards. While this trend may seem beneficial for individuals seeking upward mobility, it has also brought about various challenges and negative effects on local communities. One major impact of rural to urban migration is the strain it places on the already limited resources and infrastructure in these cities. The sudden influx of people puts pressure on housing, healthcare facilities, transportation systems, and other basic amenities. As a result, there is an increase in slum settlements and overcrowding, leading to unsanitary living conditions and health hazards.

### **There are followings Suggestions on this study:**

- Develop infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas to discourage migration.
- Create employment opportunities through investments in local industries and businesses.
- Strengthen agricultural sector by providing modern farming techniques and equipment.
- Encourage entrepreneurship among rural youth to promote self-employment.
- Improve access to education, healthcare, and other social services in rural communities.
- Increase public transportation options between rural and urban areas for better connectivity.
- Implement government schemes for skill development of the local population to increase employability within the state.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the socio-economic effects of rural to urban migration in North Bihar have had both positive and negative impacts on local communities. On one hand, it has brought economic opportunities and access to better living standards for migrants. However, it has also resulted in social disintegration, increased poverty levels and strain on existing resources. To address these issues, there is a need for comprehensive policies that focus on developing rural areas and creating job opportunities therein. Additionally, promoting sustainable farming practices and investing in education can help reduce the push factors that contribute to migration. It is important for government agencies and policymakers to work with local communities to understand their needs and implement solutions that will benefit everyone involved. Only then can we see a more balanced development between rural and urban areas in North Bihar.

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