A Micro-Level Analysis Of Seasonal Migration With Special Reference To Shivpuri District

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Abstract:

One of the most popular livelihood choices used in rural areas of the nation is seasonal migration, particularly by people from dry land areas during times of crisis and during the post-harvest season. A person who migrates seasonally does so solely as part of their business activity; they do not relocate permanently. The characteristics and contributing variables of seasonal migration are investigated in this study. In order to identify the key variables affecting the seasonal migration out of the research area, Henry Garret's Ranking technique has been implemented. The second-largest dry region in the nation is where the study's key data were gathered. Three hundred immigrant households have provided comprehensive information.

The results show that the seasonal movement is widely dispersed throughout the study region, and the bulk of the migrants are from the socially disadvantaged groups. The majority of migrants are of working age and are illiterate. The results also show that the majority of flows from rural to urban areas are made by families, who are important decision-making units, and that families make up the majority of the movement rather than individuals. In addition to attempting to assess the variables driving seasonal migration from the perspective of alternative work opportunities in difficult circumstances, the study also looked at seasonal migration as a means of avoiding falling deeper into these conditions.

Keywords: Seasonal Migration; Distress ; Characteristics ; migrants; employment

I. INTRODUCTION

There are 326 million internal migrants in India, making up 28.5 percent of the country's overall population (NSSO, 2007-2008). Short-term or seasonal movement inside the country accounts for approximately 12.24 million and 15.2 million of the total population, respectively, according to the NSSO 55th and 64th Rounds. Around 10 million circular migrants lived in rural areas alone, according to the NCRL 1991 estimate (quoted in Korra, 2010). The poor population in the nation's rural areas uses seasonal migration as a crucial tactic during the off-season for agriculture [Mahammad Habeeb, 2017; Sasikumara, 2003; Keshari and Bhagat, 2012; Gnanou 2008]. This type of mobility occurs when a guy moves his economic activities, but not his typical residences Keshari and Bhagat (2012). Different conclusions have been drawn from this: some claim that the lack of employment prospects following crop harvesting in the majority of the country's rain-fed regions has led to an increase in this kind of move [Smita, 2008; Keshari and Bhagat 2012], while others assert Seasonal and circular migration is not limited to times of crisis or hardship; it has long been an integral part of the employment arrangements of impoverished people throughout India. Deshingkar, P and Start, D (2003).

Internal migration has received less attention than international migration in the major migration studies. Studies on internal migration do exist, but they are primarily focused on the macro level rather than the micro level. Additionally, there are relatively few studies that specifically address the circular and seasonal nature of migration in the nation, as well as more general aspects such as inter-state, rural to rural, and rural to urban migration. The current study focuses on seasonal migration and its features while taking all of these factors into consideration.

The country's second-largest dry region is the site of the current investigation. Given this context, the study is critical to comprehending the features of seasonal migration and the driving forces behind it in the research region. In order to accomplish the study's goals, this paper is structured into two sections: the first section covers the background and profile of seasonal migrants, while the second section discusses the various patterns of seasonal migration. Age, gender, marital status, educational background, and occupation of migrants are included in the first portion. The second half provides information on the types, streams, networks, and causes of seasonal movement as well as the economic effects that follow migration.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of the present study are as follows:

1) To evaluate the characteristics of the seasonal migration.
2) To identify the factors responsible for seasonal migration.
3) To propose suitable policy measure for reducing the consequences of seasonal migration.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodological section envelops a brief discussion of the study area, sample design, nature and sources of data and analytical framework employed in the present study, for addressing the set of objectives.

STUDY AREA

The present study has been under taken in Shivpuri district M.P. for an in-depth analysis. The selection of the Shivpuri district M.P. was purposive for following reasons. The Shivpuri district M.P. has suitable background for the study due to its backwardness in terms growth and development, this region comprises maximum number of most backward and backward Blocks of the state. The labour migration from Shivpuri district M.P. is common. The semi- skilled and most of unskilled labourers are migrating from the Shivpuri Region.

Shivpuri district M.P. has become an ideal choice for conducting the present study on socio-economic status of seasonal migrant labourers.

SOURCES AND COLLECTION OF DATA

The present study is based on primary data collected from Shivpuri district M.P. The selection of villages in Shivpuri district have been made based on the information collected from key informants (Village Secretary, Accountants, Gram Panchayat Members, PDO"s, Journalists, Civil Society Organisations and Local people of the respective villages). Six villages from each Block were selected based on the same criteria used for selection of villages. While selecting the villages due attention has been given to villages which are located in dry land areas of the Block. The selection of villages is also guided by the distance criteria. Out of six villages selected from each Block, three villages are located within a distance of 10 KM from the Block head quarters, whereas remaining three villages are located between the distances of 10 to 20 KM of the Block head quarter.

SAMPLING

Hence the size of the population of the study is unknown, total 300 households were selected for the survey from three Blocks. 100 households were selected from each Block. Numbers of households from each village for household survey were selected based on the information collected from key informants of the respective villages. Purposive Sampling Approach has been adopted for the selection of sample of migrants households.

TIME PERIOD

The survey was conducted in the month of October, 2022. The researcher purposively conducted the survey in the peak season of agriculture so that migrant labourers could be available easily.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected during the time of enquiry has been scrutinized and tabulated. To fulfill the specific objectives of the study, based on the nature and extent of availability of data the percentage is used and the Garret ranking model has been fitted to find the major reasons behind seasonal migration.

HENRY GARRET RANKING TECHNIQUE

This technique is used to evaluate the determining factors of seasonal migration. In this method respondents of the migrants house hold were asked to list out the ranks-wise reasons for seasonal migration according to the magnitude of the reason. The orders of the merit given by respondents were converted into ranks by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percentage Position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for ith item jth individual

N_j = Number of items ranked by jth individual

The percentage position of each rank thus obtained is converted into scores by referring to the table given by Henry Garret. Then for each factors the scores of the individual respondents for whom the scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in the order of their ranks and the factors having highest mean value are considered to be the most important factors.

Characteristics of Seasonal Migration

A Profile of Seasonal Migrant Laborers

This section sheds light on the gender dimension, age profile, marital status, educational attainment and occupation of sample migrant laborers of the study area, a detailed analysis is presented below.

Gender Dimension of Migrants

The majority of research has shown that in short-term migration, the number of males is dominant. However, it is seen in the research region that a variety of individuals migrate seasonally in pursuit of work possibilities. Men only, women only, men and women, men and women and children, men and children, women and children, and only children are such combinations. This is so that they can achieve their primary goal of facilitating family consumption. Details about migrants are shown in Table 1 according to gender and socioeconomic class. In the sample households, the percentage of male migrants is higher than that of female migrants. The percentage of male migrants from minorities is larger than the percentage of female migrants across all social categories, whereas the percentage of female migrants is highest among Others category.
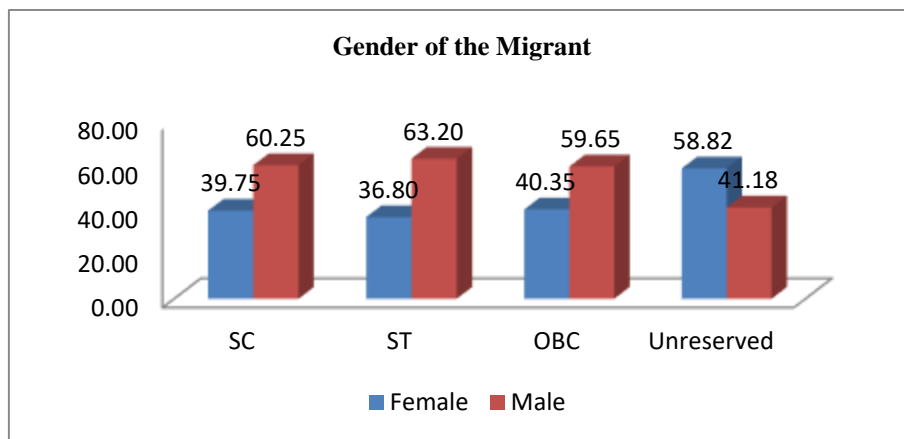
Males are typically more likely than females to migrate for short periods of time because they are less likely to travel temporarily with their spouse or family. There are no adequate shelters, health care facilities, or sanitary amenities associated with the short-term travels. Therefore, there is a decreased likelihood of family members being placed in similar circumstances.

TABLE1: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY SOCIAL CATEGORY AND GENDER (IN PERCENTAGE)

Social Category	Gender of the Migrant		
	Female	Male	Total
SC	39.75	60.25	100(98)
ST	36.80	63.20	100(75)
OBC	40.35	59.65	100(65)
Unreserved	58.82	41.18	100(62)
Total	43.93	56.07	100(300)

Source: Field study.

Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants.

Gender of the Migrant
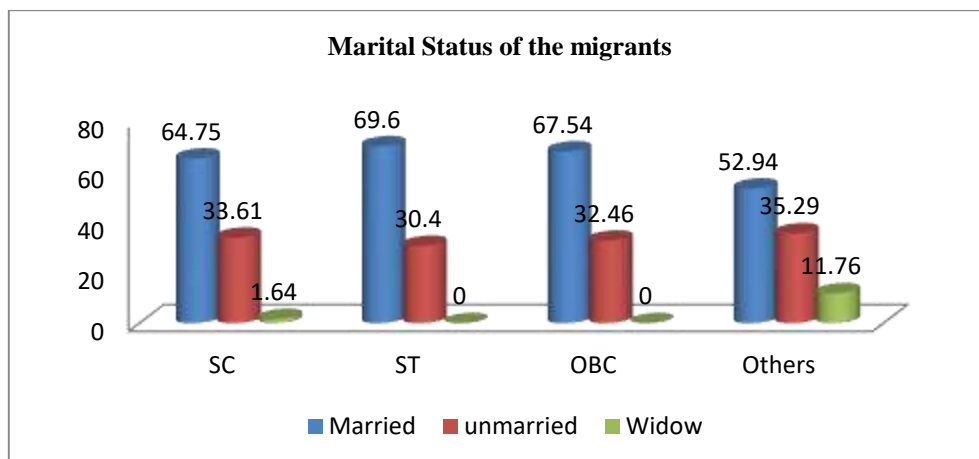

Marital Status of Migrants

Table 2 displays migrant details according to marital status. Among all migrants, the percentage of married people is higher than the percentage of single people. The same information is likewise shown for all social categories, with the exception of ST among married people, minorities among single people, and others among widowed people, who make up the majority in comparison to the other groups.

TABLE2:DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY MARITAL STATUS (IN PERCENTAGE)

Social Category	Marital Status of the migrants			
	Married	unmarried	Widow	Total
SC	64.75	33.61	1.64	100(98)
ST	69.6	30.4	0	100(75)
OBC	67.54	32.46	0	100(65)
Others	52.94	35.29	11.76	100(62)
Total	63.71	32.94	3.35	100(300)

Source: Field study.
Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

Marital Status of the migrants
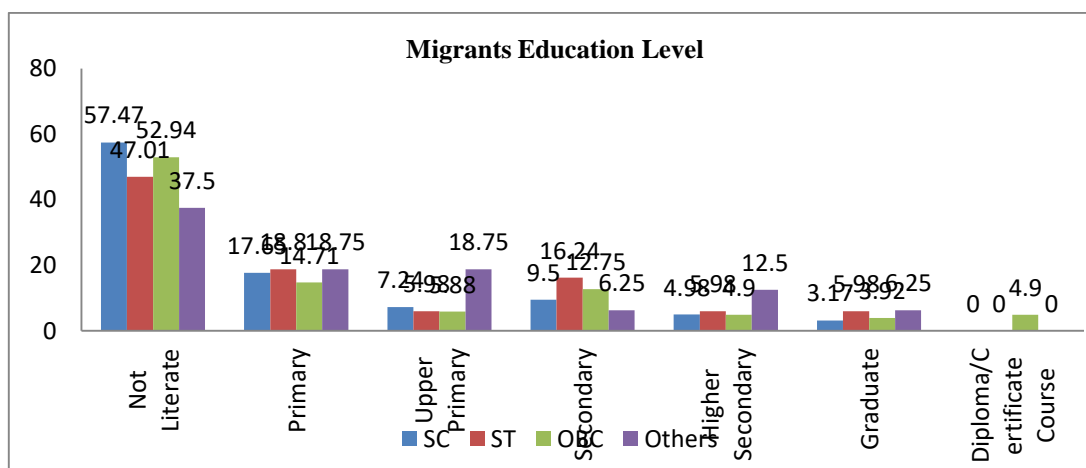
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY THE MIGRANTS

The most significant factor influencing the nature of work is education. In general, a person with a greater degree of education will be hired more successfully than someone with a lesser level of education. Table 3 presents the migrants of the sample homes according to their educational attainment level. Based on the estimated statistics, it can be observed that 49% of migrants lack literacy, 17% have only completed primary education, and 11.19% have completed secondary education and beyond. Merely 1% of migrants possess a diploma or certificate in education. This trend makes it easier to anticipate the type of labor that migrants will be doing where they end up.

Table3: Distribution of migrants by level of education (in percentage)

Migrants Education Level	Social Category				
	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
Not Literate	57.47	47.01	52.94	37.5	48.73
Primary	17.65	18.8	14.71	18.75	17.48
Upper Primary	7.24	5.98	5.88	18.75	9.46
Secondary	9.5	16.24	12.75	6.25	11.19
Higher Secondary	4.98	5.98	4.9	12.5	7.09
Graduate	3.17	5.98	3.92	6.25	4.83
Diploma / Certificate Course	0	0	4.9	0	1.23
Total	100 (98)	100(75)	100(65)	100(62)	100(300)

Source: Field study.

Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

OCCUPATION OF MIGRANTS

The migrant workers' occupations aid in analyzing shifts in laborers' occupations both at their destination and at their point of origin. Nearly all migrant laborers are found to work in agriculture in their places of origin, but they work as casual laborers in their places of destination. Additionally, it is noted that even after participating in the seasonal migratory process, their occupation remains unchanged. This is due to the fact that migrants typically carry on with their prior employment when they return to their country of origin. Table 4 displays the primary occupation of migrants in the research area.
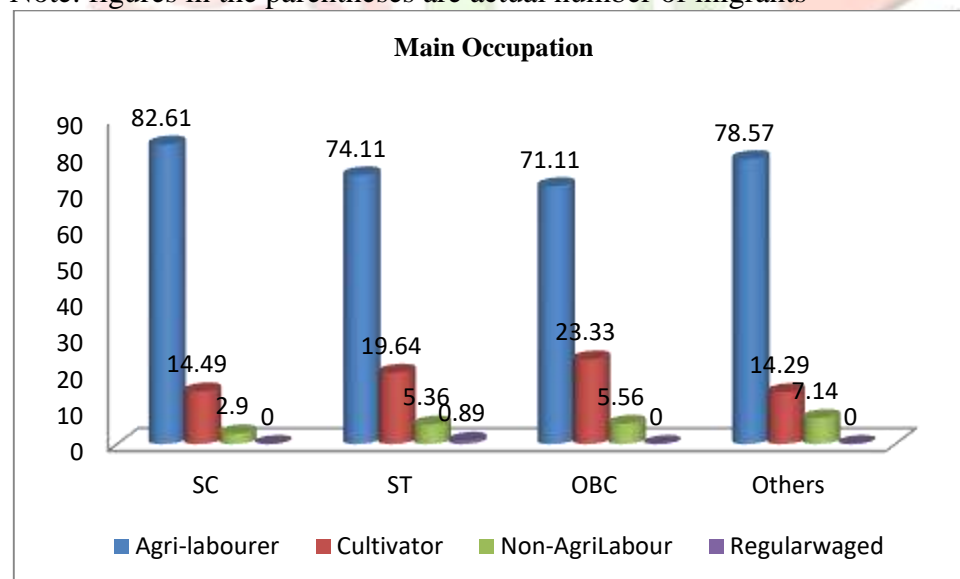
It has been noted that the bulk of laborers engaged in seasonal labor migration are agricultural laborers, who are followed in importance by cultivators, non-agricultural laborers, and salaried or regular wage workers. Roughly 77% of seasonal migrants depend on agricultural activities, according to Table 4's estimates. It is noted that the bulk of seasonal migrants are agricultural laborers across all social categories, but SC are more prevalent among this group.

TABLE4: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY MAIN OCCUPATION (IN PERCENTAGE)

Main Occupation	Social Category				
	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
Agri-labourer	82.61	74.11	71.11	78.57	77.21
Cultivator	14.49	19.64	23.33	14.29	18.36
Non-AgriLabour	2.9	5.36	.56	7.14	4.2
Regularwaged	0	0.89	0	0	0.22
Total	100(98)	100(75)	100(65)	100(62)	100(300)

SOURCE: FIELD STUDY.

Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

AGE PROFILE OF MIGRANTS

Details on seasonal migrants are shown in Table 5 according to age group and social category. The bulk of migrants, as can be shown in Table 5, are between the ages of 15 and 44. Furthermore, observations reveal that approximately 14% of all migrants are under the age of 15, and 0.5 percent are 65 years of age or older. Children that travel with their parents are considered seasonal migrants under the age of 14, as they are the most vulnerable to the process because they are either forced to leave school or never enroll.

Many of the children traveling with their migrant parents are younger than six years old and have not attended school. In contrast, children who are enrolled in school had dropped out during their parents' seasonal migration and only attend when they are at home, according to observations made during the field survey. As Srivastava R (2011) points out, a child's absence from school is a significant sign of child labor in the nation.Most migrants belong to the working age population, as indicated by the age group trend shown in the table.

TABLE5: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BYSOCIAL GROUP & AGE GROUP (IN PERCENTAGE)

Age Group of Migrants	Social Category				
	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
0-6	9.84	5.60	11.40	5.88	9.43
07-14	4.10	4.00	5.26	5.88	4.44
15-24	24.18	23.20	21.05	17.65	23.66
25-34	39.75	43.20	35.96	23.53	39.00
35-44	13.52	16.80	18.42	23.53	15.16
45-54	5.33	5.60	5.26	23.53	5.91
55-64	2.05	1.60	2.63	0.00	1.85
65& Above	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
Total	100(98)	100(75)	100(65)	100(62)	100(300)

Source: Field study.
Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

PATTERNS OF SEASONAL MIGRATION

Patterns of seasonal migration are below here in detail.

FORMS OF SEASONAL MIGRATION: UNIT AND MODE

The unit and seasonal migratory modes in the study region are described in this section. The features of the household's decision-making unit per social category are shown in Figure 1. It is found from the estimated values in the figure 1 that majority of the households takes the decision to migrate seasonally by discussing with family members than individuals. Though family as a decision unit is in majority its percentage varies across the social categories. Within family as a decision unit of migration SC are in majority than rest of the migrants households whereas in case of individual decision unit ST are dominant. The decision to relocate seasonally is made in order to support household costs and escape a difficult situation. Hence, consulting the wife before deciding to move also constitutes family decision-making.

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS BY SOCIAL CATEGORY AND MODE OF MIGRATION (IN PERCENTAGE)

Social Category	Form Modes of Migration			
	Individual	Family	Group	Total
SC	39.3	54.7	6	100(98)
ST	31.25	59.27	9.48	100(75)
OBC	46.2	50	3.8	100(65)
Others	28.6	35.7	35.7	100(62)
Total	36.34	49.92	13.75	100(300)

In the research area, there are three different kinds of migration patterns. According to reports from certain houses, migrants move alone, with family, and in groups (with friends or other migrants from the same village). Table 6 shows that family movement accounted for 49.92 percent of sample households, with individual and group migration following in order of preference. The majority of migrants are STs, while minorities dominate group migration and Others dominate family movement. Family migration makes up the majority of migrants, and this is because it has been shown to benefit migrants. When there are multiple migrants, there are greater opportunities for earning and saving money, and seasonal movement may prove to be profitable. Otherwise, a single immigrant's income is insufficient to cover a family's expenses.

STREAM OF SEASONAL MIGRATION

The sample households in Table 7 are distributed solely according to the migration stream. Only two of the four types of migration streams—Rural to Rural and Rural to Urban—are really in use in the research area. The other two types of migration streams are Rural to Urban and Rural to Rural. Both intrastate and interstate migration are included in this classification. When it comes to intrastate migration, the percentage of migrants who moved inside a state was very low, and when it came to interstate movement, it was zero. These findings are shown in Table 7.

It is also discovered that the majority of migration occurs within states as opposed to outside of them. Distance, language, customs, networks, and contacts are the causes. Within-state migration is more convenient than migration to other states, particularly for short-term and transient migrations where the majority of laborers are from marginalized groups and have less education.

TABLE7: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS BY SOCIAL CATEGORY AND STREAM OF MIGRATION (IN PERCENTAGE)

Social Category	Intra State		Inter State		
	Rural to Rural	Rural to Urban	Rural to Rural	Rural to Urban	Total
SC	1.2	60.7	0	38.1	100(98)
ST	1.9	94.2	0	3.9	100(75)
OBC	0	93.2	0	6.8	100(65)
Others	1.4	66.7	0	31.9	100(62)
Total	1	76.5	0	22.5	100(300)

Source: Field study.
Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

TIME PERIOD TAKEN FOR EMPLOYMENT

The duration that migrants took to secure job at their destination is seen in Table 8. The estimated results reveal that over 50% of the migrants found work on the first day itself, compared to 38% and 8% of migrants who found work within a week and between a week and 15 days. This number or duration varies

between social groupings in addition to being dependent on the period. Whereas minorities need a week or longer to find work, and most OBCs require longer than a week, STs are the best at it. They also tend to get jobs on the first day.

The majority of migrants found employment on the first day of their arrival by utilizing their previous networks to look for jobs in their new location. The type of network that migrants utilize to find labor possibilities in their destination is covered in length in the next section, which also includes a discussion of seasonal migration networks.

TABLE8: DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS BY SOCIAL CATEGORY AND THE PERIOD NEEDED TO GET JOB AT DESTINATION (IN PERCENTAGE)

Social Category	Period Needed to get Job at Destination			
	First day itself	One week	One week to 15 Days	Total
SC	40.5	51.2	8.3	100(98)
ST	76.9	19.2	3.8	100(75)
OBC	61.4	25	13.6	100(65)
Others	50	50	0	100(62)
Total	**53.5**	**38.5**	**8**	**100(300)**

Source: Field study.

Note: figures in the parentheses are actual number of migrants

FINDINGS, POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Seasonal migration arises either directly or indirectly from geographical differences in terms of development and growth, job creation, literacy rate, occupation, and structural changes, among other things. Due to these disparities, the nation's urban centers have seen a concentration of growth and development. The majority of people in India still rely on the agricultural sector, but even at the subsistence level, this sector has not been able to meet the needs of its dependents. This is because the agricultural sector is primarily dependent on the monsoon, which results in a single crop system. The situation is particularly dire in dry land areas, such as Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh, where a failed monsoon would leave rural areas without work for the remainder of the year, creating conditions akin to a drought. In these circumstances rural people use to move temporarily to other places in search of employment opportunities. The primary cause of the seasonal movement is the household debt load. Due to agricultural failure, lack of employment prospects resulting from a single crop, and monsoon and drought failure, on the one hand, this debt has become a burden. It will aid in lowering the seasonal outflow from the study region if irrigation is extended or supplied to the majority of the Shivpuri district MP Region. Workers are leaving rural areas in large numbers at the same time because they are unable to find work during the slow agricultural season. If the people living in the rural areas had a variety of jobs, this could be prevented. Since the majority of those who migrate seasonally are young adults in the working age group, training programs for rural youth are necessary to enable them to establish alternative sources of income for their households during the agriculturally lean season. The majority of the migrants in the study area have been seasonal migrants for more than two years, but the current study has not found any changes in occupation because the laborers were employed as agricultural laborers at the source location and as temporary workers in the construction industry at the destination. Therefore, it is necessary to train migrants before they leave their home country in order to provide them with livelihood prospects. This will help them become more skilled and knowledgeable about the labor market in both their home country and their destination. The majority of migrant laborers have been found to not have used the correct methods for sending and receiving household remittances, which poses a significant obstacle to the financial inclusion of seasonal workers. From secondary sources, it has been noted that the majority of research view seasonal or internal migration more as a problem than as a solution to several issues. For instance, the local government and organizations at the destination think that the primary cause of local labourers is migration. employment and a rise in crime rates, although seasonal or internal migration is a tactic used by rural laborers to make ends meet during hard times. Seasonal migration, especially to metropolitan regions, improves migrants' abilities, knowledge, and rationality over a brief period of time. Inequalities between rural and urban areas can be lessened through the transfer of wealth and skills. Seasonal migration lowers the population's dependency ratio on the

agricultural sector and helps to reduce covert unemployment in the industry. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage seasonal movement by offering amenities like housing, health care, and education at the destination rather than imprisoning the rural population in rural regions through the introduction of schemes or government programs. People from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds make up the seasonal migrants from Shivpuri district in the MP Region, so special development policies for rural impoverished are required, with a focus on self-employment training and scientific farming techniques to save farmers from crop failure. Similar to China's Hukou System, registration of immigrant details must begin at the village or grama panchayat level. It is required since there is a dearth of comprehensive data on short-term migration in India, particularly seasonal and circular movement. The government can launch new schemes or programs to lessen the misery caused by seasonal migration by using the information recorded at the village or grama panchayat level to determine the source of seasonal or short-term migration. In summary, laborers may migrate temporarily during the first stages of seasonal migration, but as these movements become recurring year after year and season after season, they will eventually take on a permanent aspect. If the economy had not ready itself to deal with the effects of seasonal migration, this process would have had significant effects on both the rural and urban economies.

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