

The Role of Seasonal Labour Migration in Household Resources: A Case Study of Mahabubnagar District, Andhra Pradesh

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In India the exodus of labour from the rural areas is an important issue that is steadily gaining significance on account of the complexity of the migration process. The growing part of such migration is seasonal, circular and cyclical in nature. Seasonal labour migration could be development-driven or distress-driven. This paper examines the role of seasonal labour migration in household resources. The study reveals that migration could not influence migrant households' resource structures which are by and large static even when the labourers return after migration.

I Introduction

The exodus from rural India is gaining significance day-by-day on account of the intricacy of the labour migration process. The last decade has seen mounting migration for employment and most of it is internal migration. Moreover, the growing part of such migration is seasonal and cyclical or often-repeated. The UNDP reports (1998; 2009) divulged that without migration, a majority of the poor would not be able to spend on health, consumption and other basic needs, and would have faced the risk of sliding deeper into poverty. Indeed, the course of migration has been influenced by the socio-economic transformation of the economy (Srivastava 2005). Furthermore, migration is also caused by imbalanced growth, development and transformation between rural and urban economies, where rural areas are neglected in the planning process and in the allocation of development projects (Kundu 2007). Besides, lack of industrial and infrastructural development in the Indian countryside stimulated large-scale temporary seasonal labour migration in the country (Chandrasekhar *et al.* 2007).

Studies on migration argue that it is closely linked to two basic points of view, that is, people are compelled to migrate due to either development-driven and distress-driven factors, or push-pull factors (Lee 1975). The first comprehensive model of rural migration could be seen in the Lewis model (1954), which was later modified and extended by Fei and Ranis (1961) and known as the L-F-R model. It is based on the concept of a dual economy,

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