



OUTMIGRATION IN UTTARAKHAND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC & CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES

Dr. Ashok Ku. Sahani

Scientist-D, G.B.Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Garhwal Unit, Srinagar, Uttarakhand.

Introduction

“ The United Nations recommended in its fifth Asian and Pacific population conference to promote research on the inter-relationship between Migration, development and Poverty reduction as well as to build national capacity for relevant data collection, analysis and research.” The 27th new state of Indian subcontinent, Uttarakhand, Migration is a burning issue in since long. Formation of new State does not became fruitful for checking Migration. The problem is so serious that many villages became deserted with many land resources and houses became barren. The state comprising of thirteen district with a population of 84, 79,562 and male female ratio of 1000:964 (2001) situated in the Central Himalayan Zone. Because of its geographical location which lies approximately within 300-7000 amsl is the basic hindrance of backwardness in term of basic infrastructure. The topography of the states is characterized by deep valleys, high peaks and wide varieties of vegetation. The temperature ranges from 16° c to 40°c, but it drops below freezing points in many parts of high Mountains areas of the region during winter. In 2011 census the total population reached to 120crore in the country, but within the ten hill districts in the state the population merely 48 lacs 42 thousands only which is less than the three plains districts (Dehradun, Haridwar & Udamsinghnagar) in the state, which stand 52 lacs 73 thousands. The people became minority in their own state. Two hill Districts, Almora & Pauri in the top list of Migration. In 2001 census, the hills districts represent total 53% to the State population which is reduced to 47% in 2011 census and if it continued in this rate than all the villages within hill districts became deserted by 2021.

The state's economy is agrarian cum pastoral type of economy. A large proportion of the State around 78% lives in rural areas, (Mehta, 2004). They contribute the backbone of agricultural economy in the state, but difficult geographical terrain, dependent only on rain, inadequate development of basic social infrastructural facilities, difficult public services and institutional support are some of the basic factors in slow face development of the State and leads to out Migration.

It has been universally known fact that the non-availability of gainful employment opportunities in the state, significantly a larger segment of labor force migrated outside the region seeking employment in different sectors so as to maintain their families at home in their local. The situation is that over 55% of the households in the region are only dependent on the money received from the migrant members; because of the income earned from agricultural and other sources is much below the level of their requirements,(Pandey et al 2002). So the State's economy is otherwise known as “*Money order economy*”. Out Migrations of labor forces from the State, lost a larger proportion of well educated and active human resources. Though majority of the Migrants still own land in the village and they are unwilling to forgo this ownership of land as the land is regarded as “status symbol” and at the same time it is the last economic resort to fall back upon. But because of terrace land and non availability of irrigation facilities, the crop is full dependant on rain water and outcome is much lower than the expectation. Besides the above the following are the some major causes of out migration in the state.

a. Differential attract for migration:-

Basic amenities like hospital, education, electricity etc. lacking in rural set-up, because of the villages located in different altitude.

b. Inter regional balance:-

By exporting labor force and importing of consumer goods and capital from developed regions.

c. Caste barrier:

The migrant finds an access to an open wider occupational choice. The caste disability restrict this in native place, therefore migration is favoured by enthusiastic young man.

d. To improve social status:-

Migration is often resorted for social reason when an out caste wants to climb to the higher ladder of recognition and honor by changing caste or keeping dubious names in a different place.

e. Educational upliftment:-

Educational achievement promotes migration for occupation and pull factors of migration.

f. Decline or shortage of natural resources:-

Decline or shortage of natural resources for which one had got free of cost during past and now to pay for it, decreased demand for a particular product or more over the land resources, where the family depend wholly.



Objective

1. To assess the impact of out-migration on natural resources and ecology.
2. To understand the linkages between social infrastructure and resource scarcity with migration.
3. To analyze economic characteristics of migration for possible development of entrepreneurship.
4. To evaluate implications of migration on economic and socio-cultural issues like gender.

Methodology

To know the trend of out-migration the study undertaken in four villages of Almora district among the migrated families by using standard questionnaires, Schedules and PRA methods. Case study and interviews were made among the migrated families. The selection of village was made by purposive sample and survey was conducted in 100 households among the migrated families in the Bhasiyachina Block of the Almora district of the State. Data were collected to cover the following points.

- a. Trends and motivation for Migration.
- b. Level of livings.
- c. Employment and earning.
- d. Reasons characteristics and benefits of Migration.
- e. Comparison of migrants with their natives.
- f. Socio-economic and cultural changes due to migration.

Discussion and analysis

A survey was made in four villages namely Dallakote, Sangyari, Shella and Dhaulla in Bhasiyachina block of Almora district in Uttarakhand during April-2008. It was observed that these villages are prone to Out-Migration because of its geographical and social infrastructure. The village Dallakote was total 35 house hold with population of 178 from which 13 families & 12house head have been migrated. The migrated families left the villages not because of economic difficulties, but because of social upliftment like better education, services, better health etc.They were economically sound and the village social Infrastructure lacking behind according to their requirement. The village Dallakote is located in a place which is 7 kms from the main road and bus stop. Only a serpentine footpath lying to the village in different elevation by which one can go only by foot. Because of transport difficulties the other problems automatically arises. There is severe Scarcity of water in this village for any use. Drinking water the village ladies brought from a faraway place which is called *Naulla* and it is located approximately 150/200 mts lower elevations to the village level. There is a small spring flowing here which could be used for water storage by making a check dam or embankments. This water could be used for multipurpose by the villagers. But as there is no planning so far by any govt/institution for the flowing water useable, the villager facing with severe water scarcity.

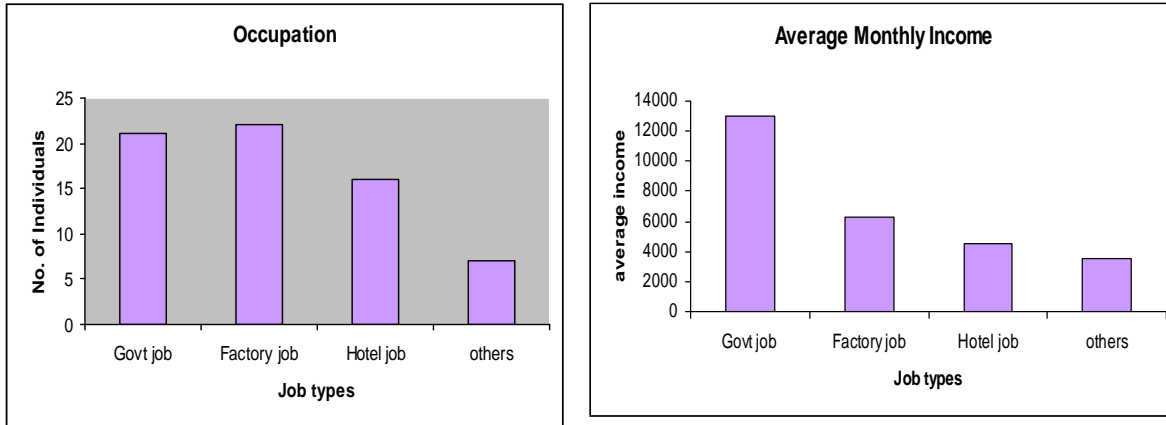
The other village Sangyari with 27 household about population of 157 soul mainly agriculturist, small artisan and daily labor. The village's geographical location is also with houses in different elevations. The village having the electric and water connection by the state government, but it is very much disturbing and irregular. The maximum families of the village are economically backward and 21 person from the village left village and out migrated for in search of job. They left their wives with small children and old parents and go faraway place for searching better economy so that they can able to feed their families. Some small artisan making iron instrument for agriculture and house hold use, but it was not properly marketwise and the artisan do not get proper value of his labor. So they loss interest for this artistic work and do not wish to carry forward for future generation. The women staying alone without husband attend all work of the house from caring children, old parents to other all house hold activities. Lack of transport facilities to the village make people poorer as they unable to go far labor to nearby town in daily basis by which they can return by evening. The small children are going to Nagarkhan for study by passing 4 kms Jungle route and which is in high elevation to their village location. There is no primary school which is the fundamental right of every citizen.

The next village Dhaulla located 1kms distance but around 150-200 mts below to the level of Nagarkhan. The situation of the village is same like other two villages. No basic social facilities for healthy living. Total 17 nos able body male members from the total 22 households, out of village to Delhi, Chandigarh, and Jaipur etc for search of job. The women are taken all responsible at home from attending the kitchen to agriculture field. They bring water from a faraway place below 150 mts lower elevation. The small children are going to school, by climbing the hilly terrain to Nagarkhan. The other village Shella which is situated on the way to village Dallakote is also lack of basic amenities for a health life. Out of 16 families 11 person and 3 families were out migration from this village. There is a primary school and one teacher is appointed here who is not coming regularly because she comes from a far place. In morning she reached late and in after noon she left early as she has



to catch the bus which is 6kms from the school. The student comes to school and if the teacher comes they study for some time and if the teacher does not come they played for some time and take mid day meal served by the helper and go back to home. Since male members were absent in the village and ladies do not have time to meet the teacher, the education of their children going like this.

Occupation & Ave Income wise Distribution of migrants:



Economic benefits

- Dallakote: From 11 people migrated 8 people's having Pucca house with toilet, color T.V & Mobile.
- Dhauilla: From 13 people migrated 6 people are having color T.V & Mobile and 4 families having Pucca house.
- Sangyari: From 21 person migrated 7 families having T.V, 3 families having Mobile & only non of having Pucca house.
- Because of male Migration the brother's of migration person increase food crops by share cropping.
- Impact in Poverty: Because of Migration food security ensured.

Socio-cultural Implications

Positive:

- Personality & skill development in out site.
- Awareness & knowledge gained.
- Social Status & self confidence of women increase and decision making power entrusted.
- Living Standard improved.

Negative:

- Increase women drudgery.
- Female headed house hold without proper care of children
- Migrant person living in unhygienic surroundings.
- Increase consumerism.
- Develop unhealthy practices.

Conclusion

To summaries of the study it is seen that Nagarkhan is the head quarter and centre point for all these four villages, which having a school up to secondary level, a dispensary and ¾ shops. The dispensary having no doctors or nourishing staff, a peon is coming from a distance place and opens the dispensary for some time. Very occasionally some health staff comes to dispensary and maintained forge records. Because of lack of basic facilities no Government staff wishes to stay there for permanently. Those who are staying in the villages either by compellation or no other options but to follow tradition. The following are some the factor responsible for out-migration in these four villages which are observed during study.

1. Talent, Training & education
2. Non-availability of work
3. Work available by interval only.
4. Inadequate Income.
5. Attraction for city life.
6. Family tension.
7. Others.



Though out-migration brings good remittance for better livelihood in terms of better food, good clothes and housing etc, but it has severe negative impact on natural resources. For ex, because of male migrant, whatever agriculture land he having in village it became barren and infertile gradually. The migrants person after having good amount of money prefer to built *Pucca* houses in the village, which is causing harm to the natural habitat. The migrants member adopt new consumerism ideas like changing traditional food habit, purchase television, tape records etc, which cause environmental degradation on the village habitat. Because of male members absent at the house the family members' feels social insecurity and the house lady became over burden of social responsibilities. Because of over loads and busyness she unable to maintain good health which leads to sickness and growing older in early age. The unmarried young migrant comes with new ideas and thoughts like dowry, high status brides which is alien to hill culture and broken social tradition. Many good and traditional houses were broken or damage, many kitchen garden destroyed because whole family migration which is very much economic loss to the state.

Policies recommendation

1. There should be concrete plan/policy in respect to location development of infrastructure, particularly Road, School and Hospital.
2. There should be policy/plan for unused abandon resources which can be reusable by the villager's benefit.
3. Strategy/policy recommendation for develop entrepreneurship so that one can get earning at their own habitat.
4. There should be policy by which the returned Migrants follow the rule and work for environment management and degradation.

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Some photographs of the studied villages:



A. Deserted houses in the villages



B. Ladies without male member in house.



B. Mode of transport to the villages



C. An elderly lady in leisure moment.