

POSSIBILITIES TO MINIMIZE THE RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

Rural community which is sustained from hundreds of years is gradually switching over to urban area. Rural to urban migration is considered as a serious problem today. In one hand, the outer world is entering into the isolated Indian villages; on the other hand, villagers are turning their face towards outer world. Statistics indicates that during the last 50 years rural population has decreased from 82.0 to 68.9 percent and approximately two million people are shifting from rural to urban area annually. Due to rapid rural to urban migration not only the rural structure is transforming but also urban India is emerging as hub of pollutions. This study is conducted in eight selected villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state located in southern part of India to find out the possibilities to minimize rural to urban migration.

KEYWORDS: Rural to Urban Migration, Rural Livelihood

I. INTRODUCTION

M.K. Gandhi said 'the soul of India lives in its villages' (Gandhi 1946). Village is the basic characteristic of Indian continent and the real indigenous beauty of this nation resided in countryside. 'India is land of villages and it was in the village that 'the pulse' of India could be felt' (Jodka 2005). Due to wide geographical area and vary in atmosphere one can see the diversified villages in India. Indian villages crossed various timelines during from origin and growth to the present stage. In one or the other way Indian villages were transformed according to the timeline and the dynamic nature of villages are clearly visible in social institutions.

Indian villages were considered as 'Little Republics'. Villages had the ability to produce according to the needs of village community. Social norms were strong enough to control the deviant behavior of the people and they had their own 'Village

Panchayat' to take care of judicial issues. After all sorts of discrimination between haves and have-nots, rural community was bound to help each other. Though illiterate, they gave esteem priority to 'character'. They may not aware of the unity in diversity of India, but they maintained the unity of village. They might have ignorant to the series of revolutions which took place in the west but they managed their integrity with the help of social norms and values. Indian village 'was not merely a place where people lived; it had a design in which were reflected the basic values of Indian civilisation' (Beleille 1980). The frequency of change in material culture might be slow compare to urbanites, but they had the ability to produce according to their needs.

Rural scenario is transforming rapidly and 'the cities are not only draining the villages of their wealth but talent also' (Gandhi 1946). Rural community which is sustained from hundreds of years is gradually switching over to urban area. Rural to urban migration is considered as a serious problem today. In one hand, the outer world is entering into the isolated Indian villages; on the other hand, villagers are turning their face towards outer world. Statistics indicates that during the last 50 years rural population has decreased from 82.0 to 68.9 percent and approximately two million people are shifting from rural to urban area annually. Due to rapid rural to urban migration not only the rural structure is transforming but also urban India is emerging as hub of pollutions. This study is conducted in eight selected villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state located in southern part of India to find out the possibilities to minimize the rural to urban migration.

II. METHODOLOGY

There are 823 villages spread across four taluks in Ramanagara district and two villages from each taluk are chosen for this study.

| Sl No. | Taluk | Name of the Village |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Magadi | Madigondanahalli |
| 2 | | Belagavadi |
| 3 | Channapattana | Malurupattana |
| 4 | | Nagavara |
| 5 | Ramanagara | Kenchanakuppe |

| | | |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| 6 | | Ramanahalli |
| 7 | Kanakapura | Yadamaranahalli |
| 8 | | Keralalusandra |

Random sampling method is followed in this study. The total sample size is 240 (30 samples from each village). The key parameters such as distance from urban area, population, caste structure, occupation, literacy rate, gender etc. are followed while choosing respondents of the villages. A structured interview schedule is used for this study. The schedule also prepared in bilingual (Kannada & English) mode for the better operation in rural area. Statistical software is used for data analysis. The collected data is re-checked thoroughly to ensure accuracy, completeness and relevance. Classification of data is made very carefully and statistical analytical methods such as percentage, frequency and average etc were used in calculation of primary data. The primary data is collected from the field between the months of May to July of 2016. Even though the primary data is collected with intensive care but the reliability of primary data depends on the accuracy and loyalty of the respondents.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

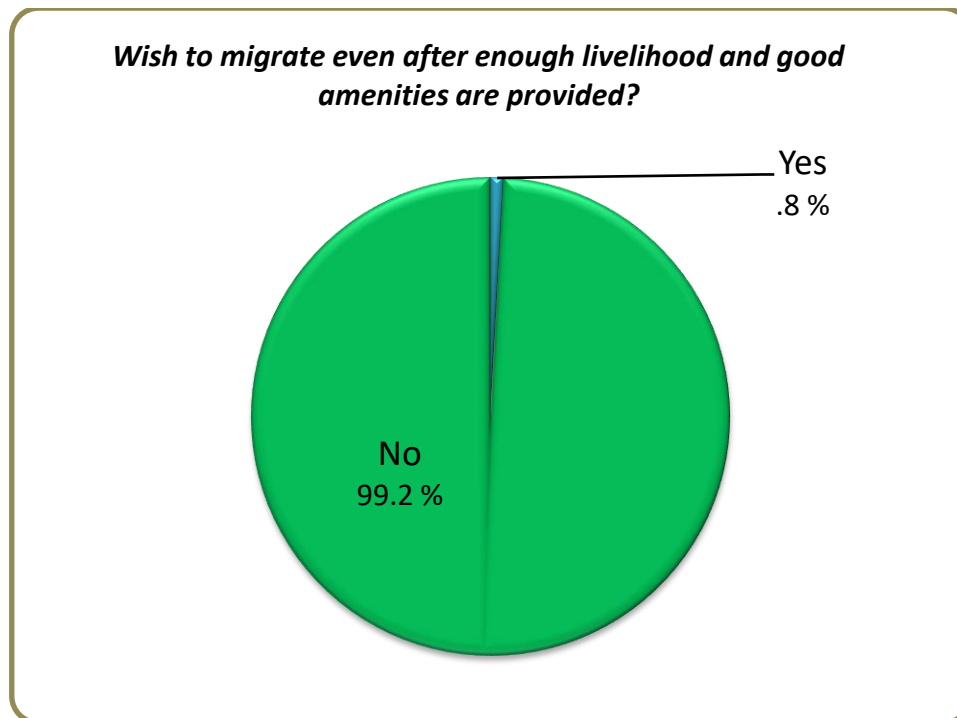
Rural life has a long history in India. It is well recorded in Indological text that hundreds of generations were lived and sustained in villages from thousands of years. If it is real, what are the actual reasons for increasing rate of rural to urban migration in India? Are they migrating due to urban affection? Are they unhappy with village life? Are they migrating in search of livelihood? Are they migrating due to scarcity of amenities in villages and existence of good amenities in urban area? Are they migrating due to non- profitability in agriculture? Are they looking for freedom of life which exists in urban area?

| Reasons for urban migration | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Affection towards urban life | 3 | 1.2 |
| Education | 3 | 1.2 |
| Job | 156 | 65.0 |
| Job, Education | 49 | 20.4 |
| Job, Hospital | 12 | 5.0 |
| Job, Marriage | 2 | .8 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Job, Urban Affection | 13 | 5.4 |
| Non profitability of agriculture | 2 | .8 |
| Total | 240 | 100.0 |

The study of eight villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state revealed the reasons for increasing rate of rural to urban migration. According to the respondents' response in this study, 1.2% of the villagers in these villages are migrating due to affection towards urban life and 5.4% of them migrating due to job and urban affection. Rest of the 93.4% of the reasons fits under "livelihood and amenity". This indicates that the major livelihood source in village i.e. agriculture is not providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for the villagers. It is a common tendency of any living being moves towards in the direction where it can get livelihood. The same formula is working in the eight selected villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state.

The study states that lack of livelihood and basic amenities are the major reasons for increasing rate of rural to urban migration in the selected villages of Ramanagara district. The study also states that there is a scarcity of livelihood and amenities in villages of Ramanagara district. The field study revealed that there are possibilities to enhance the livelihood opportunities in the villages of this district. Amenities are improving in those villages and there are possibilities to provide standard amenities to the villages. A logical question arises by this stage that, if enough livelihood opportunities and basic amenities are provided, do the villagers wish to migrate to the urban area?



The study of eight villages of Ramanagara district reveals that 99.2% of the respondents are not interested to migrate if there are enough livelihood opportunities and good amenities are provided in rural area. Even after enough livelihood opportunities and good amenities are provided in rural area, .8% of them were expressed their interest to migrate to the urban area and it is found that urban affection is the main reason behind this migration. It is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1942) who had the greater vision towards self sufficiency of the Indian villages and he proposed various measures to uplift the rural life. But the scenario of rural India during the age of M. K. Gandhi and the scenario of rural India today are different. During the post independence period rural India experienced series of change. Keeping the present rural scenario in mind, various sustainable livelihood opportunities can be explored.

IV. CONCLUSION

Rural community which is sustained from hundreds of years is gradually switching over to urban area. Rural to urban migration is considered as a serious problem today. In one hand, the outer world is entering into the isolated Indian villages; on the other hand, villagers are turning their face towards outer world. There are various reasons behind increasing rate of rural to urban migration. This research revealed that even though urban affection exists, majority of the reasons

behind rapid rural to urban migration is due to lack of livelihood opportunities and good amenities. The study also revealed that 99.2% of them are not willing to migrate if there is enough livelihood and good amenities are provided.

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