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The Social Ecology of Migration in Agriculture: The Micro Level Reality

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Abstract

Rural-urban migration implies geo-spatial movement of population from the countryside/rural areas into the cities, often the metropolitan cities of a country. Nearly 29% of rural male migrants had migrated due to employment related reasons and 91% of the rural female migrants due to marriage. The majority of migrants move because of economic reasons. The inadequate irrigation facilities, lack of employment opportunities in rural non-household manufacturing activities and decline in the average size of operational holdings as the major 'push' factors; and increase in rural literacy and expansion of non-household manufacturing and construction activities in urban areas as the leading 'pull' factor in rural-urban migration. This factors implies socio-cultural, economical and ecological dynamics of a performing both rural and urban areas. The urbanisation can influence the rural off-farm sector employment by expanding the market for rural enterprises, and also encourages non-agricultural activities in secondary and tertiary sectors in neighbouring rural areas to meet non-local demand. The present study is conducted in Devarahalli, Chikkanahalli, under Chikkanahalli gram panchayat in Tumkur district of Karnataka state. 60 peoples were selected randomly and the data were selected through pilot study, structured interview and focused group interview. 19 independent variables were studied against 8 dependent variables. The statistical tools used were stepdown regression, canonical co variate analysis, factor analysis and path analysis. The study reveals that the availability of assets and better technology channels in rural areas would play a crucial role in stemming unnecessary rural-urban migration.

Keywords: Geo-Spacial; Off Farm Sector; Push Factor; Pull Factor; Urbanization

Introduction

Since the time immemorial migration is happening. In the prehistorical era, the ape men used to migrate from one cave to another. As the time went on, human being stated agriculture and then for the sake of fertile soil they migrated from one sedimentary land to another. So we can say migration is in human nature from ancient times and with the advent of the ages, the reasons of migration has broadened. According to a study of Hossain., et al. [1] the persons involved in the process of rural out-migration are adults and more educated. Most of them were engaged in studies or unemployed before migration. Another study was conducted by Pandey [2] found that the expanding employment opportunity and higher wages in urban area and declining employment opportunities and relatively lovey wages in the villages are respectively the pull and push factors in the rural-urban migration. Srivastava., *et al.* [3] has conducted a study where they examined the factors by primary survey of migrants using a probit model. Analysis indicated that the lower the level of education of the migrant, the greater the importance of the push factors whereas with increasing level of education of the migrant, pull factors become more important in migration [4].

Materials and Methods

The area of investigation is situated in the state of Karnataka located in the south western part of India. The State of Karnataka in southern India has a unique social, cultural and ecological background, which influence the living standard and behavioural patterns of the people in many ways. The area of investigation belongs to the Sira block of the Tumkur district. The area of the study is comprised of villages namely Devarahalli, Chikkanahalli, under Chikkanahalli gram panchayat.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of this study are to build up concept rural urban migration, factors and consequences, to identify socio-ecological and socio-economic factors contributing to rural urban migration, to estimate socio-economic and socio-ecological on the consequent factor, Nature, Level and Direction of migration and to generate some micro-level policy implications, from this empirical study as applicable to socio-ecological setting having similarity with research location. tion, Y2: Distance of migration, Y3: Remittance (percapita), Y4: Climate change, Y5: Personal perception on social issue, Y6: Perceived benefit of migration (economic benefits, job satisfaction, social esteem), Y7: Push factor and Y8: Pull factors migration are considered as the dependent variable of the study and the independent variables are:

X1: Age at the time of migration
X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years)
X3: Family Education (in years)
X4: Caste
X5: Family size
X6: Number of years since Marriage
X7: Change in number of occupations after migration
X8: Number of source information acquired
X9: Number of source of money for migration
X10: Family material possession
X11: Family house type
X12: Family Social participation
X13: Cosmopoliteness
X14: Mass media exposure
X15: Per capita area (acre)
x16: Per capita Family income (Agriculture and livestock)
x17: Family income (other percapita)
X18: Family annual Expenditure Per capita (education)
X19: Percapita other Family annual Expenditure

Table 1

Results and Discussion

The findings of this study are discussed below with the help of Graphic models.

Regression Analysis

Figure 2

village is selected through purposive sampling. Sixty respondents are selected through random sampling. Here, in this study we have considered nineteen independent variables against eight dependent variables. The statistical tools used in this study were stepdown regression, canonical covariate analysis, factor analysis and path analysis. The dependent variables are Y1: Duration of migra-

Figure 1

In this study State, district, sub division, block, panchayat and

The above model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y1: Duration of migration (in years) VS 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable X13: Cosmopoliteness has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable Y1: Duration of migration (in years).

The R^2 value being 0.7832, it is to infer that 78.32 per cent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables whereas the R^2 value being 0.5837 at the last step infers that 58.37 per cent of this variation is explained by the causal variable X13 alone.

Revelation

So the duration of migration has been well estimated with variable X13 that is Cosmo politeness.

Cosmo politeness is the free from local and national ideas, prejudice and attachments. This perception accreditation will enable grabbing the opportunity in competitive condition. The highly competitive job gives better benefit which leads to long duration stay in urban areas.

Figure 3

Result

This model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y2: Distance of migration vz. 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable X13: Cosmopoliteness, X8: Number of source information acquired and x16: Family income (Agriculture and livestock) has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable Y2: Distance of migration.

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The R^2 value being 0.8450, it is to infer that 84.50 per cent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.6455 at the last step infers that 64.55 per cent of this variation is explained by the causal variables X8 and X16.

Revelation

So the distance of migration has well been estimated by variable X8, that is number of source information acquired and X16: Per capita Family income (Agriculture and livestock).

The better return farm enterprise, generates enough financial resources for initial investment to go for long distance migration. A good number of information channels enrich different socioeconomic and ecological knowledge which builds confidence in migrants to go long in search for better opportunity to earn better livelihood.

Figure 4

Result

The above model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y3: Remittance (per capita) vs. 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable farm X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years) has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable Y3: Remittance (per capita).

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The R^2 value being 0.7889, it is to infer that 78.89 percent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.6774 at the last step infers that 67.74 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the causal variable X2.

Revelation

So the Y3: Remittance (per capita) been well estimated with variable X2: Schooling of migrants

The better educated migrant is equipped with cognition and conation skills in congenial urban social structure. This leads not only to horizontal social mobility, but also vertical social mobility, which upside the opportunities in high hierarchical jobs those are characterized by stable income. The increasement and stability in distribution of income give migrants an opportunity to send high remittance.



Result

This model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y4: Climate change vs. 19 Causal variables ($x_1 - x_{19}$): It has been found that the variable X7: Change in number of occupations after migration and x16: Family income (Agriculture and livestock) has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable Y4: Climate change.

The R^2 value being 0.8225, it is to infer that 82.25 per cent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.7619 at the last step infers that 76.19 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the two causal variables X7 and X16.

Revelation

So the climate change of migration has been well estimated with variable x16: Per capita Family income (Agriculture and livestock) and X7: Change in number of occupations after migration.

The wide exposure from informative urban centres make migrants discover the need of stabilized income by diversifying their occupations to reduce the effect of climate. The better returns from farm enterprises support financially to venture into new occupations to stabilize income.



Result

The above model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y5: Personal perception on social issue vs19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable X1: Age at the time of migration, X3: Family Education (in years) and X12: Family Social participation has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable, Y5: Personal perception on social issue.

The R² value being 0.8047, it is to infer that 80.47 per cent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R² value being 0.7362 at the last step infers that 73.62 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the two causal variables X1, X3 and X12.

Revelation

So the Y5: Personal perception on social issue on migration has been well estimated with X1: Age at the time of migration, X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years) and X12: Family Social participation.

The relative older migrants taking part in different social organization gives better exposures of social equality and issue related with it, for maximum good for maximum people. The educated family supports the social change recognizing long term benefits of society.



Result

The model above presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y6: Perceived benefit of migration vs 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable X3: family Education (in years) and X18: Family annual Expenditure Per capita (education) has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable Y6: Perceived benefit of migration.

The R^2 value being 0.8444, it is to infer that 84.44 percent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.7259 at the last step infers that 72.59 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the two causal variables X3 and X18.

Revelation

So the Y6: Perceived benefit of migration on migration has been well estimated with X3: Family Education (in years) and after migration and X18: Family annual Expenditure Per capita (education). The educated family perceives benefits regarding education. The education helps to get better opportunities and thrive well in their professions and to have satisfaction as a whole. This sense of understanding and experience make them to spend more on education so that other members can harvest fruit of it.



Result

The model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y7: Push factor vs 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable X5: Family size and X19: Per capita Family annual Expenditure has contributed to the substantive variance embedded with the consequent variable y7: Push factor.

The R^2 value being 0.7964, it is to infer that 79.64 per cent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.7750 at the last step infers that 77.50 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the two causal variables X5 and X19.

Revelation

So the Y7: Push factor has been well estimated X5: Family size and X19: Per capita other Family annual Expenditure.

The larger households process high aspiration and needs which requires financial resource to fulfil. The lack of financial resource at their disposal creates push condition, which leads to search for opportunities to earn living and secure livelihood. The relatively older age with better cognition and conation skills which are acquired from wide exposure of different sociocultural, economic and ecological situations helps to recognize, use and appreciate the existing opportunities of urban arena. The better livelihood encourages spending more on education.

Canonical co-variate analysis

Figure 9

Figure 10

Result

The model presents the multiple regression analysis between exogenous variable Y8: Pull factor VS 19 Causal variables $(x_1 - x_{19})$: It has been found that the variable has contributed to the substantive variance X1: Age at the time of migration, X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years), X13: Cosmopoliteness and X18: Per capita Family annual Expenditure (education) embedded with the consequent variable Y8: Pull factor.

The R^2 value being 0.8657, it is to infer that 86.57 percent of variation in the consequent variable has been explained by the combination of these 19 causal variables, whereas the R^2 value being 0.8339 at the last step infers that 83.39 per cent of this variation is solitarily explained by the two causal variables X1, X2, X13, and X18.

Revelation

So the Y8: Pull factor has been well estimated X1: Age at the time of migration, X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years), X13: Cosmopoliteness and X18: Family annual Expenditure Per capita (education).

In statistics, CCA is a way of inferring information from crosscovariance matrices. If we have two vectors, $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ and Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n) of random variables and there are correlations among the variables, then canonical correlation analysis will find linear CCA for this study has been applied to extract the canonical covariates between two sets of variables. The left side variables and the right side variables. It has been observed that the LS variables again has formed two conglomerations further. Here, Y2: Distance of migration, Y3: Remittance (per capita), Y4: Climate change and Y5: Personal perception on social issue has gone closest to Rural-Urban migration and both have picked up four exogenous variables viz. X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years), X3: Family Education (in years), X5: Family size, X8: Number of source information acquired, X10: Family material possession, X11: Family house type, X12: Family Social participation, X15: Per capita area (acre) and x17: Family income (other per capita).

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On the other hand, the rest of the LS variables viz. Y1: Duration of migration (in years), Y6: Perceived benefit of migration, Y7: Push factor and Y8: Pull factor have formed another conglomeration keeping simultaneous interpretation with Y2: Distance of migration, Y3: Remittance (per capita), Y4: Climate change and Y5: Personal perception on social issue and this second conglomeration has picked up eleven exogenous variables.

So, from CCA we have come to know that the groups of Y variables have got precise selectivity to ultimately form a splendid strategy as to cater component related interaction to characterise the perception of Rural-Urban migration.

Combinations of the Xi and Yj which have maximum correlation with each other. T.R Knapp notes that "virtually all of the commonly encountered parametric tests of significance can be treated as special cases of canonical correlation analysis, which is the general procedure for investing the relationships between two sets of variables". The method was first introduced by Harold Hotelling in 1936.

Path Analysis



Result

The variable X13: Cosmopoliteness has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 8 times) on the consequent variable. The above model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X1:

h the variable X16: Per capita Family income from Agriculture and
n livestock (0.436) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the duration of migration (in years).
The residual effect being 0.2168 percent, it is to infer that with

Age at the time of migration (0.317) has highest direct effect, while

the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

Migrants who start their migration at relatively older age stay more in urban areas due to the fact that, in many cases the lack of knowledge, skill and experience become obstacle factor to get job which delay attainment of better livelihood. After attaining, the dissonance faced will avoid them to change their occupations so they tend to continue with their present condition in which they settled with.

The better farming in rural area by migrant family and absorbent to new ideas by migrants in urban areas become balancing factors to continue the stay.

Figure 12

to know that the groups of Y variity to ultimately form a splendid related interaction to characterise implication by effectively down

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The variable X10: Family material possession has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 12 times) on the consequent variable. Above model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X19: Per capita other Family annual Expenditure (0.459) has highest direct effect, while the variable X15: Per capita area (acre) (0.377) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the Y2: Distance of migration.

The residual effect being 0.155 per cent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by interactionally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The family expenditure is a sign of lack of enough resources to fulfil the family needs and obligations. These downside the options in rural areas to choose to migrate at distance places in search for job opportunities for better livelihood. Higher material possession and higher land holding generates good income, which can be used in initial investment to go long distances.

Result

The variable X5: Family size has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 6 times) on the consequent variable. The above model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X14: Mass media exposure (-0.354) has highest direct effect, while the variable X19: Per capita other Family annual Expenditure (0.407) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the Y3: Remittance (per capita).

The residual effect being 0.2111 per cent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The higher exposure to media equips migrants with diverse knowledge to gain professional efficiency to earn more remuneration. When migrants family size in rural areas is more and need of more resource to full fill their inevitable needs. The lacking condition of resources compiles the migrants to send more remittance to secure their family.

Figure 13

Figure 14

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The variable X7: Change in number of occupations after migration has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 8 times) on the consequent variable. The model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable x16: Per capita Family income (Agriculture and livestock) (-0.361) has highest direct effect, while the variable x17: Family income (other per capita) (0.612) has exerted the highest indirect effect on theY4: Climate change.

The residual effect being 0.1775 percent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The better perception of climate change and its effects forces migrants to realise the need for solution. So they tend to specialize the farm enterprise to derive better returns and to take up allied different occupation to have stable income. That is the realisation of diversification as solution to climate change with better benefits.

Result

The variable X12: Family Social participation has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 7 times) on the consequent variable. The model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X13: Cosmopoliteness (0.405) has highest direct effect, while the variable X8: Number of source information acquired (0.452) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the Y5: Migrants perception on social issue.

The residual effect being 0.1953 per cent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The cosmopolitan migrants are exposed to lot of different sociocultural condition and people. which make them to recognise social issue for betterment of society. The more information accumulation from different channel is evident to take part actively in social participation so that they can rightly contribute in policy drawings.

Figure 15

Figure 16

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The variable 17: Family income (other per capita) has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 10 times) on the consequent variable. The model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X10: Family material possession (0.636) has highest direct effect, while the variable X14: Mass media exposure (-0.743) has exerted the highest indirect effect on theY6: Perceived benefit of migration.

The residual effect being 0.1556 percent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The stock of family material is the observable benefit of migration and the resource accumulated become a reason to increase in social status and esteem so that the perception stands positively in migrants.

In urban areas, the better infrastructures like communication gets you more informational inputs to excel in their professional fields and have a stable and better livelihood which again supporting good perception about migration.

Result

The variable X19: Per capita other Family annual Expenditure has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 7 times) on the consequent variable. The above model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X9: Number of source of money for migration (-0.501) has highest direct effect, while the variable X5: Family size (0.873) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the Y7: Push factor.

The residual effect being 0.2036 percent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The low land holders receive less return from farm enterprises, as they grow only cereals and pulses rather than commercial or exportable horticultural crops. When the family size is more, the inventory need to feed and full fill their needs and aspirations become the necessity to find other options for income generation. along with it when resource at disposal is less makes push condition for migration to flee to urban areas to earn livelihood.

Figure 18

Figure 17

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The variable X8: Number of source information acquired has enrooted the highest indirect effect (for 7 times) on the consequent variable. The model presents the path analysis to decompose the TE into direct, indirect and residual effect. It has been found that the variable X9: Number of source of money for migration (-0.455) has highest direct effect, while the variable X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years) (0.471) has exerted the highest indirect effect on the Y8: Pull factor.

The residual effect being 0.1343 percent, it is to infer that with the combination of these 19 exogenous variables, 100 per cent of variance can be explained.

So, the predominated factors, as formed by internationally accommodating them based on factor loading, can offer a strategic implication by effectively downsizing the sphere of variables into well textured factors.

Revelation

The educated migrants possess enough cognitive and conation skills to grab better job opportunities to earn better standard of living. When good number of channel processing better information crates low dissonance and high chance to get the proficient knowledge at right time.

To absorb the betterments and opportunities of urban the initial sources of investment stand necessary condition, with better source the migration becomes more easy and beneficial.

Factor Analysis

Result

These models presents the factor analysis, wherein 19 numbers of independent variables have been conglomerated into 6 dominant factors.

Factor 1 is consists of 4 variables viz. X3: Family Education (in years), X5: Family size, x16: Family income (Agriculture and livestock) and X19: Family annual Expenditure per capita (family). These variables contribute about 17.53 per cent of variance, and the factor renamed as Family capacity.



Factor 2 consists of 4 variables viz. X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years), X10: Family material possession, X11: Family house type and X13: Cosmopoliteness. These variables contribute about 31.25 per cent of variance and is renamed as Family resource.

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Factor 3 consists of 4 variables those are size of X2: Schooling of Migrant (number of years), X10: Family material possession, X11: Family house type and X13: Cosmopoliteness. Which contributes about 44.691 per cent of variance and is renamed as Migration chronology.

Factor 5 consists of 3 variables viz. X8: Number of source information acquired, X9: Number of source of money for migration and X14: Mass media exposure. These 2 variables contribute 64.013 per cent of variance and is renamed as communication proficiency.

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Figure 21

Factor 4 consists of 2 variables viz. X4: Caste and X12: Family Social participation. These 2 variables contribute 54.670 per cent variance and is renamed as Community affiliation.



Factor 6 consists of 2 variables X15: Per capita area (acre) and X18: Family annual Expenditure Per capita (education). These 2 variables contribute 71.141 per cent variance and is renamed as Economic Proficiency.

Interpretation

The factor Family capacity 17.53% by becoming the prime mover of change in process of Rural-Urban migration, under the study has also contributed substantially towards start migration along with financial and information support to stay in urban areas.

Figure 22



Family capacity has rightly contributed the highest to become the prime factor in Rural-Urban migration.

Rural-Urban migration, on other way higher the family capacity is higher family needs and aspiration along with better support that is how and why these factor percentage has contributed substantially towards Rural-Urban migration.

Recommendations

- Government and non-governmental bodies should make effort to educate the masses on the detrimental effect of ruralurban migration.
- 2. The most realist strategy to combat rural-urban migration is to create millions of working places and jobs in the rural areas by Exploring off - Farm opportunities
- 3. Farmers should be encouraged in co-operative societies
- 4. There should be reduction in development gaps between rural and urban centre which means there should be provision of social facilities in the rural areas.
- 5. Loans should be made available to the rural farmers and terms of agreement made in simply language to them, this will help them purchase more land for cultivation as well as labour use.

- 6. There is need for strong support for rural infrastructure is the fields of health, education provision of portable water and other facilities as incentives for social and economic development of rural areas as a bid to curtail rural-urban migration
- Agro-allied industries should be provided promoted in order to provide job opportunity for the people and thereby reduce rural-urban migration
- 8. Improved agricultural inputs and farming technology such as mechanizations should be introduced in the study area in other to improve production

Conclusion

The study review intra-rural inequality is a major cause of rural-urban migration: those better-off villagers tend to be 'pulled', and worse-off villagers 'pushed', from the same subset of relatively 'unequal' villages. This study gives glimpse that migration does not equilibrate between urban and rural sectors, largely because of externalities and compositional factors like investments in communication, transportation, energy and institutional factors; but it does smoother itself, largely because individuals behave rationally and learn quickly for that investment on health and education is inevitable. As so often, Rural-Urban Migration is not that 'markets fail'. It is that, under conditions of both poverty and structural inequality, they function but with generally unacceptable, miserypreserving consequences. The process is viewed as a transfer of labour from a traditional, land-intensive technology to a human capital-intensive technology with an unending potential for growth like off farm economy occupations. where widespread soil erosion and frequent floods reduce soil fertility, resulting in low crop yields and consequently cause Rural-Urban migration. Although most migrants do remit money to purchase farm inputs for improved agricultural production, their efforts come to naught unless serious environmental conservation is undertaken to permit agricultural boom with greater returns to farmers, in the process reducing outmigration. The Security of migrants' income, including decent work and social protection, should incorporate access to assets such as land, capital or resources, because lack of these assets force rural dwellers to migrate.

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Migrants' social inclusion, participation and voice are crucial in both national and county policies and programmes that have a bearing on out-migration, migrants' welfare at the destinations and return migration to the origins. Policy recommendations to strengthen effectiveness of rural out-migration as means of individual material improvement, and retain viability of declining areas as alternatives to urban living by consolidating delivery of health, education, and other social services.

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