



RURAL- URBAN EMPLOYMENT, MIGRATION AND GENDER – A SCENARIO OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT In Geography Employment, Unemployment, Poverty and Gender issues are major concerns for social geographer. India where the populations reaches more than one billion and in respect of these resources are less, it is very difficult to provide employment for all. Thus, unemployment and incidence of poverty are critical issues. Higher population with high percentage of youth population and less available resources etc. are reasons behind mass unemployment in both rural and urban areas. However, lack of proper planning, weak governance and corruptions are also responsible for unemployment. In India nearly 70 percent population live in villages while 30 percent population live in urban areas. There are dichotomies in sense of their average family size, sex ratio, literacy rate, employment etc. population –resource relationship as one of the key factor compelled people to migrate for employment. The present paper highlights facts of rural –urban employment and status of migration on the basis of gender.

KEYWORDS : Employment, poverty, Gender, NSSO, Sex Ratio

Introduction:

Words like employment, unemployment, gender and sex-ratio play an important role in the socio-economic and political scenario of the country because these issues are the basic problem society. India as a democratic country just completed its 70th anniversary last year, suffering from the curse of overpopulation, low industrial and economic growth, mass unemployment and corruptions. India after getting its freedom in 1947 started its journey to become a super power in world by attaining its goal determined by its freedom fighters, leaders and framers of constitution. The effort was not only to build a sound economy but development of society and culture was also targeted. To achieve the given ends our union government framed five year plans for social and economic empowerment. The plans were formulated in view of development and overall growth of society instead of caste, class, race, religion and gender. India's 70% populations live in countryside while 30% populations live in urban areas. Instead of majority of population living in the rural areas with agriculture as their main occupation, the first ever National Policy on Agriculture was announced on 28th July 2000. In March 1950 after farming the Planning Commission the Industrial (Department and Regulation) Act (IDR Act) ,1951 paved the way for the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. This policy pushes the country for mass migration from rural to urban areas for the employment due to pity condition of Agriculture. On the other hand Indian social structure and cultural value obstructed the participation of women in various employments. The social barrier, nature of job, low wage, security at work place, obstruction of women from crossing the border of their houses etc. were factors which play crucial role in low rate of work participation of women. With progress of time conditions changed and a higher rate of women participation in various jobs observed in both rural and urban areas. As per report of National Sample Survey (NSS) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) the women work participation is fluctuating in case of Urban Area while drastically falling, a nearly 5 percentage in case of Rural areas between 1993-94 and 2011-12. While on the contrary male employment rate is increasing by nearly 26.5 percent.

Aim and Objectives: The major objectives of present paper are as follows:

1. To analyze the work force participation in rural and urban sectors of economy.
2. To compare the difference of Male –Female employment in context of Geographical location, nature of Job, wages, Migration etc.

Methodology: present paper is based on the literature reviews and analysis of various reports. Major source of data is based on the NSS Report on Employment and unemployment situation in India 2009-10; published in November 2011. Human Development Reports of some states are also analyzed

Status of Male –Female Employment in India: Before describe the male employment and its condition in India it is important to know that

who is called an 'employed'. According to census up to 1951 status of employment was based on income and dependency. In 1961 time or labor force was considered. In 1971 on the basis of engagement population was classified into worker and non –workers. In 1981 census were formulated so as to first divide the population into those who had worked any time at all during the year preceding the census and those who had not worked at all during the year. In 1991 census emphasis was laid on the need to ask Probing questions regarding the work done at any time at all last year or any of the seasons in the reference period specially in the case of female. The same question pattern was followed during 2001. So, it is quite impossible to say that the statistics of employment by different agencies was totally correct and reasonable. Regarding the employment in India we may depend on census and NSSO Reports etc.

There are wide differences between male and female employment in different sectors both rural and urban areas. Statistics show that the rate of female employment is far lower than male counterpart. The statistics published by National Sample Survey Organization during 1972-2002 reveal that the male workforce participation rate was higher during different years for urban employment while it is fluctuating in case of rural employment. On the other hand the rate of women workforce participation is declining in both rural and urban employment.

According to the report of International Labor Organization and the NSSO in between 1993-1994 and 2009-10 the overall decline of women employment was seen in both rural and urban employment. In case of rural sector male self employment was at declining from 57 percent in 1993-94 to 54.5 in 2011-12, while rate of casual labor increased from 33.8 in 1993-94 percent to 35.5 percent in 2011-12 and again declined to 32.9 percent in 2004-2005. On the contrary to this number of regular salaried employed increased from 8.5 percent in 1993-94 to 10 percent in 2011-12. Now, if we analyze the rate of rural women employment we find that there was a fluctuation in the self employment status 58.6 percent in 1993-94 to 63.7 percent in 2004-05 and again declined to 59.3 percent in 2011-12. Same tendency was found in case of female casual labor where it increase from 38.7 percent in 1993-94 to 39.9 in 2009-10 and again decreased to 35.1 percent in 2011-12.

In case of Urban male self employment there was more or less same situation i.e., 41.7 % in 1993-94 and again 41.7 in 2011-12 while rate of casual labor decreased from 16.3 in 1993-94 percent to 14.9 percent in 2011-12. On the other hand number of regular salaried employed increased from 42 percent in 1993-94 to 43.4 percent in 2011-12. Now, if we analyze the rate of urban women employment we find that there was a decline in the self employment status 45.8 percent in 1993-94 to 42.8 percent in 2011-12. Same tendency was found in case of female casual labor when it decreased from 25.8 percent in 1993-94 to 14.3 percent in 2011-12.

It is clear that in case of regular salaried employee number increased in

both rural and urban sector while decreased in case of self employment. The female rural employment generally increasing while urban female is decreasing. The most noticeable aspect is the higher increase of salaried women employee in both rural and urban areas.

Rural- Urban Migration and Employment:

Unemployment and search of job is one of the key factors for migration. Generally the current of migration flow from region of poor resources to richer one. In general the town or cities provide better condition for employment due to more opportunities of jobs in both organized and unorganized sector.

Things have been changed from 1993-94 to 2007-2008 for employment in India. The share of primary sector decreases from 64.5 percent to 55.9 percent while secondary sector increases from 14.3 percent to 18.7 percent. The share of employment also increases from 21.2 percent to 25.4 percent. These figures indicate the flow of rural population to urban areas. The number of rural female migrant is more than male. As per data of NSSO (2001) total number of rural migrant is 68.20 percent in which male and female share is 43.5 and 75.4 percent respectively. On the other hand total urban migrant is 31.80 percent in which male and female share is 56.5 and 24.60 percent respectively. It shows that in case of rural sector share of female migrant is more than that of female while in case of urban sector it is quite adverse. The reason could be distance factor, social security and safety which prevent women to go at far distance for employment as migrant. The type of nature of job depends on the educational qualification and skill of the migrant. As most number of migrants is either less educated or illiterate they are mainly engaged as casual wage laborer while female joins small industries, daily wage earner or domestic help.

Concluding Remarks:

Present paper is precise analysis of rural –urban employment based on gender participation. From the above discussion we can conclude that the high growth of population and uneven development chances of employment are limited for both gender. Under circumstances migration takes place. Proper utilization of fund and failure of mechanism could be reason behind less development, regional imbalances and migration. Employment may be generated in both organized and unorganized sector through proper planning; utilization of fund, corruption free societies, community participation, self help groups, financial support, participation of local people, increase in tourism potential of a region, proper training and education are helpful in minimizing the rate of unemployment.

Findings:

1. The Urban Unemployment Rate is higher for Male in urban areas while low for Female than the rural areas.
2. Low wage is one of the reasons for quitting jobs in both urban and rural areas .in urban areas the percentage is higher.
3. In both short and long distance migration women dominant over men.
4. Among the youth aged between 15-29 years the unemployment rate is predominantly very high in both rural and urban areas.

Suggested Readings:

Palanithurai, G and Rameh R.(2011) Globalisation and Rural Development, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi

Rajan, Irudaya S.(2011), Migration Identity and Conflict, Rout ledge Publication, New Delhi Yojna, October, 2013.

NSS Report on Employment and unemployment situation in India 2009-10; published in November 2011