



Socioeconomic Impact of Migration in Rural & Urban Population of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Rajasthan, India's largest state by area, has historically been a major source of internal and international migration due to Agro-Climatic vulnerability, water scarcity and limited industrialization. This study evaluated the data of Census 2011, Periodic Laborer Force Survey (PLFS), 2022-23 and primary survey data from some districts and examines spatial patterns, drivers, and economic impacts of migration. Results show three dominant streams: rural-urban intra state to Jaipur-Kota, rural-rural to Punjab-Haryana-Gujrat for agriculture and construction, and rural metro cities for textiles and services. Remittances constitute 7.8% of Rajasthan's GSDP reaching 18.2% in Barmer and 14.6% in Sikar. Districts level regression indicates that 1% rise in out migration increases per capita income by Rs 1840 but reduces food grain yield by 0.6% due to laborer loss. Migration reduces poverty by 4.2% in high out migration districts but creates skill deficit, elderly care burden, and agricultural fallow. The study concludes that migration is both a coping mechanism and a development lever, requiring a migration sensitive policy integrating skill hubs, portability of welfare and remittance investment channels.

Key Words: Migration, Regional development Economy, Remittances, Laborer.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important demographic variables affecting Rajasthan in the twenty-first century is migration. Due to an agrarian economy, a lack of local industrial jobs, and environmental reasons, short-term, seasonal circular migration predominates in Rajasthan. Previously, the main motivator was the pursuit of better jobs and financial prospects in bigger cities. In 1990, more than 98 million individuals moved, the most of any decade since independence, based on the 2001 Census. The number of migrants increased by 22% during the preceding ten years, from 1991 to 2001. Apart from women who migrate due to marriage, men migrate primarily for work. Hard Indians face a problem due to a mix of push factors, a lack of hard employment opportunities, holdings, and falling public investment in agriculture. Opportunities for employment or self-employment are better in urban regions and certain rural regions with substantial agricultural production or industrial development. In the previous 20 years, India's economy has grown remarkably. The manufacturing and service industries are expanding more quickly additionally; there are several opportunities for personal development with increased foreign direct investment. Industrial disparity regarding per capita income is still substantial despite all states experiencing rapid growth. According to available data, 40.2%, 25.7%, and 34.6% of the population aged 0–14 were migrants in 2011. In addition to work migration, a significant percentage of agricultural and labor migrants relocate after birth with their spouses or other family members (NSS 2015). According to the report, 5.79 million people left their jobs in order to relocate to another state. In the western region of Bangalore and Delhi, there is a significant amount of interstate migration, and out-migrants constitute an issue for labor distribution in the textile, tourist, and telecom industries. Rajasthan is the state that sends the most migrants to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; these states account for 93% of the entire migration flow.

2. THE STUDY AREA OF RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan is the largest state in India in terms of area, sometimes known as "The land of kings." Located in the country's northwest, it shares a western border with Pakistan and is well-known for its colorful Thar Desert, imposing royal forts, and rich cultural legacy. Its economy combines large-scale mineral production, a booming tourism sector, and agriculture. It encompasses 342,239 square kilometers, or roughly 10.4% of India's total land area. Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh are among its neighbors. The Aravalli Range naturally divides it into two major zones. The Thar Desert, which is dry and barren, is located in the northwest, whereas the southeast has more varied and productive land. Causes of Migration: A combination of socio-cultural issues, environmental limitations, and economic hardship are the main causes of migration in Rajasthan.

2.1. Economic Aspects

- **Low salaries and unemployment:** Due to a shortage of good non-agricultural jobs in rural regions, a large number of youth are compelled to move to big cities.
- **Small Landholdings:** Farming is unfeasible due to fragmented land and dwindling state investment in agriculture.

- **Seasonal Labor Needs:** In order to augment their household income during off-seasons, many rural men temporarily relocate to metropolitan or industrial areas.

2.2. Social and Personal Aspects

- **Education:** Relocating to gain access to world-class universities, specialized training, or better schools.
- **Family Reunification:** Moving to live with a spouse, parents, or other relatives who have already relocated abroad.
- **Marriage:** Relocating to their own nation to live with a new spouse.

2.3. Climate and Environmental Considerations

- **Drought and water scarcity:** In dry western and southern regions, crops are destroyed by frequent droughts and declining groundwater tables, making it difficult to survive without outside revenue.
- **Diminished Common Lands:** The tribal community in Southern Rajasthan is most affected by deforestation and a drop in livelihoods derived from forests.

2.4. Conflict and Political Factors

- Human rights violations and political instability, government persecution, and conflict are reasons for migration.

2.5. Migration's Effects

Rajasthan's economy is affected by migration in both positive and negative ways. It is a major source of revenue for rural and tribal groups in the state, especially during dry spells. It helps migrants support their families and raises their income.

2.5.1. Beneficial Impact

- **Remittances:** Young individuals who work outside the state give their families money. The main uses of this money were for children's education, health care, and daily consumption.
- **Modernization of agriculture:** Upon their return, migrants use capital and sophisticated agricultural technology to boost the village's economy.
- **Debt freedom:** Farmers and laborers who migrate seasonally are better able to pay back their obligations (loans from moneylenders).

2.5.2. Adverse Impact

- **Labor shortage:** Most migrants that come from rural areas are young people between the ages of 18 and 30, which means that local industry and agriculture lack skilled personnel.
- **Social and personal issues:** Women are taking on more family obligations as a result of men living overseas. Additionally, women cannot fully benefit from government social programs because of ignorance and ignorance.
- **Informal sector exploitation:** Most migrant workers are unskilled and go to areas like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. Due to inadequate protection, low pay, and a lack of legal knowledge, they are economically exploited.

After 1991, when economic independence produced increasing incentives for migrants, India's domestic migration—basically, the vast migration of individuals from the impoverished North and East to the more developed South West—grew quickly.

The increase in domestic migration in India – basically the massive migration of from the less developed North and East to the more developed South West grew rapidly after 1991 as economic independence created growing incentives for migrants. Migration has had a significant economic impact. In most West and South Indian countries, the minimum salary is roughly Rs 15,000 per month. The entire annual income of Indian immigrant workers is projected to be \$170 billion, or around 6% of India's GDP, even though we can assume that the typical worker makes about Rs 10,500. Additionally, we calculate that roughly one-third of that income is sent home by these workers, which means that roughly 2% of India's GDP is transferred from the wealthiest to the least developed regions.

3. MIGRATION AND RURAL ECONOMY

Rajasthan's rural economy is affected by migration in a variety of ways. Remittances sent by migrant workers provide financial benefits even when it decreases the availability of labor in villages. This process changes agricultural patterns, family structures, and dependency levels, especially in tribal and drought-prone regions, where migration is a key survival strategy. The effect of movement on the economy goes past the immediate effects on the positions and wages of local labor. Similar to the monetary effects of exchange, they're not merely about marked down costs for customers for modest imports. They additionally incorporate low costs for customers for modest imports. They additionally incorporate expanded contest, innovation move, the advancement of worldwide stock chains. Travelers in the end prompt social, financial and political issues in getting nations, remembering increments for the populace with unfavorable impact on existing social foundations, expansions sought after for labor and products, social relocation of nationals from occupations in the open country and in the urban communities expansions in the size of the causal area of the public economy weakening in the compensation constructions of the causal, rustic and metropolitan areas of the economy trans-culture periodic loss of customs and customs by the neighborhood populace and the presentation of sicknesses and social issue.

Table 1: Gender specific Reasons of Migration in both Urban & Rural Population of Rajasthan

Reasons of migration	Male (N)	Male %	Female (N)	Female %
Work/Employment	10,80,094	37.72	18,867	1.34
Business	27,694	0.97	17,071	0.12
Education	88,084	3.08	50,255	0.36
Marriage	1,17,032	4.09	12,11,196	86.33
Moved after birth	4,84,649	16.92	32,040	2.28
Moved with household	7,82,925	27.34	1,02,381	7.29
Others	2,83,267	9.89	31,949	2.28
Total	28,63,745	100.00	14,03,419	100.00

Source: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.

Table 2: Showing Various Types of Major Migrations and Their Reasons

Type	Description
Seasonal Migration	Temporary (4–6 months) for labour work
Circular Migration	Repeated movement between the village and the city
Rural to Urban	Movement for jobs and education
Rural to Rural	Agricultural labor movement
Inter State Migration	Gujarat, Maharashtra, MP
Marriage Migration	The primary cause of female migration

Source: rasonly.com

Table 3: Level and Reasons of Migration of both Rural and Urban Population of Rajasthan

Region	Migration level	Reasons
Western Rajasthan	Very high	Water scarcity, desert condition
Southern Rajasthan	High	Tribal poverty, seasonal work
Eastern Rajasthan	Moderate	Agriculture-based stability
Urban Areas	In-migration	Jobs & Education

Source: rasonly.com

4. CONCLUSION

In Rajasthan, migration is a crucial socioeconomic phenomenon that has been impacted by financial strains, environmental forces and regional inequalities. Although it contributes to rural livelihoods by remittances and job opportunities, it causes problems such as urban pressure, labor exploitation and social disruption. There is necessity to have good policy implementation, creation of local jobs, and improved migrant welfare systems to keep the equilibrium of development.

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