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Agrarian Crisis Unemployment and Labour Migration

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Abstract:

Migrational movements are product of Social, Economic, political and physical circumstances in which individuals groups find themselves. Migration denotes, a permanent or temporary change in the place of residence of persons from one place to another. The combination of drought and limited availabilities of land accelerated the process of labour migration. The landless poor who mostly belong to lower section constitute the major portion of migrants in India.

Keywords: *Labour migration, unemployment, poverty, welfare measures, agrarian crisis, globalization.*

1. Introduction

Unemployment and poverty in rural areas in one of the primary factor of rural-urban migration. Alongside the growth of population, inequalities in the land distribution, lack of credit facilities to landless agricultural labours, etc., are some of the features aggravating rural unemployment. Lack of Infrastructural facilities, proper communication, electrification, inadequate health care system, ineffective implementation of welfare measures, etc., causes the labour migration from rural to urban areas. This paper made an attempt to study about agrarian crisis unemployment and labour migration in rural areas in India.

The rural to urban migration a consequence of the fact that the rural economy being characterized by continuous population pressure, ever declining man-land ratio, additional labour absorbing capacity of agriculture sharply shrinking, lack of non-farm revenues of employment as proliferation of industries to rural areas had made little headway.ⁱ

2. Dimensions of Migrations

According to National Commission Rural Labour (NCRL) study points out, that uneven development within the country has two major dimensions namely, inter-regional disparity in economic growth and the other is the disparity between different socio-economic classes. It identified two sets of reasons for rural labour migrations, (1) migration for survival and (2) migration for subsistence. The first one that is migration for survival denotes, the extreme economic and often social hardships faced by the labourers in rural India and migration becomes an outlet as part of their strategy for survival such migrations consists of mostly landless, unskilled and illiterate people and over half of them belong to the depressed or indigenous communities which are officially referred to as SC/ST's the second reason, that is migration for subsistence denotes relatively a better situation for rural labourers. Their survival may be worked out within the local socio-economic and ecological environment and poverty. Hence, they are compelled to migrate often for shorter duration and to nearby regions as compared to migrants for the survival strategy who had to migrate longer distances and for longer duration.ⁱⁱ

3. Rural Welfare Measures

The problem of poverty is deep rooted and extensive. Many approaches to the problem have been made in terms of area – oriented schemes and target group – oriented schemes, direct and indirect strategies, wage employment, self employment schemes, etc., but poverty eradication continues to be an elusive goal.ⁱⁱⁱ Several programmers providing employment to the rural poor viz., land reforms, food for work, Antyodana programme, annayojana programme, rural landless employment guarantee programme, became unable to achieve its goal and targets.^{iv}

Rural society has been observing numerous measures of development, but even today the target of programmes has not been achieved so far, whatever the faults and lacunae in implementing the plans and procedures would have been, the sole responsibility goes to the administrative and the planning structure of the country. The administration and bureaucratic set-up of the government at the nation and the state level are so complex that the programmes are neither understood completely nor implement seriously.^v

The efforts made so far have failed to bring about any substantial improvement in the levels of weaker section in rural areas. The basic handicap is the limited resources have been spread over a larger area.^{vi}

4. Globalization Age

As a consequence of the Neo-liberal policies followed by the successive governments, there are serious income disparities, agrarian distress, inadequate employment generation in rural side, vast growth of informal sector caused the migratory movement from rural to urban.^{vii}

In India, the last few years witnessed suicide of farmers in many part of the country. Between 1996-2006, suicides were reported from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, etc., In Andhra Pradesh it was cotton farmers, while in Karnataka it was tur, chillies, tomatoes, urad and til; in Maharashtra it was again cotton, orange and soyabean. The farmers took the extreme step when they realized that they can't escape from debt crisis. These suicide cannot be seen as localized phenomena. It underlines the high social cost of globalization and non-sustainable agricultural practices.^{viii}

5. Conclusion

Massive migration from rural to urban increasing day-by-days. Farmers and Agricultural labours are willing to quit farming work and migrate into the nearby cities. This phenomena creates low productivity in agricultural land. The welfare measures, executing by the union and State Governments inadequate. Due insufficient of funds many programmes not implementing properly. Hence, Rural-Urban Migration inevitable in our socioeconomic and geographical fields.

6. References

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