

# **Impacts of Tribal Out-Migration in an Underdeveloped Region of Odisha**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper examined the impacts of rural-out migration on economic aspects of the rural tribal communities of Nabarangpur, a tribal under developed district of Odisha. Three hundred one migrant households have been selected from five blocks of Nabarangpur district through a multi stage simple random sampling. All 301 sample households are out-migration of the said district. A multiple regression analysis is used to measure the impact of short term out migration on gross income of the household. Regression result reveals that, number of day's person migrated positively influences total gross income of the household. The Education level of migrants and type of work did at destination also have positively influence total gross income. The age of migrants have a negative impact on total gross income of the household. From the result of correlation analysis, it is found that, there is a moderate level of correlation between numbers of days worked at destination and annual health expenditure of the family. Total remittance so received has a high level of positive correlation with number of days worked at destination. Health expenditure has positive significant relationship with total remittance and the total source income has negative significant relationship with number of days worked at destination.

**Key Words :** Migration, Tribal, Livelihood, Household, Remittances

## **INTRODUCTION**

Migration implies the movement of people from one locality to another for economic gains. Many economists viewed that, it as an integral part of demographics transformation, reduction of poverty and economic growth. It can be permanent or semi-permanent. Sometimes migration is voluntary, but many times people are forced to migrate. Labour migration is a part of semi-migration *i.e.* temporary migration / seasonal migration. In the state of Odisha and especially in KBK districts (undivided Koraput, Balangir and Kalahandi), migration is frequent and involves millions of families and individuals. This is because of backwardness and the existence of abject poverty. Migration is particularly high among the poor, scheduled tribes (STs) and scheduled castes (SCs). In the absence of alternative sources of employment

opportunities at the local level, they are compelled to opt for migration. Normally the short term migration is observed during the off agricultural season which starts from the month of October/November and continues till May/June. A range and combination of push and pull factors drive migration. Income is one the major driver, with people migrating in search of paid employment. On the basis of sample survey of 301 nos. of tribal migrant households spread over thirty villages in five blocks of Nabarangpur District in Odisha, India., this paper analyses the impact of tribal out-migration on employment and income of tribal's. The demand for labour in both rural and urban areas and anticipated better wages and working conditions are also major motivational factors for out-migration. Further, during interrogation with tribal migrant households, it is observed that, although they have created a little income earning asset after returning from migration,

still, there is an enormous improvement of their soft skill during outside migration and that has helped them in improving their day to day livelihood.

### **Review of literature:**

Migration flows are affected by two broad sets of variables *viz.*, the macro variables or individual characteristics which influence migrant selectivity and macro variables or spatial characteristics of places of origin and destination which influence their relative attractiveness to push out or pull in people. Migration is undertaken with the anticipation that remittances by migrants will finance agricultural and allied investment at the household level in the source area (Quinn, 2009). In many cases remittances are used for productive activities undertaken by the households in the rural origin itself. The NELM that is based on Stark's (1991) model argues that migrants play the role of financial intermediaries and enable their households to overcome financial constraints and achieve higher level of production. Transfers by migrants enable the farm households at the origin to tide over constraints of funds, purchase new accessories and apply modern technology for increasing agricultural yields and production (Taylor, 1988, Taylor and Martin, 2001). Migration and remittances have both direct and indirect effects on the welfare of the population in the migrant sending areas. A cross-country study of 71 developing countries found that a 10 per cent increase in per capita official international remittances will lead to 3.5 per cent decline in the share of people living in poverty (Adams, 2005). Davis *et al.* (2010) find that transfers by migrants are invested in agriculture which improves the productivity of land and raises overall farm production. Sathiyavan and Murugan's (2009) in their study reveals that, there is a direct relationship between the age of the migrants, their educational attainment and landholding size on the one hand and amount of remittances on the other.

The absence of men adds to material and psychological insecurity leading to pressure and negotiations with the wider families which are not always taken in the right perspective (Rogaly *et al.*, 2002). From their study of migration in Kerala, Zachariach and Rajan (2001) find that educations of the children are hampered due to the absence of male members. The impact of migration can be more adverse for women members who have born the additional family responsibilities. The absence of their guardian reduces the chance of acquiring

education (Srivastava, 2003). Migration also leads to child trafficking, growth of child labour (Sundari, 2005; Naik *et al.*, 2009) and inflict sexual harassment on the girls and women left behind at source point. Migrants work for longer hours in adverse conditions at low wages (Pandey, 2011). Volatile nature of job is a major problem faced by the migrant workers. They are not granted any paid holidays and medical benefits in the urban informal sector (Sundari, 2005) and they are running under social and economic deprivation.

### **Rationale of the study:**

In the above review points, many economists opined that, migration is an integral part of demographics transformation having greater potential for poverty reduction and economic growth. Migration is because of backwardness and existence of abject poverty. Migration is particularly high among the poor, scheduled tribes (STs) and scheduled castes (SCs). In the absence of alternative sources of employment opportunities at the local level, they are compelled to opt for migration. Normally the short term migration is observed during the off agricultural season. A range and combination of push and pull factors drive migration. Migrants may be pushed to migrate by debt, poor access to credit. Rural unemployment also drives migration, which is driven by the scarcity of cultivable land, inequitable land distribution and low agricultural productivity. An attempt is made for filling these research gaps on the impacts of migration on employment, income, remittance and other socio economic aspects of tribal's particularly in an under developed district named Nabarangpur in the state of Odisha, India .The present paper made an attempt to examine the impact of migration on socio economic status of migrants.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The present paper seeks to analyze impact of tribal out-migration and to estimate the impact of migration on gross income of the household of 301 nos. of migrant tribal households in Nabarangpur District, a tribal district in Odisha, India. Data for this study were collected by there searcher by preparing a structured questionnaire in person among the migrant workers at their worksites and place of living at the destination and other respondents at their native village during July-October. A five stage simple random sampling procedure was adopted for the purpose. The district, the blocks, the gram panchayats,

the villages and the households constitute the five stages in the process. Respondents of 301 migrant households, from thirty villages in Chandahandi, Dabugam Kosagumuda, Papadahandi and Raighar blocks of Nabarangpur district in Odisha were interviewed to obtain the requisite information. Descriptive statistics like Average, percentage statistical tools were used to summarize the information in quantitative forms and discussions on the findings of the survey have been made. Besides, Correlation technique is used in the study to investigate relationship between migration and different socio economic variables and to examine the impact of migration on gross income of the household, multi-variable regression model has been used. The functional form of the model is given below.

$$GI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 DM + \beta_2 EDN + \beta_3 AGE + \beta_4 TW + \mu$$

where,

GI- Gross income of the household

$\beta$ 's- Coefficients to be determined

DM- Number of days migrated

EDN- Years of schooling of migrated person

AGE- Age of the individual

TW- Type of work a dummy variable

It takes value 1- If work is hazardous  
0- Otherwise

$\mu$ - Error term

The coefficient  $\beta_1$  indicates impact of migration on gross income of the household. We aim to test the significance of  $\beta_1$  to examine impact of migration on income of the household.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result, discussion and conclusions have been presented in three sections. In the first section, the socio-economic profile of migrant tribal households in the sample study area, the distribution of migrants by age, their educational level and the size of their households have been presented. In the second section, the impact of migration have been presented with reference to the size of land holdings and primary occupation and source of income for their livelihood, reasons of inside and outside migration etc. In the third section, analysis is made on impacts of migration on employment and income of tribal migrant households with special reference to the yearly income and availability of employment at the place of residence as well as at the place of migration.

### Socio-economic profile of migrant tribal households:

It is observed that most of the people from the sample study area migrate to different places only for a short period of time and particularly when the agricultural activities are over in the villages. Mostly, the adult members of the families or the heads of the families go to nearby towns and neighbouring States to earn money whereas the other members of the families are left behind in the source. The information on age-wise distribution of migrant population, education level of migrants and family size of migrant households are as follows in Table 1 a, b and c, respectively.

**Table 1 (a) : Age wise distribution of migrants (Figures are in %)**

Sr. No.	Age of migrants	No. of migrants
1.	Upto 20 yrs	38 (12.62)
2.	21-30 yrs	118 (39.20)
3.	31-40 yrs	106 (35.22)
4.	41-50yrs	29 (9.63)
5.	Above 50 yrs	10 (3.32)
	Total	301 (100%)

Source: Primary

**Table 1(b) : Education level of migrants (Figures are in %)**

Sr. No.	Education level of migrant	No. of migrants
1.	No education	170 (56.48)
2.	Primary education	64 (21.26)
3.	Upper Primary	46 (15.28)
4.	Secondary level	19 (6.31)
5.	+2 and above level	2 (0.66)
	Total	301 (100%)

Source: Primary

**Table 1 (c) : Family size of migrant household (Figures are in %)**

Sr. No.	Family size	No. of migrants
1.	Upto 02 members	21 (6.98)
2.	03 to 04 members	119 (39.53)
3.	05 to 06 members	122 (40.53)
4.	More than 06 members	39 (12.96)
	Total	301 (100%)

Source: Primary

The data in the Table (Table 1 a, b and c) shows that, 74.42% of migrants in the study area belong to 21 to 40 age groups, who spend more than 50% of time in a year in destinations to earn money. As regards education level of tribal migrant household is concerned, majority

of the head (56.48%) of the tribal households' family members are illiterate and only around 22.25% of population have the education level up to upper primary and more. The family sizes of majority of tribal households are five and more members. It is found that, 53.49 % of family have more than 5 members. The bigger the family size, the higher was the financial burden to the head of the household and as there is little scope of employment opportunity in the village. Mostly the head of the family / adult members of the families are migrating to nearby cities / towns and or to a distance place for earning their livelihood.

**Impact of migration:**

Migration has diverse effects on the migrants at both sources and destinations. Migration has profound impact on income of the migrants. Of course the impact of migration on the socio-cultural and political environments cannot be denied. In this section the analysis has been made pertaining to the major effects of migration on migrants in the study area. The Table 2(a) presents comparative information on wages per day by the migrants at the destination during seasonal migration and at the source point.

Majority of migrants (95.35%) received only Rs. 100/- Rs. 130/- per day and reaming 4.65 % of migrants receive only in the range of Rs. 131/- to 1 Rs. 160/- per day at the source. It implies that, no migrants earn more than Rs. 160/- per day at source point. On the other hand 74.75 percentage of migrant have earned more than Rs. 160 per day at destination. The scope of higher income at destination causes a motivation of migration. The data reveals that per day wages of the migrants at the destination is comparatively higher than that of at the source.

Further, a comparative analysis is made taking the gross income, remittance earned during period of migration at destination and at the source point a year in the following Table 2 (b).

The above Table (Table 2 b) reveals that, the gross income of migrants taking the both source income and income so received during the period of migration, 63.79 percentage of migrants earn more than Rs. 36000/- during a year and at the same time if we will see the source income and remittance so received during the period of migration instead of gross income, then 35.22% of households have the total income more than Rs. 36000/- during a year. From the Table, it is stated that, no

Sr. No.	Wages per day	At Destination	Source
1.	100-130	43( 14.29)	287 (95.35)
2.	131-160	33 (10.96)	14 (4.65)
3.	161-210	73 (32.44)	-
4.	211-240	33 (21.71)	-
5.	241-270	31 (26.05)	-
6.	271-300	37 (42.05)	-
7.	301-330	51 (16.94)	-
	Total	301 (100%)	301 (100%)

Source: Primary

Sr. No.	Range of wages	Gross income per year (Source and destination)	Income per year ( Source and remittances from destination)	Gross income during the year at source only	Remittances send during the period of migration
1.	Up to 12000	1 (0.33)	9 (2.99)	215 (71.43)	73 (24.25)
2.	12001-24000	39 (12.96)	85 (28.34)	83 (27.57)	105 (34.88)
3.	24001-36000	69 (22.60)	101 (33.55)	3 (1)	86 (28.57)
4.	36001-48000	62 (20.60)	78 (25.91)	0(0)	30 (9.97)
5.	48001-60000	64 (21.26)	21 (6.98)	0(0)	6 (1.99)
6.	60001-72000	45 (14.95)	7 (2.33)	0(0)	1 (0.33)
7.	Above-72000	21 (6.98)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
	Total	301 (100%)	301 (100%)	301 (100%)	301 (100%)

Source: Primary



**Fig. 1 : Income earned at destination and at source**

households earn more than Rs. 36000/- per year at source point. Low income at source induces the migration for supplementing the livelihood. The Fig. 1 also shows the income earned at source and destination.

**Relationship between migration and economic indicators:**

The correlation analysis depicts us that numbers of days worked at migrated place and annual health expenditure of the family have positive relationship. There is a moderate level of correlation (.197) between numbers of days worked at migrated place and annual health expenditure of the family at 1% level of significance. Total remittance has high level of positive correlation (.779) with number of days worked at migrated place at

1% level of significance. Total source income has negative significant relationship with number of days worked at migrated place at moderate level (-.214) with 1% level of significance. If the person is living more days at migrated place, he is less engaged in activities at source for which income becomes low. Thus above mentioned variables have negative relationship. Health expenditure has positive significant relationship with total remittances. Work at migrated place is comparatively less environmental friendly. So the person needs to spend more on the health. Therefore total remittance has positive significant relationship with health expenditure. Health expenditure has also positive relationship with total source income, but the relationship is not significant one. As work at source is comparatively safer, for which the person requires less health expenditure, thus the relationship is not significant one. Total remittance has negative significant relationship with total source income. The result from correlation analysis depicts that there is some relationship between migration and economic variables of household. So we proceed to examine the impact of migration and other variables on income of the household.

The regression results shows us that number of days person migrated positively influence total gross income of the household. One day increase in migration increases 209 rupees of income to the household at 1% level of significance. So migration is positively influencing income

**Table 2 (c) : Correlation analysis on migration and economic indicators**

Variables	Nos. of days worked at destination	Health expenditure	Total remittance	Total source income
Nos. of days worked at destination	1	.197**	.779**	-.214**
Health expenditure		1	.144*	.036
Total remittance			1	-.160**
Total source income				1

\*\* , \* Represents the correlation is significant at 5% and 1%, respectively N= 301

Source: Primary data

**Table 2 (d) : Regression model of impact analysis**

Variables	Unstandardized coefficients	Standardized coefficients	't' value	Sig.
Constants	11171.894**		3.402	.001
No. of days migration	209.477**	.660	19.213	.000
Education of migrant	139.150	.026	.704	.482
Age of migrant	-95.774	-.047	-1.266	.206
Type of work	13901.207**	.359	10.502	.000

R square- .674 F statistics - 153.033\*\*

\*\* , \* Represents the correlation is significant at 5% and 1%, respectively N= 301

Source: Primary data

of the household. As unstandardized beta is highest among other variables, this states that migration is the most important variable in explaining income of the household. Education of the person also positively influences income of the household, but the impact is not significant one. Age has negative impact on total gross income of the household. As age increases by one year, income reduced by Rs. 95. But the impact is not significant one. Type of work here is a dummy variable. Person engaged in hazardous work takes value 1 and other as non-hazardous which takes value 0. The results shows that if a person engaged in hazardous works, his total gross income is increased by Rs. 13901. Therefore type of work has positive significant impact on total gross income of the household at 1% level of significance.

### Conclusion:

A numbers of studies have been conducted at international, national and regional levels to find out the impact of the migration on economic aspects and have suggested for broader prospective and development of the region. The Govt. and local administration should ensure the improvement of social infrastructure in the rural areas so as to improve the quality of life of the rural people and consequently, self-sustaining skills acquisition centres are to be established in different parts of the study area for skill improvement. Finally, concerted effort should be made towards improving the agriculture capacities of the rural populations and creation of irrigation potential since agriculture is their main source of livelihoods and if their agricultural capacities will improve, it will translate to increased agricultural produce and ultimately reduce the dependency of the rural households on remittances for survival. However, if diligently implemented these recommendations, it will go a long way in augmenting the contributions of rural-out migration towards socioeconomic development of the study area. In this paper, it is ascertained that, generation of employable opportunity, access to employment, creation of awareness on different schemes available at their door step by Govt., up gradation of their skill and continuous follow-up and monitoring by different stake holders will address this issue to a large extent. The poor socio-economic condition of the people of the district will need to be addressed categorically by Govt. through such specific intervention, and then and there the issue of distressed migration will be minimised.

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