

Original Research Article

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Perceived Conditions of Interstate out Migrated Rural Youth of Assam for Adopt Agricultural Activities

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Interstate out migration,
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The study on causes and perceived conditions of interstate out migration of rural youths of Assam was conducted with 150 respondents. The present study was conducted at Hyderabad. The respondents were rural youths of Assam migrated to Hyderabad and worked in unorganized sector. The Snow ball technique was applied to select the respondents. Majorities (88.67%) of the respondents wanted to leave their present job and was ready to return back to their villages. If the respondents will return back, the majority (39.85%) of them preferred non-farm activities, 21.80 per cent of the respondents interested on off farm activities, 21.06 per cent (21.06%) of the respondents would adopt farming and 17.29 per cent (17.29%) of the respondents would start their own business at their villages.

Introduction

According to 2011 census the population of Assam was 31.16 million out of which 2,607,034 numbers of people living in rural areas, and 43,98,542 numbers of people living in urban areas.

The youth who are living in rural areas mostly depends on agriculture. However, presently, a trend is observed that rural youths are now reluctant for farming activities and looking for alternate livelihood sources. Because of that they are moving out from rural to urban areas, mainly for non-farm livelihood activities. This also leads to large scale interstate out

migration of rural youth from Assam (Population Totals Assam, 2011). FAO (2008) reported that rural out migration tends to exert a downward pressure on agricultural labour per capita.

Many literatures reported that movement of migrants away from rural areas, decreased labour available for farm work (Adebayo and Ajayi, 2001; Angba, 2003; Katz, 2003; McCarthy *et al.*, 2006 and Parganiha *et al.*, 2009).

It ultimately negatively impacted agricultural production. It was indicated that out migration and remittances undermine traditional

agriculture. Ofuoku and Chukwuji (2012) revealed that migration impacts negatively on plantation agriculture.

Sainath (2013) mentioned that India is losing more than 2,000 farmers every single day and that since 1991; the overall number of farmers has dropped by 15 million. Large-scale migration of rural youth, by withdrawing themselves from farming, to urban areas for non-farm work has caused concern among the country's agricultural policy makers.

If this trend is not checked, is likely to affect agricultural activities in the future. The present study has been conducted with an objective to know the perceived conditions under which out migrant will return back to their villages and adopt agricultural based livelihood activities.

Present study was carried out with following objective.

To determine the perceived conditions under which out migrant will return back to their villages for agricultural based livelihood activities.

Materials and Methods

The Research design of the present study was "exploratory study". The present study was conducted in Hyderabad city of Telangana state. The state of Telangana comprises of 10 districts among those districts Hyderabad city was purposively selected for the present study. A multi stage sampling design with the snow ball technique was followed in the present study, and total 150 respondents were selected with the snow ball technique. The collected data were coded, tabulated and analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the study utilizing various appropriate statistical procedures like calculating frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Perceived conditions under which out migrant will return back to their villages

Interest to return back to their villages

The data in the table 1 shows that the majority (88.67%) of the respondents would leave their present job and ready to return back if better opportunities are found. Only 11.33 per cent (11.33%) of the respondents expressed that they will continue the job at destination and will not return back permanently to their villages.

The data in the table 1 shows that the respondents who would interest to return back, the majority (39.85%) of them preferred non-farm activities, 21.80 per cent of the respondents interested on off farm activities, 21.06 per cent of the respondents would adopt farming and 17.29 per cent of the respondents would start their own business.

The conditions needed to adopt agricultural based activities

From the data table 2 it was found that all 28 respondents (100.00%) needed the conditions of availability of subsidized fertilizers, pesticides and quality seeds. About 96.42 per cent (96.42%) of the respondents needed implementation of crop insurance scheme in flood affected areas, 92.85 per cent (92.85%) of the respondents needed the condition of availability of crop loans, 85.71 per cent (85.71%) of the respondents needed irrigation facilities, 82.14 per cent (82.14%) of the respondents needed training on remunerative crops, transportation and marketing facilities for crop output and 75.00 per cent (75.00%) of the respondents needed extension officer's support and guidelines. These are some common problems faced by the farmers of Assam.

Table.1 Interest to return back to their villages

Sl. No.	Questions	Response category	Frequency	Percentage
1	If given a chance or good opportunity come, will you return back to your village	I will continue the job at destination	17	11.33
		I will leave the job and return back to my village	133	88.67
Total			150	100
Sl. No.	Questions	Response category	Frequency	Percentage
1	If you return back to your place what work will you preferred	Farming	28	21.06
		Farming and Off farm	29	21.80
		Non farm	53	39.85
		Own business	23	17.29
Sub Total			133	100

Table.2 The conditions needed to adopt agricultural based activities

Sl. No.	Conditions	Frequency	Percentage
1	Availability of subsidized inputs like fertilizers and pesticides in time	28	100
2	Availability of quality seeds	28	100
3	Need training on remunerative crops	23	82.14
4	Extension officer support and guidelines	21	75.00
5	Availability of irrigation facilities	24	85.71
6	Availability of crop loans	26	92.85
7	Transportation and Marketing facilities for crop output	23	82.14
8	Implementation of crop insurance scheme in flood affected areas	27	96.42

Table.3 The conditions needed to adopt off farm activities

Sl. No.	Conditions	Frequency	Percentage
1	Need higher wages to agricultural labour	29	100
2	Year round guaranteed work in and around the village.	29	100
3	Implementation of the Government schemes for the benefits of agricultural labours.	24	82.75
4	Facilities of credit to start enterprises like poultry, piggery etc. in their small landholdings	27	93.10

Table.4 The conditions needed by respondents to adopt non-farm activities

Sl. No.	Conditions	Frequency	Percentage
1	Getting employment throughout the year	53	100
2	Giving better wages to non farm workers	51	96.22
3	Need credit facilities to start own business if wanted	53	100
4	Need support of government schemes for non farm workers	53	100
5	Provision of training on entrepreneurship development	49	92.45

Once these will solve, people may show their interest to farming again. This finding is in conformity with the results of Tacoli (2002), Zachariah and Rajan (2009), Goldring (2003).

The conditions needed to adopt off farm activities

From the data table 3 it was found that all the 29 respondents (100.00%) who preferred an off farm activity needed the conditions of high wages to agricultural labour, year round work in and around the villages, 93.10 per cent (93.10%) of the respondents needed facility of credit to start poultry, piggery farms etc. in their small landholdings. About 82.75 per cent (82.75%) of the respondents needed the condition of implementation of the Government schemes for the benefits of agricultural labours.

The conditions needed by respondents to adopt non-farm activities

From the data table 4 it was found that all the 53 respondents (100.00%) who preferred nonfarm activities needed the conditions to provide employment throughout the year, needed credit facilities to start own business, needed the support of the government schemes. About 96.22 per cent of the respondents needed better wages to non-farm workers, and 92.45 per cent of the respondents needed the condition to conduct training for entrepreneurship development.

It can be concluded that the respondents were not interested in farming and other off farm activities. The reason was that majority of the respondents have less land holding and the farming is not economically viable. So they were interested in non-farm activities.

This finding is in conformity with the results of Tacoli (2002), Zachariah and Rajan (2009) and Goldring (2003).

Majority of the respondents would leave their present job and ready to return back if better opportunities are found. If the migrants return back to their villages, majority of the respondents adopt non-farm activities. Government should help the rural youth for establishing their own enterprises. Government should also develop the agro eco-tourism sector in the state because the sector has a potentiality to create more employment. It is necessary to provide training, support and guidance for all those occupations which any skill based like carpenters, cobblers, welders, blacksmiths, masons, nurses, tailors, weavers etc. Through Skill India programme it may be done.

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