



Demography India

A Journal of Indian Association of Study of Population

Journal Homepage: <https://demographyindia.iasp.ac.in/>



Migration Dynamics: Explaining Household Mobility and Socio-Economic Impact in (Balasore District) Of Odisha

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Abstract

Migration is a universal phenomenon that plays a significant role in the socio-economic and structural characteristics of the migrant population and their households. Migration has become a pervasive phenomenon shaping the socio-economic landscape of both source and destination countries. This study deals with the socio-economic standard of the households of migrant workers Balasore District in Odisha. This study is based on primary survey and data is collected by using a multistage simple random sampling method and 111 migrant households are selected randomly, it includes both male and female. For analysing the data simple statistics such as average, ratios, percentages t-test, is used for data interpretation to find the determinants for improved economic condition. The result exhibits the interstate migration is much higher than intrastate migration. Lack of Employment opportunities and backward agriculture has forced youth to move in other states and before migration the average monthly income of the people was much lower but the it has increased significantly after migration. The possession of assets owned by migrants such as vehicles, land and machinery for agriculture has increased considerably. In conclusion, economic conditions as well as both social life of migrants has improved significantly in terms of better living of standards, food accessibility, good healthcare and education facilities. The paper highlights a few policy recommendations that the government should make special efforts to expand small-scale industries based on using local resources.

Keywords

Migration, Socio-economic Changes, Household well-being, Income, Expenditure

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Introduction

The movement of people across borders and within countries has significant implications for household well-being, economic growth and social development. Migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihoods is a key feature of human history. Migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. Due to the expansion of transport and communication, they have become part of the worldwide process of urbanisation and industrialization. In most countries, it has been observed that industrialization and economic development have been accompanied by large-scale movements of people from villages to towns, from towns to other towns, and from one country to another (Arun, P.A., and Ajay, P.A. 2017).

The family members' lifestyles can be significantly changed by the earning members. Migration may be a significant component of rural households' diversification of sources of income. Although income plays a significant role in livelihood, the two are not interchangeable. Instead, "livelihood" refers to the resources that define the living that a household or individual gains together with household agency. Families typically vary their sources of income by migrating and participating in various income-generating activities (Ellis, 2000). The migrants who move to urban settings primarily for better earnings have a significant impact on the economy of the rural areas or the place of origin, i.e., from where the migration has taken place. The migrant typically maintains economic contact with the households and communities they leave behind, and these contacts are especially

important when markets are dysfunctional (Stark and Bloom, 1985).

Review of literature

The migrants from Kashmir by migrating in other states are engaged in unskilled as well as high paid jobs. With higher earning, the migrants started spending on consumption as well as investment at their native villages (Bhat & Rather, 2024). The migrant's workers have edge over the local workers in Kerala because they are not only ready to work at lower wage rate. The level of education and wage rate are positively related for migrants. The higher wage rate of Kerala attracts migrants significantly (Baiju & Shamna, 2019).

Inter-caste violence, agricultural distress and indebtedness are major reason of migration Tirupur. Migrants use their saving for meeting the basic needs at their source. There is improvement in the living of standards but some challenges also arise for migrants (Jegadeesan, & Fujita, 2014). The better wages, employment opportunities attract the migrants. Migration improves the living conditions of migrant's families by paying accumulated debt, increased expenditure on basic needs (Nayak & Kumar, 2017). The severe unemployment, distress driven by poverty and lower wage rate at source compelled to migrants to migrate in Aligarh city of India. The migrants do not come from the vicinity of city but different parts of the country. The socio-economic condition is miserable (Mariya et al., 2019). The incidents of distress migration occurred in the western Odisha due to extreme poverty and low income of the households. The conditions of migrants have improved which can be

witnessed with the higher standard of living post-migration (Bag et al., 2021).

Objective

- To analyse the reasons for the migration of the members of the household in of Balasore District in Odisha.
- To examine the socioeconomic standard of the households of migrant workers of Balasore District in Odisha.

Data and methodology

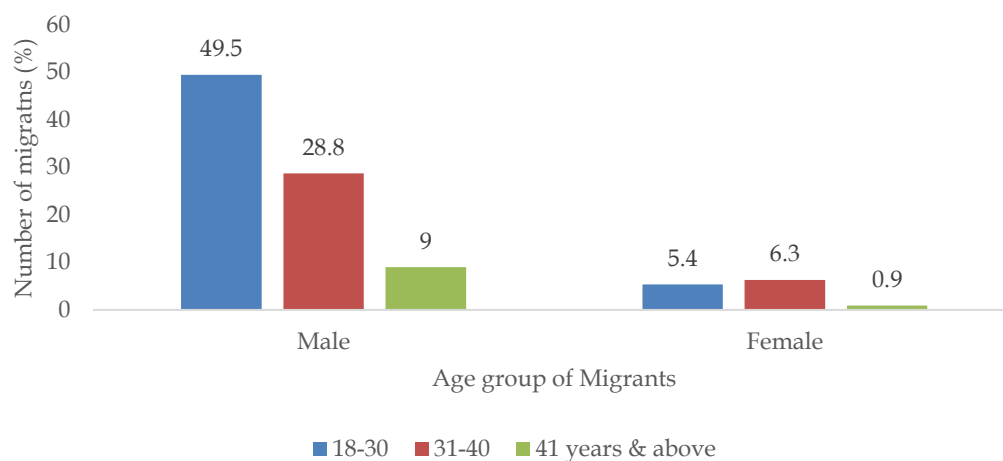
The nature of the current study is both descriptive and analytical. The primary survey is done for collecting the data and a multistage simple random sampling method is used, other techniques such as participant-observation and in-depth case study methods is also be used. Balasore District is one of the most migrate prone area

according to census 2011; there are limited studies on specific to migration. There are 12

blocks in Balasore District; out of these, the Bhograi block is selected as it is the largest in area and population and have maximum number migrants compare to another block in this district. Out of 50 panchayats two panchayats are selected in Bhograi block and out these two panchayats six villages are selected. As collected from the District Rural Development Agency, there have been 9987 migrants, including 8398 male migrants and 1589 female migrants, from Bhograi Block. A structured questionnaire is administered among the one hundred and eleven migrant households by talking proportionately ten percent from both male and female migrants randomly. Simple statistics such as average, ratios, and percentages are used to analyse the data. and T-test, is used for data interpretation to find the determinants for improved economic condition.

The Profile of migrant's workers

Under profile of migrant's workers, the fig 1, shows the gender and age-wise distribution of migrant workers in the study area.

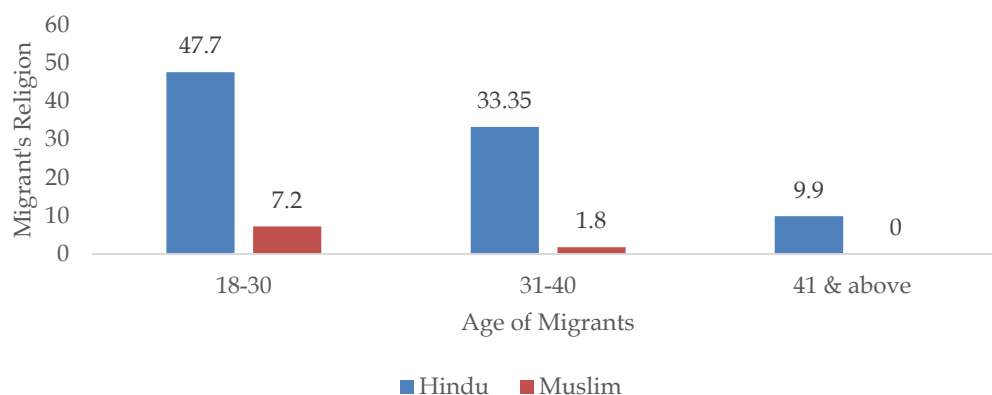


Sources: Field survey (created by researcher)

Figure 1 Profile of migrant workers

87.5 percent of the migrants are male, while 12.6 percent are female. So, the percentage of female migrants are less in comparison to the male migrants, as the mobility rate is more among males than females. About 55 per cent

are between the ages of 18 - 30, while only 35.1 percent and 9 percent are between the ages of 31 - 40 and 41 and above, respectively, indicating that migration is observed among the younger generation.



Sources: Field survey (created by researcher)

Figure 2 Age & Religion Composition of Migrant Workers

The study shows that 91% of respondents are Hindu, and 9% are Muslim, with no other religions. At the block level, 0.4 percent, 0.01% belong to Sikh and Buddhist religions.

The study reveals that married individuals have migrated more than unmarried individuals, with 57.7% of household

members being married and 42.3% not. The caste composition of migrants includes General, OBC, SC, and ST categories, with 51.35%, 21.62%, 22.52 percent, and 4.50% respectively, indicating a consistent representation of these groups in the population.

Table 1 Gender of migrant worker

Educational qualification	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Illiterate	1.80	2.70	4.50
Primary (1-4 class)	2.70	0.90	3.60
Middle (5-8 class)	18.90	1.80	20.70
Senior Secondary (9-10 class)	47.70	5.40	53.20
Higher Secondary (11-12)	10.80	1.80	12.60
Graduation & above	5.40	0	5.40
Total	87.40	12.60	100.00

Sources: Field survey (percentage calculated by researcher)

The table 1, indicates that after senior secondary, migration is increasing, with 53.2% of respondents being 10th-passers, with 47.7%

male and 5.4% female. The percentages of illiterate, primary, middle, 12th, and graduate students are also high.

Table 2 Types of houses of migrants

S. No	Types of Houses	House at source (%)	House after migration (%)
1	Pucca house	43.2	91
2	Sheet	1.8	6.3
3	Tiled	24.3	2.7
4	Kucha house	30.6	100
5	Total	100	100

Sources: Field survey (percentage calculated by researcher)

Housing type and economic condition are key factors in determining residential status. In Bhograï block, only 43.2% of families had Pucca houses before migration due to Indira

Awaz Yojana benefits. Today, 91.0% have Pucca houses, with most being migration-owned. Migration has improved living conditions for migrants.

Table 3 Facilities available to the migrant households

Toilet facilities	Share (%)	Cooking Facilities	Share (%)	Drinking water	Share (%)
Individual's own Toilet	94.6	LPG gas	27.9	Public Tap or Borewell	97.3
Community/public toilet	3.6	LPG & Firewood	64	Water Tank	0.9
Open	1.8	Others	8.1	Others	1.8
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Sources: Field survey (percentage calculated by researcher)

All migrant families have access to electricity, with 94.6 percent relying on their own toilets provided by the government. The remaining 3.6 percent use community or public toilets, and 1.8 percent use open toilets. 27.9% rely on LPG gas, while 64.0 percent use it infrequently

and rely on firewood and cow dung. 97.3% depend on public taps or borewells, and 9% have their own water tanks. 91.9% of migrant households have BPL ration cards, while 8.1% do not. However, the living conditions of some migrant households are not satisfactory.

Reasons of migration

The causes of migration are work, school, marriage, starting a family, and natural disasters. A large number of migrants cited "no work" as the primary reason for their

migration. People migrate due employment opportunities (86.5%), unavailability of work (73.9%) and higher wage expectations (85.6%). Another factor includes debt repayment, better future for family, and urban living conditions etc.

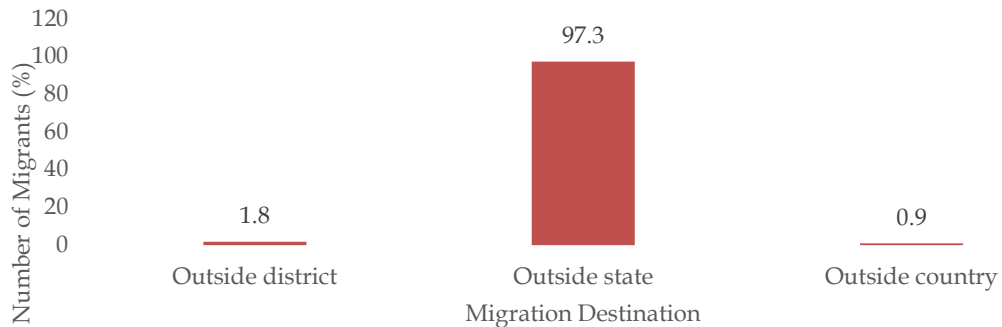


Figure 3 Destination of Migration

Sources: Field survey (created by researcher)

In Odisha, inter-state migration is much higher than intra-state migration. Lack of industrial development and backward agriculture have encouraged youth to migrate outside the state. The analysis shows that 1.8 percent of migrants in Odisha have migrated to other districts, while 97.3% have moved to other states, and only 0.9% have migrated

outside the country for work, indicating minimal differences in industrial development.

According to the figure 4, The percentage share of permanent and contract are 4.5 percent and 95.5 percent.

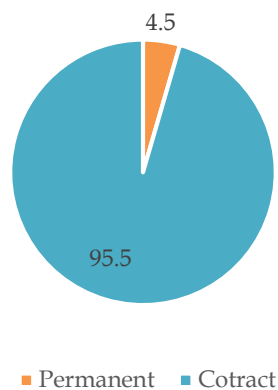


Figure 4 Types of work

Table 4 Work engaged by migrant worker before migration

Workers before migration	18-30	31-40	41 years & above	Total
Agriculture	1.80%	4.50%	3.60%	9.90%
Not engaged any work	50.50%	27.90%	5.40%	83.80%
Others	2.70%	2.70%	0.90%	6.30%
Total	55.00%	35.10%	9.90%	100.00%

Sources: Field survey (calculated by researcher)

According table 4, about 9.9 percent of migrants were farmers, and 83.8 per cent had no work prior to migration and 6.3 percent of migrants

work in other occupations such as fishing, brick industry labour, and small farming.

Table 5 Work engaged by migrant worker after migration:

	18-30	31-40	41 years & above	Total
Front office reception (malls & hotels)	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	2.70%
Construction sites	0.00%	0.00%	1.80%	1.80%
Working in Restaurants	23.40%	14.40%	0.90%	38.7%
Security Staff	0.00%	0.00%	1.80%	1.80%
Supervisor	720.00%	270.00%	0.00%	9.90%
Domestic help	0.90%	1.80%	0.90%	3.60%
Service	0.00%	0.90%	1.80%	2.70%
Skilled Labour types (Electrician/ tailoring/ auto-repairing/ carpentry)	7.20%	7.20%	0.00%	14.40%
Others	13.50%	8.10%	2.70%	24.30%
Total	55.00%	35.10%	9.90%	100.00%

Sources: Field survey (calculated by researcher)

Table 5 shows that a large number of migrant laborers are employed hotel and restaurant settings, with a majority working as serving staff and providing skilled labor services. Only a small percentage are security staff, supervisors, domestic helpers, and skilled

laborers. The remaining 24.3 percent are involved in miscellaneous activities such as driving, vehicle parking, and pickle factories, which are largely informal. This indicates that a significant number of migrants are employed in these sectors.



Figure 5 Income of the migrant workers

Figure 5, a significant increase in migrants' income status, with 85.60% earning money after migration, compared to 0% before. The maximum increase was found in the 10001-20000 income category, followed by 62.20% in the 10001-20000 category and 24.30% in the 20001-30000 category. However, the percentage increase in the higher income bracket (over 30000) is only 0.90%, indicating less potential for earning at higher income levels. 50.6 percent of migrants' workers plan to acquire more assets post-migration, while 41.4 percent do not due to low incomes. In the study area, 51.4% have over 500000 assets,

while 45% have 40001-50000, 2.7% 30001-40000, and 9% 200001-30000.

Tests of hypotheses

Hypothesis Testing-1:

H0: There is no significant difference between monthly income through wages of migrant workers before migration and after migration

H1: There is significant difference between monthly income through the wages of migrant workers before migration and after migration

Table 6 Monthly wages of migrant workers before and after migration- "t" test paired Two Sample Test

Sl.No	Variables	Mean	N	Standard Deviation
1	Monthly income through wages of migrant workers after migration	18468.4685	111	631.52505
2	Monthly income through wages of migrant workers before migration	1054.0541	111	251.72227
	t-Test			25.689
	D f			110
	p-value			.000

In the present study, a paired two-sample test was conducted regarding the income of the migrant workers before and after migration. The above Table 3.16 indicates that the mean values of migrant workers before and after migration are 1054.0541 and 18468.4685, and the corresponding standard deviation values are 251.72227 and 631.52505. However, in this paired two sample t-test, the result shows that the calculated t-value is 25.689 and the p-value is .000, which indicates that the t-value is very high and that it is statistically significant at 1 as well as 5 percent as the calculated p value is less. 01. It means there is a significant difference in the mean income of the migrant

workers before and after migration. Hence, the result indicates that the mean income of the migrant workers has increased because the mean value before migration was 1054.54, which is less than the 18468.4685 mean value after migration

Hypothesis Testing-2:

H0: There is no significant difference between the expenditure of migrant workers before and after migration.

H1: There is a significant difference between the expenditure of migrant workers before and after migration.

Table 7 Approximate monthly family expenditure (Rs. 000) before and after migration- “t” test paired Two Sample Test

Sl.No	Variables	Mean	N	Standard Deviation
1	Approximate monthly family expenditure (Rs in Thousand) after migration	14432.4324	111	251.97715
2	Approximate monthly family expenditure (Rs in Thousand) before migration	8509.0090	111	951.63513
	t-Test			6.123
	D f			110
	p-value			.000

In the present study, a paired sample t-test was conducted regarding the approximate monthly family expenditure of the migrant workers before and after migration. The above Table 3.16 indicates that the mean values of migrant workers before and after migration are 8509.0090 and 14432.4324, and the corresponding standard deviation values are 951.63513 and 251.97715. Moreover, in this

paired two-sample t-test, the result shows that 6.123 is the calculated t-value and the p-value is .000, which indicates that the t-value is very high and it is statistically significant at 1 percent as the calculated p value is less than .01. It means there is a significant difference in the mean score of monthly family expenditures of the migrant workers before and after migration. Hence, the result indicates that the mean family

expenditure of the migrant workers has increased because the mean value before migration was 8509.0090, which is less than the 14432.4324 mean value after migration.

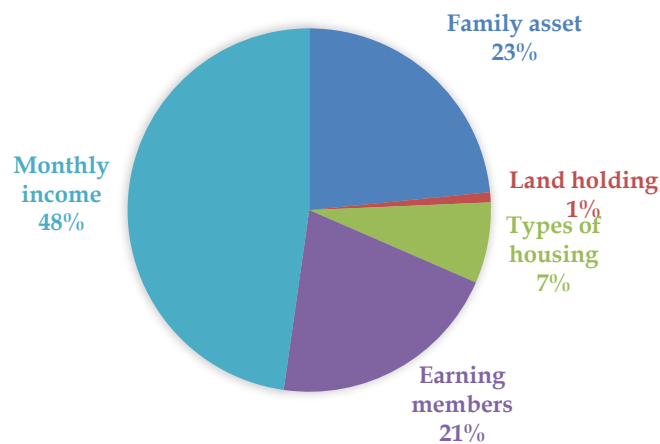
Total amount of debt of the migrant workers before and after migration

The study reveals that 31.5% of households in the study area are under debt, with over 30000 having no debt before migration. They take loans from banks, money lenders, SHG

groups, and co-operative banks, with 15.3% taking loans from banks and 9.9% from money lenders.

Total amount of debt after migration

The study reveals that 30.6 percent of households in the study area are currently in debt, with 27.9% of migrant households having debts exceeding 30000 rupees, 1.8 percent having debts between 2001-30000, and 0.9 percent having debts between 10001-2000.



Sources: Field survey (created by researcher)

Figure 6 Improvement in Economic condition after Migratio

The study reveals that 99% of migrant households reported improved economic conditions after migration, with 47.7% agreeing on monthly income improvement, 23.4% on family assets improvement, and

21.7% on earning members improvement. Housing type also improved, while land holdings improved by only 9%. The majority of respondents agreed that their economic situation improved after migration.

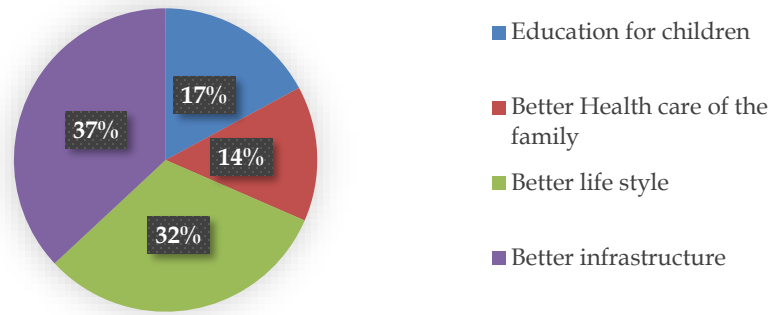


Figure 7 Social condition of migrant households after migration

Sources: Field survey (created by researcher)

The study shows that social life improves after migration, with a majority of respondents agreeing. 36.9% believe it's due to better infrastructure, 31.5% a better lifestyle, 14.4% better family healthcare, and 17.1% better education for children. However, only 17.1% see improvement in education for children. Overall, the study highlights the positive impact of migration on social life.

Conclusion

The impact of migration on the socioeconomic status of migrant households in the sample area of Bhograi block in the Balasore district is the main focus of the current study. The pull factors attracting these migrants are better living and work opportunities in developed and urban areas. In earlier times, the majority of migrants were drawn by higher wages found outside the state. In the past, a lot of people travelled outside of the states to work as labourers in factories, hotels, restaurants, and other urban functions. Males of working age represent the majority of the migrants in the area. Despite their low levels of education, the majority of them are literate. Migration has influenced the socio-economic conditions of

the region. Since they went away, migrants' income has increased. As a result, they have more assets now than before the migration, such as vehicles and machinery for agriculture. They are now living better lives and have constructed better houses. The region's social structure has also changed as a result of migration.

Limitation of the study

The current study dealt with some limitations in terms of primary and secondary data collection. The nature of the study makes it difficult to capture a sufficiently large number of households in a randomly selected sample of survey data, such as the kind used for analysis in this study. In the Balasore district, out of 12 blocks, only the Bhograi block will be selected for this study, so those findings are not applicable for the entire district. The important aspect of the study is its intensive focus on the socio-economic condition of the migrant households. so that the collection of primary data through field surveys proves to be a difficult experience while interviewing the respondents. Tactics have been adopted to make them deliver the truth. non-availability of recent secondary data on migration.

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