PATTERN OF MALE OUT-MIGRATION FROM RURAL ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

Male out-migration has become a way of life particularly among the rural households of Odisha. For decades now, the rural parts Odisha, have been witnessing huge exodus of male members to urban centres due to the lack of non-farm jobs and industrial underdevelopment. Out-migration is one of the common strategies used by men in rural areas to overcome the uncertainties associated with agriculture and also as a means to diversify their income. This paper attempts to study the pattern of male out-migration for economic reason from rural Odisha using data collected through a primary survey conducted in four villages of Ganjam district.

KEYWORDS: *Out-Migration, Socio-economic Characteristics, Odisha, Ganjam, Rural-Urban Migration*

INTRODUCTION

Odisha has had a long history of large scale economic migration which is triggered by both push and pull factors. Small and fragmented nature of land holdings, single-cropping pattern, general backward nature of agriculture, poor irrigation facilities and limited industrial infrastructure have been pushing male migrants from the states for generations to other developed parts of the country. This is especially true for the southern coastal district of Ganjam which also faces the wrath of natural calamities like cyclones, floods and drought on a regular basis because of which the livelihood opportunities available to its residents are also affected. On the other hand, the obvious pull factors that attract male migrants of the state to other industrially developed states of the country are availability of jobs and better wages. As a result, over the past three decades, migration has emerged as a major livelihood strategy among the working age men of the state.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the migration destinations of the male out-migrants from Rural Odisha who are moving out because of economic reasons.
- To study the socio-economic background characteristics of the rural male out-migrants from the study area.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on data collected from a primary survey conducted in 4 villages of Ganjam district in Odisha.

A household questionnaire was administered on a total of 373 households, which included 232 out-migrant and 141 non out-migrant households, selected using non probability convenience sampling technique. Also, an individual schedule was administered on 193 out-migrants from the area to collect details of the migration process and the destinations. Quantitative analysis of the data was done using SPSS 20 version. A binomial logistic regression analysis has been performed to understand the effect household background characteristics on male out-migration from the area.

FINDINGS
Migration destinations of the out-migrants from Ganjam

- Most of the migrants from the area were long-term migrants who worked at the destination city throughout the year and visited their families mainly during major festival for short period of time
- Migrants from the study area were mostly going to western and southern India. Almost half of the total migrants from the area had moved to industrial states like Gujarat (26.4 percent) and Maharashtra (24.9 percent) in the west. Nearly one third of the out-migrants had moves to southern states of Tamil Nadu (14.5 percent), Andhra Pradesh (10.4 percent) and Karnataka (6.2 percent).Not many from the area had migrated to the Northern states of India. The capital city of Delhi which accounts for one of

the highest number of migrants in the country was the choice of destination for only 4 out of 193 migrants surveyed for this study.

- In Gujarat, the migrants from Ganjam had mainly gone to cities like Surat, Alang, Bhavnagar and Ahmadabad. More than 18 percent of the migrants from Ganjam had migrated to Surat and were mainly working in the textile industry. The ship-breaking yards of Alang and Bhavnagar are also popular destinations among migrants from Ganjam. These units are largely labour-intensive and provide ready employment opportunities to a large number of unorganised migrant workers from the area.

- In Maharashtra, the migrants from Ganjam had mainly moved to Mumbai to work as construction labourers and also in the garment industries.

- Amongst 15 percent of the migrants from the study area had migrated to Chennai. These were predominately unskilled manual labourers and were working at construction sites. Another 6 percent of migrants had migrated to Bangalore and were working as construction labourers and in the garment industries. Some of migrants from the area had moved to Hyderabad and were working in hotels and restaurants as waiters.

- About 12 percent of the migrants from the study area had moved to Bhubaneswar in order to find a regular source of income. They were mainly working as construction labourers in the capital where their wages there were almost double than what they earned back in the village.

Socio-economic Background Profile of the Migrants

- More than 60 percent of the migrants had migrated out of the village for the first time when they were between 15 to 24 years of age. A person's capacity to engage in work is to a very large extent affected by his or her age. Younger people who are in their 20s and 30s generally display a higher propensity to migrate than those in the older ages as their energy and stamina is at the peak, making them very productive.

- About 48 percent of the out-migrants from the study area reported that they were not engage in any kind of economic activity before moving out of their village because of lack of employment opportunities in the village. At the destination of migration, due to availability of more job opportunities and aided by the information provided by their social networks, most of the migrants reported that they were able to get a job within 7 to 10 days.

- Majority of the out-migrants (64 percent) from the area were unskilled and worked as manual and construction labourers at the destination city. About 35 percent of the total out-migrants surveyed reported of being either skilled or semi-skilled. Semi skilled migrants from the area basically included the welders, carpenters, drivers, factory supervisors, and masons. Migrants moving to Surat to work in the power loom or to Mumbai and Bangalore to work in the garment industries learned all the skills after reaching the destination and

working as a helper for years. So the initial years are difficult for these migrants.

- Majority (63.7 percent) of the migrants covered in the survey were found to be married and were living without their family at the destination of migration. At the time of their migration though, almost 70 percent of the migrants from the area reported that they were they were unmarried.

- Nearly 60 percent of the total out-migrants from the areas belonged to the other backward classes category. Another 20 percent of the out-migrant belonged to the schedule caste group. There was not much presence of schedule tribe population in the study area.

Results of the Binomial Logistic Regression Model

- According to the regression model the variable which were statistically significant in determining out-migration of male members of the households for economic reasons were: size of the household, number of male members in the household, family type, household's land possession and educational attainment of the head of the household. Caste and debt status of the household did not have any significant influence on the out-migration status of the household in the study area.

- Male members from households with a joint family structure were 1.6 times more likely to migrate out of the village as compared to households with a nuclear family set up. Also, results indicate that men living in smaller households were less likely to out- migrate as compared to men living in larger households.

- Men from households that owned some amount of land were 46 percent less likely to migrate as compared to men from households that did not own any land.

- Households, where the head of the household was illiterate, were found to be 1.58 times more likely to have a male out-migrant as compared to the households with literate heads. Illiteracy is generally associated with poverty. And poor households are at larger pressure to send their male members to bigger cities for work.

- Men from households with two adult male members were found to be 41.96 times more likely to out-migrate as compared to those men who were living in households with only one adult male member. On the other hand, households with three or more adult male members were 2.52 times more likely to report out-migration as compared to households with just one male member.

SUGGESTIONS

There is a need to identify opportunities for alternative income generation to provide year long employment opportunities to the people in the rural areas of the state. Steps should be taken for their skill enhancement. More industries especially in agro-based industries should be set up so that people are not forced to out-migrate due to lack livelihood opportunities in the non agricultural season. Livelihood opportunities can be provided to people by promotion of self employment schemes.

CONCLUSION

Most of the men from Ganjam migrate out of villages due to the dearth of suitable avenues for decent jobs. For them, migration was a means to ensure ready cash which was generally not available through the different sources of day to day activities in the village. Migrants from Ganjam mostly migrated to the western and southern states of India. Most of them are unskilled and work as casual labourers mostly in the construction sector. In the study villages, migration was undertaken predominately by the male members of the household alone, though there were a few cases of out-migration of the entire family. Decision to migrate was influenced by a variety of factors, which included not only the individual characteristics of the out-migrants but also their household's background characteristics.

FIGURES AND TABLES
Figure 1: Percentage of Out-Migrants from Rural Ganjam to Different States of India
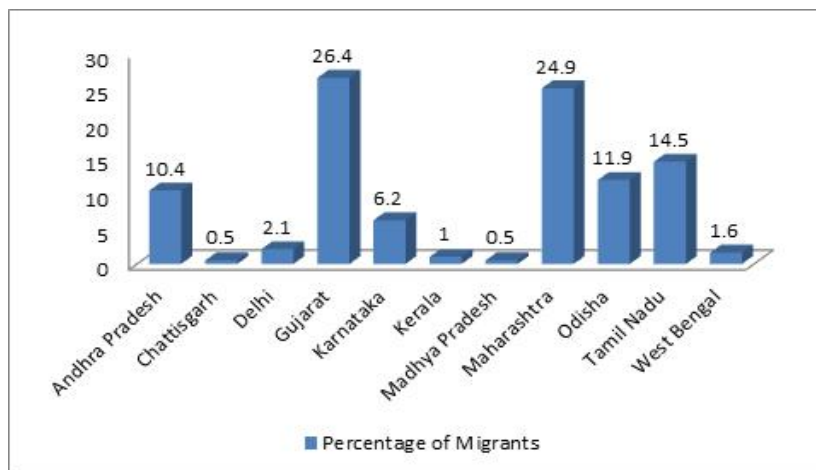

Table 1: Top Destination Cities and the Occupation of Male Out-migrants at the Destination

Destination City	Number of Migrants	Percentage	Working mostly as
Mumbai	45	23.3	Construction labourers, Mason, Garment Industry
Surat	35	18.1	Power loom worker
Chennai	28	14.5	Construction labourers
Bhubaneswar	15	7.8	Construction labourer, Mason, Carpenter
Alang	13	6.7	Labourers in the Ship Breaking Yards
Bangalore	12	6.2	Garment industry, Construction Labourers

Table 2: Percentage of Rural Male Out-migrants from Ganjam by Their Background Characteristics

Age of the Migrant at the Time of Migration	Number of out-migrants	Percentage
Below 15	2	1.0
15-24	117	60.6
25-34	50	25.9
35-44	17	8.8
45 and above	7	3.7
Total	193	100.0
Caste		
Schedule Caste	40	20.7
Other Backward Castes	115	59.6
General	38	19.7
Total	193	100.0
Highest Educational Attainment of the Migrants		
Illiterate	28	14.5
Upto Class 5	41	21.2
Upto Class 7	40	20.7
Upto Class 10	60	31.1
Upto Class 12	16	8.3
Graduation	8	4.1
Total	193	100.0

Marital Status at the Time of Migration		
Never Married	135	69.9
Married	58	30.1
Total	193	100.0
Work Status Before Migration		
Not Working	93	48.2
Working	100	51.8
Total	193	100.0
Skill possessed by the Migrant		
Unskilled	124	64.2
Skilled/ semi skilled	69	35.8
Total	193	100.0

Table 3: Binary Logistic Regression Model to Estimate the effect of background characteristics on Reporting of out-migration by households

Background Characteristics	Categories	Exp(B)
Caste	General Ⓡ	1.000
	Schedule Castes	1.040
	Other Backward Castes	.964
Education of the household Head	Literate Ⓡ	1.000
	Illiterate	1.587*
Type of family structure	Nuclear Ⓡ	1.000
	Joint	1.691*
Size of the household	8 or more members Ⓡ	1.000
	5 to 7 members	.101***
	Up to 4 members	.350**
Number of adult men in the household	1 Ⓡ	1.000
	2	41.960***
	3 or more	2.562***
Land Possession	Landless Ⓡ	1.000
	Households with land	.540**
Debt Status	Indebted Ⓡ	1.000
	Not Indebted	.829
Constant		.898
Dependent variable : Migration status of the household 0= Non out-migrant household 1= out-migrant household		
*** significant at 1 percent	**significant at 5 percent	*significant at 10 percent
Ⓡ indicates reference category		

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