

# Migratory Tendency among Agricultural Labourers in Udhamsingh Nagar District of Uttarakhand

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**Abstract:** Migration refers to shifting of People with the change of residence. It is the result of lack of job opportunities and the basic amenities required for survival. It results in demographic changes in the affected areas. At one hand, it affects size, composition and distribution of population while on the other hand it influences the Social, Political and Economic life of the people of affected areas. Migration of workers from Udhamsingh Nagar District of Uttarakhand which was initially seasonal in character has now become a permanent feature since last three decades. This research paper focuses on the root causes behind out migration from the district Udhamsingh Nagar. The problem of migration in Uttarakhand is being very acute and a matter of concern for the society as well as Governments. Uttarakhand is primarily a rural state with 16793 villages. As per Census of 2011, out of 16793 villages, 1053 have no inhabitants turning them into the ghost villages and another 405 have a population of less than 10. This Research Paper discusses how the migration affects economic conditions of the out migrants of a particular area.

**Keywords:** Survival, Opportunities, Demographic, Inhabitants, Composition

## **INTRODUCTION**

The movement of people from one place to another is an indispensable part of human existence and has been going on since times immemorial. However, all types of human movement cannot be considered as migration.

Those movements which resulted in change of the usual place of the residence of the individuals were treated as migration and the members whose last usual place of residence was different from the present place of enumeration was considered as a migrant. There might be social, cultural, political, personal and natural reasons for migration but it has been studied and analysed prominently as an economic phenomenon. The lack of opportunities at the current place and hope of finding better opportunities elsewhere keep people motivated to change their place of residence.

## **MIGRATION IN UTTARAKHAND**

Uttarakhand is grappling seriously with the problem of out-migration especially the villages are going barren at a very serious rate. As this out-migration occurs in the mountainous regions, land area is badly hit and the villages become 'no man's land'. One of the reasons of the migration in this small hilly state has been rapid increase in population and poor agriculture status. Almost 81 percent of the villages have a population of less than 500 and if we see carefully out of the 13 districts, 75-85percent of the villages have a population less than 500. There are only 17percent villages where population reaches 2000 mark and the villages whose population is more than 2000 are very rare and constitute just 2.7 percent of the total share. As per the Census of 2011, out of the total 16793 villages in Uttarakhand, 1053 have no inhabitants and another

405 have a population of less than 10. The number of such ghost villages has reportedly risen particularly after the earthquake and flash floods of 2013. Recent media reports put the number at 3500. The uninhabited villages account for nearly 9 percent of the villages of the state.

### **MIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE**

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intention of setting permanently or temporarily in a new location. Agriculture and rural development can address the root causes of migration, including rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment, lack of social protection as well as natural resource depletion due to environmental degradation and climate changes. Urbanization is also a cause of migration because people doing migration towards industrial sector, service sector and urban areas from agriculture sector for employment.

Uttarakhand, a state in northern India crossed by the Himalayas, is known as for its Hindu pilgrimage centres. Rishikesh, a major centre of Yoga study, was made famous by the Beatles during their 1968 visit. The city hosts the evening Ganga Aarti, a spiritual gathering on the banks of the sacred Ganges River. The Jim Corbett National Park is a sanctuary and reserve for Bengal Tigers and other native wildlife. Uttarakhand has a population of 10,086,292, making it the 20<sup>th</sup> most populous state in India. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the Republic of India being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Land Area: 53,483 km<sup>2</sup>

Sex Ratio (2011): 963 M/1000 F

Literacy (2011): 79.63%

Udham Singh Nagar is a district of Uttarakhand state in Northern India. Rudrapur is its district headquarters. The district consists of seven Tehsils. The district is located in the Terai region,

and is part of the Kumaun Division. It is bounded on the North by Nainital District, on the northeast by Champawat District, on the east by Nepal and on the south and west by Bijnor District and Moradabad District of Uttar Pradesh State. The district was created in October 1995 by the Mayawati Government out of Nainital District. It is named after the freedom fighter and Indian revolutionary Shaheed –E-Azam Sardar Udham Singh.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Even today agriculture is the backbone of the Indian Economy, although its contribution to national income which was registered at 44 percent in 1951 has decline to 14 percent in 2020. Still, near about two-third of the India's population depends upon agriculture directly or indirectly. It is a source of input to many of the agro-based industries. The development of agriculture depends upon skill level, efficiency and productivity of agricultural labourers to a significant extent. Today, India is not only self sufficient in respect of agricultural production but it also exports agricultural products/produces. The growing mechanization and reduction in size of land holding have resulted in reduced employment opportunities in agriculture sector. It is not possible to improve the living condition of agricultural labourers, unless they get a reasonable return for their services. The findings of various Committees and Commissions on labour as well as past experiences show that the workers in general and agricultural workers in particular have not received their due share which has resulted in their low standards of living. It is important to note that low wages in the farm sector has led large scale migration of the rural population to the urban areas. This is why farm sector of the economy of district Udham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand has been facing acute shortage of agricultural workers, particularly during the peak season of plantation or harvesting.

## **IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The social scientists, economists as well as the statesmen have now realized the contribution of agricultural labour in the process of socio-economic transformation. Particularly in the rural economy of India, the agricultural sector has been found most neglected. It has impaired agricultural transformation when resulted in exploitation of agricultural workers. Of late they face problems like poor rate of wages, disguised unemployment, high incidence of indebtedness, poor social condition and lack of a strong organization. All these problems have resulted in exploitation and oppression leading to miserable conditions of living. Being forced by these problems, the agricultural labourers prefer to migrate. They feel that migration to other places and sectors would enable them to get higher rates of wages and lead a happy life. More than half of rural workers employed in agricultural sector do not possess any land, and even the rest of them are subsistence or marginal farmers.

Agricultural labourers predominantly belong to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes of the society. Census data indicate that there has been a sharp increase in the number of agricultural labourers. This implies that marginal farmers have been swelling the rank of landless labourers. On account of the increasing economy compulsions in the terms of past debts, they have been forced to sell their lands. The technological change in agriculture, migration of small farmers', eviction of tenants, destruction of traditional cottage industries, inflation etc. are some of the important factors that are operating differently in different regions of India leading to the increase in the number of agricultural labourers who are now faced to migrate to other places and sectors. The migratory tendency of agricultural labourers has drawn attention to be studied so that its impact on economic and social condition of agricultural labourers be assessed.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Before preparing the Research Project Proposal, a sincere effort has been made to go through the work done on 'Migratory Tendency among Agricultural labourers' by various researchers and subject experts. Conclusions drawn by them have been summarized as under-

[**Fei and Ranis: 1964**] have agreed that in a situation of labour surplus migration could help in capital accumulation through sectoral transformation. Migration results from the transformation of traditional agrarian sector with surplus labour into a modern industrial sector which goes in tandem with capital accumulation.

[**Dubey, Palmer- Jones and Sen: 2004**] observed that relatively better off sections of the population and higher castes migrate from rural areas, the gaps that emerge are likely to be filled by the poor and the lower castes with implications for economic improvement and poverty reduction in rural areas.

[**Mc Keown : 2004**] concluded that migration had re-emerged as a strong force shaping cities and urbanization and is closely associated with urban transition influencing the demand and supply of labour, economic growth and human well being.

[**Deshignkar and Akhter: 2009**] concluded that internal migration can help reduce or prevent households sliding into poverty in both sending and receiving areas.

[**Bhagat: 2010**] concluded that a significant negative association exists between migration rate and the ratio of rural poverty in the areas of destination.

[**UNDP: 2009**] reports reveals that people rely on international and internal migration to escape poverty and conflict, adapt to environmental and economic stocks and improve the income, health and education of their families.

[Deshingkar and Sandi: 2012] have concluded that migration results in positive impact on building assets and improving the access to education and health care.

[Bhagat: 2012] concluded that migration is not viewed positively in India and policies are often aimed at reducing rural to urban migration. As a result of it, there is a lack of integration of migration with the process of development.

[Bhagat et al 2012] have stressed that emigrants are the potential source of knowledge and skill transfer.

[Kumar and Bhagat: 2017] have concluded that diversification of economic activities and increase in income the areas of origin in India are the result of migration.

[U.N.Habitat : 2017] states that New Urban Agenda reaffirms the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in achieving sustainable cities and urbanization. It acknowledges that safe, orderly and regular migration through planned and well managed migration policies enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and strengthen urban-rural linkages.

### **HYPOTHESIS**

The following hypotheses will be undertaken to analyze the material and the data collected incorporated into the proposed study and also to test the findings of the proposed study:

- i. Agriculture is the dominant employment generation sector in Udhm Singh Nagar.
- ii. In agricultural sector, the workers are skilled enough and they need no training at all.
- iii. The economic and social structure or family background do not allow the

workers to shift their occupation to other sector or places.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of the proposed study are:

1. To analyse the profile of agricultural labourers of district Udhm Singh Nagar.
2. To analyse the Government policies and social welfare programmes towards the agricultural labourers to retain in agricultural sector and empower them.
3. To analyse the migratory tendency of agricultural labourers to other sectors or places of district Udhm Singh Nagar.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

Udhm Singh Nagar district consists of seven Tehsils- Bajpur, Gadarpur, Kashipur, Kiccha, Khatima, Sitarganj. The district is located in Tarai region, and is part of the kumaun Division.

The proposed study would cover:

- (i) Agricultural labourers of Udhm Singh Nagar district residing in rural areas
- (ii) Socio economic variables concerned with economic conditions of agricultural labourers.

### **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

The proposed study will be based on both primary and as well as secondary data. Secondary data will be collected from authentic sources. The primary data will be collected through schedules, personal interviews and discussions will also be conducted to cross check the authenticity of information collected. The schedules will be filled up with utmost care so that all relevant relevant information may be collected for the study in a systematic manner.

The techniques of ratios, percentages and indices would be used in presenting and interpreting the relevant material collected during the course of study. Statistical tools and techniques would be utilized in pertinent manner to establish

relationship among various variables and also in testing the hypotheses.

### **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

To conduct the field survey, sampling method will be used to select representative villages and the agricultural labourers. For the collection of primary data, five villages from each block as representative villages will be selected out of all the seven blocks of Udham Singh Nagar district by random sampling method. Subsequently from each sample village, ten agricultural labourers will be selected by stratified random sampling method. In this way 350 representative agricultural labourers in total as respondents will be selected. Effort will be made to ensure that the units selected are true representative of all sections of the society i.e. general, other backward, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, No gender distinction will be made in selecting units.

### **TIME PLAN**

#### **Year 1**

- I. General Fields Survey of the research area to arrive at the Profile of agricultural laborers i.e. age, category, size of the family, marital status, income of the family, gender,

religion, educational standard, indebtedness position, savings Capability, ownership of durable items

- 2 months
- II. Selection of Sample units  
2 months
- III. Preparation of Schedule  
½ months
- IV. Filling up of schedule  
6½ months
- V. Compilation of data collected  
½ months
- VI. Editing of data collected  
½ months

#### **Year 2**

- I. Feeding edited data in computer  
4months
- II. Using SPSS system for the results  
2months
- III. Chapter wise typing of the material collected  
2months
- IV. Finding from analysis of the data  
1½ months
- V. Conclusions derived from findings  
1½ months
- VI. Preparation of Research Report  
1 months

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED (BUDGET)**

Sr. No	ITEMS	Estimated Expenditure (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Books and journals	0.55
2	Computer with Printer	0.60
3	Field work and Travel	0.85
4	Contingency	0.30
5	Hiring Services	0.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.70</b>