



Impact Of Bihar's Migration On Poverty And Multidimensional Deprivation

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Abstract

Bihar's migration helps in economic development of the concerned families and inflow of income to the state. It also raises concerns about its impact on poverty and multidimensional deprivation at the migrants' place of origin. This article explores how outmigration helps to alleviate poverty and multidimensional deprivation and understands the main reasons for Bihar's poverty. This article is based on some research questions: Why is Bihar the poorest state in India? Which type of multidimensional deprivation exists in Bihar, like health, education, and standard of living? This article is based on secondary data like Census data 2011, Economic Survey 2019-20, NFHS-4, NFHS-5, and a Bihar caste-based survey with some statistical tools.

Keywords: Personal Growth, Poverty, Multidimensional deprivation and Bihar's Migration.

Introduction

Migration is the process of people moving from one place to another, often for reasons such as seeking better living conditions, employment, education, or a change in environment. Bihar's people mainly migrate for livelihood reasons, impacted by natural disasters like floods and droughts. Due to natural disasters, people in Bihar have to face poverty and multidimensional deprivation. Census 2011 data indicates that workers from Bihar's Siwan, Gopalganj, West Champaran, and East Champaran districts migrate to Gulf countries. Comparative study of NFHS-4 & NFHS-5 figures on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value, it is found that the districts from where people have migrated to Gulf countries have trend of decline in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value, which means there is an inverse relationship between

outmigration and MPI value. Therefore, one can say that migration has a positive impact on poverty and multidimensional deprivation of the area which receives inflow of income sent back by migrants. In India, most migrants are from Bihar, with their preferred destinations being economically prosperous states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, etc.

Poverty refers to a lack of financial resources and the inability to meet basic needs like food, clothing, and housing, often measured by income levels. It focuses mainly on economic aspects. On the other hand, multidimensional deprivation encompasses a broader range of factors beyond just income. It considers various aspects of well-being, such as education, healthcare, housing, and social opportunities. Multidimensional deprivation recognizes that individuals or communities can experience disadvantage in multiple dimensions simultaneously. This approach provides a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges people face and helps design targeted interventions to address various aspects of their well-being.

Migration plays a vital role amidst poverty and multidimensional deprivation in society. When a person migrates from one place to another due to poverty, the education of his children can be affected. This hinders access to education, and a lack of social connections can put children in a state of multidimensional deprivation. The role of migration is also important for health. People moving to new places often face a loss of their health, which can lead to multidimensional deprivation. Migration is also important from the point of view of economic development and employment; it gives people the opportunity to seek new and better employment, but with time, it can create problems. For example, those who have gone out of Bihar to Gulf countries also become victims of exploitation and do not have enough money to return to their country, due to which they have to face multidimensional deprivation. When someone migrates, their social relationships may also change; forming social relationships in the community and participating in the local community is often challenging, which may lead to multidimensional deprivation.

Migration also affects a person's morality; sometimes people leave their values and moral principles in different places, which can lead to multidimensional deprivation.

Migration has a cost in terms of many socio-political deprivation and hardship to the concerned families but economic benefits of migration to poor families outweigh the socio-political cost of migration. Migrants from Bihar get better rewarding jobs which improves level of living of these migrant families and there is overall improvement in the poverty condition of the concerned area.

Literature review

Bihar's poverty is largely due to its history of social and political unrest, including caste-based discrimination, violence, and lack of infrastructure in rural areas, corruption, and political instability, which hinder social and economic progress. (kumar, 2023) Bihari's faces multidimensional deprivation so, Bihar faces high out-migrated. In Bihar most of unemployed face short-term, casual, and precarious employment in unsafe

conditions, often living in villages with low remittances, semi-feudal systems, limited access to social protection and basic services, and political exclusion which forces these unemployed to migrate out of the state for better employment opportunities. (Baisantri, 2019) Male migration is likely to improve women position like household decision making, power, autonomy etc., it means despite some hardship to female in the family due to migration of male family member; women are more empowered in these families. (Mahapatro, 2019)

Other study explores that Economic deprivation is not the primary factor in migration decisions in contemporary times, even for seasonal migrants. Both poor and rich households report out-migration, but the reasons and job types differ, indicating that short-term mobility is not limited to the poor. (Kandu, 2007) But Bihar scenario is different. There is no other source for livelihood.

NITI Aayog report shows that 51.91 percent of Bihar's population is poor, with Kerala being the least poor state with only 0.71 percent of its population being poor. Bihar's population is also the highest in the country, with 51.88 percent malnourished. The National Family Health Survey data shows that 39.86 percent of Bihar's population is out of access to electricity, indicating progress in the field. Bihar has a score of 0.265 in the multidimensional index, with rural areas having more poverty. The poorest districts are Kishanganj, Araria, Madhepura, East Champaran, and Supaul. Patna is the least poor district, with Bhojpur, Siwan, Rohtas, and Munger being the least poor district.

Literature Gap

There are various studies on different aspects of poverty and multidimensional deprivation. But existing literature is not exploring migrants' poverty and multidimensional deprivation, which is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, improving access to education and healthcare can contribute to achieving Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), respectively. Goal 3 and Goal 4 are the main reasons for migration from Bihar. In this article, we will try to fill this gap with Bihar data sources.

Objective

This article is to explore two objectives:

- Out-migration helps to alleviate poverty and multidimensional deprivation
- To understand main reason of Bihar poverty

Out migration can contribute to poverty alleviation by creating opportunities for individuals to access better economic prospects, gain skills, and send remittances back to their home communities. Additionally, it may lead to a transfer of knowledge and ideas that can contribute to multidimensional development. However, the overall impact depends on various factors, including the policies in place and the nature of migration. Census 2011 data shows workers from Siwan, Gopalganj, West Champaran, and East Champaran districts in Bihar

migrate to Gulf countries, with a lower MPI value indicating an inverse relationship between migration and MPI. According to these data, we can show that out-migration helps to alleviate poverty and multidimensional deprivation.

Bihar's poverty can be attributed to a combination of factors, including:

- **Limited Economic Opportunities:** Bihar has faced challenges in providing diverse economic opportunities, leading to a reliance on traditional agricultural practices and a lack of industrialization. Bihar's agriculture faces significant challenges, including low productivity due to poor soil fertility, inadequate irrigation facilities, and outdated farming practices, compared to other Indian states.
- **Educational Challenges:** Limited access to quality education and high dropout rates contribute to a less skilled workforce, hindering economic growth and innovation.

Education		
Year	Year of schooling	School attendance
2019-21	18.32%	8.99%
2015-16	15.55%	7.32%

Source* NITI Aayog Report

The education level in Bihar is increasing very slowly, so there needs to be more awareness among the people. They are not getting the benefits of government schemes, and they are going backward and have not been able to get out of poverty.

- **Infrastructure Deficiency:** Inadequate infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and healthcare facilities, can impede economic development and hinder access to essential services. Addressing these deficiencies through strategic investments and focused infrastructure development projects is crucial for fostering sustained economic growth in Bihar.
- **Population Pressure:** High population density can strain resources and services, making it challenging to meet the basic needs of the population. In the 2011 Census, Bihar was India's third most populous state, with 104,099,452 inhabitants, 89% of whom were rural, and the most densely populated state.
- **Social Factors:** Issues like caste-based discrimination and social inequalities can exacerbate poverty by limiting certain group's access to resources and opportunities. To create a more equitable and socially progressive environment in Bihar, comprehensive efforts such as education reforms, social awareness programs, and inclusive development policies are needed.
- **Governance Issues:** Ineffective governance, corruption, and inadequate implementation of policies can impede development efforts and hinder poverty reduction. Bihar faces governance challenges in

infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and law enforcement, necessitating sustained efforts and comprehensive strategies from government and community stakeholders.

These multifaceted challenges are crucial for designing effective strategies to reduce poverty in Bihar. Most poor persons in Bihar are employed in the non-farm sector and migration is their main livelihood strategy. However, their access to electricity, living conditions, and sanitation is low, potentially affecting their health. Despite financial institution improvements, many poor households, especially in less developed areas, still rely on money lenders for credit facilities.

A caste survey report shows that 95.49% of Bihar's population does not own a vehicle, with only 3.8% having two-wheelers and 0.11% owning cars. The report also revealed that 45.78 lakh people work in other states and 2.17 lakh are abroad. (Bhelari, 2023) This report also shed on multidimensional deprivation and poverty in Bihar and reason of migration from Bihar is mainly poverty.

Conclusion

According to the report by NITI Aayog, Bihar is the poorest state in India. Migration of people from Bihar is mainly for livelihood because people have to face a lack of job opportunities, a lack of quality education and healthcare services, and a low standard of living in Bihar. Migration to poor families in Bihar offers economic benefits, such as better jobs and improved living conditions, outweighing socio-political deprivation. Migrants from Bihar experience a decrease in poverty and overall better living conditions. The current poverty alleviation programs in Bihar have not effectively reduced poverty, necessitating a holistic approach to improve social and economic dimensions for a faster reduction.

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