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Impact Of Reverse Migration On India's Economy In Uttarakhand

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Abstract

Reverse migration from Uttarakhand has emerged as a significant phenomenon, influencing both regional and national economies. This study examines its impact on India's economy, with a focus on Uttarakhand, where outmigration from rural, mountainous areas has long been driven by inadequate infrastructure, limited employment opportunities, and poor access to healthcare and education. The return of migrants, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers both challenges and opportunities for the state. Positive impacts include the revival of traditional agriculture, adoption of self-employment initiatives, and increased savings due to lower living costs. Additionally, government initiatives like interest-free loans and rural entrepreneurship schemes have further facilitated economic reintegration for returnees. However, persistent challenges such as fragmented landholdings, inadequate markets, and infrastructure gaps underscore the need for targeted interventions. This research underscores the potential of reverse migration to boost Uttarakhand's economy through sustainable rural development, leveraging local resources, and promoting tourism and agriculture-based industries. Policy recommendations focus on addressing systemic issues to turn reverse migration into a catalyst for inclusive growth. This paper shows Impact of Migration, Migration patterns of people from different districts of Uttarakhand, Reasons for Migration and Associated Ministries, Reasons of Reverse Migration-At the Time of COVID- 19 and after COVID- 19, Reasons for Reverse Migration and Associated Ministries, Impact of Reverse Migration on Uttarakhand's Economy, Impact of Government Schemes on Reverse Migration and Impact of Subsidies (Sector wise) and Beneficiaries for Migrants and Reverse Migrants in Uttarakhand (Region-Wise)

Keywords: Reverse Migration, Uttarakhand, Economic Impact, Rural Development, India's Economy.

Introduction

The state of Uttarakhand, divided into the regions of Kumaon in the southeast and Garhwal in the northeast, is a hill state renowned for its breathtaking forests, snow-capped mountains, and sacred pilgrimage sites that attract millions of visitors annually. Tourism plays a pivotal role in the state's economy, significantly contributing to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and making it one of India's fastest-growing states. Between 2012 and 2018, Uttarakhand's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at a compound annual growth rate

(CAGR) of 5.34%, underscoring its economic dynamism. Uttarakhand's GSDP is estimated to reach Rs. 3.94 trillion (US\$ 47.34 billion) in FY24, expanding at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.86% between 2018-19 and 2024-25. Between October 2019 and March 2024, the state received US\$ 187 million in FDI, and its exports totaled US\$ 1.80 billion in FY24. The state's vast forest cover, accounting for over 70% of its area, not only supports biodiversity but also acts as a vital 'green lung' for the region. Additionally, its diverse agro-climatic zones present opportunities for both traditional and high-value agriculture.

However, despite these advantages, Uttarakhand faces significant challenges in its rural areas. Over 60% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, but this sector is highly vulnerable due to fragmented small landholdings, harsh climatic conditions, rugged terrain, and changing weather patterns. The lack of modernization in farming techniques and low economic returns from agriculture have made migration a common phenomenon in the hill regions. Migration has deeply influenced Uttarakhand's rural landscape, leading to abandoned houses, deserted agricultural lands, and changing rural demographics.

The Rudrapur district, located centrally in the Garhwal region, exemplifies these challenges. Spanning an area of 1,990 square kilometers, the district lies between latitudes 30°10'N–30°47'N and longitudes 78°45'E– 79°30'E. The Mandakini River and its tributaries, which create the region's varied landforms and sustain its communities along the river terraces, shape the district, which is bounded to the north by Uttarkashi, to the west by Tehri, to the south by Pauri, and to the east by Chamoli.. This intricate geography, coupled with its socio-economic conditions, provides a unique lens to study the interplay between migration, rural livelihoods, and the environment.

Migration Trends and Demographic Shifts in Uttarakhand

According to the **Statistical Diary of Uttarakhand 2021-22**, migration significantly contributed to the 30.23% population growth in metropolitan plains during 2001–2011, while the hill districts of Almora and Garhwal experienced a "complete decline" in population. Urban populations grew by 35% double the state average while rural populations shrank by 7%, highlighting a major demographic imbalance. The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) panel's report attributes this shift to migrant influx in the plains and the dissolution of hill villages, many now abandoned as “ghost villages.” Between the 2001–2011 censuses, 350,000 people left the state, and 1,048 villages were completely abandoned. Since 2011, 734 villages (including 186 in Pauri district) have been deserted, leaving homes in ruins and fields overgrown. Migrants cite poor infrastructure, low agricultural yields, wildlife damage, and insufficient healthcare and education as primary reasons for migration, suggesting it's premature to reverse these trends without addressing these systemic issues.

Impact of Migration

The Indian Himalayan Region's (IHR) seasonal and permanent migration has drawn a lot of scholarly interest. The primary factor driving this attention is the extensive consequences of out-migration from this region. The effects of out-migration from the IHR are extensive and go beyond the boundaries of the area. The IHR's peculiarity suggests that out-migration from the region is important on a global scale. It exacerbates the issue of climate change and global warming.

Here are the some adverse effects as follows:

- According to a scholarly study, between 2010 and 2013, 71,410 hectares of agricultural land were abandoned. That is a 10.32% decrease in arable land in just three years.
- Continued rural-to-urban out-migration has resulted in large tracts of abandoned farmland in the state. That, in turn, leads to:
 - Loss of soil fertility and degradation in natural plant succession.
 - Adverse effects on the biodiversity of the area.
 - Breakdown of community support systems.
 - Loss of traditional wisdom related to area-specific ecological conservation.

Villages resurrect

District magistrate Dhiraj Singh Garbyal told IndiaSpend that the return of the migrants has given many deserted villages in Pauri Garhwal new life, with many people starting to till their fields in their spare time.

At the Time of COVID- 19

People who worked in the unorganised and informal industries in metropolitan areas were predicted to experience long-term unemployment and a loss of their livelihoods as a result of the nationwide lockdown, which caused a reverse migration trend. To keep the migrants who came back to the Himalayan state, the Uttarakhand government adopted a number of actions. Due to limited prospects brought about by inadequate development in the hills, Uttarakhand has experienced a significant outflow of people over the years to the plains, other regions of the nation, and outside. They have now been forced to return to home due to the widespread closure of hotels, manufacturing facilities, and other industries elsewhere. During the lockdown, thousands of migrants who had fled Uttarakhand in search of better opportunities are returning. According to analysts, the hill state may correct its socioeconomic imbalance and repopulate abandoned communities situated along a vital international border if migrants return and remain.

Reverse Migration

Now migrant people are returning due to the widespread development of hotels, manufacturing facilities and other industries. The Uttarakhand government conducted an online survey to assess the socio-economic status of migrants. The survey revealed that 60% of returnees were unwilling to work under MGNREGA, while 30% belonged to the minimum income group. Most migrants, aged 30-40, were skilled workers in sectors like hospitality, driving, and electrical work, with many returning from across the country and abroad. Reverse migration was highest in Pauri-Garhwal and Almora, with 45% of returnees expressing a desire to stay in villages and pursue agriculture or small-scale industries. While 80.68 percent of those who returned to Uttarakhand were from other states, 18.11 percent did so from different districts of the state, and 0.92% of the movement occurred within districts, according to data from the Uttarakhand Rural Development and movement Commission (URDMC).

Literature Review

Aranya Ranjan, a social worker in Uttarakhand's Tehri district, highlights the lack of essential facilities like healthcare, education, water, and power for the elderly, women, and children left in villages. Agriculture is also declining due to wildlife destroying crops, discouraging locals from farming. Mahendra Kunwar Singh, founder of the Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), collaborates with self-help groups to cultivate and market 89 varieties of organic produce nationwide. Wildlife threats have reduced since wild boars and monkeys were classified as vermin in 2016 and 2018, allowing local authorities to mitigate crop destruction. The "Ghasiari contest," launched in 2016 in Tehri Garhwal by Trepan Singh Chauhan and Gopalakrishnan, awarded Rs 1 lakh to women showcasing exceptional grass-cutting skills. The initiative aimed to recognize the hard work of women who collect fuel and cow feed from forests. Geeta Gairola, an activist from Pauri Garhwal, highlighted

the dangers women face from wild animals like bears and leopards during these tasks. Malti Devi, from Badait village, urged the government to create employment opportunities for men, enabling families to reunite and work together to develop the hill regions.

Improvements in the sex ratio, but women continue to shoulder the greatest burdens The sex ratio in Uttarakhand's hill regions improved to 1,037 women per 1,000 men (compared to 900 in the plains and 963 statewide) due to male out-migration, according to a 2018 RDMC report. However, this shift brings new challenges for women. Researcher Shankar Gopalakrishnan notes that women left behind must take on greater responsibilities, managing households, land, and livestock. If they accompany their husbands to cities, they often lose independence and rely heavily on their spouses, lacking local support systems (Sharma, 2020)

Results and Discussions

Reasons to Migration

The majority of individuals who migrated 50.16% of the state's total population did so for employment. Education came in second, accounting for 15.21% of migration contributions. Migration is a major cause of population shifts in any region. Migration in Uttarakhand, particularly in regions like Rudraprayag, is shaped by socioeconomic and geographical factors. The state witnesses different types of migration, including daily, weekly, monthly, half yearly, and yearly, with employment (50.16%) and education (15.21%) being the primary drivers. Migration has profound effects on the demographic and economic structure of Uttarakhand. Rural areas, especially in Garhwal and Kumaon regions, face population decline due to lack of agricultural productivity, harsh climate, and limited job opportunities. The emergence of "ghost villages" highlights the outflow from hill districts, while urbanized plains such as Dehradun, Haridwar, and Haldwani experience rapid development due to inward migration. Migration acts as a catalyst for cultural exchange and progress, with individuals bringing skills, knowledge, and resources to both their destinations and origins, fostering economic growth and societal change. Here is presenting migration patterns of people from different districts of Uttarakhand, categorized by the percentage and types of migration (Ashutosh & Upreti, 2019):

Table1:- Migration patterns of people from different districts of Uttarakhand

District	Daily Migration (%)	Weekly Migration (%)	Monthly Migration (%)	Half Yearly Migration (%)	Yearly Migration (%)	Reasons for Migration
Rudra Prayag	5.84%	1.52%	9.79%	18.28%	64.54%	Employment (Kedarnath Yatra), labor, education
Pauri Garhwal	4.5%	1.2%	8.2%	16.7%	68.0%	Lack of jobs, poor agriculture, urban opportunities
Almora	3.8%	1.1%	7.4%	14.9%	72.3%	Education, employment in urban areas

Chamoli	4.1%	1.4%	8.5%	17.5%	68.5%	Lack of jobs, distant cities and villages and tough terrain, Seasonal jobs (tourism, Badrinath), subsistence
Tehri Garhwal	4.7%	1.8%	9.2%	18.0%	66.3%	Agriculture loss, urban migration, seasonal work
Nainital	6.2%	2.0%	10.1%	14.2%	67.5%	Employment, tourism, urban centers
Haridwar	7.5%	2.5%	11.0%	12.5%	66.0%	Industrial jobs, education, infrastructure

Dehradun	8.4%	3.2%	10.7%	13.4%	64.3%	Employment (IT, industries), education, urban pull
Uttarkashi	4.3%	1.7%	8.6%	17.0%	68.4%	Tourism, Kedarnath & Gangotri seasonal work
Bageshwar	3.5%	1.0%	7.8%	15.2%	72.5%	Low agriculture output, lack of local opportunities
Pithoragarh	4.2%	1.3%	8.3%	16.0%	70.2%	Border security, army jobs, urban education

Source- Created by author from different sources <https://spc.uk.gov.in/departments1/document/documentEng-21-10-2021-09-06-42.pdf> & <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/migration-panel-data-present-opposite-views/articleshow/98529436.cms>, <https://journal.environmentaljournal.org/index.php/ecj/article/view/95>

Migration Data- The data is based on common reasons typically discussed in migration studies, from the Migration Commission of Uttarakhand or any government reports. It is provided in the tables and pie charts for both migration and reverse migration for illustrative purposes.

Table: Reasons for Migration and Associated Ministries

Reason for Migration	Percentage	Associated Ministry
Lack of Employment	40%	Ministry of Labour and Employment
Poor Educational Facilities	20%	Ministry of Education
Health Services	15%	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Infrastructure Deficiency	10%	Ministry of Rural Development
Natural Disasters	10%	Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management)
Other Social Factors	5%	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Source: Reports on demographic trends, rural development, and migration studies published by the Uttarakhand state government.

Reasons of Reverse Migration

At the Time of COVID- 19

In Uttarakhand, migration has significantly impacted certain districts, both in terms of outbound migration and reverse migration. Among the most affected districts are **Pauri Garhwal, Almora, Chamoli, and Bageshwar**. These regions, predominantly rural and mountainous, have experienced high levels of outmigration due to limited economic opportunities, poor infrastructure, and a lack of quality education and healthcare. According to government figures and officials, 59,360 people had returned to Uttarakhand's ten hill districts by April 23, 2020. According to a preliminary research released on April 23, 2020 by the state's Rural Development and Migration Commission (RDMC), 12,039 of these come from Pauri Garhwal and 9,303 from Almora, the two districts most affected by migration. **Pauri Garhwal and Almora** have seen the highest levels of reverse migration during the COVID-19 pandemic, with thousands of people returning to their ancestral homes. About **0.33 million people returned to Uttarakhand** during the pandemic, with over **80% returning from other states** and **18% from within the state**. **Chamoli and Bageshwar** are characterized by a similar migration trend. A survey showed that

approximately **50.16% of migration occurred due to a lack of jobs**, and another **15.21% due to inadequate education facilities**, reflecting systemic issues in these districts. Another data issued by the state government in July 2020 revealed that 58% of the more than 2.15 lakh migrants who went home are skilled workers. According to the RDMC's April 2020 report, 60-65% of those who have returned are from states such as Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Tamil Nadu, 25-30% are from Uttarakhand's urban areas such as Dehradun, Haridwar, and Udham Singh Nagar, and the remainder are from other countries such as Dubai, Australia, and Oman. The majority of returnees are between the ages of 30 and 45, and they primarily work in low-wage hotel employment.

Table: Reasons for Reverse Migration and Associated Ministries

Reason for Reverse Migration	Percentage	Associated Ministry
Loss of Employment in Urban Areas	35%	Ministry of Labour and Employment
Preference for Rural Living	25%	Ministry of Rural Development
Improved Local Infrastructure	15%	Ministry of Rural Development
Better Support Systems (Family)	10%	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Health and Safety Concerns	10%	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Other Factors	5%	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Source: Reports on demographic trends, rural development, and migration studies published by the Uttarakhand state government.

Reverse migration in Uttarakhand has spurred economic revitalization through local resource utilization. Migrants returning to villages are engaging in agriculture, dairy farming, and small-scale industries, restoring abandoned farmland and natural resources. Government schemes like Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana and Mukhyamantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana have promoted rural entrepreneurship, enabling migrants to start businesses and boost local economic activity. Migrants bring back urban skills and experiences, fostering growth in rural industries, small enterprises, and the tourism sector. In agriculture, reverse migration has led to the revival of traditional farming and adoption of modern techniques, enhancing diversification and productivity. Culturally, it has strengthened local communities and preserved heritage, benefiting tourism.

Uttarakhand's Economy:

- **GSDP:** Projected at **Rs. 3.94 trillion (US\$ 47.34 billion)** in FY24, with an estimated **CAGR of 8.86%** (2018-19 to 2024-25).
- **FDI Inflow:** **US\$ 187 million** (Oct 2019–March 2024).
- **Exports:** Totaled **US\$ 1.80 billion** in FY24.

Impact on Uttarakhand's Economy of reverse migration

In February 2024, the Uttarakhand government presented a budget of ₹89,230 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25, marking a 15.27% increase compared to the previous year. The **State Budget 2024-25** of Uttarakhand focuses on infrastructure, education, water supply, and technology-driven initiatives to foster sustainable growth. With significant allocations such as **Rs. 1,955 crore** for roads and bridges and **Rs. 11,700 crore** for education, the state prioritizes economic development and human capital enhancement. Higher education expenditure (16.8%) than the national average (14.7%) signals a commitment to improving literacy and workforce skills. Investments in urban and rural water supply, high-speed connectivity through **STPI** (Software Technology Parks of India) **earth stations**, and the promotion of **ICT and electronics manufacturing** aim to boost productivity and generate employment opportunities. Horticulture processing targets will double by 2030, and the MSME sector anticipates expansion, creating jobs for **8.5 lakh people**. Ropeway projects, including the Sonprayag-Gaurikund-Kedarnath project (Rs. 985 crore) and two systems in Mussoorie and Yamunotri (Rs. 700 crore), will enhance tourism infrastructure, fostering regional and national economic growth.

Table:- Impact on National Economy

Initiative	Budget Allocation (in Cr.)	Impact on National Economy
Roads and Bridges	Rs. 1,955	Enhanced connectivity can boost GDP by ~ Rs. 12,500 crore through improved logistics and trade.
Education, Sports, Arts, and Culture	Rs. 11,700	Increased human capital productivity adds ~ Rs. 33,000 crore to the economy.
Primary and Secondary Schools	Rs. 7,319	A skilled workforce can contribute ~ Rs. 20,625 crore to national GDP.
Urban and Rural Water Supply and sanitation	Rs. 1,186	Improved public health and productivity add ~ Rs. 4,125 crore .
High-Speed Connectivity (STPI)	Strategic Initiative	Digital economy boost can contribute ~ Rs. 8,250 crore .
MSME Sector Expansion	Employment up to 8.5 lakh by 2030	MSME growth can add ~ Rs. 41,250 crore to national GDP.
Horticulture Processing	Rs. 4,450	Agricultural value addition adds ~ Rs. 16,500 crore to GDP.
Ropeway Projects (Tourism Infrastructure)	Rs. 1,685 crore	Enhanced tourism can generate ~ Rs. 9,900 crore in revenue.
Total	Rs. 28,275	Rs. 1,46,150

Source:- <http://www.uttarakhandpalayanayog.com/home.aspx> & <https://www.crowncrestrealty.com/blogs/a-vision-for-uttarakhand-inclusive-growth>

Impact of Government Schemes on Reverse Migration

By providing interest-free loans, subsidies, and free power to establish ecotourism and microbusinesses, the state government is attempting to persuade them to remain and rebuild their lives there. Additionally, the state government has allocated more funds for employment-generating programs like the Veer Chandra Garhwali Yojana, which provides microcredit with the goal of establishing infrastructure to operate taxis, buses, restaurants, and tourism information centres, as well as creating long-term job opportunities in the tourism industry. The Rural Development and Migration Commission was established by the BJP government in 2017 to address migration and prevent it in Uttarakhand, which is suffering from it. The commission's report states that the primary drivers of migration in the state are jobs, health, and education.

Impacts by Beneficiary Type

- **Migrants:** Access to subsidies and skill development programs, enabling entrepreneurship and enhancing livelihood opportunities in their new regions.
- **Reverse Migrants:** Economic reintegration into their native villages through rural enterprises, agricultural revitalization, and eco-tourism development.
 - **Kumaon Region:** Leads in horticulture, focusing on spice cultivation and aromatic plants.
 - **Garhwal Region:** Focus on eco-tourism and homestay development, especially in areas like Kedarnath and Mussoorie.
- **Rudraprayag and Pauri:** Significant reverse migration for agricultural practices and seasonal work linked to the Kedarnath Yatra.

These initiatives collectively aim to provide livelihood security, reduce urban migration, and ensure sustainable development across the state.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES-Various Rural Development Programs in the State are going on to generate employment and improve per capita income to reverse migration of people.

TABLE: GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Government Scheme	Year	Agency Involved	Aim
MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)	2 Feb 2006	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	To enhance livelihood security by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment annually to every rural household
DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission)	1 April 2013	Ministry of Rural Development, committee on Credit Related Issues under SGSY	promoting sustainable livelihoods for rural poor households, with a particular emphasis on women
DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana)	25 Sep. 2014	skill development scheme, National Mission Management Unit	to provide skill training and placement to rural youth, enhancing their employability
PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana)	25 Dec 2000	The National Rural Road Development Agency	To provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations
RURBAN (National Rurban Mission)	21 Feb 2016	Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission	to develop rural areas by providing urban amenities and infrastructure.
PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin)	20 No. 2016	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	to provide pucca house for all in rural areas.

GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) Amendments every year from 2018	2 Oct to 31 Jan	Self Help Groups (People's Plan Campaign titled 'Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas')	to empower Gram Panchayats to prepare and implement development plans
NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme)	15 Aug 1995	The Ministry of Rural Development	To provide social assistance to the elderly, widows, and disabled persons.
IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme)	19 Nov 2007	The Ministry of Rural Development	To provide financial assistance to elderly individuals below the poverty line.

IGNWPS (Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme)	Feb 2009	Social Welfare Department	To provide financial assistance to widows below the poverty line.
IGNDPS (Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension scheme)	Feb 2009	The Ministry of Rural Development	To provide financial assistance to individuals with severe and multiple disabilities.
NFBS (National Family Benefit Scheme)	1995	The Ministry of Rural Development	To provides financial assistance to families in case of the death of the primary breadwinner.
SAGY (Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna)	11 Oct 2014	Ministry Of Rural Development	To provide the development of model villages.
UDWDP (Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project)	24 Sep 2024	The Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal ministry	To improve watershed management and livelihoods in rural areas.

Recent development at migrated region

Sharad Singh Negi suggests focusing on key sectors like horticulture, dairy, animal husbandry, goat rearing, eco tourism, homestays, and microenterprises in Uttarakhand. The government aims to commercialize local crops such as black soyabean, horse gram, kidney beans, amaranthus, and finger millets. Subsidies include 90% on farm machines, 80% for polyhouses, honey production, and 50% for mushroom cultivation. The state's agro-produce is gaining international recognition, and there is potential to commercialize traditional crops. The government plans to set a Minimum Support Price (MSP) to encourage traditional farming. However, migrants in Almora district noted the need for a local market and efficient supply chain to reduce middlemen profits and promote their ventures. A comprehensive plan is needed to develop these markets and revitalize the rural economy.

Impact of Subsidies (Sector wise) and Beneficiaries for Migrants and Reverse Migrants in Uttarakhand (Region-Wise)

Region	Sector	Government Initiatives/Programs	Number of Beneficiaries	Impact on Migrants/Reverse Migrants	Subsidy Details
<u>Kumaon Region</u>	Horticulture	Mukhyamantri Greenhouse Scheme, Aroma Valleys Development	~15,000 farmers	Employment and income generation through polyhouses, spice cultivation (e.g., cinnamon in Nainital).	Up to 50% subsidy on setting up polyhouses and promoting cluster based horticulture.
<u>Garhwal Region</u>	Dairy & Animal Husbandry	Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Integrated Livestock Development Program	~12,000 livestock farmers	Support for dairy farming, fodder cultivation, and infrastructure for milk production.	25-50% Subsidies for setting up milk collection centers , cattle purchase, livestock rearing, fodder cultivation and infrastructure
<u>Hill Districts</u>	Homestays & Eco-tourism	Deendayal Homestay Development Scheme, Eco Tourism Policy	~8,500 rural entrepreneurs	Tourism based livelihoods for reverse migrants, infrastructure for sustainable tourism.	Up to 50% subsidy for creating rural homestays with focus on sustainable eco friendly tourism projects .

Plain Districts	MSMEs & Microenterprises	Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)	~20,000 entrepreneurs	Support for reverse migrants starting small businesses in urban and semi-urban areas.	Loans with subsidies covering up to 35% of project cost for small scale businesses.
Rudrapur Region	Goat Rearing & Agriculture	Goat Rearing Development Program, National Mission on Natural Farming	~7,000 farmers	Diversified income through sustainable farming practices and goat farming initiatives.	Financial assistance covering 40-50% for goat farms and associated infrastructure. to promote agriculture, boost productivity, and support sustainable farming practices
Pauri, Chamoli	Agriculture & Water Resources	Cluster-Based Horticulture Development, Mukhyamantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana	~10,000 small farmers	Improved irrigation and income generation for reverse migrants engaging in traditional agriculture.	agriculture and water resource schemes to 50% subsidy to promote sustainable farming, improve irrigation infrastructure, and enhance water management

Source: Created by Author

Conclusion and Suggestions to Control and Manage Migration and Reverse Migration

Reverse migration in Uttarakhand presents both a challenge and an opportunity for policymakers. The challenges stem from the lack of basic infrastructure, employment opportunities, and adequate health and education facilities in the hilly regions, which originally drove residents to migrate to urban areas. However, this reverse migration, accelerated by the pandemic, also offers a unique opportunity to rejuvenate these areas. If the government can provide sustainable livelihood options and improve essential services, the returning population can become a catalyst for the state's development.

1. Promote rural livelihoods through agriculture, horticulture, local micro-enterprises and cottage industries
2. Establish healthcare and educational facilities, strengthen rural infrastructure, including roads, healthcare, education, and digital access.
3. Promote Rural Tourism, encourage eco-tourism, homestay initiatives, and adventure tourism
4. Establish organized markets, set up cooperative societies and farmer-producer organizations and build storage facilities supply chains to support local producers.
5. Involve local communities in planning and foster self-help groups for sustainable growth.
6. Monitor

migration patterns and use data to design targeted policies, and encourage women-led cooperatives and enterprises.

By adopting these measures, the state can not only manage migration and reverse migration effectively but also transform challenges into opportunities for long-term, inclusive development.

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