

# EFFECTS OF OUT-MIGRATION ON AUTONOMY AND DECISION-MAKING POWER OF WOMEN IN RURAL INDIA: A REVIEW OF EVIDENCE

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## Abstract:

An important objective of the paper is to analyze the findings of current research on the effects of out migration on autonomy and decision-making power of women and categories implications based on their sub-themes for policy formulation. The result found that the out-migration has increased the decision-making power of women. The women have no power for decision regarding purchase of land or his children marriage. In major case they depend on second generation of male person of his family. The women of migrant families have taken major decision in their day to day life. This papers also conclude that migration increases the work burden of left behind women.

**Index Terms:** India, Migration, Women, Autonomy, Decision, Mobility, Empowerment, Left-behind

## Introduction

An important objective of the paper is to analyze the findings of current research on the effects of out migration on autonomy and decision-making power of women and categories implication based on their sub-themes for policy formulation. As is known a wide range characteristic of human practice along with migration practice are both response to fallings and lesson of complete wills (Stark and Bloom, 1985). Economic status can develop the standard of living of human. So, there is a need of job and to improve their economic position. This is the motive from them to leave their family, due to problems achieving accommodation capable for their families or due to other interceding crimps, fallacious and intellectual tussles as well as multiple rearrangements of material aspects of daily life of repercussion as a powerful as moving to and setting in the place of destination, in practically this is the reason of leaving behind (Tyota et.al.2007).

In theoretically and analytically it is not agreeable as is it true or false that left behind are suffering from migration of their household members (Naguyen et. al. 2006). How it is possible that calmness of their issues and policies which might appease them can be discussed only it dependable to them. Information on capable scale available (Nair, 1983). Especially the absence of the migrants either from the household, either he is the migrants from the household, or he is as the head of the household can here determined implication for the left behind women both socially and economically, can be agited theme (Sekhar-1997). Somehow it is the contrary view that the changing position of women in such areas like women get more credits and emphasis and the power for making own decision in the absence of rural out migration (Gulti – 1987, findings and Williams - 1991). In the other hand the thing is that there is no changeable bring about in the place of origin of women in decision making power (Shaheed - 1981).

Here there is a need to explain that around 10 and 13 percent of rural women who are not staying with their husband those are found central and eastern regions. In those regions, where male outmigration is high as compare with rural areas, Annual 3 percent in south and on north and north east, around 4 percent in rural women, who are not staying with their husband those are western regions, percent of rural women not staying with their husband is quite negligible (Table 1).

Regions	Wives of non-migrants	Wives of Migrants		Numbers
		Not staying with husband for less than 5 years	Not staying with husband for above 5 years	
North	96.09	2.28	1.63	7466
Central	90.01	4.38	5.61	15242
East	87.49	5.58	6.94	15282
North East	95.86	2.42	1.72	2437
West	98.72	0.77	0.52	6783
South	96.94	2.78	0.28	11575
India	92.74	3.61	3.65	58785

**Table1: Region wise percentage distribution of rural woman who are wives of Out- migrated Males and those are stay put, India, NFHS(2005-2006)**

Modifying access to resources is a determinate that activate how a woman can compare in the different situation with her family in the absent of her husband who is left behind women (Findley and Williams, 1997). Women remains the charge of their family in the case of absent of husband and called all in all so they have the capacity to take all kinds of family matters which happened in day to day life and the biggest role for a woman is that decision making power for her owned her family also (Hugo, 2002). Migration has played an important role for the advancement of women in different areas like economic, social situation in family matters and for the community also while many male relatives remaining and retain overall control in the village. The women who are left behind their status has enhancement due to labour out migration (Hugo, 2002; ESCAP, 2001).

There are number of researcher who has given their suggestion is that male outmigration has a good impact on women in the present society. Mostly such as male out migration current autonomy for new weight means different kinds of responsibilities and learn new art means different curricular activities and these new things can empowerment the women and along with advancement women status also which can convert gender relation (Connell 1984, Maheler and passar, 2006). In another side the role of women for a short period in the absent of male persons of her family. It is quite possible the presumed changed and it is in the observation it they changed to live (Tyota, Et. al. 2007).

Remittances and position of members in different sectors such as women position in the family and in the community, which enhance the standard of living of women. Though it effects some positive things along with negative things. However, it is like one side of a coin, because migration placed a vulnerable situation for left behind and being comfort both socially and emotionally consequences particularly (UNESCO - 2004). The important thing is that left behind women and their relationship with household head a key factor in the family's adaption to migration. Migration impact on family structure allow to live of her male family members on extended family and to fill roles normally assigned to the absent of males (Hugo, 2002; Gordon 1981). That is the living arrangements which depend upon the lives of left behind and one thing is that it helps in solving many problems including loneliness, deserted which called the integrated system of support from the other place of the community where that live. That why in this entire system males are given action's, in older systems males are often view as father and other substitutes, but the life of women is not easy to spend alone (Cited in Findley and Williams, 1991).

The absent of husband of a wife is depend on a male person of close relatives because male is a physical umbrella, and the need from the close relatives for their help goes much beyond that, if someone is talking the care of migrant's families and nothing responsibility taken after migrants first departure. It is very important to help and guidance to the left behind immediately in the period of absent of husband (Gulti, 1993). Accordingly,

it has been found that there are 54 percent rural left behind women and those husbands have out migrated for more than five years they feel themselves as the head of the household. In the other hand, there about 29 percent women live with them in laws. Whereas among those left behind rural women whose husband have out migrated for 5 and less than five years. There are 37% are head of the family feel themselves, 34% live with their parents respectively. Those rural women who staying with their husband are either wife and daughter in laws of the head of the household (Table-2).

Relation to the head of the households	Wives of non-migrants	Wives of Migrants	
		Not staying with husband for less than 5 years	Not staying with husband for above 5 years
Head	0.75	36.85	53.19
Wife	69.95	0.00	0.00
Daughter	4.88	20.61	9.70
Daughter-in-law	20.31	33.84	28.90
Sister	0.65	1.13	0.75
Sister-in-law	1.96	3.72	4.62
India	1.49	2.92	1.91

**Table2: Percentage distribution of rural woman who are wives of Out-Migrated Males and those who are stay-put per relation to the head of the households, India, NFHS (2005-2006)**

There has been agreed to advance and empower of left behind women subsequently like larges access to resource on the run of remittance along with the circulation ideas are assumed to appreciate the standard of living of them. Another aspect is when a husband is temporary absent because of out migrants then the woman is head in the household, but the couple maintains in touch and the wife receives remittances from her absentee husband. However, in frequent these may be some household hypothesized that male out migration can impact some positive things on the left behind women like may create opportunities gender relation to be adjourned and as a defecto heads of the household women may have judgement building capacity and control over resources. Other researcher has suggested that gender relation is “Fluid not Fixed” means not permanent (Mahlar and passer; 2006) through which women can take new roles and responsibility. It can be achievable

that how women can adjust their new situation and household responsibility in the absence of their household (Gordon, 1981).

Female autonomy has been defined by (Dyson and More; 1983) as the ability to manipulate in where both male or female have decision building capacity over's own environment, about personal affairs. The measure of female autonomy decision making power over their own capacity own decision with the household members (Rao and Rahman, 2004). There are two types of left behind women of rural Indian as the kinship pattern existing in the place of origin. The first categories of left place of origin. The first categories of left behind women remain, they control of resources in the place they reside, where as the second categories who remains behind because they do not have positive role in the decision between cases. The economic capacity of left behind women becomes critically reliant their husbands can send remittance (Findley and Williams, 1991). Mainly the decision making played by elderly of the households in the joint family.

The autonomy of women decision building under the categories of decision about the management of families about children education, health and discipline. There are two different views confront from the perspective e.g. one is management of the family function and another is less depending on other male relatives (Parasuraman 1986; Findley and Williams, 1991, Gordon 1981). On the other hand, it is believing that after the outmigration of the husband. That many wives are confronted with major responsibilities and like decision about them upon on the departure of their husband and all prepared to handle those responsibilities on their own shoulder for the first time (Shah and Arnold 1985).

#### **Family work status of left behind women:**

Generally, the out migration is to increase status of the family and improve the standard of living. (Mas care-nhas keys, 19990) through a study it is found that the male out migration for find out work has a negative impact on level of market work participation by the women left behind. It was found in GOA of catholic upper caste village of peasant origin. The impact is strongest for the women who have completed 25-35 or more years of education. At the same time the study also show that remittances sent back are commonly not enough (Jetly,1987).

Ina study of rural Uttar Pradesh in landless or poor peasant's family found that the additional income through remittances does not change the economic status and does not help to come out the extensive level. Instead of left behind women must assume in addition to familiar and domestic responsibilities the role of a bread winner and older daughter take of household chores, are surrogate mothers to younger siblings. In a study of saora tribe in Odisha it is find that mainly male are migrants to Assam (Gettamenon, 1995) find that income from

migration does not decrease poverty but also it makes the problems for women that, they face problems in the absence of men. (Paris et. al, 2005)) A study in eastern Uttar Pradesh on male outmigration from rice producing region. There is a pointed increased in women's agricultural work as well as a broad area of farms task a heavier workload and limited time for domestic tasks and childcare. (Honda-genu-Sotelo, 1992) This study is based on 26 families on 44 women. Family phase migration refers, when male on migrated from Mexico to United states. In search of employment in informal sector such as vending washing and ironing and the male migratory remittances what women left behind expected to be required. Doubled burden means women and their children as they had to manage children meaning along with their income generation activities.

### **On women decision making in the household: -**

The impact of male out migration on women can be adequate measure though the structure and composition of a household. Through a large-scale survey in India (Desai, Banerjee, 2008)) argue that women living in nuclear families' experiences is different from who lives in joint family. The former unlike the later experience both joint and nuclear higher level of autonomy and greater responsibility. (Mas caren – keys, 1990) it has found that the absence of men for prolonged periods of time made their wives the defacto head of families. The decision-making power of women has been evaluated based on different variable such as on health care large household purchases, for daily needs, visit to family or relatives, decision to spend money and especially earned by husband. Accordingly, Tab- 3 it is found that when we final say about health care, 23 percent wives of non-migrants take decision by themselves where as 36 percent take their decision by help of other members. Around 41 percent women do not take decision by themselves i.e., they take decision with help of someone else.

Between the percent of 40, 17 and 43 percent among wives not living with their husband for five years respectively. Between 56, 14 and 30 also have not living with their husband more than five years.

The women visit to friends or relatives or the case of purchasing large household and decision on spending money which husband earns are making jointly and by other members of the family irrespectively. It is also found that 27 and 53 percent wire of nonmigrants who are not staying with their husband more than 5 years respectively. They decide on household purchase alone for their daily needs.

Decision-making	Wives of non-migrants	Wives of Migrants	
		Not staying with husband for less than 5 years	Not staying with husband for above 5 years
Final say on health care			

Alone	23.35	39.88	56.04
With someone	35.66	17.23	13.99
Someone Else	40.99	42.89	29.98
Large Households Purchases			
Alone	5.97	17.37	21.82
With someone	42.96	24.72	31.79
Someone Else	51.07	57.91	46.39
Households Purchases for daily needs			
Alone	27.14	36.77	53.10
With someone	29.01	11.58	9.93
Someone Else	43.85	51.65	36.97
Visit to family or relatives			
Alone	8.30	19.30	27.89
With someone	48.89	25.14	29.20
Someone Else	42.91	55.56	42.91
Spending household's money			
Alone	4.89	13.92	20.69
With someone	61.81	40.36	45.77
Someone Else	33.30	45.73	33.54
Spending own money			
Alone	18.08	61.62	60.51
With someone	60.35	22.43	27.94
Someone Else	21.58	15.95	11.55

**Table3:percentage distribution of decision making power of rural woman Per migratory status of households, India, NFHS (2005-2006)**

Mainly it is found that the women of nuclear family have larger autonomy. They are becoming own decision making and managing the household as well as remittance and supervised of farms and household buildings.

(Jetly. 1997)) argues that women may have advancement in such things like decision making power and purchasing land and selling and expend money in parties and ceremonies etc. which made by the men, when they visit. How much women develop their position but the authority or the family is unchangeable.

### **Discussion & Conclusion: -**

There around seven percent left behind women in India due to male outmigration which is the highest comparison between the eastern regions and the states of central regions comprising at Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and the thing that is found staying with their husband women are more socially economically and spatially oriented as compared to demographically.

From the above literature, it a can be generated two important factors (Hugo 2002, findley and Williams 1993) first one is left behind women participation in the new structure family and the second is workload of the women. There are two responsibilities found in the first case in the families either the women are take responsibility of the entire household (Hugo 2002, Fordon 1981). (Findley and Williams 1991)) There are two situations first one is the women reconstruction the family in the other way, 2nd one is the dependency of woman increase in other family members.

Scholars have different view on workload over left behind studies issue may be that the increasing involvement of work and should earing of responsibilities in absence of her raised making power, scholars have different view on this issue one group (Gulti – 1981, Findley and willams 1991) first group defined that male outmigration increased decision making power of the left behind woman whereas (Shaheed, Gordon 1981) believe that male outmigration subsequently cannot change the decision making capacity of left behind women.

From the above discussion, it is emerged that increased the workload on left behind women, but in the matter of decision making power there is no increasing power like agriculture, buying consumer durable buying land and purchase land etc. after the male migration the women dependable the elderly on the 2nd generation male persons of his family, who is staying with his or the decision of out migration of the male.

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