

## TO STUDY THE REASONS OF MIGRATION IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION OF THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

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### Abstract

*In this paper we have shown an analysis of reasons of migration collected from secondary sources, i.e. census report 2011 and primary data collected from researcher self the field work during July to October 2016 .The findings which have come out from this analysis. As we have said earlier that data for this study have also been collected form secondary and primary sources. The data was collected through an interview schedule in an unbiased manner. This study is based on simple and rapid comparisons of frequency percentages as suggested as an alternative to scoring and scaling methods. The creation of Uttarakhand as a new state of the Indian union on November 09, 2000 is also largely linked with linked with the economic backwardness of region. The major aspirations of common people from their new state included, among others, certain of better employment opportunities for them.*

**Key words:-**migration, region, employment, people opportunities, facilities and education

## Introduction

The development experience of Uttarakhand over a nearly one and half decade has been quite encouraging in respect to achieving high economic growth. However, such growth has been mainly centered in three plan district of the state, and ten hill districts reaming far behind in this increasing prosperity of the state (Annual plan, 2013-14)<sup>1</sup>. As a result, population in hill region of the state has yet to struggle hard for eking out their livelihoods largely from agriculture by putting larger numbers of their households members in to the labour force (Mamgain, 2004)<sup>2</sup>. There are several aspects relating to migration from Uttarakhand that need to be looked at from the viewpoints of enhancing understanding and policy and action. Because are people being pushed by depletion of livelihood resources or are migrating because they are in position both in terms of capabilities and opportunities(Abhimanyu.K,2012)<sup>3</sup>.

Migration of the whole family and village which leaves the question of the use of abandoned resources for economic and environmental regeneration needs to be examined while partial family migration raises the issues of improved human to resources ratio at the origin and betterment economic situation alongside possible deterioration in social situation at both ends (Umar, 2012)<sup>4</sup>.

A distinguishing feature of out-migration in Uttarakhand is being of a predominantly longer duration. In our sample, about 90% of out-migrants are longer duration migrants; this is country to the pattern observed in several studies in other parts of the country which report the preponderance of short duration migration among the rural households mostly of a circular nature (Srivastava, 2011)<sup>5</sup>. Migrants heavily depend on social networks and informal channels to seek information about jobs and obtain recommendations. These largely include friends and relatives who had already migrated to cities. In manly case village youth travel to the cities where their relative are living to seek their support in job search. Support is mostly given by family, friends and relatives and its acts like a spiral with more and more people being helped in their migration by fellow migrates from the village (ICIMOD, 2010)<sup>6</sup>.

The neo-classical economists argue that migration improves the income and standard of living of source areas through several ways. The remittances received in source areas generate demand for goods and service in that region which further improves employment and income opportunities. Migrants also bring with them new knowledge and technology which they use in their native place (Jayraj, 2013)<sup>7</sup>. The magnitude of out-migration is so huge that there are several ghost village left with very few old people (Outlook, 2012)<sup>8</sup>. The increased migration process in Uttarakhand hill region thus could hardly transform local economy in the form of increased flow of remittances as has been seen in Kerala and to some extent, Bihar (Deshangikar, 2009)<sup>9</sup>.

## Objective of the study

The present study explores the following objective:

- To study the demographic characteristic of the people in the Himalayan region of the state of Uttarakhand.
- To study the contribution of income of the migratory to household income.
- To study the impact of migration on village economy and society.
- To study the reasons of migration.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

With a geographical area 53,485 Km<sup>2</sup>, spread across 13 districts, is unique in its topography and large rural population which is 75% of total. Uttarakhand is a state located in the northern part of India. It was carved out of Himalayan and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh on 9 November 2000, becoming the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the Republic of India. A non- designed structured questionnaire was prepared for this purpose, which was duly presented and administered personally to the households. It was found that all questionnaires had complete responses and thus, the effective number of the respondents was in accordance to the selected two districts Almora and Pithoragrah. Data will be collected with the help of specific research tools (1) observation, (2) interview (3) Interview schedule (4) records (5) secondary information was collected from the records.

**Table.1:- Demographic characteristic of the people in the Himalayan region of the state of Uttarakhand.**

S.N.	Variables	Hill areas of Uttarakhand	Plain areas of Uttarakhand	Total
1	Population(in millions)	48.5	52.36	100.86
2	Population of 0-6 years	13.18%	13.68%	26.86%
3	Population growth rate	0.7	2.82	3.52
4	Sex ratio	1037	900	1937
5	Urban population	17.06%	42.43%	59.49%
6	Literacy rate	80.87%	76.9%	157.77%
7	WPR-male	48.32	50.84	99.16
8	WPR-female	39.26	14.16	53.42

The above table shows that the significant changes in the social composition of population also indicate a faster out-migration among other social groups of hill areas of Uttarakhand. The sex ratio in hill areas has been comparatively high as compared to plain areas of the state. The +difference are not revealing in case of child sex ratio between hill and plain areas of Uttarakhand. Thus it attributed to high incidence of male out-migration from the hill areas.

**Table.2:-Household wise distribution of village population of Almora and Pithoragrah district.**

Number of household of village size	Almora district		Pithoragrah district	
	Villages Population	Migration (%)	Villages Population	Migration (%)
1-24	29.2	6.96	45.44	12.57
25-49	27.53	16.91	28.77	23.33
50-74	17.84	18.51	12.52	17.10
75-99	9.88	14.51	5.95	12.00
100-124	5.41	10.48	3.11	8.02
125-149	3.98	9.55	1.39	4.57

>149	6.15	23.07	2.82	22.41
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The above table shows that population is widely dispersed across various sizes of villages, yet large villages though few have largest share in population in both the districts. The population growth across different size groups of village during 2001 to 2011 by taking as base year for the categorization of villages in to their household class sizes, we have traced back the villages in 2011 for understanding the increase and decrease in their population and number of households. It emerges that maximum absolute decline in population has been in smaller villages in both the districts. Thus it observed across villages with up to 124 households.

**Table.3:- Village size wise distribution population growth, 2001 to 2011 Almora and Pithoragrah district.**

Village size	Almora district	Pithoragrah district
1-24	-0.90	-1.34
25-49	-1.78	-1.54
50-74	-0.44	-1.41
75-99	-0.44	-0.54
100-124	-1.93	-0.79
124-149	0.66	1.02
>149	1.19	3.62
Total	-0.44	-0.25

The above table show out-migration becoming a widespread phenomenon to the hill region of the state, more so in recent decade, 2001-2011, the magnitude is so huge and widespread that about 375 villages representing 2.75% of total villages in hill region have been almost abandoned in the wake of out-migration. These villages are almost turned into “ghost villages”. In Pithoragarh district a highest 122 villages are left with a population of single digit in 2011. Though, there has been a history of high incidence of migration from hill region. But at the same time a large number of migrants tended to return their villages.

**Table.4:-Magnitude of out –migration in Almora and Pithoragarh district.**

Duration of migration	Male		Female		Total Person	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Short duration	36	11	3	4.6	39	10
Long duration	251	77	35	53.8	286	73.1
Permanent migration	39	12	27	41.5	66	16.9
total	326	100	65	100	391	100

The above table show that out-migration in Uttarakhand is its being of a predominantly longer duration. In our sample, about 90% of out-migrants are longer duration migrants. This is contrary to pattern observed several studies in other part of the country which report the preponderance of short duration migration among the rural households.

**Table .5:-number of households who have completely out-migration during last ten years**

Social groups	Almora		Pithoragrah	
	Village	Migration (%)	Village	Migration (%)
Scheduled caste	34	20.6	28	25.42
Other-back word caste(OBC)	3	33.33	4	57.14
Raj put	110	35.95	61	42.36
Brahmin	98	50.52	189	54.47
Total	245	36.24	253	46.38

The inter-social group differences in educational levels are also quite significant with scheduled caste remaining much behind than their other caste counter parts. The sample village was selected purposively from amongst those which witnessed absolute decline in their population during the decade, 2001-2011 by taking into account size as well as social composition of villages.

**Table .6:- Impact of migration on village economy and society use of remittances**

Serial Number	Use of remittances	Migration(%)
1	Basic consumption need	91.8
2	Education of children	60.1
3	Health	64.3
4	Payment for agriculture labour	12.2
5	Repair house	8.2
6	Purchase of consumer durables	2.0
7	Payments of loans	3.1
8	Purchase of land	2.0

The above table shows that out-migration has impact on neo classical economists argue that migration improves the income and standard of living of source areas through several ways. The remittances received in source areas generate demand for goods and service in that region which further improves employment and income opportunities. The remittances this applies to those migrant workers who are better

**Table.7:- Reasons for Migration**

Reasons for migration	Number	Percentage (%)
Employment	68	17.39
Search of income opportunities	73	18.67
Lack of employment opportunities	184	47.06
Education and training	45	11.51
Others	21	5.37
Total	391	100

The reasons for not remitting among the migrant workers may be three fold-(i) sufficient households income at their source place to meet the basic requirement. (ii) Very low earnings of migrant workers making it difficult for them to save any amount for remitting money. (iii) Inclusion of family members among the migrants thus prompting migrant workers to reduce the proportion as well as frequency of remittances.

### **Result and conclusion**

Migration of the whole family and village which leaves the question of the use of abandoned resources for economic and environmental regeneration needs to be examined while partial family migration raises the issues of improved human to resources ratio at the origin and betterment economic situation alongside possible deterioration in social situation. Out-migration has impact on neo classical economists argue that migration improves the income and standard of living of source areas through several ways. The remittances received in source areas generate demand for goods and service in that region which further improves employment and income opportunities. The remittances this applies to those migrant workers who are better. The inter-social group differences in educational levels are also quite significant with scheduled caste remaining much behind than their other caste counter parts. The sample village was selected purposively from amongst those which witnessed absolute decline in their population during the decade, 2001-2011 by taking into account size as well as social composition of villages.

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