

Analysing the role of push and pull factors in rural outmigration: A Case study of East Champaran District, Bihar, India

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Abstract

The process of migration is the function of various push and pull factors. The push factors denotes the condition of deficit of certain aspects at the place of origin. The aspects related to push factors include low wages, lack of employment opportunities, low agricultural productivity, inefficient infrastructure, inadequate education system and these factors force villagers to move out from the place of origin. Contrary to this, pull factors denotes condition of surplus and attract rural migrants by offering better employment opportunities, higher wages, regular wages, fixed working hours, better amenities and diverse socio-cultural activities. Now, these push and pull factors can be both economic and non-economic and act simultaneously. The present research study analyses the various push and pull factors responsible for rural outmigration in the East Champaran district of Bihar, India. The findings of the present research study show that economic reasons in case of both push and pull factors are majorly responsible for the rural outmigration and thus, justify the 'poverty induced' nature of rural outmigration in the study area.

Keywords: Rural outmigration, Push factors, Pull factors, Poverty induced.

1. Introduction

Push and pull factors acts between the place of origin and place of destination giving rise to movement of people. These push and pull factors are further sub-divided in economic and non-economic factors. In large number of cases, economic factors (both push and pull factors) dominate the migration process and determine the movement of rural migrants. Now, if we talk about the Indian scenario then the State of Bihar supplies rural migrants as 'cheap labour' throughout the length and breadth of the country. The rural migrants of Bihar moves due to prevailing dissatisfaction at the place of origin and lured by the high wages, regular wages, fixed working hours at the place of destination. The present research study attempts to analyse the acting push and pull factors in the process of rural outmigration in the study area.

2 Objective

To analyse the role of push and pull factors in rural outmigration in East Champaran district of Bihar, India.

3 Methodology

The present research study is based on the primary data collected through comprehensive field survey during the year 2017. The following stages were covered during the field survey:

- **Stage-1 : Decision making** - In this stage, decision related to sample size (villages per block and households per village) and other aspects are taken. Here, the sample size for villages is 10 from each community development blocks and 25 households are sampled from each village.
- **Stage-2 : Selection of statistical techniques** - In this stage, areal random sampling to select villages and simple random sampling to select households are opted to carry out the field survey.

- **Stage-3 : Calculation** - In this stage, total number of households are calculated in the sampled villages. Here, total of 20 villages from two community development blocks and 25 households from each village are surveyed. Thus, making total of 500 households [CDB-I (10X25=250), CDB-II (10X25=250)] are surveyed.
- **Stage-4 : Collection** - In this stage, door to door visit is made in order to collect primary data from the sampled households in the sampled villages of two blocks viz. CDB-I (Motihari) and CDB-II (Tetaria). Here, primary data of various socio-economic aspects of migrants and non-migrants is collected.
- **Stage-5 : Compilation** - In this stage, compilation of data related to various aspects like males, females of population composition of the study area is done. Here, compilation of data gave the size of sampled population as 2556 [CDB-I (1316), CDB-II (1240)].
- **Stage-6 : Sorting and Tabulation** - In this stage, data is sorted according to specific aspects like migrants, non-migrants, age-groups, caste, religion, push and pull factors. After this, tabulation of data is carried out and data is arranged according to two blocks viz. CDB-I (Motihari) and CDB-II (Tetaria). The sorting of data gave the number of males and females in two blocks [CDB-I (males-843, females-473), CDB-II (males-800, female-440)]. Out of the sampled population of 2556 persons, 618 outmigrants were identified and out of which 421 males. In the study area, male members of the family are majorly engaged in economic activities and so, male migrants being considered for the present research study. Figure 01 shows the stagal pathway of field survey conducted in the East Champaran district, Bihar during 2017.

4. Results and discussion

4.1 Push Factors of Outmigration in the Study Area

Push factors acts as repelling agent and compel rural people to outmigrate from the place of origin. The rural outmigration in the study area is more poverty induced and consequently, economic factors like improper wages, unsatisfactory jobs, low income, debt burden and landlessness are more dominant as compared to non-economic factors. The desire to live life of respect, dignity and materialistic satisfaction motivates the rural people towards the place of destination (Donald, 1966). Table 01 and Figure 02 shows the different push factors (both economic and non-economic) and their role in inducing outmigration.

Table 01 and Figure 02 shows that economic factors are responsible for 94.04% of outmigration from the study area. Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic push factors, 27.81% is due to improper wages, 21.85% due to unsatisfactory jobs, 19.54% due to low income & debt burden and 24.83% is due to landlessness. On the other hand, 5.96% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic push factors which include family responsibilities and social conflicts. Table 01 and Figure 02 depicts the block-wise scenario of outmigration from CDB -I in the study area. According to this 96.15% migration due to economic push factors while 3.84% due to non-economic push factors. Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic push factors, 27.56% is due to improper wages, 21.15% due to unsatisfactory jobs, 23.07% due to low income & debt burden and 24.36% is due to landlessness. On the other hand, 3.84% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic push factors which include family responsibilities and social conflicts.

CDB – II accounts for 91.78% (economic push factors) and 8.21% (non-economic push factors) of outmigration in the study area (Table 01 and Figure 02). Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic push factors, 28.08% is due to improper wages, 22.60% due to unsatisfactory jobs, 15.75% due to low income & debt burden and 25.34% is due to landlessness. On the other hand, 8.21% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic push factors which include family responsibilities and social conflicts.

At the place of origin, poor and landless villagers with high need of money to fulfill thier basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) and consequently, exploited for the minimum possible wages. The improper wages takes place as the landless villagers are left with no choice and hence, lose the ‘power of bargaining’ in the whole process. Secondly, debt burden and lack of employment opportunities force people to work unwillingly and that too jobs which mismatches their skills. This results in low interest and low motivation towards job leading to dissatisfaction among the migrants. Though, non-economic push factors are comparatively less prevalent but still, motivates the considerable number of rural people to migrate from the place

of origin. The non-economic push factors include marriage and social conflicts, the latter arises due to orthodox caste structure among social groups at village level while the in former case increased expenditure after the marriage push the people to migrate in order to earn more money (Kothari, 1980).

4.2 Pull factors of Outmigration in the Study Area

The presence of satisfiers like good and regular wages, better working conditions, mutual respect, proper employment opportunities attract rural migrants towards the place of destination. These satisfiers or pull factors offers several economic and non-economic advantages at the place of destination which makes the rural migrats to earn more money and send good sum in the form of remittances to their households.

Table 02 and Figure 03 shows that economic factors are responsible for 68.06% (overall) of outmigration from the study area. Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic pull factors, 22.68% is due to placement/job outside the 'place of origin', 23.53% is due to transfer in the jobs, 11.76% due to unsatisfactory jobs and 10.08% is due to generation of business outside the 'place of origin'. On the other hand, 31.93% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic pull factors. Here, 10.92% moved with parents and 8.40% moved alone due to educational opportunities, 5.88% due to dependency on family, 3.36% due to better social standards and 3.36% due to better living standards.

Block wise (Table 02 and Figure 03) shows that there is 60.32% of outmigration from CDB – I in the study area. Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic pull factors, 17.46% is due to placement/job outside the 'place of origin', 20.63% due to transfer in the jobs, 11.11% due to unsatisfactory jobs and 11.11% due to generation of business outside the 'place of origin'. On the other hand, 39.68% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic pull factors. Here, 14.29% moved with parents and 11.11% moved alone due to educational opportunities, 6.35% due to dependency on family, 3.17% due to better social standards and 4.76% is due to better living standards.

CDB – II accounts for 76.79% (economic factors) and 23.21% (non-economic factors) of outmigration in the study area (Table 02 and Figure 03). Out of this overall percentage of outmigration due to economic pull factors, 28.57% due to placement/jobs outside the 'place of origin', 26.78% due to transfer in the job, 12.50% due to unsatisfactory jobs, and 8.92% is due to generation of business outside the 'place of origin'. On the other hand, 23.21% of outmigration can be attributed to the non-economic pull factors. Here, 7.14% moved with parents and 5.36% moved alone due to educational opportunities, 5.36% due to dependency on family, 3.57% due to better social standards and 1.78% is due to better living standards.

If we talk about economic pull factors, lack of job opportunities and improper job opportunities force people to move from their place of origin in order to get 'placement/job outside the place of origin'. The other factor which plays important role is the awareness regarding the higher wages, regular wages, fixed working hours and better facilities at the place of destination. Similarly, poor purchasing power of rural people limits the scope of business which encourages the businessmen to settle and generate their business at the place of destination where purchasing power of people is sound. Contrary to this, non-economic pull factors are related to inadequate education infrastructure, low living/social standards at the place of origin. Now, dissatisfied villagers move towards the place of destination in order to get quality based higher and vocational education. In most of the cases, family moves along with students and get settled at the place of destination due to higher living and better social standards. While in other cases, students willing to pursue higher degrees/preparation for competitive exams move alone to the place of destination.

4.3 Total outmigration induced by push and pull factors in the study area

The overall scenario in the East Champaran (Table 03) show that economic push factors (67.46%) alongwith economic pull factors (19.24%) are more dominating in the migration process as compared to non-economic push factors (4.28%) and non-economic pull factors (9.02%).

Table 03 depicts the overall scenario of outmigration induced by push and pull factors (both economic and non-economic) in the study area. The higher percentage of push factors (economic) in CDB-I (68.50%) and CDB-II (66.36%) justifies the poverty induced migration in the two blocks. The dominating rural scenario, lack of employment opportunities, low productivity push rural migrants towards the place of destination for good employment opportunities (Oberai, 1983). Likewise, the pull factors (economic) in CDB-I (17.35%) and CDB-II (21.27%) justifies the 'money earning' tendency for

better living standards and safe future. On the other hand, the non-economic (push factors and pull factors) factors in CDB-I [Push (2.73%), Pull (11.41%)] and CDB-II [Push (5.94%), Pull (6.43%)] make the people to move from place of origin to place of destination for better education opportunities, better living and social standards.

4.4 Schools of thought over ‘migration’ and thier relevancy with push-pull factors

The school of thought over ‘migrations’ are bifurcated into two streams - first school of thought promotes the idea that the process of migration should be checked and minimized by developing the local economy and provisions of different facilities at the place of origin while on the other hand, the second school of thought considers migration as positive process and talks about the flow of resources, diffusion of knowledge and technical know-how, flow of remittances from place of destination to place of origin.

Now the question arises that -

- Which school of thought over ‘migration’ is correct?
- Are these school of thought over migration covering all sections of migrants?

After the thought process, we realized that ‘none’ of the school of thought over migration is correct in toto and also not providing stable solution. The first school of thought over ‘migration’ fails to recognise the prevailing ‘non-uniform’ nature of developmental processes which results in unequal economic and social conditions between the different region. This prevailing ‘non-uniformity’ and ‘disparity’ gave rise to push and pull factors at the place of origin and place of destination respectively.

The second school of thought considers the migration as positive process but fails to recognise the magnetic influence of pull factors at the place of destination which results inlarge scale movement of people from the place of origin. This results in negative impact both at place of origin and place of destination. At the place of origin, negative impact includes workforce deficiet as the younger working population migrates (Kumar, 2005) while place of destination faces conditions of ‘psuedo-urbanization’ because of in-migration. The thing which need to be taken care is that ‘poverty induced’ migration should be checked and minimized by providing facilities, financial assistance and basic infrastructure at the place of origin.

The scenario of East Champaran is majorly rural with 97.13% of people living in rural areas and only 7.87% living in urban areas. This rural demography is accompanied by the high population growth, minimum land availability, fragmentation of agriculture, sick industries results in poverty induced migration.

5 Conclusion

The process of migration is necessary as it form integral part of societal transformation and economic development of the country but rural migrants travel long distances in search of enhanced livelihood and employment opportunities. This migration of long distances can be minimized by developing the nearby regions in terms of basic infrastructure and facilities, employment opportunities, educational infrastructure and agro based industries. To minimize the migration of poor people which is based on ‘survival strategy’ by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, availability of formal financial services and access to governmental credit schemes. Also, there is need to rejuvenate the sick industries in the East Champaran so that employment opportunities can be created for the local rural people. This will also help in reducing the burden of metropolitan cities which are handeling the demographic pressure beyond their carrying capacity.

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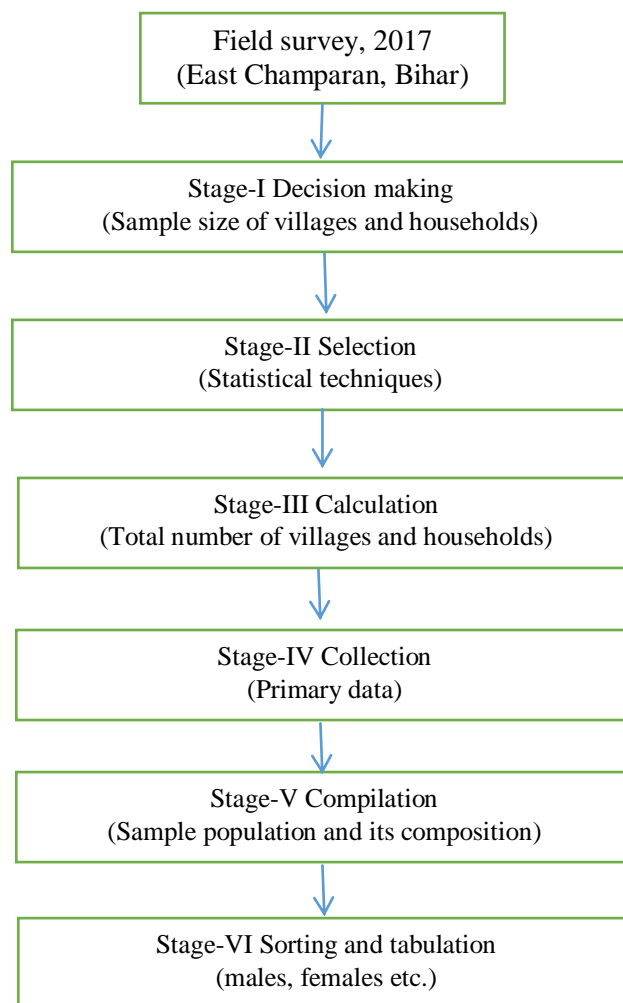
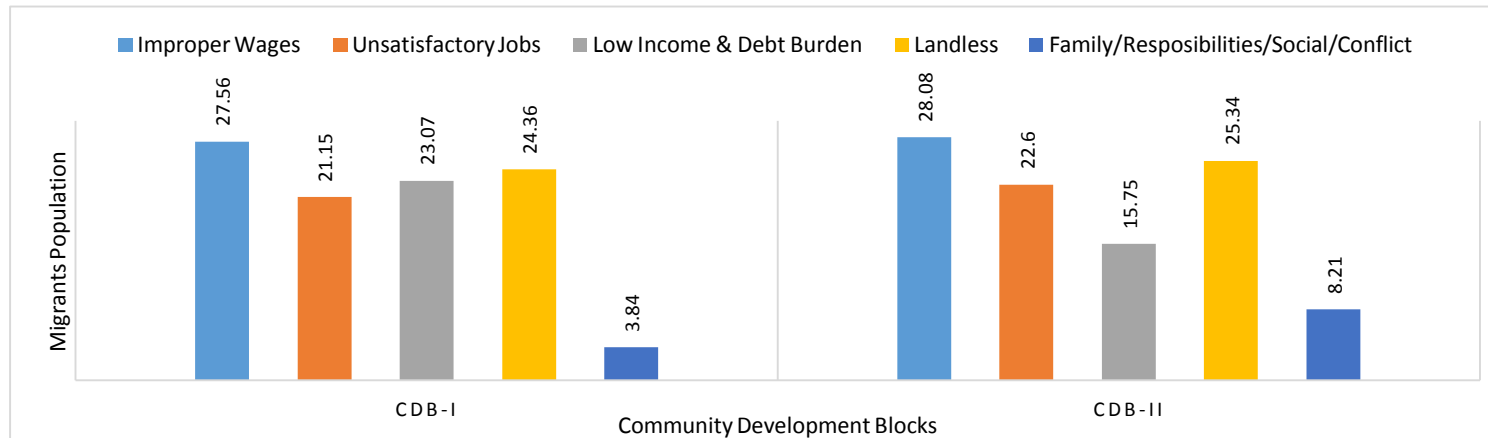
FIGURES AND TABLES**Figure 01 Stagal Pathway of field survey, 2017**

Table 01 Push factors for the male Outmigration, East Champaran,Bihar, India

Push Factors	Reasons of Outmigration	CDB I (Motihari)		CDB II (Tetaria)		Total	
		Number	%age	Number	%age	Number	%age
Economic	Improper Wages	43	27.56	41	28.08	84	27.81
	Unsatisfactory Jobs	33	21.15	33	22.60	66	21.85
	Low Income & Debt Burden	36	23.07	23	15.75	59	19.54
	Landlessness	38	24.36	37	25.34	75	24.83
	All Push Factors (Economic)	150	96.15	134	91.78	284	94.04
Non-Economic	Family Responsibilities/Social Conflicts	6	3.84	12	8.21	18	5.96
Outmigration induced by Total Push Factors		156		146		302	

Source: Calculated and compiled by the author, 2017



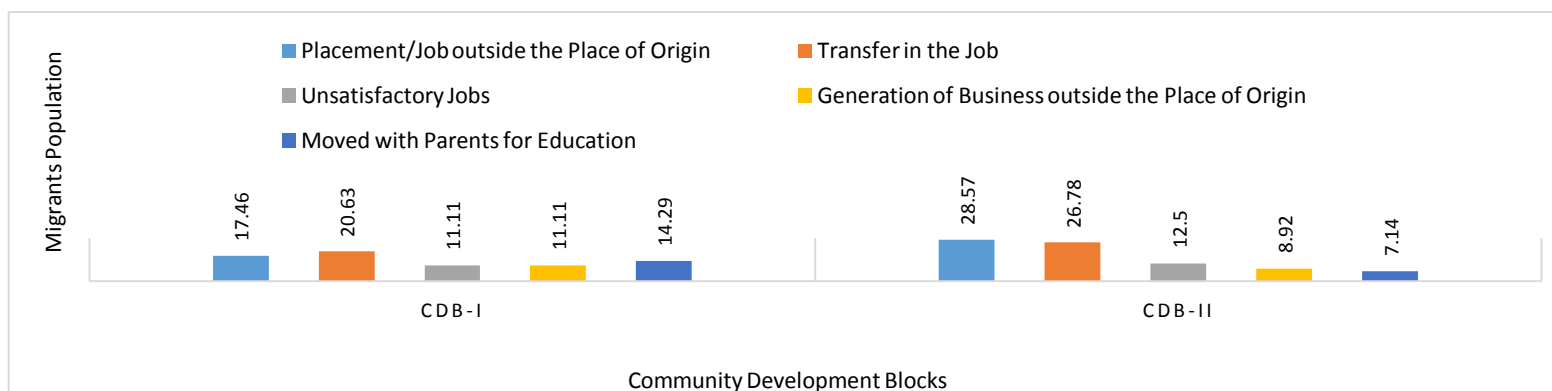
Source: Prepared by the author based on the primary data in table 01

Figure 02 Push factors responsible for male outmigration, East Champaran, Bihar

Table 02 Pull factors responsible for male outmigration, East Champaran, Bihar

Pull Factors	Reasons of Outmigration		CDB I (Motihari)		CDB II (Tetaria)		Total	
			Number	%age	Number	%age	Number	%age
Economic	Placement/Job outside the 'Place of Origin'		11	17.46	16	28.57	27	22.68
	Transfer in the Job		13	20.63	15	26.78	28	23.53
	Unsatisfactory Jobs		7	11.11	7	12.5	14	11.76
	Generation of Business outside the 'Place of Origin'		7	11.11	5	8.92	12	10.08
	All Pull Factors (Economic)		38	60.32	43	76.79	81	68.06
Non-Economic	Education Opportunities	Moved with Parents	9	14.29	4	7.14	13	10.92
		Moved Alone	7	11.11	3	5.36	10	8.40
	Dependents on Family		4	6.35	3	5.36	7	5.88
	Better Social Standards		2	3.17	2	3.57	4	3.36
	Better Living Standards		3	4.76	1	1.78	4	3.36
	All Pull Factors (Non-Economic)		25	39.68	13	23.21	38	31.93
Outmigration induced by Total Pull Factors			63		56		119	

Source: Calculated and compiled by the author, 2017



Source: Prepared by the author based on the primary data in table 02

Figure 03 Pull factors responsible for the male outmigration, East Champaran, Bihar

Table 03 Total male outmigration induced by push-pull factors, East Champaran, Bihar, India

Reasons of Outmigration	CDB I (Motihari)		CDB II (Tetaria)		East Champaran	
	Number	%age	Number	%age	Number	%age
Total economic Push factors	150	68.50	134	66.36	284	67.46
Total economic Pull factors	38	17.35	43	21.27	81	19.24
Total (economic)	188	85.84	177	87.62	365	86.69
Total non-economic Push factors	6	2.73	12	5.94	18	4.28
Total non-economic Pull factors	25	11.41	13	6.43	38	9.02
Total (non-economic)	31	14.16	25	12.38	56	13.30
Total	219		202		421	

Source: Calculated and compiled by the author, 2017