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Socio-economic analysis of the rural outmigrants: A micro-level study of Mohammadi block, Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh, India

Moin Khan and Ateeque Ahmad

Abstract

Rural migration is a multi-dimension phenomenon, which affects the livelihood of people living in a different ecological setting like an inter-woven thread of factors. Migration occurs when diverse factors operate together; as the process of migration is not uniform, rather vary from a place in temporal dimension as per locale's particular development milieu. In the present study, an attempt has been made to identify the demographic attributes of the population, socio-economic condition of the households of the rural outmigrants, and the problem faced by the households. The research work is based on primary sources of data generated through the field survey carried out during 2016 in Mohammadi Block of Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh, India. The selection of the respondents was based on stratified sampling technique taking a sample of 10 percent of the total villages from the block and 10 percent of households from every village. The study finds out that Islam religion was predominant among respondents, and agriculture was the vital livelihood source for most of the surveyed population. About 26 percent of the surveyed household were illiterate and about 30 percent of the population was landless. Moreover, 48 percent of the respondent had no toilet facilities in their premises and about 29 percent of the population was living in the kutchha houses.

Keywords: Migration, rural out-migration, male migration, socio-economic migration

Introduction

Migration is a complex, multicausal, and nonlinear demographic phenomenon that has occurred throughout human history at a variety of scales (Adepoju, 2008) ^[1]. In other words, Migration refers to the movement of the individual or group of people from one place to another place for a definite purpose, taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. It may be for a short distance or long distance. Migration is one of the fundamental anthropological phenomena to be found practically in all human societies. Besides birth, marriage, and death migration is omnipresent. The earliest human societies as hunters and collectors were even on the permanent move. Until today nomadic societies kept these features of unsettled life with all its advantages and risks (Széll, 1998). The migration is not just a process of the shifting from one place to another place rather it is a process that gives the change in the structure of the population (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1978) ^[4], and it donates a lot for the understanding of the space-content and space-relations of a specific geographical milieu. Migration embraces three types of changes i.e. change in the area of out-migration, changes of in-migration and change in the migrants themselves (Ghosh, 1985) ^[5]. Migration is the purposive shift in order to enhance the perceived spatial diversity, therefore, the premises for the explanation of the spatial pattern of migration must lie in those patterns of diversity that gave rise to it (White & Woods, 1980). Rural migration is one of the most dramatic changes in developing countries. In many cases, the problem arising from the migration in the industrial states were explored in many ways. The migration is characterized with the sharply higher rates of population growth, mass migration to the cities at a much earlier stage in industrial development, lagging agricultural production, and slow expansion in industrial employment (Adams, 1969) ^[2]. Studies of temporary migration in developing countries often focus on rural out-migration and are preoccupied with problems it may bring to cities (Yang, 1994) ^[6]. Rural out-migration not only affects the migrants itself but also the other people who are directly or indirectly related to them. It increased the responsibility of the family members, women's work burdens, creating socio- economic deprivation and insecure future and compounds their difficulties of

basic Survival, except for a scope for their children to go to the big city or to the places of better opportunity areas (Jetley, 1987)^[7].

Migration may happen for different reasons. But if we agree on a historical-materialist approach -and we will see that this is the only one which will allow us to grasp the phenomenon in all its depth and variety -then it is first of all for material reasons, i.e. to find the material base for the reproduction of the tribe, of the clan, of the society. In early times it was only collectives which migrated because for an individual it was much too risky to do so. This search for better reproduction facilities -due to climatic or demographic changes -put pressure on other populations if the move was not into socially empty spaces. This led to conflict, war, submission, development of class societies, flight, a mix of cultures, etc. But due to this conflictuous moves, the phenomenon of migration is mostly linked to negative stereotypes:

1. for those who move, they are forced to do so;
2. For those who are confronted with migrant tribes, groups, clans it is a danger (Szell, 1998)^[13].

It is for these reasons that policies to regulate and discourage rural-urban migration are often considered. The urgency or otherwise of such steps would, however, depend on the estimated or perceived magnitude of these effects. In general, rural-urban migration would need to be discouraged if (i) such migration is very high causing disruption in productive activities in the rural areas; (ii) inflow into urban areas is far in excess of the demand for labour beyond what the native urban population can supply; and (iii) destination pattern of migration in terms of size-class of towns and cities to which rural people migrate), is concentrated mainly in favour of large cities. It is important to examine these aspects in order to understand the problem of rural-urban migration in a proper perspective (Papola, 1998)^[14].

Literature Review

Taeuber (1941)^[15] presented an overall summary of the conceptual development of rural migration. In his study, he highlighted the fact that the population of cities is increasing, it is because of two reasons- first the high birth rates in the cities and second is the high influx of rural migrant in the cities in the search of employment. Moreover, Schultz (1971)^[16] attempted to explore the determinants of internal migration. He estimated migration rate for various groups in the population to identify who migrate and where. He hypothesized that migration is, largely the result of purposeful behavior. Similarly, Wegner (1995) put forward that from the past, the general boredom and low standard of living often served as primary motivations to leave the city. Manner (2003)^[18] carried out a study on the migrant/non-

migrant fertility differentials and found out that non-migrant had more fertility levels rather than those of migrants. This study was concerned to construct a theoretical model based on the human capital approach, which can explain the interrelationship between migration and fertility. Similarly, Lindstorm (2003) also accomplished a study about the reproductive behavior of the rural migrant in Guatemala. The results in the Guatemala context shows that the higher fertility of rural-urban migrant women compared to urban native women can be accounted for by differences in the ethnic, educational, and marital composition of these two groups. In addition, to this Omariba and Boyle (2010)^[20] examine the intensity of rural-urban migration and child health in some less developed countries. The study showed that children of rural-urban migrants born before migration enjoyed the best survival prospects. Richards and Vanwey (2015)^[21] examined outmigration from two sites in Para state in the Brazilian Amazon. The study focused on the migration magnitude and the drivers of rural-migration in the nearby sites. Gautam (2017) examined the determinants of the seasonal migration in the context of climate change and migration's role in food security and livelihood resilience in the district of Humla, Nepal. The results suggested that rather than climate change impacts, structural poverty is the primary cause of seasonal migration in Humla, and the potential of remittances to allow farmers in this district to enhance their livelihood resilience is dismal. Luong (2018)^[23] focused on the acceleration in the rural-urban internal migration and one-way flow of remittances to migrants' rural families. The study reveals that the economic and non-economic motivations varied from community to community in Vietnam.

Study Area

The field study has been carried out in the Mohammadi Block of Lakhimpur Kheri District in Uttar Pradesh. Mohammadi is a Town in Mohammadi Block in Kheri District. It belongs to Lucknow Division. Lakhimpur Kheri geographically has its latitudinal extent of 2706' to 2806' North and longitudinal extent of 80034' to 81030' east with an altitude of 152 meters from mean sea level. The study area is lying in the Tarai plains of Uttar Pradesh. It is drained by Gomati River and its tributaries. Bhud is the unique feature of this region. Bhud is the sand tracts lying above the riverbed generally along the river course and also beyond that in the seasonal streams' catchment area. Lakhimpur Kheri as a Minority Concentrated District on the basis of 2001 census data, which identifies it as requiring urgent aid to improve living standards and Amenities. A 2010 survey published by the Ministry of Urban Development placed Lakhimpur as the second lowest ranking city in India in terms of sanitation.

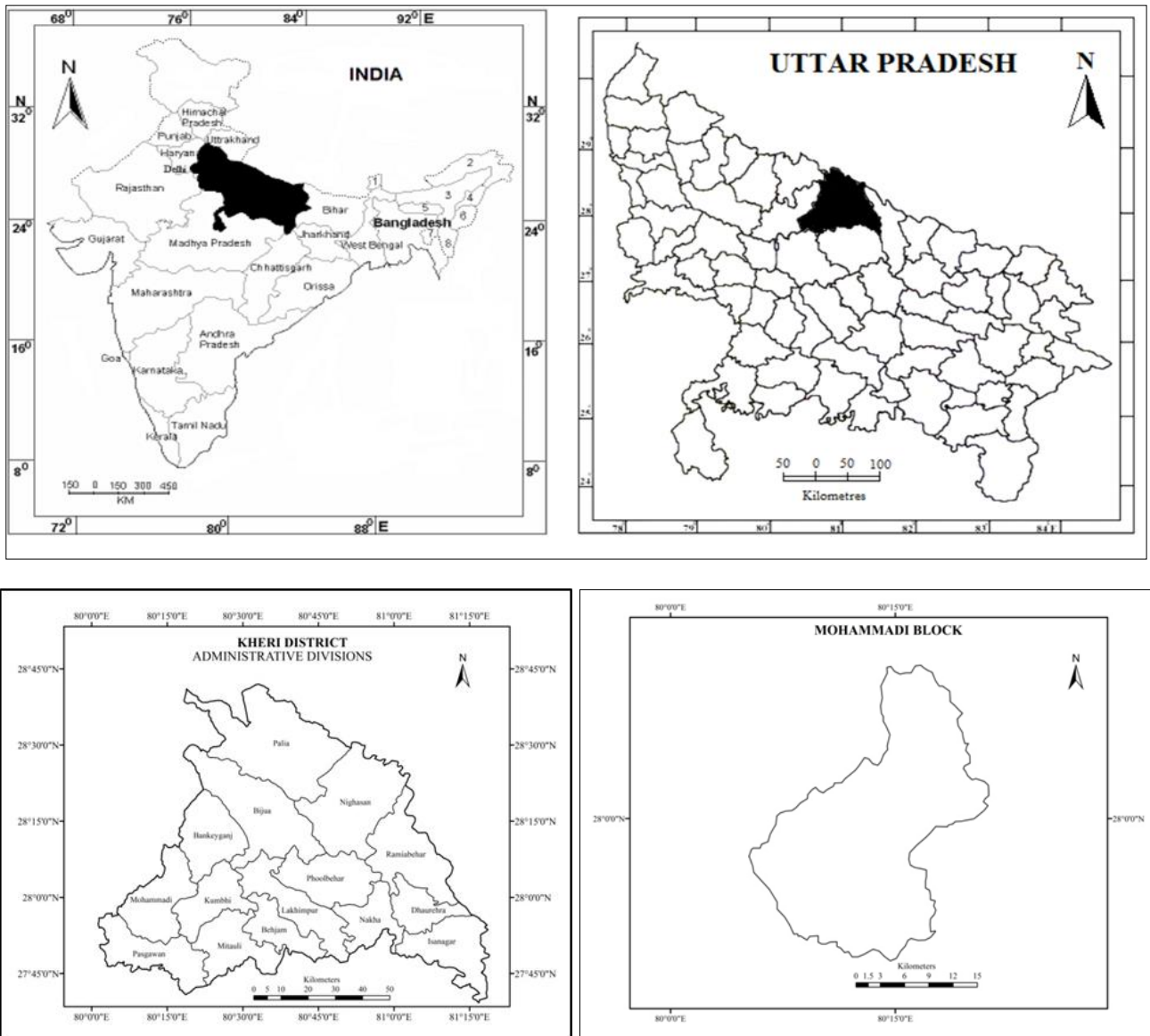


Fig 1: Study Area (Mohammadi Block, Kheri District, UP)

Objectives

This research paper has the following objectives:

- To examine the demographic attributes of the households of the outmigrants.
- To assess the socio-economic conditions of the households of the outmigrants.
- To identify the problems faced by the household due to outmigration.

Data Collection and Methodology

The socio-economic survey requires data of primary origin for its reliability and authenticity. For the collection of data, in general, three distinct tools are used in social research. They are Observation, Interview, and Schedule. They are comprehensively used to discover new facts and verify the old facts of the problems undertaken for the study. As the paper aims to evaluate the socio-economic conditions of families and the rural out-migration in the block, where secondary data related to various socio-economic indicators are not available, it is totally depended on the primary source of data, and a socio-economic survey has been conducted during 2016 for this purpose.

A method of random stratified sampling has been taken into

Consideration and six villages and five *Jhalas* (*Sikh farmsteads*) of Mohammadi Block has been taken under survey. A five percent sample of the villages has been taken; 6 villages are surveyed out of 120 villages. Moreover, a ten percent sample has been taken at the household level; 163 households are surveyed out of 1634 households in five villages. The purpose of data collection, a questionnaire with both open and close-ended questions has been prepared. Respondents have been subject to direct investigation and questions related to various socio-economic indicators were asked to them.

Religious Composition

In India, religion is considered as the way of life, a tradition, which, for centuries shaped the thought, the culture, the outlook and the socio-economic life of the people. In this way, religion occupies a central position in order to achieve the socio-economic development of the society.

Figure 2 depicts the religious composition of the households of the rural outmigrants. It has been found out in the survey that Muslims are dominant in the study area for 64.54 percent of the total sampled households were the followers of Islam religion. However, Hindu religion was second religion to be followed by a share of 31.83 percent of

sampled population and Sikhs comprises of 3.63 percent of the surveyed population. An interesting fact has been pointed out during the field visits that mostly Sikhs in the study area are migrated from Pakistan at the time of partition and most of them were settled in Jhalas (farmsteads).

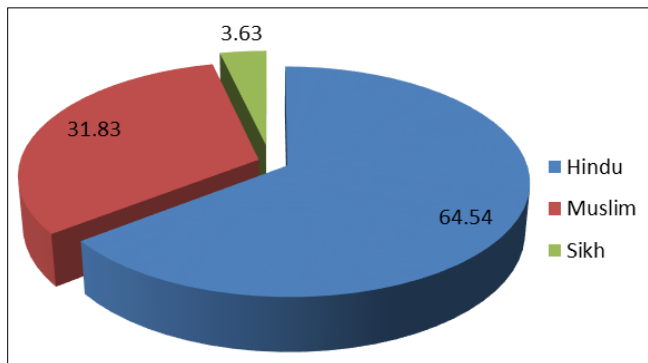


Fig 2: Religious composition of the rural male out migrants

Caste Composition

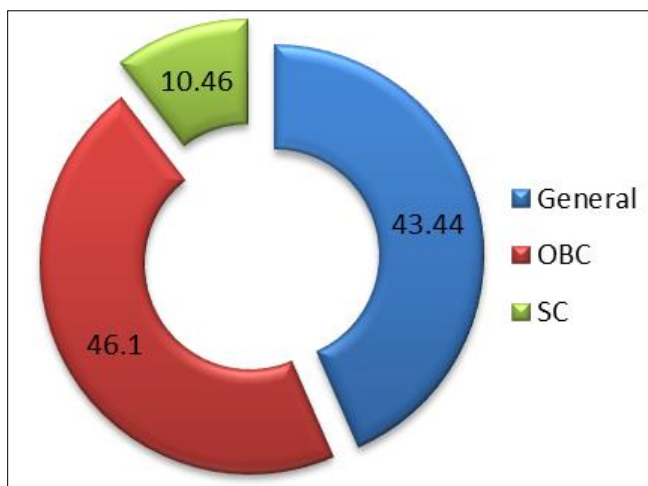


Fig 3: Caste Composition

The cast dichotomy in the Mohammadi block is one of the significant social elements that shape the social structure and regulate the occupational structure of the people. The study examined that 43.44 percent of the population belongs to the general category (Figure 3). The general category consists of all the upper sub-castes among all the religions i.e. Pathan and Sheikh in Muslims, Brahmin, and Rajpoot

Among Hindus. However, Other Backward Caste (OBC) is the leading caste group (46.1%) in the sampled population, consisting of Julaha, Darji, Saain, Quraishi, among Muslims and Kisan, Rathore, Kurmi among Hindus. Moreover, 10.46 percent of the population was in Scheduled Caste that includes basically Kachchi, Chamaar, Pasi, Kumhar, etc.

Family Size

Family size is one of the important elements that motivated the migration of family members. It has been pointed out in the field survey that the bigger size of the family generally is highly inclined towards the migration for economic benefits.

Table 1: Family size of the migrants

Sr. No.	No. of family members	Percentage
1	0-3	12.27
2	6-Apr	44.17
3	9-Jul	27.61
4	>10	15.95

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 1 shows the size of the family in the sampled population. 12.27 percent of the sampled households had a family size of fewer than 3 members. Moreover, the leading family size was 4 to 6 members that consisted of 44.17 percent of the sampled population. These two groups were generally representing the nuclear family type, while, family size more than 6 are mostly joint families. 27.61 percent of the families were reported to have a family size of 7 to 9 members. In addition to this, 15.95 percent of the sampled households were more than 10 family members.

Age and Sex Structure

Structural composition of ages, both males and females, always exerts the socio-economic landscape of a population. It helps in understanding the socio-physical strength of the population.

Table 2: Age-Sex Structure

Sr. No.	Age Group	Male (%)	Female (%)
1	0-9	11.85	12.53
2	19-Oct	28.9	30.89
3	20-29	21.21	22.25
4	30-39	12.68	14.69
5	40-49	10.19	8.86
6	50-59	7.48	7.56
7	>60	7.69	3.24

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

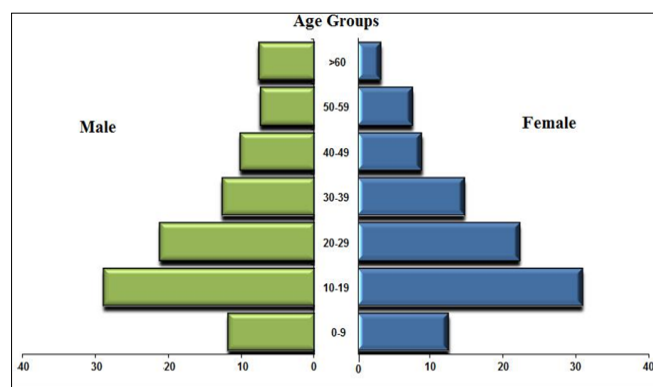


Fig 4: Age-Sex Pyramid

Figure 4 shows that the juvenile population is predominant in the study area. The age-sex pyramid is tapering with the height which means the population has shrunk with bigger age group. Exceptionally, the age group of 0-9 has less population than the bordering age-group, which means the children numbers are not rather high. However, the important thing that has been recorded, was the positive sex ratio (females outnumber male) in the study area up to the age group of 40, after 40 the sex ratio is negative. Moreover, The male senile population is higher than the female senile population.

Occupational Structure

Table 3: Occupational Structure

Sr. No.	Occupation	Percentage
1	Agriculture	29.66
2	Labor	34.56
3	Agriculture & Labor	15.6
4	Business and trade	11.93
5	Service	6.12
6	Others	2.14

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 3 demonstrates the occupation adopted by the households of rural out-migrants in Mohammadi block. Being a rural field survey, the predominant occupation was agriculture that was adopted by 29.66 percent of the population. It can be marked that 34.56 percent of the population was labour, but mostly they are directly or indirectly work in agriculture. So, they can be categorized as agriculture workers. Only a small chunk of the population (11.93%) was engaged in business and trade, it was noted that all these activities were related to agriculture or basic needs. Agriculture workshops, shops of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and chemicals, medical shops, provision stores, and many small businesses were found in the study area. Being a very low literacy rate in the study area, a very small size of the sampled population (6.12 percent) was engaged in services. Moreover, 2.14 percent of the population was engaged in other activities.

Marital Status

Marriage is an important institution of the society conforming the biological, physiological as well as psychological health of the population. Although its definition and process vary from society to society, the fundamental concepts remain the same in all societies.

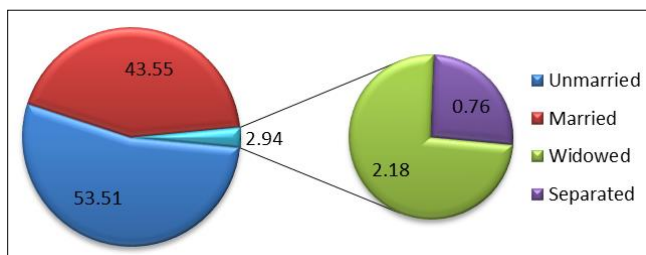


Fig 5: Marital status

Figure 5 representing the marital status of the population reveals that 53.51 percent of the surveyed population was unmarried. Whereas, 43.55 percent of respondents were registered as married. In addition to this, 2.18 percent

sampled respondents were widowed and 0.76 percent were separated due to various causes.

Educational Status

Literacy, the ability to read, write and understand own mother language, plays a significant role ordaining the level of social awareness as well as it is a significant indicator in determining the standard of living of the families.

Table 4: Educational status of the households

Sr. No.	Educational Status	Male	Female	Percentage
1	Illiterate	17.3	34.5	25.9
2	Literate	25.37	22.53	23.95
3	Primary	21.97	20.23	21.1
4	Secondary	23.54	12.54	18.04
5	Senior Secondary	7.32	3.97	5.6
6	Graduate	6.84	0.78	3.81
7	Higher Education	3.2	0	1.6

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 4 depicts the educational status of the households of the rural migrants. It has been found out that 25.9 percent of respondents were illiterate. Illiteracy is abundant among the females, 34.5 percent of the females were reported illiterate. Women education is suffering from a number of social evils. It has been observed that 23.95 percent of the respondents were literate who can read and write in any language with understanding. If we consider the primary education level, the male and female had about equal literacy. But in the higher standard of education, the literacy rate among the females had a declining trend. Overall, the educational level in the block was pathetic. The primary education is, although satisfactory because most of the villages had primary schools. But there is a lack of senior secondary schools, degree colleges, and professional colleges, so the educational status is very low in higher classes as well as the dropout rate is very high.

Income

Income is the barometer to fathom the economic prosperity of a family or a nation. Here, the monthly income is calculated to draw the economic status of households.

Table 5: Income of Households

Sr. No.	Income in Rupees (monthly)	Percentage
1	<5000	10.2
2	5000-10000	19.66
3	1000-15000	28.21
4	15000-20000	22.71
5	20000-25000	13.98
6	>25000	10.24

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 5 shows that the majority of the families fell under the monthly income between 1000 and 15000. While the families having income between 15000 and 20000 were 22.71 percent and between 5000 and 10000 monthly income consists of 19.66 percent of households. It has been marked out that the income of the households is proportional to the agriculture landholdings. Generally, the families having big landholdings have higher incomes while the families having small landholding or landless families had a very meager source of incomes. However, the monthly income less than 5000 and more than 25000 had a similar composition of

about 10 percent each.

Income of Male Migrants

Table 6: Income of Male Migrant Workers

Sr. No.	Income (monthly)	Percentage
1	0-3000	3.51
2	3000-6000	18
3	6000-9000	29.89
4	9000-12000	21.12
5	12000-15000	15.38
6	>15000	12.1

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 6 analyses the income of the male migrants while table 5 shows the income of the households of the outmigrant. Thus, from the table, it is revealed that 3.52 percent of the migrated workers were earning below 3000 Rs. per month, 18 percent were earning between 3000-6000 Rs. per month, 29.89 percent lies between 6000 and 9000 per month, 21.12 percent fall between 12000 and 15000 Rs. Per month, while only 12.1 percent of the male workers are earning more than 15000 per month out of which most of them were skilled workers. It should be kept in mind that the annual income of the migrants was sampled, then it was calculated as monthly income to show in the table. The annual income of migrant was calculated because, most of them do not migrate for a year but they migrate seasonally, often in agricultural offseason. Therefore, it is difficult for them to give the data of their income monthly.

Housing

House refers to all human structures that mean for a living, storing, protecting oneself and performing economic activities.

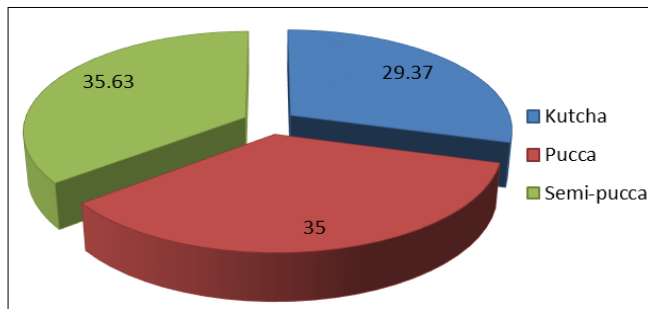


Fig 6: House Types

As far as the housing is concerned figure 6 shows that 35.63 percent of the houses were semi-pucca. These houses were made of brickfield, mud, straw, etc. Usually, during the survey, it was found that the semi-pucca houses had a pucca room and kutcha boundary, or pucca walls with a roof of straw and thatches. The pucca houses had all the premises made of pucca brickfields. Indira Awas Yojana (Later Pradhanmantri Gramin Awas Yojana) supported the poor to build their pucca houses by financial assistance. Besides this, there is still kutcha housing in the study area. 29.37 percent of the sampled household was living in the kutcha houses. These houses are unhygienic because these houses are made of mud, straw, thatches, and grass.

Latrine Availability

It is depicted from the figure 7 that only 51.92 percent of the

sampled population has the latrine facility within the house or outside the house. The rural people prefer latrine outside the boundary of the house if space is available. It is a very disappointing fact revealed during a survey that 48.08 percent of households had no latrine facility and they are using the open spaces for the toilet. It is observed during the survey that Muslim households have more availability of latrines than that of the Hindu households.

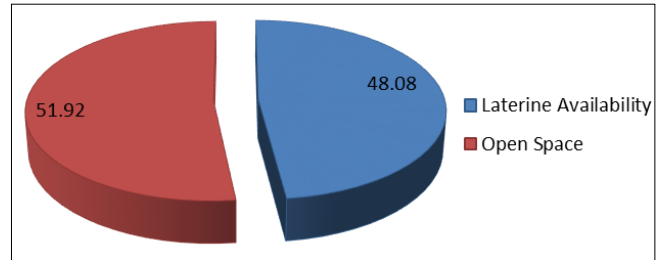


Fig 7: Latrine Availability

Drinking Water Availability

Water, the ambrosia of life, is needed for survival. The availability of adequate and pure water signifies the developed socio-cultural health of the population. While the scarcity of proper drinking water resembles socio-political conflicts.

Table 7: Drinking Water Availability

Sr. No.	Status	Percentage	Source of water	Percentage
1	Within House	82.21	Private Hand pump	86.5
2	Outside House	17.79	Public Hand pump	13.5

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 8 shows the means of cooking in the selected study area. Means of cooking is a significant sign of the health of the female population of any particular area. It has been found that woods are the most important mean of cooking that account for 40.32 percent and 33.33 percent of the respondent used cow dung for making food, cow dung is only available to that household who have the cattle. Only 14.78 percent of the respondents had got L.P.G. (Liquid Petroleum Gas) for cooking. Moreover, 4.57 percent of households also use an electric heater and 7 percent of households used a straw, wastes of crops like sugarcane, mustard, groundnut, wheat, and wheat.

Agriculture Landholding

Agriculture Landholding is the best barometer to measure the economic status of the farmers. In the study, most of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture.

Table 9: Agriculture Landholding

Sr. No.	Landholdings (in acres)	Percentage
1	No Land	30.43
2	0-1	37.26
3	4-Jan	18.01
4	8-Apr	8.07
5	>8	6.2

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 9 demonstrates the size of landholdings of the households and 30.43 percent of the families are reported landless. They had no land to do agriculture. They did agriculture on another land by contract farming or as an

agriculture worker on sharing basis or on daily wages. However, 37.26 percent of households had less than 1 acre of land. They are the marginal farmers, the agriculture output is very nominal, commonly confined to domestic use. 18.01 percent of the respondent were reported to have agricultural landholding between 1 and 4 acres. The agriculture output throughout the block is high but it might be higher rather than this if the landholdings were large. The data reveals that 8.07 percent of the sampled households had the landholding between 4 and 8 acres and 6.20 percent of the respondent were the big farmers, having the landholding more than 8 acres.

Table 10: Problems faced by the households of the outmigrant due to their outmigration

Sr. No.	Problems faced by the households	Percentage
1	Financial insecurity	36.34
2	Social Seclusion	20.02
3	The problem in Child Nurturing	17.74
4	School Dropouts	12.62
5	Medical Emergency	8.6
6	Neighborhoods harassments	4.68

Source: Calculation is based on field survey, 2016

Table 10 shows the problems faced by the household of the outmigrant after the migration of their family members. It is pointed out during the survey that most of the problems are faced by nuclear families. There is no such problems in joint families because these families had a good number of persons to sustain the family. On the other hand, in a nuclear family, if the head of the family was migrated for economic benefit for few months or only for a month, his family had to suffer a lot after his migration. It has been reported that 36.34 percent of the respondents were facing the problem of money if the head of the nuclear family was migrated. They got money when he returned home after months or a month. They did not adopt any banking system or digital system to send their remittances to home. Consequently, the children were not well nourished due to lack of money. The mothers, as well as children, suffered from health issues (8.6 percent) because they could not find anyone to help them properly while medical emergencies. In addition to this, some children left schools due to unavailability of fees or due to the absence of their fathers (12.62 percent). Moreover, nuclear families also suffered from social problems like social seclusion (20.02 percent) and 4.68 percent of the respondents complained about their neighbours for harassment.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Analysis of the study shows that the mainstream of the households of rural out migrant were the followers of Islam religion and Hinduism, some of the respondents were following the Sikhism. Their caste composition was largely Other Backward Caste (OBC) followed by General category and Scheduled Caste (SC). The family size was widely bigger in most of the cases. The study pointed out that juvenile and senile dependency was a common feature of the household. Most of the population was engaged in agriculture directly or indirectly, either daily wage labour was another choice to earn a livelihood. Slightly, more than half of the population was unmarried, only a few respondents were found widowed or separated. About 25 percent of the respondents were illiterate, moreover, the

educational status was found very poor in the study area. About half of the population had an income between 8000 and 16000 rupees per month per household. Regards to the only male migrant workers, about half of the migrants were earning between 6000 and 12000 rupees per month. Housing is one of the basic needs as 35 percent of the population had pucca houses, 35.63 percent had semi-kutchha houses while 29.37 percent had kutchha houses. The results reveal that only 52 percent of the respondents had latrine facilities the rest of them use open spaces for the toilet. Moreover, the drinking water is available within premises to more than 80 percent of the population with their private handpump. About 40 percent of the population used woods and cow dung for the cooking, LPG and Electric heater was partially used. However, 30 percent of the sampled population was landless while about 37 percent of the respondents were marginal farmers who owned less than 1 acre of land.

Though the migration is beneficial for the origin place as well as for the destination place economically, it is harmful to both places socially. So, the movement of the people should be in a systematic manner. The haphazard migration is not good for the harmony in the society, this type of migration is not good for the social fabric of society. It should be noted that migration in rural areas always happens to fulfill their economic needs. Therefore, if they get the opportunity for regular work with good wages at their place of origin, they would not move to the urban agglomeration for jobs. The first step to stop such migration is to enhance the agro-allied, agro-ancillary activities, non-farming activities, and small-scale industrial activities for generating employment opportunities in the origin place. The animal husbandry, poultry farming, pisciculture, sericulture, horticulture, floriculture, piggery, apiculture, silviculture, etc. are required to intensify in the rural areas in order to engagement of the more rural labour force in such activities to increase their income. Secondly, the level and quality of education in rural areas should be improved to make people aware of the opportunities and to generate new opportunities. Thirdly, the government plans and schemes should be efficiently implemented and diffused to all the areas.

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