



Migration of Rural youth: Education, Skill Learning , Entrepreneurship and Future of Farming

Rahul A Hajare

Associate Professor and Head
Dept. of Sociology (UG and PG)
NKSPT'S Arts, Science and Commerce
College, Badnapur. Dist Jalna (India)

Abstract

Globalization and Industrialization brought significant change in Indian economic structure specifically in rural India. Rural India has prominently changed due to rapid urbanization, rural-urban migration, destruction of rural industries, and process of globalization. Due to the rapid change in Indian economy rural industries and rural employment has been affected most. The impact can be seen in the form of growing cost of production, low rate of employability, declining rural economy, farmer suicides, etc. This change is irreversible and will leave its implications on rural India for long time. Indian scenario of Globalization is different from western world. India as a business community was not fully ready to compete with world market vice versa world was looking India as consumer nation. As an agrarian nation Indian set up always needs special treatment whenever development is planned. However entering into global market rural India especially farmers not adopted the change entirely. Rural youth didn't fully trained and skilled enough to keep pace with modernization moreover didn't have any experience in entrepreneurship. Farming is no longer attractive and profitable business for rural youth at the same time they are not accommodating global standard of education, skill learning and entrepreneurship. This study is an assessment of rural youth and their involvement in economic activities, farming and development furthermore it is also an attempt to analyze role of today's youths in rural farming.

Keywords: Rural Youth, Development, Modernization, Employment, Farming.

Introduction

Globalization and Modernization is perhaps second most major development for world after 'Industrial Revolution'. After signing GATT treaty many countries including India opened up for world market. Globalization has made deep impact on several sections of the society. It was an unavoidable situation when India shows its interest to accept global narrative of development. This was a difficult policy decision for all developing countries to keep pace with rapid change in industrial and social sector. In many aspects India was not even ready to accommodate sudden change and it was reflected in many sectors. The deepest impact was seen on Indian Agriculture Sector in many folds. In Fact agriculture sector was not fully prepared to accept the change. Principles of Modernization were not absorbed by the rural India in general and agriculture sector in particular. The acceptance of new technology, use of information science, adoption of terminator seed, use of costly pesticide, marketing strategy export and Import, etc was not easy for agriculture sector. The issues of agriculture in India were always a

matter of concern for Indian economy. Moreover new principles of modernization were a challenge for the sector. After introduction of GATT and modernization in very short period of time few serious crises emerged. The Indian economy was based on small units and however the new economic change emerged as destruction for small units and industries. The process of globalization made adverse impact on Indian agriculture sector. The economy of rural India is simple and based on Indian agriculture and its rich tradition. Over the years for many reasons Indian agriculture not remain profitable business. Meanwhile due the new policy, many changes occurred suddenly and Indian agriculture sector affected. New era of modernity encouraged use of new breed for greater yield of crop production. This was in the line with the policy of more production for global market. However the new cropping pattern was not much rooted because failure of production, damage to fertile land and increased cost of production.

Last few decade new technology, new ideas and policy has been introduced in agriculture sector. Industry sector are inventing new tools and indulging in continuous research to cope up with global speed of development. In this series new tools, computer driven mechanism of farming, food processing units, cold storage, etc new technology has been initiated. The irony is farmers are neither familiar nor capable to acquire this change. Food processing and cold storage facility is not availed by everyone. Fruits of new innovation and technology are not benefited each one, so modernity not reached to masses. Meanwhile costly pesticide, new cropping pattern, hybrid seeds, etc. made cost of production higher. Farmers are not trained and skilled to get additional benefits of modernization. In fact most of the principles of modernization are out of farmer knowledge. Globalization provides multiple opportunities to supply food out of the county but there is lack of facility and support services to export the crop. Moreover open market system doesn't ensure minimum support price for farmers. Over the years Indian agriculture system is depended on the mercy of monsoon and nowadays depended on the global market. Elements of globalization creating impact on agriculture in many aspect. The question of minimum support price is still pending between the debate of farmers and government. These all issues are evident in developing countries where basic questions are unanswered and new changes are not complementing the social structure. All above circumstances made farming a challenging job. Moreover the fastest migration of rural population to urban areas made farming difficult. Especially the youths are in dilemma for various reasons like they are not trained, skilled and in traditional business; they are not adopting new change. Farming is no more profitable business on the other hand they are not well trained to accommodate in business or service industry. New young generation is not accepting farming as an occupation.

Population of Young and workforce

India has special population dynamics, as it is the second largest population of the world and it is also a youngest population nation, in the world. As per the latest census of India has over 50 percent population of young and working force out of the total official all age population. It means India is a young nation today and it has huge work force. While considering this fact, it needs a special treatment for the education and employment sector. Indian population projection indicates that Indian government has to draw special plan for the young and adolescent. It is true that it is one of a kind population and has advantage of youngest nation of the world. However at the same time India has to plan the education and employment as a prime policy matter for this generation.

Table: 1 Indian Population of youth

Nation	Urban/Rural	Age group	Grand Total population	Male	Female
India	All	All ages	1210854977	623270258	587584719
India	All	10-14	132709212	69418835	63290377
India	All	15-19	120526449	63982396	56544053
India	All	20-24	111424222	57584693	53839529
India	All	10-19	253235661	133401231	119834430
India	All	15-24	231950671	121567089	110383582

Ref: Census of India 2011

As shown in above table Indian youth and adolescent group of population comparative to all age group is increasing towards more than fifty percent. As pr the projection of next ten years, young population age group will be significant till 2026. This unique feature of Indian population gives India a lead ahead of the all Asian nation including China and Japan. The economist

of the county believes that India definitely one step ahead as it has largest working force in the world today. They are expecting additional growth in Gross Domestic Product of the nation. However it is a difficult task for policy maker to provide good education, skill training and employment of such a young nation with hundred percent convictions. The geographical, political and social background of Indian population makes the task even difficult for planners. Mainly the young population is divided into two major categories i.e. Urban and Rural. However to implement any common policy for all over nation is quite difficult in this situation. The youth population has different basic facility and level of income, health and education. Another major issue for achieving the projected development for all young population is regional imbalance in all aspects. India is divided into small states and union territories having different issues in implementation of any scheme. Geographical conditions of different states and province produce different situation for development. Jammu Kashmir has different basic situations for youth education and employment opportunities compare to Maharashtra or Gujarat. While considering the youth as a centre point of development the state has to provide equal status and opportunity. Moreover the social status of women in different regional places is again challenging. In Rajasthan the rate of women education and employment was slower comparative to state of Kerala. There is always a gap in educational and training facilities at rural and urban level or developed state and underdeveloped state.

Dimensions of youth Migration

Migration is the key aspect of any demography which takes place for various reasons and on different parameters. There are many dimensions of migration like migration from county to another nation, Rural to Urban migration, within the country migration, etc. The reasons of migration are different however migration happens mainly due to education and employment. The highest migration of youth population in India is from rural to urban centers. The reason of this migration is because of education and employability. Last few decades it has been noticed that urban centers are attracting the young population for service and business sector. This migration even can be classified by state to state transfer of human resource. It has been evident that many states are far ahead in terms of development. Maharashtra and Gujarat are attracting many youths from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for better employment whereas from all across the county youths are migrating to Delhi for better education. The youths are also attracted to basic facility provided by various states. There are many states lagging behind in all sector development. North east of India is far behind in business, industrial development, basic infrastructure, service sector and education in compare with all developed states of India. Finance and economic stability is again one of the main reasons of huge attraction for migration. Rural youth look forward to urban centre to get financial stability as they don't see it in rural economy. Urbanization accelerates growth of industry and business activities which leads to generate great amount of employability. Rural youth are obviously attracted by this community especially service sector provide various opportunities to aspirants. Rural youth seek job security at urban centre as they are struggling with failure of crop, uncertain income and natural calamities.

Metro cities are centers of Entrepreneurship, business and self employment. In fact many of cities emerged as metro cities only due to the business and industry development. Government is also providing business facility, land, special facility, subsidies for business communities to open their units in cities. New development strategies invite investment in special economic zone and industrial area which later become very much part of cities. Transport, housing and water management is specially allocated in these cities for the encouragement of new business. These special efforts help to urban centre for fast and exclusive growth. Eventually this centre becomes employment hubs and rural youth are migration to these centers. Sustainable development is one of the significant features of urban center. Planned urban center or cities has continuous development in all sectors including basic infrastructure, electricity and transport. Last few decades new concept has been launched of 'smart cities'. Smart cities have better environment for standard of living providing airports, metros and better internet services which are surely not the part of rural sphere. Ultimately the modernization and urbanization is more tempting for rural youth compelling them to migrate from rural to urban center. Over the years migration rate is increased continuously and it left serious impact on rural structures, rural economy and rural development for employment

Table: 2 Migration details (2020-2021) All India (in percent)

Reason for migration	Male	Female
For employment	22.8	0.6
For better employment	20.1	0.7
due to loss of employment	6.7	0.4

Source: PIB, Government of India

As shown in table no 02 most of the rural youth are migrating for employment and in search of opportunity. Total migration can be classified in various categories like rural to urban, state to state, out of country, etc. Most of the migration is taking place from rural to urban however there is migration from region to region and country to foreign land. As per the NSSO 2007-2008 internal migrants are around 28 to 30 percent which is increased over the year. Most of the migration is in the search of better employment opportunity and these youths are permanently migrated. As developing nation planners see migration as sign of prosperity and change. Many developing nations have to generate as many as employment for young population. They see region to region migration as a poverty alleviation and more financial stability for younger generation. The truth is urban cities are flooded with the aspirants who wants employment and stability. The unemployment rate is on high in cities and most of the youth are losing jobs. This leads to many social issues in urban sphere like crime, slums, and poverty. As urban centre are having issues due to large amount of migration vice versa rural sphere also facing different social issues. There are number of advantages of rural youth migration as per the development is concern however as a results of this rural youth population is decreasing rapidly. Agriculture in rural India having nature and economic challenges is forced to face new challenge of shortfall of human resource in agriculture. Last few years the governmental budget on providing employment is reduce substantially for example MNREGA, etc. Landless labors are looking towards cities as better opportunity for employment as they do not get assured income in farming. Industrial area providing assured income on the contrary farming does not guarantee assured income to anyone.

Destruction of rural industry and economy

Indian rural economy is simple and agriculture based, yet traditional village has its own features. Cast base occupations and business makes Indian economy unique compare to any other rural society in the world. Even though the main business of rural India is agriculture, Indian rural society has unique tradition of craft, cotton, leather, and milk business. In the past businesses activities was restricted to the region especially in the community. The mode of financial transaction was goods exchange, eventually it was a simple economy. There was no automation of any work and all work is carried by human labor. Human resource for the agricultures was supported by the joint family structure. Over the years joint holding of land was providing financial support and stability to individuals. Each and every member was involved in agriculture activities. However there were some limitations to sustainability and progress in joint family. Indian economy was on the mercy of monsoon rain and whether conditions. There was no expansion, no automation and no transfer of surplus crop production. The total share of rural economy was negligible which is still same at some extent. This picture started changing with the induction of industrialization.

After the commencement of open economy emerging urban center created job opportunities for young populations. The urban service sector was providing the job stability and assured income which was not possible in traditional economy. At the same time automation and modern technique was introduced in the agriculture sector which reduced the need of labor work. Untimely rural population has a space to move towards cities for work. Modernization came with the solution for labor work. New techniques and equipment were introduced for accomplishment of agriculture related work, which gradually affected the rural Indian industry. Modern cotton mills were big initiative to change rural economy drastically. Over the year Indian rural industry were destroyed and replaced by urban industrial development. The result of this change was youth were tempted to shift urban economy from rural economy. Huge wave of migration triggered during this significant change.

Impact on rural employment and farming

Pace of migration resulted in low production and lack of man power in rural industries and farming. Youth are not much interested in farming and migrating to the cities. Modern agriculture reforms need more sophisticated training and knowledge about crop production, water irrigation, use of pesticide, new techniques, etc. however youths not inclined to take training and skills for better performance. Over the year land size is shrinking due the population and division of land ownership. Number of small and marginal farmers have been increased rapidly eventfully the income of small holdings is not enough in today's scenario. On the other side automation of farming is not installed properly and youths are not trained in it. Still the issue of support price of crop is major issue in Indian agriculture. Due to all this, farming is not profitable business and rural youths are not attracted to this sector. As per the NSSO survey, youths are not inclined to accept farming as profession as it is uncertain and non profitable business. Moreover the youth don't feel that it is not a prestigious business in comparison to service industry where you get assured income. There is another trained where youth prefer to do farming as part time business where they can engage in another business of assured income.

Agriculture is not only occupation but a tradition for rural India. Rural youth keeping distance form agriculture is not good in long term. In last few decades share of rural economy in Indian working force is already declined for 3.2 percent to 2.8 percent. Decreasing land holding size and uncertainly already made agriculture a non profitable business moreover rural youth moving away from it creates lot of issues. Government is trying to train youths in various agriculture allied business but studies conducted regarding youth training shows that training is provided without considering the demand of situation. Ultimately human power needed for agriculture is in short and resulted in many critical issues including farmer suicide.

Conclusion

Modernization and Globalization has its own implications on Indian Agriculture and especially on Indian Rural Society. Changes in agriculture sector provided ample opportunities for Indian farmer at the same time created some serious issues. After several years of open market policy Indian agriculture is still under 4 percent of GDP that shows the fruits of modernity have not reached to agriculture sector. New technology and policy has not adopted fully by rural peasant youth and so they are feeling distant from it. The migration rate of youth migration is high toward urban centers. Eventfully agriculture sector is losing human resource day by day. Youths are future of farming however the youths are distracting form is and diverting to the urban centers.

- On the large scale youths are migrating to cities for various reasons. There are ample of opportunities for youths in industry and service sectors. Agriculture is no longer attractive profession for rural youths moreover it seems that there is no concrete policy to see how rural youth will turn back to the agriculture sector instead of migration to the urban centers
- To retain rural youths in agriculture sector there must be comprehensive policy on the behalf of government. To make agriculture profitable and sustainable businesses youths must be oriented and trained. However the fact is youths are not trained for new knowledge, practices and techniques.
- Share of agriculture in Indian GDP is negligible and stagnant to four percent. The total expenditure and subsidies given to the agriculture sector increased in many fold however the result is not satisfied. To make agriculture business profitable government has to increase the expenditure on rural youths. At present it seems that no special expenditure on rural youth skill development in agriculture sector.
- It is the fact youths are attracted to urbanization because it is modern and profitable, in comparison to agriculture sector. It is very obvious that youths are migrating toward urban centre because there is certain income and luxury. The temptation of urbanization triggered rural youth migration in last few years.
- Over the years rural industries is destroyed by several reasons compelled to migrate towards metro cities. Rural youths don't find new opportunities in farming and farming related business. There are several attempts has been made by government like food processing businesses, cotton processing, seed research and marketing however youth are not retained in rural industries as opportunities are limited in rural sector.

- Issues like minimum support price are still unresolved and need to be addressed urgently. Farmers are not getting assured income for their crops moreover uncertain monsoon always create critical situation for farmers. There is urgent need of policy framing to ensure the certain and assured income for the crops. Moreover there is need of comprehensive policy for Rural Youth for bright future of Indian farming.

Reference:

- (1) **Malhan and Shivarama Rao** (2007) 'Impact of Globalization and Emerging Information Communication Technologies on Agricultural Knowledge Transfer to Small Farmers in India', World Library and Information Congress, South Africa.
- (2) **Joyce Ley, Nelson and Svetlana** (1996) 'Congruence of aspirations of rural youth with expectations held by parents and school staff', Journal of Research in Rural Education, Winter, 1996, Vol. 12, No.3, 133-141
- (3) **Proctor and Valerio** (2012) 'Small Scale farming and youth in an era of rapid rural change'. Knowledge Program small producer agency, IIED Bolivia
- (4) **Amrita Sharma** (2007) 'The changing agricultural demography on India : evidence from a rural youth perception survey', International Journal of Rural Management, 3(1), 2007: 27–41, Sage Publications
- (5) **R. Radhakrishna** (2002) 'Agricultural Growth, Employment and Poverty: A Policy Perspective' Economic and Political Weekly, Jan. 19-25, 2002, Vol. 37, No. 3, pp. 243-245+247-250
- (6) **Dipankar Gupta** (2005) 'Whither the Indian Village: Culture and Agriculture in 'Rural' India', Economic and Political Weekly , Vol. 40, No. 8
- (7) **R Chand, Srivastava and Singh** (2017) 'Changes in Rural Economy of India,1971 to2012 : Lessons for Job-led Growth', and Political Weekly, Vol. 52, No. 52 , pp. 64-71
- (8) **J.S. Sodhi** (1998) 'Training of Youth for Self Employment in Rural Areas—A Case Study', Indian Journal of Industrial Relations, Jan., 1988, Vol. 23, No. 3 pp. 329-345
- (9) **Amit Basole** (2017) 'What Does the Rural Economy Need? Analysis of the Promises for Rural India' Economic & Political Weekly, vol no 9
- (10) **Arup Mitra and Sher Verick** (2013) 'Youth employment and unemployment: an Indian perspective', ILO Asia-Pacific Working Paper Series
- (11) **Claire J, Suresh Babu and Kwadwo** (2010) 'Review of Agricultural Extension in India Are Farmers' Information Needs Being Met?', IFPRI Discussion Paper 01048, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office