

## Migration Behaviour of Rural Youth in Vidharbha

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### ABSTRACT

*The present study on "Migration behaviour of rural youth" was conducted in one tahsil namely Barshitakali in Akola district of Maharashtra with sample size of 120 migrated rural youth from 8 villages. The study entitled "Migration Behaviour of Rural Youth" aimed to expound the migration behaviour of rural youth and its associated determinants. The composite Migration Behaviour Index worked out was 70.66. The index values of aspiration and nature of work were found to be higher than other index values for the rural youth. The index values of remigration intention and nature of migration were found to be lower than other index values for the rural youth.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Behaviour, Rural Youth.

### INTRODUCTION

Migration is a universal social phenomenon. Generally, we assume that migration is a process through which people move from their one place of residence which results in redistribution of population both at the place of origin and at the place of destination. According to "International organization for migration", Migration is "The movement of person or group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state." It is not only an important component of the structure of the population but also an important factor in the economic development of a region or state. In developing countries, migration has been recognized as an important factor in determining plans for social and economic development. Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people as well as improves their social life as they learn about new culture, customs, languages which help to improve brotherhood among people. It also reducing unemployment and providing better job opportunities to people.

Migration is known as shifting of an

individual, or a group of individuals, from one place to another, and the gradual settling down, more or less permanently in a new place. Webster's New World Dictionary defines migration as "the act or instance of moving from one place, region and community to settle in another in search of work". From history, it is clear that people belonging to different races have moved from one place to another for food, shelter or other various reasons. Thus, migration can be referred to as an induced process as old as mankind itself. Though the main factors that induce migration may be only a few, the consequences are speculative in the beginning as the individual or a group has to face the situation in a new place. rural to urban migration has been associated with the so called "push factor" operative at the level of towns and cities, namely better wages, better standard of living, high social over heads etc. However, it must be noted that there could be other important demographic, social and psychological reasons, which play their part in explaining rural to urban migration.

In India, as per census 2001, about 307 million persons have been reported as migration by place of birth. Out of them about 259 million (84.2%),

migrated from one part of the state to another, i.e., from one village or town to another village or town. 42 million (2%) from outside the country. The data on migration by last residence in India as per Census 2001 shows that the total number of migrants has been 314 million. Out of these migrants by last residence, 268 million (85%) has been intra-state migrants, those who migrated from one area of the state to another. 41 million (13%) were interstate migrants and 5.1 million (1.6%) migrated from outside of the country.

The exodus of rural youth means fewer small-scale farmers, today and tomorrow. For many of those who stay behind, the prospects of finding decent work are limited. Faced with little or no access to land, markets, finance and education, rural youth struggle to make small-scale agricultural activities profitable. Many are unemployed or work informally often in unpaid, low-skilled, insecure and sometimes hazardous jobs. This is not just a local employment issue. It is also a global food security issue. If today's rural youth cannot or do not want to become tomorrow's farmers, how can we hope to feed a fast-rising world population. In the coming years, one of the biggest challenges for Indian agriculture would be retaining its youth in agriculture. Unless farming becomes both intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding, it will be difficult to attract or retain rural youth in farming (Swaminathan, 2012)

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was conducted in Akola district, in Akola district there are seven tahsils out of which one tahsil namely Barshitakali were purposively selected. A total sample size of 120 migrated rural youth with agricultural background were selected as per respondents for the study. A sample size of 120 migrated rural youth who are involved in agriculture on part-time or on seasonal basis were the respondents of the study from each village 15 respondents were selected villages by the random sampling method who were the migrated rural youth in village.

#### **Migration Behaviour Index (MBI)**

In this study, migration behaviour has been operationalized as the mobility of a Rural youth from his home place (source) to another place (destination) due to the influence of psychological, safety, security, and esteem needs.

The Migration Behaviour Index has included 14 major indicators viz., aspiration, creativity, occupational mobility, migration intention, nature of migration, nature of work in the migrated destination, distance of work place, degree of social embeddedness, parental and peer influence, migration decision making, migration network, family migration norm, remittances and remigration intention. Each major indicator was identified with sub indicators. Both major and sub indicators have been identified to work out Migration Behaviour Index (MBI).

Migration behaviour index was arrived by adding the score of each indicator viz., aspiration, creativity, occupational mobility, migration intention, nature of migration, nature of work in the migrated destination, distance of work place, degree of social embeddedness, parental and peer influence, migration decision making, migration network, family migration norm, remittances and remigration intention.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on calculated composite migration behaviour index, the respondents were classified into three categories viz., low, moderate and high. Mean scores have been worked out for each indicators. Thus MBI was arrived as the average of composite fourteen major components.

Besides, indices have been also worked out for each indicator. The MBI was administered to analyze the migration behaviour of the rural youth by combining sub indicators of all major indicators into a composite index. The responses of the respondents appropriate for fabricating MBI were carefully collected and presented in Table 1.

Table 1  
Indicator wise Migration Behaviour Index

Sl.No.	Migration Behaviour Indicators	Respondents (n=120)
		Index
1	Aspiration	80.72
2	Creativity	72.83
3	Occupational Mobility	77.05
4	Migration intension	76.38
5	Nature of Migration	58.61
6	Nature of work	78.19
7	Distance of work	63.12
8	Degree of Social embeddedness	72.55
9	Parental and peer influence	78.16
10	Migration Decision making	72.29
11	Migration network	70.27
12	Family migration norms	73.05
13	Remittances	75.55
14	Remigration intension	40.5
	<b>Composite MBI</b>	70.66

From the Table 1, it is seen that the indexes for the 14 components were as follows, aspiration (80.72), creativity (72.83), occupational mobility (77.05), migration intension (76.38), nature of migration (58.61), nature of work in the migrated destination (78.19), distance of work place (63.12), degree of social embeddedness (72.55), parental and peer influence (78.16), migration decision making (72.29), migration network (70.27) family migration norm (73.05) remittances (75.55) and remigration intention (40.5). Finally, the Composite Migration Behaviour Index (CMBI) worked out was 70.66. It is concluded from these findings that the index value of aspiration was found to be highest in all index values followed by the nature of work and parental and peer influence. The index value of remigration intention was found to be lowest in all index values followed by the nature of migration.

The indicator wise findings and discussions of the Migration Behaviour Index are presented in the following segment.

#### Indicator wise migration behaviour

The 14 major indicators included in the migration behaviour index were categorised into direct indicators and perceived indicators.

Components like nature of migration, nature of work, distance of work, migration decision making, migration network, family migration norm and remigration intention fall under the direct indicators category. The remaining seven components like aspiration, creativity, occupational mobility, migration intention, degree of social embeddedness, parental and peer influences and remittances were accommodated under the perceived indicators category. Each major indicator has been analysed with sub indicators. Each major and sub indicators were already subjected to standardization procedure. After the standardization process, responses were obtained. In case of the direct indicators, the respondents were asked to put forth their choice from the sub indicators. The scores for the respective sub indicators were provided based on measurement and the scoring procedure developed for the study. In case of the perceived indicators the responses have been obtained on a threepoint continuum viz., agree, undecided and disagree for which the scores given were 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Mean scores were computed for each of the sub indicators and average mean scores were arrived for the main indicators. The results are furnished in Table 2 below for discussion.

Table 2  
Mean scores on the migration behaviour of rural youth

Sl.No.	Migration Behaviour Indicators	Respondents (n=120)		
Direct Indicators				
		Frequency	Per cent	Mean
<b>I</b>	<b>Nature of migration</b>			<b>1.75/3.00</b>
1	Seasonal	47	39.17	
	i. Summer	25	20.83	
	ii. Kharif	3	02.50	
	iii. Rabi	19	15.83	
2	Temporary	55	45.83	
3	Permanent	18	15.00	
<b>II</b>	<b>Nature of work in the migrated destination</b>			<b>1.64/2.00</b>
1	Agricultural	43	35.83	
	i. Work as Agricultural Labour	25	20.83	
	ii. Work in Agricultural processing industry	9	07.50	
	iii. Work in Nursery	6	05.00	
	iv. Work in dairy	3	02.50	
2	Non-agricultural	77	64.17	
<b>III</b>	<b>Distance of work place</b>			<b>2.52/4.00</b>
1	Less than 25 kms	16	13.33	
2	26-50 kms	38	31.67	
3	51-100 kms	53	44.17	
4	More than 100 kms	13	10.83	
<b>IV</b>	<b>Migration decision making</b>			<b>2.89/3.00</b>
1	By self	32	26.67	
2	Family members	56	46.67	
3	Others	32	26.67	
	i. Relatives	19	15.83	
	ii. Friends	13	10.83	
<b>V</b>	<b>Remigration intention</b>			<b>2.02/5.00</b>
1	Intend to return within a 6 month	59	49.17	
2	Intend to return within 6 months to 1 year	32	26.67	
3	Intend to return within 1to 5 years	11	09.17	
4	Intend to return within 5 years above	3	02.50	
5	No intention to return	15	12.50	
<b>VI</b>	<b>Migration network</b>			<b>2.10/3.00</b>
1	Family members or relatives	49	40.83	
2	Friends or Neighbours	35	29.17	
3	Agencies	36	30.00	
<b>VII</b>	<b>Family migration norm</b>			<b>2.19/3.00</b>
1	Encourage to migrate	43	35.83	
2	No idea	57	47.05	
3	Do not encourage to migrate	20	16.67	
Perceived Indicators				
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Aspiration</b>			<b>2.42/3.00</b>
1	To earn more money within next five years.		2.80	
2	To increase material possession within next five years.		2.35	
3	To construct new house within next five years.		2.65	
4	To purchase lands within next five years.		1.83	
5	To reach a better social status within next five years.		2.45	

<b>IX</b>	<b>Creativity</b>	<b>2.19/3.00</b>
1	Desire to go beyond convention.	2.44
2	Fascinating new tasks and areas.	2.20
3	Restructuring problems and recognize ideas.	1.92
4	Working on several ideas simultaneously.	2.13
5	Elaborating and expanding ideas.	2.28
<b>X</b>	<b>Occupational mobility</b>	<b>2.30/3.00</b>
1	Fondness to travel to unknown destinations in search of job.	2.28
2	No hesitation to pick jobs in unfamiliar areas.	2.28
3	No vacillation to mingle with people in unfamiliar surroundings.	2.60
4	Easiness to get accommodated to the new culture and customs.	2.05
5	Readiness to grasp job oriented skills that are new.	2.30
<b>XI</b>	<b>Migration intention</b>	<b>2.29/3.00</b>
1	Intention to migrate in the past.	2.7
2	Intention to migrate currently.	2.02
3	Intention to migrate in future.	2.15
<b>XII</b>	<b>Degree of social embeddedness</b>	<b>2.18/3.00</b>
1	Preference to stay in the migrated place than home place.	1.91
2	Feeling safe and secure staying in the migrated destination.	1.93
3	Feeling comfortable surrounded by people belonging to other community.	2.19
4	Preference to work with people belonging to other community.	2.32
5	Leaving family in native when moving to unfamiliar places.	2.54
<b>XIII</b>	<b>Parental and peer influences</b>	<b>2.34/3.00</b>
1	Commune looks down upon Migration.	2.34
2	Parents want to move out of agriculture.	2.48
3	Migration following friends in urban areas.	2.23
4	Family wants to make more money like friends.	2.33
5	Families of prospective brides do not prefer farming youth.	2.31
<b>XIV</b>	<b>Remittances</b>	<b>2.26/3.00</b>
1	Has increased income status.	2.8
2	Has given economic status independence.	1.97
3	Has improve the ability to support family financially.	2.26
4	Has encouraged creating assets.	2.10
5	A security for future life.	2.18

### Indicator wise findings on migration behaviour of rural youth

The information pertaining to the Migration behaviour of rural youth given in Table 2. is discussed as under.

#### I. Nature of migration

Nature of migration is the seasonal, temporary or the permanent movement of rural

youth from their native place to another destination in response to their career prospects. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of nature of migration for the rural youth was 1.75. Nearly half (45.83%) of the respondents had temporary nature of migration. 39.17 per cent of the respondents had seasonal nature of migration among them 20.83 per cent were migrate in Summer season and 15.83 per cent were migrate in

Rabi season and 02.50 per cent were migrated in Kharif season. 15.00 per cent of the respondents had permanent nature of migration. Temporary migrants or seasonal migrants who returned to their place of origin after a time to get involved in agriculture/non agriculture on part-time or seasonal basis. One category of rural youth was found to get engaged in farming during the agriculture seasonal months of June to August in the study area when sufficient rainfall is available.

## **II. Nature of work in the migrated destination**

Nature of work in the migrated destination is the kind or class of work the migrant rural youth has chosen in the migration destination. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of nature of work in the migrated destination for the rural youth was 1.64. Majority of the respondents (64.17%) had non-agricultural work in the migrated destination followed by agricultural work (35.83%) among them 20.83 per cent were work as the agricultural labour and 07.50 per cent were worked in agricultural processing industry and 05.00 per cent were work as the nursery and 02.50 per cent were work as dairy. Majority of them were found to take up non-agricultural jobs in the migrated destinations. They were observed to have taken up jobs like cooking, masonry, driver, waiter, brick workers, mechanical work, private jobs etc. Remaining were found take up agricultural jobs in migrated destination like agricultural labour, work in agricultural processing industries, work in dairy. Moreover, the higher wages what they earn with the same physical strain implied comparatively to agriculture would have also induced them to choose non-agricultural job.

## **III. Distance of work place**

Distance of work place is the distance between the rural youth residence and the migrated destination or the work place. The findings From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of distance of work place for the rural youth was 2.52. Above two-fifth of the respondents (44.17%) were work at distance of 51-100 km from their residence followed by work at distance of 26-50 km (31.67%), less than 25 km (13.33%) and more than 100 km (10.83%). The migrated rural youth were

reported to have migrated to far away industrialized hub like, Akola, Amaravati, Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai, Nasik, etc. since they have permanently move out of agriculture and some of the seasonal migrated rural youth they migrated in near place. since would facilitate them to periodically return back to take part in agriculture.

## **IV. Migration decision making**

Migration decision making is the degree to which the rural youth and their friends and relatives have participated in the decision to migrate. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of migration decision making for the rural youth was 2.89. Nearly half of the respondents (46.67%) take the migration decision by consulting with family members followed by self (26.67%). 26.67 per cent of the respondents take the migration decision by consulting with others among them 10.83 per cent take decision by consulting with friends and 15.83 per cent with relatives. Permanent migrated rural youth possessed more prior migration experience when compared to their counterparts. This would probably enhance their magnitude of independent decision making. Consultation with family members followed by friends and neighbours was the other commonly observed pattern of decision-making of rural youth since they would act as the information providers regarding prospective places to migrate, the job availabilities and stay place.

## **V. Remigration intention**

Remigration intention is the thought about moving back or returning back to the home location as perceived and symbolically revealed by the migrated rural youth. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of remigration intention for the rural youth was 2.02. Almost half of the respondents (49.17%) intend to return within 6 months followed by 6 months to 1 year (26.67%), (12.50%) per cent of the respondents had no intention to return back to home location and 1 to 5 years (09.17%) and (02.50%) respondents had intend to return above 5 years. Majority of the permanent migrants possessed the intention to return back to their native. The affiliation towards their home community and the idea of settling in

their home place after earning sufficient money would have influenced their remigration intention. Some of them were not interested to return back to their native.

#### **VI. Migration network**

Migration network is a set of interpersonal ties that connect movers, former movers, and non-movers in places of origin and destination through social ties. Migrant network frameworks are frequently invoked to explain individual migration behaviour as it influences the dynamics of migration decision making and associated behaviour. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of migration network was 2.10. Above two-fifth of respondents (40.83%) had migration network through family members and relatives, followed by the (30.00%) of respondents had migration network through the agencies and (29.17%) through the friends. This would make the migrated rural youth to frame a strong niche of social network in order to take help in the form of information about new employment opportunities and areas to reside in unfamiliar places. In case of fully migrated rural youth, agents served as their network since human resources were recruited in bulk numbers for jobs in corporate, textile mills and showrooms, processing industries. Thus, the development of migration and social networks played vital roles in the absorption of newcomers to the destination areas, allowing migrants to retain their primary social commitment to their areas of origin.

#### **VII. Family migration norm**

Family migration norm is the perception of family members towards migration of the rural youth. From the Table 2. it could be interpreted that the average mean score for the family migration norm of fully migrated rural youth was (2.19). with regards to family migration norm nearly half of respondents (47.05%) had no idea for migration, followed by the (35.83%) respondents had encouraged to migrate and (16.67%) of respondents had do not encourage to migrate. It was found that the majority the families of rural youth were ensure toward the phenomenon of migration and some families of rural youth possessed on optimistic

attitude toward migration and also encouraged the process of migration. The reason behind it being that the income from migration would act as a source of revenue during non-agricultural seasons and would be helpful in further investment in agriculture.

#### **VIII. Aspiration**

Aspiration is defined as an individual's desire to obtain a status object or goal such as a specific occupational, economic and social status. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of aspiration for the rural youth was 2.42. Though the rural youth has the aspirations of attaining a stable economic and social status, the property and material possession aspirations of the rural youth was seen on the higher end. Moreover, the researcher was able to observe an intricate relationship between the educational status and the aspirations of the rural youth. It is quite common that when the enhanced educational status of the rural youth increases, their aspirations would also increase. Further, whatever would be the economic background of the family, both the categories exhibited aspirations to step ahead.

#### **IX Creativity**

Creativity of rural youth is usually characterized by a high degree of originality and innovation, divergent thinking and risk taking. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of creativity was 2.19. The majority of migrated rural youth were found to possess the desire to go beyond convention i.e., permanently migrating instead of involving in agriculture. The risks involved in practicing agriculture would have made them to work on several ideas simultaneously. They concurrently involved in farming and managed the risks in agriculture by temporarily migrating to cities and towns to take up jobs to sustain their livelihoods. Thus, the reason behind the level of creativity domain of the categories of rural youth could be justified.

#### **X. Occupational mobility**

Occupational mobility is the openness of rural youth to opportunities, taking the risks of moving out and experimenting with newer jobs and

diverse surroundings. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of occupational mobility was 2.30. that the majority of migrated rural youth were found to easily mingle with people and get accommodated to the new culture and customs of the new places. They were also found the migrated rural youth were open to pick new jobs in unknown destination. Thus, the quality of experimentation and higher affiliation expectancy from the migrated destination higher would have influenced their occupational mobility in a positive way. On the other hand, the stronger affiliation towards family and home community, family migration norm and the affirmative attitude towards agriculture could have limited the occupational mobility of the partially migrated ones.

### **XI. Migration intention**

Migration intention is the rural youth's thought and plan about moving out to another destination in the past, present and future. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of migration intension was 2.29. The intention to migrate in the future was found to migrated rural youth when compared to their counterparts. The income from farming would compromise their family income during non-agricultural seasons and manage the risks that may arise out from farming. Conversely majority of the migrated rural youth expressed their opinion to return back to their villages in near future after earning sufficiently, in spite of their strong migration intention in the past and present. Thus the income and employment generated by the rural youth influenced their intention to migrate.

### **XII. Degree of social embeddedness**

Degree of social embeddedness is the extent to which a rural youth is attached or entrenched with his family, home community and degree to which a particular collectivist forms a group. Lower the degree of social embeddedness with the home community, higher would be the migration behaviour. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of degree of social embeddedness for the rural youth was 2.18. that the temporary and seasonal migrated rural youth preferred to be within the niche of people belonging

to their home community even after migration. Permanent migrated rural youth readily got acclimatized with their new environment and unknown people around them. On the other hand, they migrated to places where strong migration network ties were available. Thus, high degree of social embeddedness with their home community would be the reason behind their periodical involvement in farming.

### **XIII. Parental and peer influence**

The role of parents and friends in persuading and inducing the rural youth to migrate is inevitable. Thus, the parental and peer influence would possibly achieve migration tendency of rural youth. From the Table 2. it could be observed that the average mean score of parental and peer influences for the rural youth was 2.34. majority of temporary and seasonal migrants the rural youth parents were encourage them to move out the agriculture and Most of the permanent migrated rural youth were found to have followed their friends who have already migrated. Since the families of these rural youth wanted them to make more money as their friends do. All these reasons would have stimulated the rural youth to oppose for a migration. since the income from migration would pacify their family income during off seasons. Moreover, the commune around the rural youth considered farming to be the least profitable venture. This would be the reason of rural youth to get migrated in different strengths.

### **XIV. Remittances**

Remittances from migration are the positive outcome of migration achieved through the migrant's income sent from the destination of employment to the family in the native. It was indeed found to have a positive impact on the migration prospects of rural youth economical and psychological status. From the Table 2, it could be observed that the average mean score of remittances was 2.26. From the responses obtained, it was clear that remittances from migration have improved their financial and social status. Thus remittances from migration have positively persuaded the migration behaviour of the rural youth by stimulating their migration intention to move currently or in future. On the contrary, it also



negatively influenced the remigration intention of rural youth, as the rural youth would still thrive hard to sustain and enhance the economic and social status achieved through migration.

**Overall migration behaviour of rural youth**

Migration behaviour is the mobility of a

rural youth from his home place (source) to another place (destination) due to the influence of psychological, safety, security, and esteem needs.

The information regarding the migration behaviour was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented below.

*Table 3  
Distribution of the respondents on their overall migration behaviour*

Sl. No	Migration behaviour index level	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low (up to 33.33)	00	00.00
2.	Moderate (33.34 to 66.66)	29	24.17
3.	High (above 66.67)	91	75.83
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is observed from Table 3, that 75.83 per cent respondents had high level of migration behaviour, followed by 24.17 per cent respondents had moderate level of migration behaviour and none of the respondent had low level of migration behaviour. This findings is in line with the finding reported by Ampadu (2012), Anamica (2013), Bhushan (2014) and Patidar (2018).

**CONCLUSION**

Every year millions of youth migrate in search of work to sustain the livelihood of their families left behind in the rural areas. Currently, there is a challenge of retaining youngsters in their native places due to various socio-economic factors.

Migration is shift from a place of residence to another place for some length of time for earning livelihood. It has a greater impact on economic, social, cultural and psychological life of people. Migration is mostly influenced by social structure and pattern of development. Though migration is beneficial to the society in the sense that the migrant households improve their financial position, yet it has some negative aspects also. Farmers have to face shortage of labour due to mass exodus of young able bodies during agriculturally peak seasons.

It can be concluded that most of the respondents had high level of migration behaviour followed by moderate level of migration behaviour and low level of migration behaviour of rural youth.

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