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Determinants of Youth Migration to Urban Areas in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India

**Rishabh Kumar Maurya^{a+++*}, R. N. Yadav^{a+++},
D. K. Singh^{a+++}, L. B. Singh^{a+++}, R. B. Yadav^{b#},
Pankaj Kumar Ojha^{c†}
and Monika Devi Konjengbam^{d++}**

^a Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut- 250110, U.P., India.

^b Department of Agronomy, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut- 250110, U.P., India.

^c Department of Agricultural Extension, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda, India.

^d Department of Agricultural Extension Education, SVPUAT, Meerut, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2023/v41i102177

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/106698>

Original Research Article

Received: 11/07/2023

Accepted: 15/09/2023

Published: 16/09/2023

⁺⁺ Research Scholar;

[#] Professor;

[†] Assistant Professor;

*Corresponding author: E-mail: mauryarishabh574@gmail.com;

ABSTRACT

Youth are considered as the pillars that provide support and strength to the country. India is said to be a land of youth and villages. This paper is an effort to analyze the socio-economic profile of rural youths of eastern Uttar Pradesh along with their Migration Status. The sample size of 160 rural youth was randomly selected for the study and data were collected through personal interview method during 2023. Multi stage random sampling technique was adopted for the study with the Descriptive research design. The study was conducted in Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh in the districts Chandauli, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, and Deoria. Two blocks were selected from each selected district. Therefore, total of eight blocks were considered for study. From each selected block, two villages were selected for the present research. Ultimately, Sixteen villages were selected. A total of 160 respondents were selected from 16 villages, 10 respondents from each village. To obtain the data from 160 respondents, 197 respondents were contacted for clear and satisfactory response as per specific objectives of the study. The study revealed that highest percentage (47.50 per cent) of respondents were from middle age rural youth category i.e. 18-24 years and maximum number of respondents (55.63 per cent) belonged to other backward caste with maximum numbers of respondents (49.37 per cent) were graduate level of education. Joint family along with Mixed housing pattern is more common as revealed from the study. Most (38.13 per cent) of the respondents had small land holding i.e. 1-2ha with (48.12 per cent) of respondents having income between Rs. 2,00,001-3,00,000 income per annum from agriculture while Study also reveals that maximum land are owned by parents. 66.25 per cent of the respondents have prior migration experience and the main reason behind migration was education.

Keywords: Rural youth; migration; Eastern Uttar Pradesh; socio-economic profile; agriculture.

1. INTRODUCTION

Youth, being passionate, vibrant, innovative, and dynamic in nature, is the most important section of society. The youths are called to be as "Nation Builders" and they should have prepared themselves for a really constructive citizenship. Their behavioral pattern, thinking process, value and perception is very important and can be utilized for constructive purpose in development. Youth are considered as the pillars that provide support and strength to the country. What young people learn during their early years, as well as their attitude and social system engagement, greatly influence the future of a nation. This is because every civilized country should pay adequate attention to the needs, training, education and general upbringing of the youth. The quality of a nation can be judged by the extent of the attention it pays to its youth.

Gandhiji had stated, decades earlier that 'India lives in its villages' and it still holds good. Youth is an important and vital segment of human resources which is not only today but in future will have to shoulder responsibility for the development which includes agriculture and rural sectors. Youth is often understood to be the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, encompassing processes of sexual maturation

and growing social and economic autonomy from parents and careers [1].

Rural youth can play an important role in ensuring food security if they are encouraged to involve in farming and the challenges they face are addressed. From recent trends it is observed that it is the youth who shows continuous migration from rural areas to urban areas. This migrational trend is a big issue as it directly influence on the agriculture sector. According to the 2011 Census, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are responsible for the most number of migrants as 20.9 million people migrated outside the state from these two states. The recent migration data from 64th round NSSO (2007-08) and census 2011 shows rapid increase in internal migration in India. The migration rate (proportion of migrants in the population) in the urban areas (35.00 per cent) was far higher than the migration rate in the rural areas (26.00 per cent).

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. Today's youth are the hope of the future. They are the real spirit of future agriculture. Young people look not only for their own livelihood, but also for the dignity and purpose in life. It is a well-known fact that only few young people engage in agriculture, although the majority of rural youth have the energy and

enthusiasm to do well in agriculture and allied jobs [2].

Rural-urban migration impacts both rural and urban communities. The rural community is affected due to the movement of youth, who are expected to partake in the development of agriculture in particular and the community in general, from the rural areas to the cities [3].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive Research Design will be applied in the present research study as this design is applied to obtain the pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomenon and whenever possible, to draw valid general conclusions. Therefore this design will be considered appropriate.

The study was conducted in Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh in the four districts Chandauli, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, and Deoria. Multi stage random sampling technique was adopted for the study with the Descriptive research design. The sample size of 160 rural youth was randomly selected for the study and data were collected through personal interview method during 2023. Two blocks were selected from each selected district. Therefore, total of eight blocks were considered for study. From each selected block, two villages were selected for the present research. Ultimately, sixteen villages were selected. A total of 160 respondents were selected from 16 villages, 10 respondents from each village. To obtain the data from 160 respondents, 197 respondents were contacted for clear and satisfactory response as per specific objectives of the study. The data analysis was done with the use of frequency, mean and percentage for simple calculations.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For examining the socioeconomic profile and migration status of rural youth, selection of suitable variables is very important. Suitable selection proper understanding of Rural Youth. Distribution of Rural Youth according to various characteristics are given in following Tables 1,2,3 and 4.

3.1 Age

The distribution of the respondents based on their age is presented in Table 1, indicates that, maximum numbers of respondents (47.50 per

cent) were belonging to middle age Rural Youth group followed by lower age Rural Youth group (45.00 per cent) and the remaining belongs to upper age rural youth (07.50 per cent).

The results were in line with the findings of Anarase et al. [4].

3.2 Caste

The distribution of the respondents based on their caste is presented in Table 1, shows the maximum number of respondents (55.63 per cent) belonged to other backward caste followed by (35.62 per cent) general category, the remaining belongs to schedule caste/ schedule (08.75 per cent).

The possible reason behind this might be OBCs constitute a significant portion of the population in Eastern Uttar Pradesh due to historical patterns of settlement, migration, and demographic factors.

These findings align with the research of Kailash et al. [5].

3.3 Education

It could be observed from the Table 1, that 498.37 per cent of the rural youth are graduate had while 23.75 per cent of the rural youth had education up to intermediate level of education. Only 18.13 per cent of respondents have education up to post graduate and above which is followed by high school and illiterate as 06.87 per cent and 1.88 per cent respectively.

The possible reason behind the findings may be in recent times, there has been a growing emphasis on higher education for better employment opportunities. This might have motivated more individuals to pursue graduate-level education. Even there is a list efforts such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and many more by the government reflect a multi-pronged approach to improving education.

3.3 Marital Status

Table 1 indicates that, majority of the respondents (58.12 per cent) were unmarried and remaining (41.87 per cent) respondents were found married.

Table 1. Distribution of Rural Youth according to various characteristics

Sr. No.	Categories	frequency	per centage
3.1. Age			
1.	Lower age Youth (18-24 years)	72	45.00
2.	Middle age Youth (25-30 years)	76	47.50
3.	Upper age Youth (31-35 years)	12	7.50
3.2. Caste Category			
1.	Schedule caste/Schedule tribe	14	8.75
2.	Other Backward caste	89	55.63
3.	General category	57	35.62
3.3. Education			
1.	Lliterate	3	1.88
2.	High School	11	06.87
3.	Intermediate	38	23.75
4.	Graduate	79	49.37
5.	Post Graduate and above	29	18.13
3.4. Marital Status			
1.	Unmarried	93	58.12
2.	Married	67	41.87
3.5. Family type			
1.	Nuclear family	63	39.37
2.	Joint Family	97	60.63
3.6. Housing Pattern			
1.	Kachha House	-	-
2.	Mixed House	42	26.25
3.	Pucca House	118	73.75
3.7. Land ownership			
1.	Owned by Respondent	17	10.63
2.	Parental ownership	143	89.37
3.8. Land Holding			
1.	Marginal (Up to 1 ha)	57	35.62
2.	Small (1-2 ha)	53	33.13
3.	Medium (2-4 ha)	33	20.63
4.	Large (Above 4 ha)	17	10.62

Unmarried individuals are more likely to be found within the younger age groups, the possible reason behind this might be that young individuals often prioritize education and career development before marriage and the study sample included a significant portion of young respondents, this could lead to a higher representation of unmarried individuals.

3.4 Type of Family

The distribution of the respondents based on their family type is presented in Table 1, shows that the maximum number of respondents (60.63 per cent) was living in joint family type and the remaining (39.37 per cent) respondents were living in the nuclear family system.

Here we find that, maximum (60.63per cent) respondents live in joint family system because

in many parts of India, including Eastern Uttar Pradesh, joint families are a deeply ingrained cultural norm. The preference for joint families is often influenced by traditional values, respect for elders, and the idea of family unity. Mostly people believe that the idea of joint family is the reason of their happiness and believe in unity.

Similar results have been reported by Jaipuriya [6].

3.5 Type of Houses

The distribution of respondents on the basis of their housing pattern is presented in Table 1, indicates the highest number of (73.75 per cent) of respondents were lives in pucca house and the remaining (26.25 per cent) respondents lives in Mixed (kuccha +Pucca) house. There was no respondent having kaccha house [7-9].

Here we concluded that majority of the respondents (73.75 per cent) lives in pucca house. Possible reason behind this is Government housing schemes and programs aimed at improving rural infrastructure and living conditions might have led to an increase in the construction of pucca houses, thereby influencing the findings. Economic growth and improved financial conditions in certain rural areas might have enabled more families to afford building pucca houses as improved livelihood.

3.6 Land Ownership

The distribution of respondents on the basis of land ownership is presented in Table 1, which shows the majority of the respondents (89.37 per cent) have land owned by their parents while only 10.63 per cent of the respondents own land as their own.

The possible reasons behind this might be that land ownership can confer social status and economic security. Parents might prioritize retaining ownership to ensure the family's stability and standing in the community.

3.7 Land Holding Size

The distribution of the respondents according to their land holding size is presented in Table 1, which indicates that the most of the respondents (35.62 per cent) were having marginal land holding i.e. up to 1 ha, while 33.13 per cent respondents had small land holding type i.e. 1-2 ha of land. Only 20.63 respondents belonged to medium land holding 2-4ha which is followed by

large farmers (10.62 per cent) were having above 4 ha. of land [10,11].

Eastern Uttar Pradesh have a pattern of fragmented land holdings due to population growth, leading to a higher prevalence of marginal and small land holdings. Rapid population growth lead to land fragmentation over time, resulting in smaller and more marginal land holdings for majority of households.

3.8 Annual Income

It was operationalized by considering the total income earned by the family from all the sources for a period of one year. Here, classification of annual income is done in two parts viz. From agriculture and from other sources. The following Table 2 shows the annual income of the respondents.

a) From Agriculture

The annual income of the respondents from agriculture is shown in Table 4, which shows that the maximum respondents (48.12per cent) were having annual income of Rs. 2,00,001-3,00,000 per annum followed by few respondents (20.00 per cent) above Rs. 3,00,001 while (18.13per cent) of the respondents having annual income below Rs. 1,00,000 per annum. Only (13.75per cent) of the respondents have annual income between Rs. 1,00,001-2,00,000 per annum.

b) From Other sources

This depicts about the annual income of the respondents from the other sources than the agriculture.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their annual income throughagriculture

Sr. No.	Particulars	Frequency	per centage
1.	Below Rs. 1,00,000	29	18.13
2.	Between Rs. 1,00,001 – 2,00,000	22	13.75
3.	Between Rs. 2,00,001-3,00,000	77	48.12
4.	Above Rs. 3,00,001	32	20.00

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their annual income fromother sources

Sr. No.	Particulars	Frequency	percentage
1.	Below Rs. 1,00,000	31	19.37
2.	Between Rs. 1,00,001 – 2,00,000	36	22.50
3.	Between Rs. 2,00,001-3,00,000	44	27.50
4.	Above Rs. 3,00,001	49	30.63

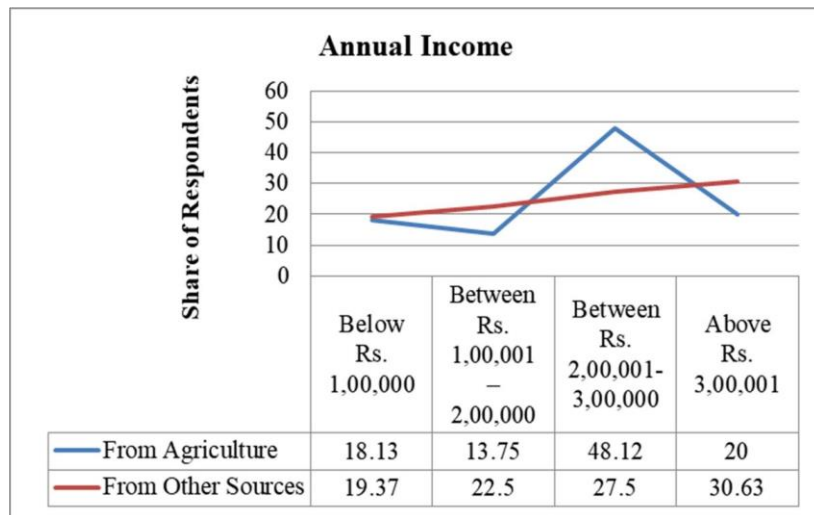


Fig. 1. Distribution of respondents according to their Annual Income & Source of income

The annual income of the respondents from other sources than agriculture is shown in Table 4, which shows that the maximum of respondents (30.63 per cent) were having annual income above Rs. 3,00,001 followed by respondents (27.50 per cent) having annual income Between Rs. 2, 00, 001 - 3, 00, 000 while (22.50 per cent) of the respondents having annual income between Rs. 1,00,001 – 2,00,000. Only (19.37 per cent) of the respondents has annual income below Rs. 1,00,000.

c) Source of income from other sources than agriculture

The source of income other than agriculture is very important aspect to view in to identify clear information about the economic status of the respondents. This will also light up the clear information investigation on decline from agriculture leading to migration. How other sources of income of an individual is an important factor which contributes to sustain once family life as well as provides certain social status. Every category viz. frequency was calculated and on the percentage base result is presented in Table 4.

It is clear from the Table 4 that Business is the major sources of income other than agriculture,

about (74.37 per cent) of the respondents rely on business, specifically in that others (23.75 per cent) have most respondents. Others include mainly Electrician, Broker, and Mobile repairing and driving.

Data from Table 4 shows (18.13 per cent) of the respondents have private job as their other source of income while only (07.50 per cent) earns from Government Job.

Economic diversification is common in rural areas to mitigate risks associated with dependency on a single source of income, such as agriculture. Starting a business can provide an additional income stream.

3.9 Prior Migration Experience

The data stated in Table 5 revealed that majority (57.29 per cent) of the respondents had migration experience. The experience increased by respondents on numerous carrier chances, work culture and work places due to previous experience of relocation might have motivated them to move a healthier work with an improved earnings. Remaining 42.71 per cent of rural youth did not have any earlier relocation experience [12,13].

Table 4. Distribution of respondents on the basis of their different sources of annual income

Sr. No.	Particulars	Frequency	per centage
1.	Business	119	74.37
2.	Government Job	12	07.50
3.	Private Job	29	18.13

Table 5. Distribution of respondents according to their prior migration experience

Sr. No.	Reason	Frequency	percentage
1.	Education	73	45.62
2.	Job & Business	28	17.50
4.	Marriage	03	01.87
4.	Others	02	01.25
5.	Never migrated	54	33.75

Possible reason behind the findings may be that the Rural areas might have limited access to higher education institutions. Aspiring for quality education, rural youth might migrate to urban areas where better educational facilities are available.

It is evident from the Table 5, that about (66.25 per cent) of the rural youth have prior migration experience in which education was the prime reason for most (45.62 per cent) of the respondents for migration, which is followed by job (15.62 per cent). Only few (01.87 per cent) respondents migrated due to marriage. The study also reveals that about (33.75per cent) of the respondents never migrated to urban areas.

The possible reason behind the results might be, Rural areas might lack quality higher education institutions and specialized courses, prompting youth to migrate to urban centers where better educational facilities are available.

Many competitive exams and coaching centers for professional courses are concentrated in urban areas. Rural youth migrate to access these resources and enhance their chances of success.

4. CONCLUSION

The study reveals that maximum numbers of respondents were belonged to middle age youth category with maximum number of respondents belonged to other backward caste. The study reveals that maximum numbers of respondents were graduate level of education and were unmarried in respect of maximum numbers of respondents were living in joint family type. The finding indicates that majority of the respondents have land of their parental ownership while remaining.

Maximum respondents were having 1-2 ha. of land and were having income between Rs. 2,00,001-3,00,000 income per annum from agriculture and maximum of respondents were having income above Rs. 3,00,001 per annum

from business as the major source of their income. Finding shows that about majority of the respondents had prior migration experience in which (45.63per cent) migrated for education.

To mitigate the migration of rural youth, it is crucial to address issues mainly related to education as it was clear from the findings that education was the main reason of migration of Rural Youth. Empowering rural youth is not only an investment in their future but also a step towards sustainable development in this region.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Peer-review history:

The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
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