

Abstract

Recognising the complex, multi-patterned and dynamic nature of migration among developing economies with high concentration of labour force in rural areas it becomes important to analyse the role of migration in greater detail, especially seasonal migration as an integral part of diversified strategies adopted by the poor. Of late an increase in migratory pattern is increasingly been attributed to the collapse of livelihoods in agriculture and “related occupancies”. Thus agro-ecological conditions gain significance and hence the study tries to assess the pattern of short term migration from rural areas across different agro-climatic zones. Further the intricacies coupled with sectoral shift and other socio-economic characteristics of distress influencing the movements have also been looked at. Extensive scope for studying short term migration using secondary data set was made possible by the 64th NSS round (July 2007-June2008) , covering 1,25,578 households i.e. a sample of 572,254 persons, which was not the case previously , wherein the fineness involved in the short term migratory pattern were captured mainly by micro-level primary studies. Findings conducive to what was expected surfaced pointing to “rural distress”, sectoral shift as well as intra, inter-state variations determining the extent of migration.

Substantial proportion of short term migration is evident within the states, thus analysing inter-intra district migration would have provided with a more comprehensive pattern. Data set did not provide scope for such an analysis. Further the “fineness” of the definitions or the “lack of it” adopted by the 64th round NSS (July 2007-June2008) has acted as a deterrent in comprehensive understanding of different categories of migrants.

Key words: Short term migration, Rural distress, Agro-ecological conditions, Sectoral shift.