



Impact of Labour Migration on Sustainable Growth with Reference to Jhansi District

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Migration is a major characteristic of global economies, shaping societies, industries, and demographics. The influence of labour migration on sustainable growth has increasingly gained considerable attention from both academics and policymakers. Sustainable growth represents the holistic advancement of economic, social, and environmental dimensions, aligning with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This global initiative underscores the significance of addressing the well-being and sustainable progress of migrant workers. The present study adopts a descriptive approach, seeking to unveil the positive impacts of labour migration on sustainable growth. With variables encompassing income, savings, investment, job opportunities, and skill transfer, the study employed t-tests to investigate the positive influences of labour migration on sustainable growth. The findings of the study revealed that the migrant respondents experienced an increase in income and a decrease in poverty, as well as a substantial increase in savings and investment. Moreover, the majority of the respondents agreed that there is an increase in job opportunities after migration. Migration has enhanced the skills of the workers. However, the study only covers the positive impact of migration and not the negative impact; however, there are negative consequences of migration. The findings of the study can help policymakers, researchers, and the government gain a better understanding. The study was confined to the Jhansi district.

Keywords: *Labour Migration, Sustainable Growth, Jhansi, T-Test.*



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1. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary era, the world is undergoing an unprecedented transformation characterized by the remarkable movement of people within and outside their countries. Millions of people around the world are on the move, taking journeys from their place of origin to new destinations. According to the [International Migration Report \(2019\)](#), around 272 million, i.e., 3.5% of the world's population, are international migrant workers who belong to the labour class. India had the largest number, i.e., 17.5 million migrant workers living outside the country, followed by Mexico and China. However, it's important to note that these statistics pertain to international migration. The story of migration within India itself is equally compelling, with an exceptionally high rate of internal migration. Millions of Indians relocate within their own country, seeking better economic opportunities and improved livelihoods. This internal migration plays a pivotal role in shaping India. Migrant workers, whether skilled or unskilled, are widely regarded as the architects of urban India, contributing their labor and expertise to the development and construction of its cities.

According to the "Migration in India, 2020-21" report, which relies on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 and was published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India witnessed an overall migration rate of 28.9%, with a rate of 26.5% in rural areas. Among the total number of migrants, approximately 10.8% of individuals relocated due to employment-related motives. Internal migration in India can be categorized into several types. One prominent type is rural-to-urban migration, where individuals from rural areas relocate to urban centers in pursuit of better economic opportunities, improved living standards, and access to urban amenities. These migrant workers, often referred to as labor migrants, predominantly belong to the semi-skilled or unskilled category and tend to have limited formal education. While various academic studies and theoretical frameworks seek to elucidate the driving forces behind migration, neoclassical economists argue that labor migration is primarily motivated by factors such as disparities in unemployment rates and wage differentials. The employment opportunities at the

urban centers act as pull factor for labours to migrate.

There has been increasing recognition that labour migration positively impacts the development in the form of transfer of knowledge and skill. Migrant workers, as they move from their places of origin to new destinations, often bring with them expertise and experiences that enrich the local workforce and foster economic growth. This knowledge transfer stimulates innovation and productivity in sectors ranging from agriculture to technology, ultimately leading to improved living standards and economic prosperity in both rural and urban areas. However, it's important to acknowledge that labor migration is not without its challenges. One of the main problems faced by migrant workers is deplorable working conditions. Migrant workers, who have left their homes in search of improved economic opportunities, can find themselves vulnerable to exploitation and labor abuse. In many cases, they lack the protection and support systems needed to address these issues, leaving them in a precarious situation.

For the first time, considering the importance of migration and migrant workers, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development duly acknowledges the significant potential of migration as a force for positive change. Central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the overarching principle of "leaving no one behind," which is especially pertinent to the welfare of migrants. The SDG goal 8.8 talks about decent work, protecting labour rights, and promoting a safe and secure working environment for both male and female workers. The main SDG goal that specifically talks about migrant workers is 10.7: to facilitate reduced transaction costs for migrants, well-managed migration policies, wages and social protection policies, and safe, regular, and responsible migration.

Sustainable growth and migration are two interconnected phenomena that play a significant role in shaping the world's socio-economic and environmental landscape. Migration can be a catalyst for sustainable growth. Migrants often contribute to economic development through their labor force participation, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This influx of labor can lead to increased productivity and the creation of diverse, dynamic urban economies. On the other hand,

labour migration has some negative effects on sustainable growth such as deplorable working conditions, exploitation, labor abuse, social and cultural tensions, and so on.

In the above context, the present study aims to investigate the impact of labor migration on sustainable growth, taking into account both positive variables. By analyzing such effects, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the intricate relationship between labor migration and sustainable growth, shedding light on the pathways to maximize the positive impacts while mitigating the negative ones.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pandey R. Tilak (2018) investigated the socio-economic status of migrants in Ranagaun. Agriculture was the primary income source, but households diversified their earnings through various activities. Interestingly, family members often had different primary occupations. Despite this diversification, the combined income from agriculture and other sources was insufficient for economic improvement. As a result, a significant number of male workers from Ranagaun migrated to India in pursuit of better job opportunities, with India becoming a crucial source of remittances for the region.

Sarkar Pinak (2020) examined out-migration from Uttar Pradesh using 2011 census data. It found that migration had become a crucial livelihood strategy in the state, with Maharashtra and Delhi as preferred destinations for both male and female laborers. The study concluded that out-migration served a dual purpose: depleting human capital in poor states and reducing unemployment burdens in these regions.

Shamala D. (2021) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the migration of construction workers in Bangalore, delving into the interplay of push and pull factors. The study revealed that both sets of factors held equal significance in driving migration. Push factors, including landlessness, limited land holdings, crop failures, drought, low wages, and unemployment, played a compelling role in compelling workers to migrate. Conversely, pull factors, encompassing higher wages, employment opportunities, job security, welfare programs, and industrial expansion, acted as enticing forces drawing workers towards their destination.

Islam Sirajul et al. (2022) conducted a study on "Rural-Urban Migration and Its Socio-Economic Consequences" in the Rayebazar area of Dhaka. They categorized migration reasons into economic, social, political, and personal factors. The study revealed a significant distinction in the economic impact of rural-urban migration. Migration motivated by economic and social factors had a positive economic effect, benefiting both migrants and the urban areas they moved to. However, migration driven by political and personal reasons had a detrimental economic impact, potentially leading to economic challenges for migrants and the urban areas involved.

Habeeb Mahammad (2020) conducted a study on migration and sustainable development. The findings suggest that this type of migration has positively contributed to the sustainable development of the region and the socio-economic development of these migrant laborers. Their improved income and employment opportunities have made a tangible difference in their lives. This study underscores the potential of migration to address socio-economic disparities and drive positive change, particularly in regions where such disparities are pronounced. Further research in this area is essential to inform policies that can better support and uplift marginalized communities through labor migration.

Elsebaie Nazeeh et al. (2023) studied the impact of labour migration on the sustainable development of Russia. The study revealed that there is a significant increase in the number of labor migrants over the past two decades, with a notable concentration from neighboring former Soviet republics. The impact of labor migration on sustainable development in Russia is multifaceted, with positive effects on GDP and GNI through remittances but negative consequences on wage suppression and labor market conditions. Socially, it contributes to diversity and essential services but can also lead to tensions and inequality. Environmental effects are mixed, with potential for both efficiency and increased resource consumption. These findings emphasize the need for policy interventions to address the challenges while recognizing the contributions of labor migration. International cooperation is crucial for a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration management in the pursuit of sustainable development.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the positive impact of labor migration on sustainable growth in Jhansi District.

4. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- **H₀:** There is no positive impact of labour migration on sustainable growth.
- **H₁:** There is a positive impact of labour migration on sustainable growth.

5. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on an empirical study, and the data is collected from secondary sources such as books, newspapers, websites, articles, etc. The present study is confined to the Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh. Non-probability sampling methods, i.e., the quota sampling method and the snowball sampling method, have been applied. The population for the current study was migrant workers in Jhansi. Data has been collected through personal interviews and a structured schedule. The schedule was filled by the researcher herself and the enumerator.

To analyze the data, the study used tools like frequency means, standard deviations, and t-tests. In order to analyze the responses that were given by the respondents, the researcher used a simple percentage. Different types of pie charts, graphs, and tables have also been used wherever necessary in this study.

To examine the positive impact of labour migration on sustainable growth by considering critical variables such as income enhancement, savings and investment patterns, skill transfer, and the creation of job opportunities. These factors collectively contribute to the economic and social development of both migrant workers and the regions they relocate to. Through a detailed analysis of these variables, this research seeks to highlight the potential for labour migration to act as a catalyst for sustainable growth.

6. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The study found that most of the participants were from rural areas who had moved to urban areas in search of better job opportunities. A large portion of these participants were between 21 to 38 years old, an age group often preferred by employers and contractors due to their energy and productivity. Additionally, it was observed that a significant number of participants belonged to socio-economically weaker sections, with a higher representation of individuals from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Furthermore, there was a predominance of male respondents in the study.

To assess the positive impact of labour migration, the study collected data on some representative variables of sustainable growth, such as income, savings, investment, job opportunities, and skill transfer, before and after migration.

Table 1: Total Monthly Income Classification Before and After Migration

S. No.	Income Levels	Before Migration	After Migration
1.	Up to Rs. 10,000	16	15
2.	Rs. 10,000–15,000	19	20
3.	Rs. 15,000–20,000	18	27
4.	Rs. 20,000–25,000	5	8
5.	Rs. 25,000–30,000	2	5

Interpretation: Income is a major driver of sustainable growth. Table 1 depicts the various monthly income classifications of the selected sample respondents before and after migration in the study area. Before migrating, approximately 26.7% of the respondents earned less than Rs. 10,000 per month. A majority of the migrants, accounting for 31.6%, fell within the income range of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000.

30% earned between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000, while only 8.33% earned Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000. Just 3.33% earned between Rs. 25,000–30,000 before migration.

After migration:

- 19.8% earned up to Rs. 10,000,
- 26.7% earned Rs. 10,000–15,000,
- 36.2% earned Rs. 15,000–20,000,
- 10.6% earned Rs. 20,000–25,000,
- 6.7% earned Rs. 25,000–30,000.

Table 2: Paired Sample Test for Income Levels

Comparison	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sig. Level
After and Before Income	3	3.346640	2.00459	150	0.05

Interpretation: The calculated t-test statistic (2.00459) is greater than the critical value (1.976), indicating a statistically significant increase in income levels post-migration. This suggests that migration has a meaningful impact on income, benefiting the financial well-being of the workers.

Table 3: Total Monthly Investment Level Classification Before and After Migration

S. No.	Investment Levels	Before Migration	After Migration
1.	Up to Rs. 5,000	18	17
2.	Rs. 5,000–8,000	21	22
3.	Rs. 8,000–12,000	15	21
4.	Rs. 12,000–15,000	6	8
5.	Above Rs. 15,000	0	7

Interpretation: Before migration, most respondents invested up to Rs. 8,000 per month. After migration, there was a notable shift in investment behavior, with some respondents now investing above Rs. 15,000. This indicates enhanced financial capacity due to migration.

Table 4: Paired Sample Test for Investment Levels

Comparison	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sig. Level
After and Before Investment	3	3.0331	2.21169	150	0.05

Interpretation: The t-test result (2.21169 > 1.96) confirms a statistically significant increase in investment levels after migration.

Table 5: Total Annual Savings Level Classification Before and After Migration

S. No.	Savings Levels	Before Migration	After Migration
1.	Up to Rs. 5,000	22	19

2.	Rs. 5,000–7,000	17	22
3.	Rs. 7,000–9,000	15	21
4.	Above Rs. 9,000	6	15

Interpretation: There is a noticeable increase in the number of respondents saving above Rs. 9,000 after migration. However, this trend was not statistically significant.

Table 6: Paired Sample Test for Savings Levels

Comparison	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sig. Level
After and Before Saving	3	3.9607	1.8935	150	0.05

Interpretation: The t-test value (1.8935) is less than 1.96, indicating that the observed increase in savings is not statistically significant, although a behavioral shift in savings is evident.

Table 7: Job Opportunities & Employment Stability After Migration

S. No.	Variable	Percentage
1.	Improved job opportunities	57.7%
2.	Limited job availability in rural	66.7%
3.	Employment stability in urban areas	59.5%

Interpretation: Migration provided better job opportunities (57.7%) and improved employment stability (59.5%). Most respondents (66.7%) stated that job availability was limited in their native rural regions.

9. CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the majority of the workers belonged to the 21–38 age group and were from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Push factors such as the lack of job opportunities, underdevelopment, and disguised unemployment appeared to be prominent among the respondents, leading them to migrate to other places. Income, savings, and investment play a significant role in both academic and real-life contexts. In this study, we used income, savings, investment, job opportunities, and employment as indicators to assess the positive impact of labor migration. The study's data showed a significant increase in the income of the respondents after migration, contributing to the sustainable growth of the district. Most respondents stated that they could save more than Rs. 7,000 annually, which contradicts previous studies suggesting that

migrant workers are not in the habit of saving. The data revealed that workers had started saving a portion of their income for the future. Moreover, the majority of the workers reported an increase in their investment levels after migration.

Additionally, 66.7 percent of the respondents agreed that there were limited job opportunities at their place of origin and a high risk of job instability, which compelled them to migrate. At the destination places, respondents reported better job opportunities and employment stability. The t-test results indicated a significant increase in the income and investment levels of migrant workers after migration. However, there was no strong statistical evidence supporting an increase in the savings of the workers, even though the actual values suggested that workers had begun saving after migration.

In conclusion, the data analysis suggests a significant positive impact of labour migration on the sustainable growth of Jhansi district, with increases in income, investment, and saving levels. Labor migration provides better job opportunities and employment stability for the workers.

It's important to note that this study focuses solely on the positive impacts of migration on sustainable growth. Migrant workers are often considered contributors to the economy, but they also face challenges at their destination places. This study does not cover the negative impacts of labour migration on sustainable growth.

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