

Notification No: 502/2021

Date of Award: 08/11/2021

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Topic of Research: Gender and Labour Mobility: A case Study of MGNREGA in Bihar

Finding

The study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter puts the introduction of the study. The second chapter describes the changes in trends and patterns of labour mobility and gender selectivity within households in Bihar and India based on Census, 2001 and 2011. The third Chapter describes the trends and patterns of gender accessibility of MGNREGA and its link with migration selectivity. The fourth chapter puts the profile of study regions and the working of MGNREGA in selectivity blocks. The fifth chapters understand the migration decision-making process and its livelihood aspects across gender vis-a-vis local rural employment opportunities, particularly under MGNREGA. And the last chapter brings out relevant conclusions and the importance of the study for future policy guidelines.

The study has following research Objectives:

1. To analyze the gender level influences of MGNREGA on households' migration decisions in rural Bihar.
2. To undertake a macro-level comparative study of gender differentials in the pattern, duration, and motivation of the internal-migration in the regional context of Bihar vis-a-vis India.
3. To study gender accessibility of MGNREGA and migration selectivity within households in Bihar.
4. To study the working and effectiveness of public workfare as a right to work and its impact on household division of work and mobility.

The study has following Research Findings:

1. At macro level, Gender differentials exist in the state of Bihar. Over the period of time, gender differentials increased in rural-urban migration whereas it has decreased in other streams.
2. Secondary data on MGNREGA suggests feminization of MGNREGA over the period of time in rural Bihar. Field level survey tells that there is lack of man-days under MGNREGA but female stay at home to take care of children and government welfare schemes encourage their stay decisions.
3. Nuclear family is replacing joint household system in lieu of welfare schemes and it gives female autonomy to exercise their independent identity in social relation. Patriarchy is weakening in the private lives but the practice of paternalism is there in public life, where one rank higher in social relation easily manipulates their lower ranks. "*Dhoka khao, Mauka Pao*" :(Get yourselves cheated, offers and opportunity would come).

In nutshell, the study argues that the politics of good governance in Bihar, i.e. changes in the rules and functioning, on the name of transparency and responsibility, confuses majority of people about rural development schemes and the role of *panchayat* functionaries every day. This gives a scope of paternalistic bargaining in democratic system of *panchayati raj*, uncertain days of employment under MGNREGS and gender selectivity persists in rural areas of sampled *panchayats*.