

**“REDUCED VULNERABILITY FOR MIGRATING
INDIGENOUS YOUTH INHABITANTS OF TRIBAL
AREAS OF SOUTH RAJASTHAN”**

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INTRODUCTION:

Nestled within the heartland of central-western India, the district of Banswara and its neighboring districts of Pratapgarh and Dungarpur form a mosaic of undulating landscapes where the tribal Bhil families have long established their roots. This region, situated at the confluence of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, once boasted abundant natural resources, fostering a way of life deeply intertwined with agriculture and animal husbandry for its inhabitants. However, the passage of time has seen this area evolve into one of the most delicate ecosystems, where approximately 84% of families grapple with small and marginal landholdings, often less than an acre in size.

The economic pulse of this region beats in harmony with its agricultural sector, supporting nearly 90% of the populace residing in rural pockets. Yet, against this backdrop of rustic tranquility, a steady stream of youth has embarked on journeys to urban sprawls in search of labor-based opportunities over the past two decades. This phenomenon, spurred by aspirations to provide for their families, gained momentum until the disruptive tide of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdowns ushered in a wave of reverse migration, compelling these erstwhile urbanites to return to their villages, bereft of employment and stability.

Internal migration within India is a dynamic tapestry, weaving together narratives of hope, resilience, and struggle as individuals and families traverse administrative boundaries in pursuit of livelihoods and aspirations. The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) paints a staggering portrait, estimating a populace of 326 million internal migrants in 2007-08, comprising approximately 28.5% of the nation's demographic fabric. This mobile populace, embracing permanent, semi-permanent, and seasonal migrations, embarks on journeys shaped by economic opportunities, familial ties, and societal dynamics.

Central to this migration narrative is the indomitable spirit of laborers, whose footsteps echo in vital sectors such as construction, textiles, agriculture, and beyond. Despite the dearth of official data, the Economic Survey of India in 2017 estimated an annual average of 9 million individuals partaking in inter-state migrations, with a discernible trend from less economically developed states towards regions of prosperity.

Tribal communities, constituting a cornerstone of India's cultural tapestry, find themselves at a crossroads of tradition and modernity. Hindered by the paucity of

sustainable development initiatives, a significant proportion of tribal populations, primarily engaged in the primary sector, grapple with shifting livelihoods and economic uncertainties. Displacement and forced migrations further exacerbate their plight, relegating many to the fringes of informal labor markets, bereft of social security nets and dignified living conditions.

The confluence of these socio-economic currents underscores the pressing need for empirical insights to inform policy interventions aimed at ameliorating the plight of Scheduled Tribe (ST) migrants. This dissertation endeavors to traverse the lacuna of knowledge, weaving together strands of empirical evidence to illuminate the challenges faced by ST migrants, thereby paving the path for informed policy formulations conducive to their socio-economic well-being and broader developmental imperatives.

RESEARCH PROBLEM:

“The lack of adequate support mechanisms at the grassroots level poses a significant barrier to accessing and benefiting from Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services among migrant communities. Temporary migration laborers face socio-economic vulnerabilities exacerbated by the absence of resilient livelihood options, highlighting the need to explore the potential of regenerative farming and traditional Haat-market systems as avenues for bolstering their resilience. The absence of self-organized community institutions advocating for the rights of migrant workers contributes to their continued exploitation and marginalization, necessitating an exploration of strategies to facilitate their creation and effectiveness.”

RESEARCH QUESTION:

Q1. How can grassroots-level migrant support mechanisms be established within communities to enhance access to and provisions of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services?

Q2. To what extent can the socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers be bolstered through the implementation of regenerative farming practices coupled with the revitalization of traditional Haat-market systems?

Q3. What strategies can be employed to facilitate the creation of self-organized community institutions aimed at advocating for the rights and welfare of migrant workers?

OBJECTIVES:

- Objective No. 1 Establishment of migrant support mechanism at the grassroots level to communities improves access and provisions of ISMW acts, regulations, and services.
- Objective No. 2: Socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers is built through regenerative farming combined with a revived traditional Haat-market system.
- Objective No.3: Creation of self-organized community institutions fighting for the rights of migrant workers.

HYPOTHESIS:

Interventional Study Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis (H0): Implementing grassroots-level migrant support mechanisms will not lead to a significant improvement in the access to and provisions of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services among migrant communities.

Alternative Hypothesis (H1): Implementing grassroots-level migrant support mechanisms will lead to a significant improvement in the access to and provisions of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services among migrant communities.

Cohort study hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant association between the implementation of regenerative farming practices and the revitalization of traditional Haat-market systems with the socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers.

Alternative Hypothesis (H1): The implementation of regenerative farming practices and the revitalization of traditional Haat-market systems are positively associated with the socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers.

Case-Control Study:

Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant association between the establishment of self-organized community institutions and the advocacy for the rights of migrant workers.

Alternative Hypothesis (H1): The creation of self-organized community institutions is associated with a higher likelihood of effectively advocating for the rights of migrant workers compared to areas without such institutions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

- **STUDY DESIGN:** Cross-sectional Study
- **SETTING:** Tribal district of Banswara, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur in the state of Rajasthan.
- **STUDY POPULATION:**
 - a) **INCLUSION CRITERIA:** Presence of migrant worker population, variability in presence and effectiveness of community institutions, geographical accessibility, willingness to participate.
 - b) **EXCLUSION CRITERIA:** Minimal Migrant Worker Representation: Limited Presence of Community Institutions: Inaccessibility for Data Collection Lack of Willingness to Participate.
 - c) **STUDY TOOLS:** Structured questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys.
- **DURATION OF STUDY:** 3 months
- **SAMPLE SIZE:** 323 migrant populations (POPULATION SIZE= 1095986, C.I. =95%, Population Proportion =70%)
- **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:** Simple random sampling.
- **DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE:**
 - ✓ **Preparation Phase:**
 - a) Obtain necessary approvals and permissions from relevant authorities, such as institutional review boards, ethics committees, and community leaders.
 - b) Develop data collection tools, including structured questionnaires, interview guides, focus group discussion protocols, and data collection forms.

- c) Train data collectors on the research objectives, data collection methods, ethical considerations, and confidentiality protocols.
- ✓ **Community Engagement:**
 - a) Establish rapport and build trust with community leaders, members of community institutions, and migrant worker representatives.
 - b) Explain the purpose and significance of the study, ensuring transparency and clarity about the research objectives, methods, and potential benefits.
 - c) Obtain informed consent from participants, ensuring voluntary participation and respect for their rights and privacy.
- ✓ **Data Collection Methods:**
 - a) Utilize a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to gather comprehensive insights into the presence and effectiveness of community institutions.
 - b) Administer structured questionnaires to collect quantitative data on the presence, activities, resources, and effectiveness of community institutions. Ensure standardized administration to maintain consistency and reliability of responses.
 - c) Conduct in-depth interviews with key informants, such as community leaders, activists, migrant workers, and stakeholders, using semi-structured or open-ended interview guides. Explore their perspectives, experiences, challenges, and recommendations related to community advocacy efforts.
 - d) Facilitate focus group discussions with members of self-organized community institutions, migrant workers, and other stakeholders to encourage group interactions, collective reflection, and diverse viewpoints on advocacy strategies and outcomes.
 - e) Review relevant documents, such as organizational records, reports, meeting minutes, and publications, to supplement primary data collection and provide additional context and insights.
- ✓ **Data Recording and Documentation:**
 - a) Record responses, observations, and insights systematically using data collection forms, audio recordings, or field notes.
 - b) Ensure accuracy and completeness of data by double-checking entries and resolving any discrepancies or missing information.
 - c) Maintain confidentiality and anonymity of participants' identities and responses, adhering to ethical guidelines and data protection protocols.

✓ **Quality Assurance:**

- a) Implement quality control measures to ensure the reliability and validity of collected data.
- b) Monitor data collection processes regularly, providing feedback and guidance to data collectors as needed.
- c) Conduct periodic reviews and validations of collected data to identify any inconsistencies, errors, or biases.

✓ **Data Management:**

- a) Organize and manage collected data in a secure and accessible manner, using appropriate data management software or tools.
- b) Label and code data for easy retrieval, analysis, and interpretation.
- c) Establish data backup and storage procedures to safeguard against loss or corruption of data.

✓ **Closure and Debriefing:**

- a) Conclude data collection activities upon reaching saturation or completion of data collection objectives.
- b) Debrief participants and express gratitude for their participation, sharing any preliminary findings or insights as appropriate.
- c) Ensure proper closure of research sites and return any borrowed materials or equipment.

• **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:**

- ✓ **Presence of Self-Organized Community Institutions:** Refers to the existence of organized groups or associations within the community that are established to advocate for the rights and welfare of migrant workers.
- ✓ **Effectiveness of Advocacy for Migrant Workers' Rights:** Reflects the extent to which self-organized community institutions are successful in addressing the rights and welfare concerns of migrant workers, including access to legal protections, fair wages, safe working conditions, and social support.

- ✓ **Migrant Worker:** An individual who temporarily relocates from their place of origin to another region or country in search of employment opportunities, typically in sectors such as construction, agriculture, domestic work, or manufacturing.
- ✓ **Advocacy Activities:** Refers to organized efforts undertaken by community institutions to promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers through various means, including lobbying for policy changes, providing legal assistance, raising awareness, organizing protests or demonstrations, and facilitating access to services and resources.
- ✓ **Community Engagement Level:** Indicates the extent of community involvement and participation in self-organized community institutions and advocacy efforts for migrant workers' rights.
- ✓ **Policy Impact:** Refers to the influence of advocacy efforts by self-organized community institutions on the development, implementation, or enforcement of policies and regulations related to migrant workers' rights at local, regional, or national levels.
- ✓ **Perceived Barriers to Advocacy:** Identifies the perceived challenges, obstacles, or barriers faced by self-organized community institutions in effectively advocating for migrant workers' rights.
- ✓ **Empowerment of Migrant Workers:** Indicates the degree to which migrant workers feel empowered to assert their rights, advocate for their interests, and participate in decision-making processes related to their employment and living conditions.
- ✓ **Long-Term Sustainability:** Indicates the capacity of self-organized community institutions to sustain their advocacy efforts for migrant workers' rights over the long term, including the ability to mobilize resources, maintain community engagement, adapt to changing circumstances, and address emerging challenges.

DATA ANALYSIS PLAN:

- Software: Statistical analysis will be conducted using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), version 26.0.
- Descriptive Statistics: Descriptive statistics will be used to summarize the characteristics of the study sample, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations.
- Variables: Presence of self-organized community institutions, effectiveness of advocacy for migrant workers' rights, community engagement level, policy impact,

perceived barriers to advocacy, empowerment of migrant workers, resource allocation, collaboration and networking, awareness and education, and long-term sustainability.

- Bivariate Analysis: Chi-square tests will be performed to examine the association between categorical variables, such as the presence of community institutions and the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.
- Multivariate Analysis: Logistic regression analysis will be conducted to assess the predictors of advocacy effectiveness while controlling for potential confounding variables.
- Level of Significance: A significance level of $p < 0.05$ will be used to determine statistical significance for all analyses.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Informed Consent: Before participation in the study, all participants will be provided with detailed information about the purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits of the study. Informed consent will be obtained from each participant, ensuring that they understand their voluntary participation and their right to withdraw from the study at any time without consequence.
- Protection of Participant Confidentiality: Measures will be implemented to protect the confidentiality and privacy of participants. Data collected will be anonymized and stored securely, with access limited to authorized research personnel only. Participants will be assured that their responses will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.
- Minimization of Harm and Risk: Steps will be taken to minimize any potential harm or discomfort to participants. This includes using sensitive language and approach when discussing topics related to migrant workers' rights and ensuring that participants are not exposed to undue stress or harm during data collection.
- Voluntary Participation: Participation in the study will be entirely voluntary, and participants will not face any coercion or pressure to participate. They will be informed that they can decline to participate or withdraw from the study at any point without consequence.
- Respect for Cultural Sensitivities: The study will be conducted with sensitivity to the cultural norms, beliefs, and practices of the communities involved, particularly considering the diverse backgrounds of migrant workers. Researchers will seek to

build rapport and trust with participants, respecting their cultural traditions and preferences throughout the research process.

- **Beneficence and Justice:** The study aims to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the promotion of social justice for migrant workers. Efforts will be made to ensure that the benefits of the research are distributed equitably and that the findings are used to inform policies and interventions that benefit migrant communities.
- **Ethics Approval:** The study protocol will undergo ethical review and approval by an institutional review board or ethics committee before data collection. Researchers will adhere to all relevant ethical guidelines and regulations throughout the research process.

IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH:

The research outcomes will be beneficial for both the population and the industry in several ways:

- **Enhanced Protections for Migrant Workers:**
By establishing grassroots-level support mechanisms and advocating for the rights of migrant workers, the research can contribute to improving the working conditions and welfare of this vulnerable population. This will lead to a more equitable and just labor market, benefiting not only migrant workers but also their families and communities.
- **Improved Compliance with Labor Laws:**
Through better access to information and services related to Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts and regulations, industries employing migrant labourers will be better equipped to comply with legal requirements. This can reduce the risk of exploitation and legal liabilities for businesses while ensuring fair treatment for workers.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods through Regenerative Farming:**
Implementing regenerative farming practices and reviving traditional Haat-market systems can contribute to building socio-economic resilience among temporary migration labourers. By diversifying livelihood options and promoting sustainable

agricultural practices, this research can foster economic stability and food security within migrant communities.

- **Empowerment of Community Institutions:**

By facilitating the creation and strengthening of self-organized community institutions, the research can empower migrant workers to advocate for their rights more effectively. This can lead to greater collective bargaining power, improved working conditions, and increased access to social and legal support services for migrant populations.

- **Enhanced Productivity and Sustainability for Industries:**

Industries that rely on migrant labor can benefit from a more stable and productive workforce as a result of improved working conditions and socio-economic resilience among migrant workers. Additionally, adopting sustainable farming practices can enhance the resilience and long-term viability of agricultural industries, contributing to overall industry sustainability.

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