



**MIGRATION; LEADS TO UNDERDEVELOPMENT  
A STUDY ON TAPAN BLOCK OF DAKSHIN DINAJPUR DISTRICT,  
WEST BENGAL (INDIA)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Unskilled workforce migration from Tapan Block of Dakshin Dinajpur District is a common scenario now a days and it has been started rapidly since 2010. Out-migration from the study area leads to under development and it also indicates that the workers are unable to fulfill their basic needs and they are compel to move outside in search of high paid jobs. Due to the advancement of technology, the aspirations of the workers are also mounting high but the present schemes or opportunities are not helping them to achieve their goals. On the other hand, attractive schemes and wages of the other states are alluring them to move from their native villages.*

*The present study attempts to highlight the root causes of out-migration from the study area and tries to know about remittance money and its impact on socio-economic transformation of the study area. To achieving the goal, researcher accumulates information from 506 respondents of 272 mouzas from the study area and analyse the data by applying different statistical techniques.*

**Key Words:** unskilled workforce, out-migration, remittance, socio-economic environment

## **Introduction**

Workforce migration is a complex phenomenon and enquiry about the motives of the migration is most difficult part of the analysis of the process of migration. With regard to the determinants of workers movement, distinction has been made between push factors and pull factors. Push factors ( like unemployment, low per capita income, inadequacy of agricultural land, low opportunity etc.) are force to move them outside in search of jobs and on the other hand pull factors ( like high opportunity of jobs, high wages, highly paid projects, modern facilities and amenities, etc.) alluring to the workers and pull them from their native places.

Workforce migration is a complex phenomenon and enquiry about the motives is the most difficult part of the analysis of the process of migration. With regard to the determinants of population movement, distinction has been made between push factors and pull factors. Push factors are those that operate in areas of out-migration and compelled the people to move to other areas. Pull factors are those that operate in areas of in-migration and attract the people to those areas. In the present context all workforce migration are born out of growing process of industrialization, technological advancement, regional disparities in natural increase in employment potential in wages and unavailability of agricultural land at rural economic sphere are main the stimuli for work force movement.

Rural-Urban Migration is a feature of many developing countries. Often, rural areas are abandoned for a 'better' life in the city. This has led to a continued removal of potential human resource from the primary production sector of Agriculture to other areas of West Bengal as well as India. This study identified the socio-economic characteristics of migrants from villages who are involved in the cities and examines their perceptions of the problems and benefits. A total of 506 respondents were randomly selected from Tapan Block of Dakshin Dinajpur District.

The impact of human-mobility on the economy of destination is a debatable issue. While research has found that migration can, in certain circumstances, have negative effects on locally born workers with comparable skills, the body of evidence suggests that these effects are generally small and may, in some contexts, be entirely absent. In this study, the researcher has made an attempt to investigate firstly, the impact of a variety of economic and non-economic factors on net state in-migration and secondly, the impact of net migration on the level of economic development in 11<sup>th</sup> mouzas of Tapan block.

## Objectives

The present study was undertaken with an overall objective to identify the socio-cultural status and women education in tribal society. The main objectives of the present paper are following

- To find out the socio-economic status of out-migrants of the study area
- To find out the mode of flow of remittance
- To understand the implements of remittance for social development
- To understand the relationship between migration and social development

## Methodology

To fulfill the aforesaid objectives primary data collected through direct questionnaire method and personal interview from the workers who returned home and their family members. From the entire area 506 household is selected from 272 mouzas (small administrative unit) of Tapan block and secondary information has been supplemented as per requirement. In order to discuss the backwardness of the area, it has been studied through primary survey and presented the information in the form of percentage distribution and through different pictorial diagrams. The mouzas are selected in purposively on consideration of conveniences, such as access and communication, security, expenditure involved in survey etc. To considering the sensitive topic, the researcher completed field study on October, 2013 and information is collected through door to door survey. Most of the socio-economic information is collected from a responsible respondent in each household.

### Pre-field:

- Identification of problem of study area.
- Collection of maps. Detailed study of books and research paper from various journals through library work and internet searching.
- Village selection by purposive sampling.
- House hold selection by random sampling.
- To prepare trial questionnaire. To test the trial questionnaire at the field. To make correction of trial questionnaire. To prepare final questionnaire.

### Field:

- Collection of primary data through household survey.

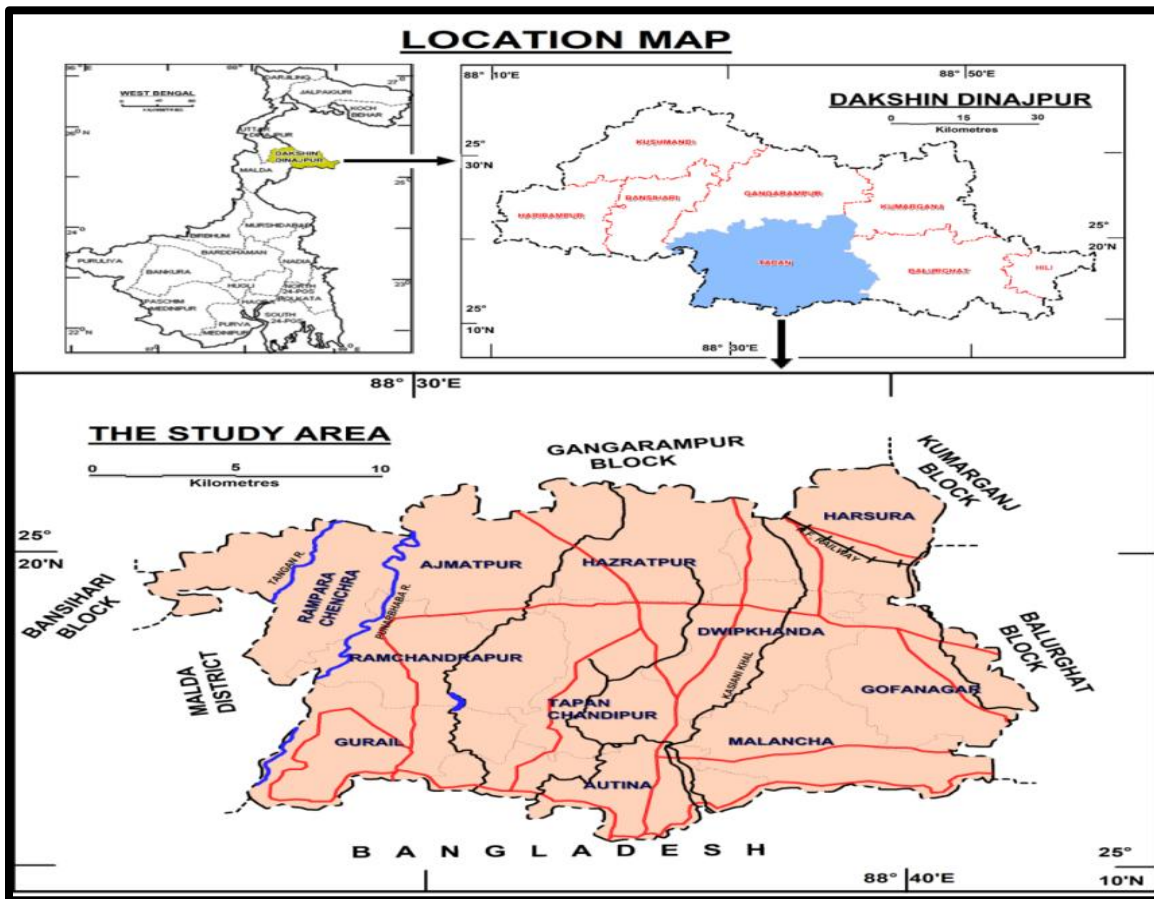
- Collection of secondary data from Tapan Block, respective village Panchayet Office, District Welfare Office,

**Post-field:**

- To prepare simple frequency table, two ways cross classified contingency table.
- Analyses of the data by various statistical tools like mean, coefficient of Correlation, chi-square test, T-test, Regression analysis, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) etc.

**Study area**

The study area Tapan Block is located in the Southern middle portion of South Dinajpur District of West Bengal in India extending between 25° 08'15" N to 25° 21' 30" North latitude and 88° 24' 30"E to 88° 42'15" East longitudes. Total population of the study area is 226136 and area is 445.63 km<sup>2</sup>. The area comprises 279 villages. It supports 13.53 per cent of total population and 20.08 per cent of total land area of South Dinajpur District. The study area consist mainly scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, high caste Hindus, middle caste Hindus and Muslim population.

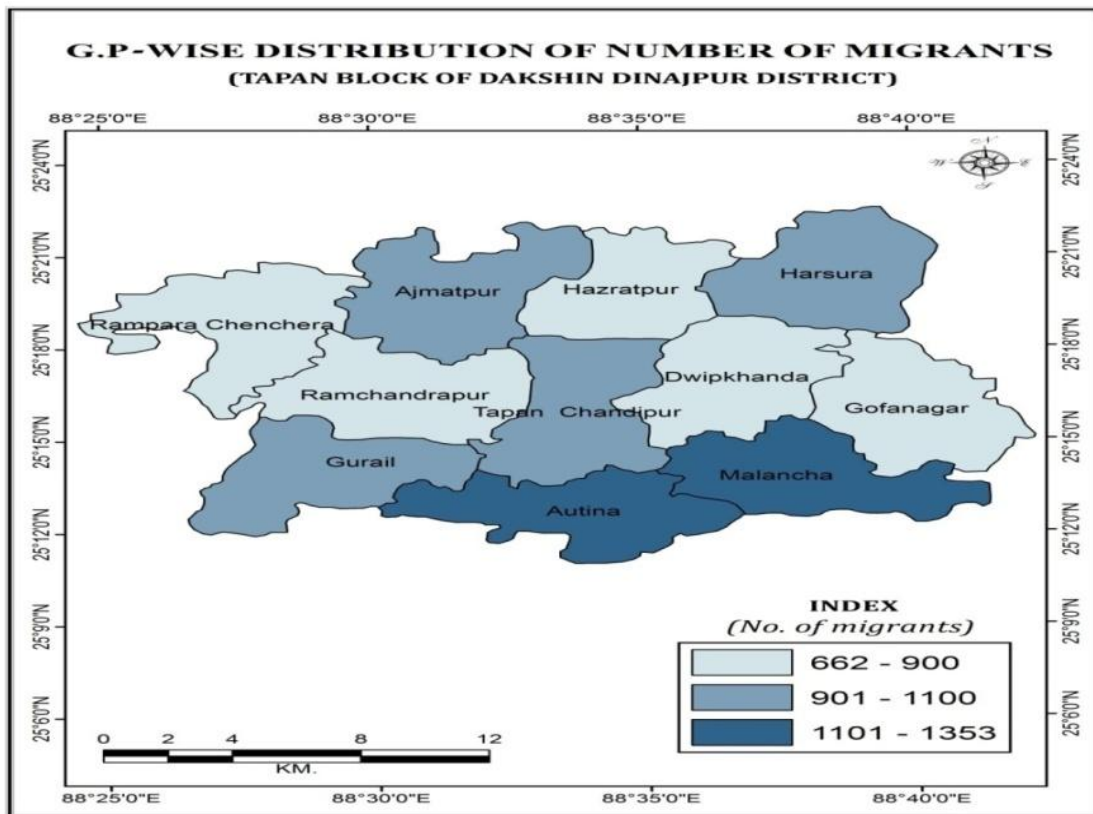


### **Spatial pattern of out-migration from Tapan Block**

Since pre-independence, Tapan Block of Dakshin Dinajpur District socio-economically remains as backward. Economical base of the area depends on agriculture. Directly and indirectly agriculture is the key of success of the area. But it is astonished that the cultivation of the area practices on the basis of climate (i.e. monsoon base). That is why gamble of monsoon is greatly effect on cultivation processes of the area. Cultivation of the region is totally obstructed due to deficit of rainfall or shortage of duration of monsoon. Basically two types of crop are practices in this region, one is winter crop and another summer crop. Both of cultivation processes irrigation is needed more than one time due to scarcity of seasonal rainfall. And due to this ground water is also affected, it's failed to proper recharge and water cycle is also obstructed.

### **Distribution of Migrants**

<b>SL No</b>	<b>Name of G.P</b>	<b>No of Migrants</b>	<b>%</b>
1	G.P.I Ramparachenchera	672	6.42
2	G.P. II Ramchandrapur	699	6.68
3	G.P. III Ajmatpur	1021	9.76
4	G.P. IV Autina	1101	10.52
5	G.P. V Hazratpur	894	8.54
6	G.P. VI Tapan Chandipur	1045	9.98
7	G.P. VII Dwipkhanda	866	8.27
8	G.P. VIII Gurail	1056	10.09
9	G.P. IX Malancha	1353	12.93
10	G.P. X Harsura	1097	10.48
11	G.P. XI Gofanagar	662	6.33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10466</b>	<b>100</b>



## Causes of Out-migration

### 1. Unemployment

Population density of the study area is moderate (562 persons /km<sup>2</sup>) and it occupies 14.94 % of population of Dakshin Dinajpur district. The Block consist 51.30% male and 48.70% female out of total population and among the male population 67.15% are worker and 37.98% are non worker and among the female population 32.85% are worker and 62.02% non worker or dependent population. The area has great (62.24%) percentage of marginal workers those can help main workers in agricultural field. It is clearly understood that the demographic structure of the area is indicating under developed or developing economic condition. Job opportunity of the area is limited, so all the working population is unable to take proper job and ultimately they are workless dependent population. So they are compelled to migrate from their origin to outside in search of job.

## 2. Infrastructural Causes

The study indicates that 31.26 percent inhabitant of villages are achieved electricity. That means 68.74 percent of the population continues to live without the benefits of electricity. In many villages though electrification has been done, maintenance of the power lines is a serious problem. Also, the transportation of equipments and movement of heavy vehicles is a constant logistic problem due to bad condition of road.

It is surprising that till now 66.88 percent household uses kerosene for their source of light and 1.32 percent uses solar energy, 0.26 percent uses other oil and 0.28 percent have not proper source of light at evening. But they villagers are not worried because their leaders promise to them for electricity after complication of election.

### Distributions of Households by Source of Lighting

Area	Total No. of HH	Electricity	Kerosene	Solar Energy	Other Oil	Any Other	No Lighting
Total	59074	18463	39511	774	139	20	167
Rural	59074	18463	39511	774	139	20	167
Urban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
%	100	31.26	66.88	1.32	0.23	0.03	0.28

Source: Census of India, 2011

## 3. Transport and Communication

In the study area there is no such transport facilities developed. Only Gangarampur-Balurghat (Via Tapa highway and Nalagola- Tapan highway and some P.M.G.Y (Pradhan Mantry Gramsarad Yojona) roads passes through the area. Malda-Balurghat rail line passes through the northern part of the study area. The transport system of the study area is totally depending on public bus-service. No well state transport system is developed (except two bus Tapan- Cochbehar, and Balurghat – Malda via Tapan) in the study area. So transport and communication is another major problem of the area.

## 4. Market Network

Economic condition of Tapan block depends on market or weekly hat. Hat is the soul of economic background of the area. Farmers sell their products at village hat and maintained their family needs. But the village market is totally controlled by the outsider middleman and they

purchase all the goods by giving at minimum rates. So, ultimately the farmers of the area are victims. They have no such unions or groups which act for their benefits. Therefore they cannot protest against the middleman and they compelled to sell their products at minimum rates. Farmers of the area have no such communications networks which give them particular information about market rate of different hat of the area.

## 5. Banking Facility

Inhabitant of Tapan block has negative relation with bank. Most of the families of the area are lies lower middle class and under the below poverty and they have no surplus capital deposit to bank. The Table shows that only 25.74 percent of households are able to get banking facilities and the rests are never go to the bank. Besides, most of the banks are situated at the block main town (Tapan) and this is not easy to communicate from remote villages to the bank. Due to unconsciousness, most of the villagers are not aware of their facilities or reliefs which are directly deposited by the government .

### Distributions of Household Availing Banking Services:

Area Name	Total number of households	Total number of households availing banking services	%
Sub-District-Tapan	59074	15203	25.74

Source: Census of India, 2011

## Consequences of Out-Migration

### i. Demographic Consequences:

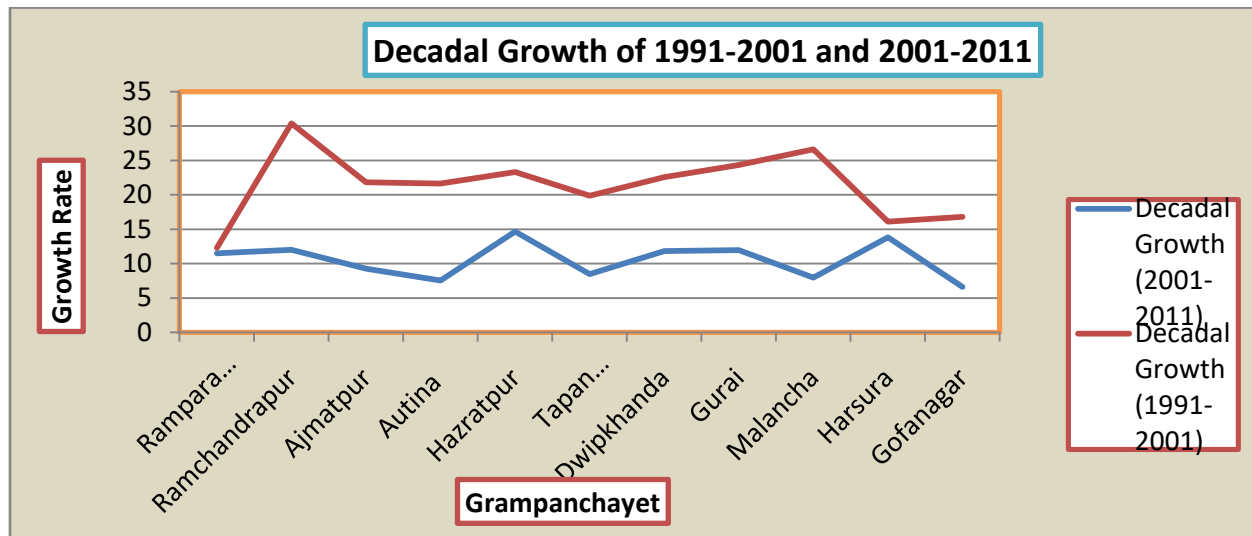
Migration may have profound effects on the size, structure and growth patterns of populations. Migration has effects on both population of the places that people leave and on the populations of those in which they settle. These effects vary with different types of migration and length of migrants stay in places. The absence of large number of either men or women may have a limited impact on the sending society in short term but if they are absent for longer periods time their absence will have significant effects on population growth rates in the medium and longer terms. Decadal growth rates (1991-2001 and 2011):



SL NO	NAME OF GP	Decadal Growth (2001-2011)	Decadal Growth (1991-2001)
		TP	TP
1	Rampara Chenchra	11.5	12.28
2	Ramchandrapur	12.05	30.42
3	Ajmatpur	9.31	21.85
4	Autina	7.55	21.64
5	Hazratpur	14.68	23.34
6	Tapan Chandipur	8.48	19.9
7	Dwipkhanda	11.83	22.57
8	Gurai	12	24.37
9	Malancha	8.01	26.63
10	Harsura	13.85	16.12
11	Gofanagar	6.64	16.8
	TAPAN BLOCK	10.78	21.23

Source: Computed by the Authors

Decadal Growth of 1991-2001 and 2001-2011



Source: Prepare by the Authors

## ii. Economic Impact:

Workers of the study area migrate outside and they are contributing remittance money to their family. The family income and status of migrants growing up based on the remittance money. The study depicts that the family income of migrants is much higher than the non-migrant families.

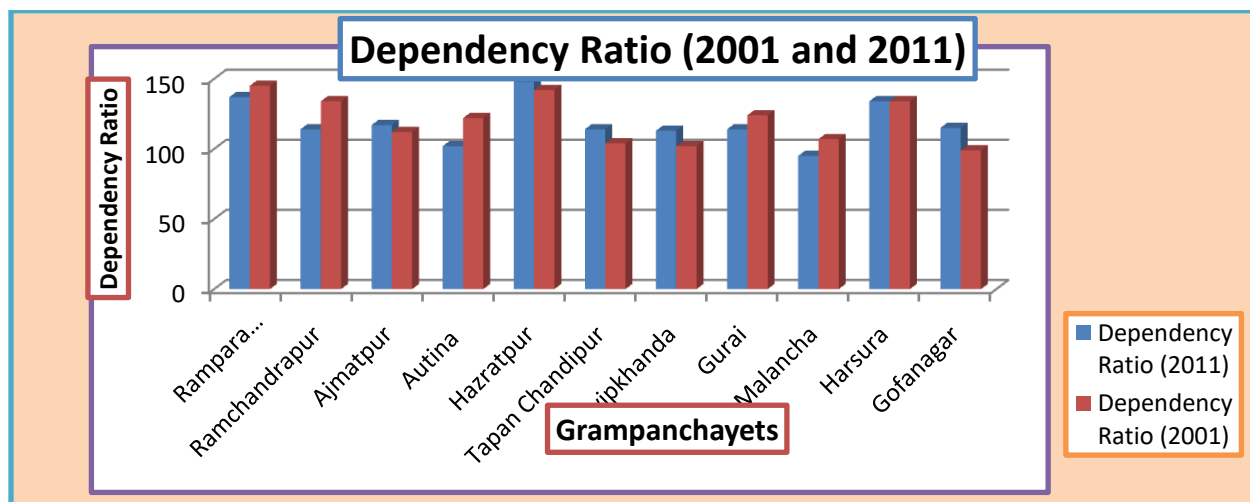
The study also revealed that out-migration is not profitable all the time. Sometimes, so many workers waste their money due to migration without any profit. They are going to workplaces for work but the works are so difficult and they are unable to do the work and they return to home without remittance.

**iii. Dependency ratios (2001 and 2011):**

SL NO	NAME OF GP	Dependency Ratio (2011)	Dependency Ratio (2001)
1	Rampara Chenchra	137	145
2	Ramchandrapur	114	134
3	Ajmatpur	117	112
4	Autina	102	122
5	Hazratpur	148	142
6	Tapan Chandipur	114	104
7	Dwipkhanda	113	102
8	Gurai	114	124
9	Malancha	95	107
10	Harsura	134	134
11	Gofanagar	115	99
	TAPAN	119	121

Source: Computed by the Authors

Dependency Ratio (2001 and 2011):



Source: Prepared by the Authors

**iv. Improvement of Living conditions:**

Migrant labour, whether agricultural or non-agricultural, lives in deplorable conditions. There is no provision of safe drinking water or hygienic sanitation. Migrants invest remittance for better

source of drinking water and sanitation facilities. They are also improving their households and living places. After returning home migrants try to apply all those knowledge that they acquires at workplaces.

### **Problems of out migration**

The study area faced some problems due to excessive migration of workers which are discussed below:

#### **a) Labour Crisis:**

Tapan block (Study Area) is an agro-based region of Dakshin Dinajpur district, so the agricultural labours are in constant demand throughout the year at agricultural field. But workers migration leads some adverse effects on agricultural sectors. Due to rapid migration of workers, cultivation processes faced critical labour crisis.

<b>SL No</b>	<b>Name of G.P</b>	<b>No of Migrants ( 2013-14)</b>	<b>% of Working Population</b>
1	G.P.I Ramparachenchera	672	6.42
2	G.P. II Ramchandrapur	699	6.68
3	G.P. III Ajmatpur	1021	9.76
4	G.P. IV Autina	1101	10.52
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	<b>Total</b>	<b>10466</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed by the Authors

#### **b) Drop-outs:**

Unskilled workers migration led to the activities of child labour which creates obstacles in their schooling. Child labours finally leave their school to go outside for work as a labour and they become a labour before finishing their education. The table shows that 76.28 % migrants are dropout students and they are compelled to leave their education for their family background and their won interest.

### Distribution of Drop out migrants;

SL No	Name of G.P	No of Sample Migrants	Dropouts	%
1	G.P.I Ramparachenchera	48	38	79.17
2	G.P. II Ramchandrapur	50	35	70.00
3	G.P. III Ajmatpur	46	40	86.96
4	G.P. IV Autina	50	38	76.00
5	G.P. V Hazratpur	40	33	82.50
6	G.P. VI Tapan Chandipur	48	33	68.75
7	G.P. VII Dwipkhanda	56	37	66.07
8	G.P. VIII Gurail	45	39	86.67
9	G.P. IX Malancha	62	51	82.26
10	G.P. X Harsura	51	35	68.63
11	G.P. XI Gofanagar	10	7	70.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>76.28</b>

Source: Computed by the Authors

#### c). Imported Diseases:

Migration is a process of social change during which people moved from one place to another place for short or long period of time. Through migration, geographical distribution of some Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) spread in high frequency. Human movement and environmental changes are the main favorable factors for the spreading of micro-organisms. The mass movement of large numbers of people creates opportunities for the spreading of transmitted diseases (like HIV, AIDS etc). Human trafficking from Tapan Block led to increase the tendencies of chronic diseases (like cardiovascular diseases, mental health disorders, Diabetes, and Cancer). It also led to the increase of Lungs cancer, Hypertension, Injuries and disability to the workers.

#### d). Drug Addiction Probability:

Most of the migrants are adolescent and youths and most of them are addicted to tobacco, Alcohol, and drugs. Migrants are free from their guardian's regimen or governance at their workplace. So they have a lot of chance to move on wrong track or get addicted to some bad habits. Young workers of the study area are badly addicted to *ganja* (marijuana) or tobacco and they spoil their mental and physical health.

### **e). Des-attachment from own culture:**

Migration contributed to the circulation of goods, knowledge, and ideas. Researcher shows that the emigration wave badly affected on rural traditional culture and rituals. Migration presents cultural norms to a new area and destroyed the traditional cultures and thoughts. The young workers of the study area migrate towards the country side and they acquire some new ideas and manner in their mind. After returning home, they try to apply those ideas in their native areas. Meanwhile, they neglect or disobey their own culture or rituals. Idea acquisition processes of the workers of the area are hard to their own thoughts and practices.

## **Remedial Measures and Action Programmes**

### **I. Rural Industrialization:**

In rural areas, the major problem is unemployment, particularly underemployment. Thus, there would be a constant need for a package of labour intensive employment opportunities in villages. The masses concern is not with money but work. The problem of unemployment or underemployment in rural areas being an acute problem that can be solved or minimized through the promotion and intensification of rural industrialization (like **agro-based, agro-allied and ancillary industries like animal husbandry, poultry, dairy, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture, piggery, apiculture, sericulture, etc.**). In addition, it should be supplemented with the provision of modern incentives to the farmers that may also retain the potential rural migrants for employment purposes in urban areas.

### **II. Provision of Credit Facility:**

The poor farmers, landless parsons, unemployed youths and women in the rural areas should be provided with credit facilities and loan opportunities. Government should make loans and credit schemes available to the rural poor at much lower rate of interest to expand their farm, business and buy new crops. Again subsidies should be given on chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, and other basic farm inputs.

### **III. Increase of Daily Wages of Workers:**

Remuneration or daily wages for work is acted as the main stimulate of rural-urban migration. Due to the advancement of technology workers of rural areas are also come to know about daily wages of same work in urban work places. A rural worker can get maximum 200-250/- per day where as in urban areas they can earn 600-650/- per day. Workers of the rural areas decide to move to urban working places for highly paid job opportunity and they travelled long and long

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distance from their native village. To control the flow of rural-urban migration, government should implement some strategies for increasing daily wages of rural workers.

#### Daily Wages of Source and Destinations

Destination	Daily Wages ( in Rs.) including over time	Daily Wages (at source)	Difference	Difference Per Month (Difference X 30)
Mumbai	600	200	400	12000
Gujrat	550	200	350	10500
Chennai	600	200	400	12000
Bengalore	600	200	400	12000
Hydrabad	550	200	350	10500
Haryana	500	200	300	9000
Delhi	600	200	400	12000
Burdwan	350	200	150	4500

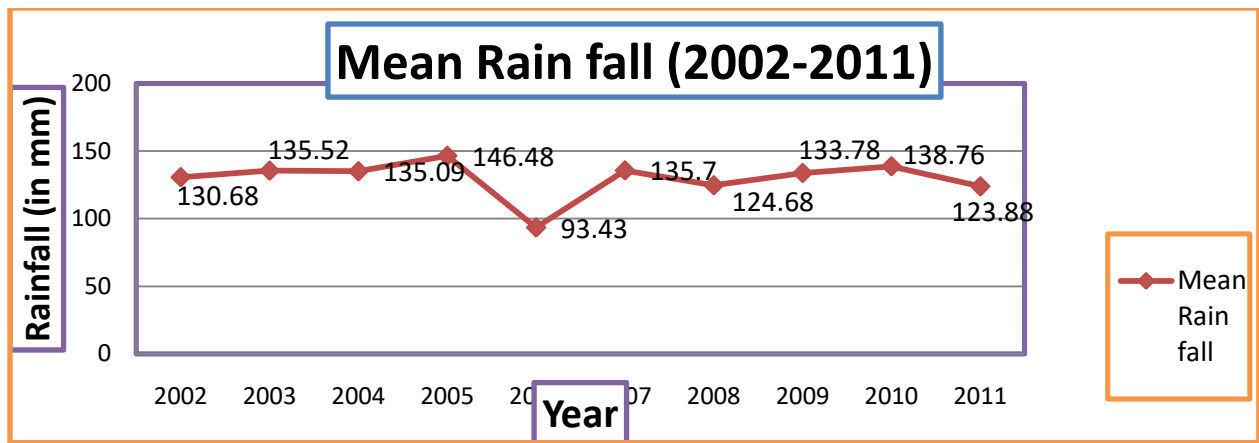
Source: Computed by the Authors

#### IV. Formation of Labour Bank:

Labour Bank is a proposed institute where workers of the rural areas enroll their name as member and enrollment cards will be issued to the workers. This bank will be maintained by the trained government officials who distribute job opportunity to the workers. Any institution or organizations that are in need of workers in their commercial sectors, first of all they have to contact with labour bank and mention their requirements. Officials of the Labour Bank equally distribute the job opportunities. Labour Bank can be able to engage each and every enrolled worker and minimize the problems of pseudo unemployment in rural areas. The ultimate goal of a labour bank is to attempt to provide more and more financial assistance and welfare of the workers and it also tries to improve the financial status of workers.

#### V. Emphasis on Ago-climate on Agriculture:

Climate based smart agriculture is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems effectively to support development and ensure food security in the study area.



Source: Prepare by the Authors

## VI. Implementation of Government Schemes:

There should have been effective implementation and regular monitoring of schemes and programmes launched by Government for better work/employment and poverty alleviation particularly, in rural areas of the country like Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA, 2006), National Rural Health Mission (NHRM, 2005), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP, 1980), Community development Programme (CDP, 1952), Intensive Agriculture Development Programme (IADP, 1960-61), Marginal Farmer and Agriculture Labour Agency (MFALA, 1973-74), Training Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM, 1979), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP, 1983), etc.

## Major Findings

The major findings of the study are as follows;

- The study depicts that the spatial pattern of out-migration of the study area is not homogeneous. Workers are rapidly migrated from those pockets of the study areas where population density is relatively high. Due to the fact the workers are not sure about their job opportunities and the compelled to decide to move outside as labour.
- The study area faced irrigation crises and due to this about 60% of arable land are remain fellow throughout the year and the workers are able to get work opportunity maximum three months ( only rainy season) and apart form that they remain unemployment. In those cases they faced lot of problems to maintain their family expenditure. So secure their daily work and income they like to move outside from their native villages.

- The study also discusses about the socio-economic status of migrants before and after migration has taken place. It reveals that 15 percent of the migrant families after migration reside in semi-pucca (mix) houses and they can able to upgrade their basic facilities like house amenities, drinking water, toilets and latrine etc.
- Among the migrants 31 percent are landless and 69 percent migrants have 1 to 2 Bigha (1 Bigha=0.4004 Acre) of land. Inadequacy of own cultivable land they work as labour to others land and get minimum wages which is not enough for maintain their family expenditure. Due to the face they like to move other places in search of high paid jobs.
- The study also found that in the study area the family size of scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and Muslims are higher than the family size of General caste. That is why dependent population much more on them. This is also act as push factor and workers are compelled to move outside in search of better employment for maintain their family.
- The study empirically indicates that the distribution of earnings and caste of migrants is significantly associated. The study shows that 18 percent of high caste Hindu migrants are earned 9000/- per month and most of the migrants of other caste are earned 8000 /- per month. Higher caste Hindus are able to earn the highest average (i.e 7600 /-) per month which is higher than the migrants of other caste.
- The study also revealed that more than 70 percent migrants are leaved their school before completion of their education. The dropout students are migrated outside as worker and they become uneducated and unskilled labour.

## **Conclusion**

The study shows that there are close inter-linkage between rural and urban migration and development issues. Population redistribution through rural-urban migration distributes human resources of a country, again various developmental opportunities drives further rural-urban migration. A family who decides to migrate always calculates the economic benefits at the destination places after migration. One of the most increasing trend of opportunities is the employment sector prevailing in urban areas is its informal sector.

Uneven distribution of land among the rural people acts as determining factor in the rural-urban migration. If land is concentrated in a few hands; more people would not be able to do intensive cultivation. Uneven distribution of land also affects the cropping pattern and cropping intensity and thus reduces the labour absorption in agriculture,. For instance, absentee



land lords may not do the intensive cultivation or they may do agro-forestry, requiring less labour. On the contrary, if land is distributed evenly among the people, more intensive cultivation can be done. Land reform programmes are likely to reduce migration among families whose land holdings are increased to viable size. However, if size of land holding is economically enviable, all working members of household may not get gainful employment through the year in agriculture and therefore some of them may migrate to urban areas in search of better livelihood. In general, an effective land reform programme tends to reduce the rural to urban migration, especially from peasant household.

The study shows that there are close inter-linkage between rural and urban migration and development issues. Population redistribution through rural-urban migration distributes human resources of a country, again various developmental opportunities drives further rural-urban migration. A family who decides to migrate always calculates the economic benefits at the destination places after migration.

There is huge need to spreading of awareness about family planning, improvement of per capita income, government schemes, rural development as well as social development. So that they may be self reliant and empowered to use their rights, only then they can take advantages of the manifold scheme launched by the government for their welfare. By improving their awareness about all round development, migrants can develop their village as well as of Tapan Block. We can justifiably say that all round progress of the block as well as district can be achieved by spreading the awareness. Therefore our nation can rise up and we can say with everybody that – “Be Educated and Move Ahead

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