



Entrepreneurship As An Alternative To Migration In Beed District

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Abstract:

Migration is a major livelihood strategy in drought-prone regions like Beed district in Maharashtra. Due to agrarian distress, water scarcity, and lack of local employment, a large number of people migrate seasonally, particularly for sugarcane cutting work. This research paper examines entrepreneurship as a sustainable alternative to migration in Beed district. The study is based on secondary data from research articles, reports, and academic sources. Statistical evidence shows that every year approximately 1.5 to 1.75 lakh workers from Beed migrate for sugarcane harvesting, making it one of the highest migration-prone districts in Maharashtra. These workers often migrate for 6–8 months annually, highlighting the absence of stable local livelihood opportunities. The study finds that entrepreneurship, especially in agro-based industries, MSMEs, and rural enterprises, can significantly reduce migration by generating local employment and improving income stability. The paper concludes that strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems can provide a long-term solution to distress migration.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship, Migration, Sugarcane Workers, Beed District, Rural Development, MSME.*

Introduction:

Migration is a significant socio-economic phenomenon in rural India, particularly in drought-prone regions like Beed district in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. The district experiences low and irregular rainfall, limited irrigation, and heavy dependence on agriculture, making livelihoods highly uncertain.

As a result, seasonal migration has become a survival strategy. Every year, during the lean agricultural season (November to May), thousands of households migrate to other districts such as Kolhapur, Sangli, and Satara to work in

sugarcane harvesting, brick kilns, and construction sectors.

Among these, sugarcane cutting is the most dominant form of migration. Beed is widely known as a “sugarcane labour supplying district,” where migration is not occasional but a structured and recurring economic activity.

However, migration, though it provides temporary income, leads to social and economic problems such as poor living conditions, disruption of education, and health issues. Therefore, there is a need to explore sustainable alternatives like entrepreneurship that can generate

local employment and reduce migration dependency.

Review of Literature:

Studies indicate that migration in Beed district is largely distress-driven due to agrarian crisis and lack of livelihood opportunities. Research shows that households migrate seasonally to compensate for income instability caused by drought and low agricultural productivity.

Further studies highlight that migration is not a long-term solution but a coping mechanism that often traps households in cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

On the other hand, entrepreneurship has been widely recognized as an effective tool for employment generation and economic development. Rural entrepreneurship, particularly agro-based enterprises and MSMEs, can provide sustainable livelihood opportunities and reduce migration pressures.

Research Methodology:

The present study adopts a descriptive research design based on secondary data. Information has been collected from research journals, government reports, and academic publications.

The study focuses on analyzing migration patterns, particularly sugarcane labour migration, and evaluating the potential of entrepreneurship as an alternative. Content analysis and

comparative analysis methods have been used.

Causes of Migration in Beed District:

Migration in Beed district is influenced by several interconnected factors. Agrarian distress is a primary cause, as agriculture is largely rain-dependent and frequently affected by drought. This results in seasonal unemployment and low income levels.

A major and distinctive cause of migration is the large-scale movement of labourers as sugarcane cutters. Every year, around 1.5–1.75 lakh workers migrate from Beed district for sugarcane harvesting across Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat. These workers typically migrate for 6 to 8 months, often under advance payment contracts with labour contractors.

This migration is usually family-based, where entire households move together, disrupting children's education and social life. The working conditions are often harsh, involving long hours, low wages, and limited access to basic facilities.

Additionally, lack of industrial development, poor infrastructure, and absence of local employment opportunities further compel people to migrate.

Impact of Migration:

Migration has both positive and negative impacts on rural households. On the positive side, it provides temporary income and helps families survive during drought periods.

However, the negative impacts are more significant. Migration disrupts children's education, leads to poor health and living conditions, and exposes workers to exploitation and informal labour practices. Studies also show that migrant workers often remain trapped in cycles of debt and poverty.

Thus, migration is largely a distress-driven phenomenon rather than a choice.

Entrepreneurship as an Alternative to Migration:

Entrepreneurship offers a sustainable alternative to migration by creating local employment opportunities and improving income stability.

1. Agro-Based Entrepreneurship:

Agro-based entrepreneurship offers a practical and sustainable solution for generating local employment in Beed district. Activities such as food processing, dairy farming, poultry, and organic farming effectively utilize locally available agricultural resources and reduce wastage of raw produce. By converting raw materials into value-added products, farmers and entrepreneurs can earn higher income compared to traditional farming. These enterprises not only strengthen the rural economy but also create year-round employment opportunities, thereby reducing the need for seasonal migration.

2. MSMEs and Rural Enterprises:

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and rural enterprises play a crucial role in promoting local economic development. Small-scale units

in manufacturing, services, and retail sectors can absorb a significant portion of the rural workforce. These enterprises require relatively low investment and can be easily established in rural areas. By providing stable employment and income opportunities within the district, MSMEs help in reducing dependency on seasonal migration, especially among unskilled and semi-skilled workers.

3. Digital and Service-Based Entrepreneurship:

Digital and service-based entrepreneurship is emerging as a new avenue for rural development. The adoption of digital technologies, online platforms, and e-commerce enables entrepreneurs to access wider markets beyond their local areas. Service-based businesses such as online retail, digital marketing, mobile repair services, and freelancing create employment opportunities for educated rural youth. This shift towards digital entrepreneurship not only enhances income potential but also reduces the need for migration by allowing individuals to work and earn within their own region.

Opportunities for Entrepreneurship in Beed District:

Beed district has several advantages for entrepreneurial development, including availability of agricultural raw materials, a large rural workforce, and increasing government support through schemes such as Mudra Yojana and Skill India.

There is also growing demand for processed agricultural products, which creates opportunities for agro-based industries. Additionally, digital platforms provide new market access for rural entrepreneurs.

Challenges in Promoting Entrepreneurship:

Despite its potential, entrepreneurship in Beed faces challenges such as lack of infrastructure, limited access to finance, low skill levels, and market access issues. Climate-related risks such as drought also affect business sustainability.

These challenges must be addressed to promote entrepreneurship as a viable alternative to migration.

Findings and Discussion:

The study reveals that migration in Beed district is primarily distress-driven, especially due to sugarcane cutting work, which involves a large portion of the population. The scale of migration indicates a structural problem in the rural economy.

Entrepreneurship has strong potential to reduce migration by providing local employment opportunities. Agro-based industries, MSMEs, and rural enterprises can transform the economic structure of the district.

However, policy support, infrastructure development, and skill enhancement are essential for successful implementation.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that entrepreneurship can serve as a sustainable and long-term alternative to migration in Beed district. While migration, especially for sugarcane cutting, remains a major livelihood strategy, it does not provide economic stability.

Promoting entrepreneurship can reduce migration, improve income levels, and contribute to rural development. A coordinated approach involving government support, financial inclusion, and skill development is necessary to achieve this transformation.

Suggestions:

To reduce migration and promote sustainable livelihoods in Beed district, it is important to adopt a comprehensive approach toward entrepreneurship development. Efforts should be made to promote agro-based industries and rural enterprises that can utilize local resources and generate employment at the village level.

Creating more local employment opportunities is essential to reduce large-scale migration, especially for sugarcane cutting work. Improving irrigation facilities and efficient water management systems will help stabilize agricultural activities and support agro-based businesses. Access to finance should be made easier by simplifying loan procedures and increasing the availability of credit and financial support for small entrepreneurs. In addition, skill development and entrepreneurship training

programs must be strengthened to equip rural youth with necessary knowledge and capabilities.

The development of rural industrial clusters can provide common infrastructure and support services, encouraging business growth. Furthermore, promoting digital entrepreneurship and strengthening market linkages will help entrepreneurs reach broader markets and improve their income, ultimately reducing the need for migration.

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Abstract:

Water resource planning and agricultural management require an understanding of precipitation's temporal variability. This study examines long-term precipitation trends in Pen Tehsil, India, and using gridded climate data from NASA's Prediction of Worldwide Energy Resources. Sen's slope estimator in R Studio and the Mann-Kendall trend test were used to identify and measure notable trends in monthly and seasonal rainfall data. Results show that monsoon months (June–September) contribute the majority of annual precipitation, with July recording the highest average (765.56 mm). A statistically significant increasing trend (corrected $Z_c = 6.31$, $p < 0.0001$) was observed during the monsoon, with a Sen's slope of 4.84 mm/year. Annual rainfall also exhibited a strong increasing trend (corrected $Z_c = 6.61$, $p < 0.0001$; Sen's slope = 19.51 mm/year). Autumn rainfall (October–November) displayed a moderate upward trend (corrected $Z_c = 3.83$, $p = 0.0001$). In contrast, winter (December–January) and summer (February–May) rainfall did not show statistically significant trends, indicating relative climatic stability in these seasons. This intensification in monsoonal rainfall has implications for flood management and crop scheduling.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Monsoon Trends, Mann-Kendall Test, NASA POWER, Pen Tehsil*
