Seasonal Migration among Rural Households in Odisha: Determination and Magnitude

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Abstract: This paper investigates the relationship between wage differential and seasonal migration with the unit-level data on unemployment, employment and migration, especially in Odisha. The study used the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data of 2007-08. The paper examines how wage differential from rural to urban area motivates rural people for seasonal migration for better livelihood options in Koraput of district, Odisha. By applying the OLS method to measure the wage differential, it also explores the probable reasons behind the seasonal migration in rural areas. It is observed that lack of elementary education among the marginal sections of people like SC, ST and OBC probable to seasonal migration for alternative option of livelihood or employment. the per-capita consumption is 0.13 and 0.05 times more of a self-employed in own agricultural land and agricultural labourer household respectively than casual labourer household. The current study found that, the per-capita consumption is 0.4 times more of an Indira Awash Yojana household than a non-Indira Awash Yojana household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.01 times more of an RSBY (health card) holders household than a non- RSBY (health card) holders household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.02 times more of a Kishan Credit Card holders household than a non-Kishan Credit Card holders household.

Key Words: *Migration, Unemployment, OLS ,* **JEL Code:** *R23, J31, O15*

1. Introduction

Historically, developing countries including India have been plagued by skewed distribution of nation's resource, although India is considered to be one of the emerging economy in the world next to USA, China, Japan and Germany. On other hand, it is a matter of deep concern that front of development could not percolate to the marginal sections of people like SC, ST and OBC including Muslims despite the government's five-year planned efforts. The government reports reveals that there is high incidence of acute poverty, food scarcity and low level of agricultural production among these groups (Data source needed with facts).

In Odisha, the marginal sections people are representing large proportions around 70 percent of the total population in the state (Census, 2011). In rural areas, the incidents of poverty among the SC and ST is very high around 75.6 percent and also 60 percent of its population lives in rural areas (Planning Commission, 2004). It has also been found that most of the people are marginal and land less people having less than 1 ha of land (Agriculture census, 2015-16) and also primarily dependents on the agricultural for their livelihood.

In 2004-05, the unemployment rate is 8.2 percent in rural and 8.3 percent in urban India (Govt. of India, 2006). The unemployment rate among young people aged 15-29 was much higher than overall of population. Overall, the level of underemployment was high with 11 percent usually employed rural men and 7 percent usually employed rural women aged 15 years and above available for additional work. In nutshell, the micro-picture suggests that one would expect to migrate out in search of alternative option for livelihood which can be observe as driven by push factors at the source. It is not only the single micro structure but also multi-facets which observed as driven by push factors at the place of origin.

2. Literature Review

The concept of migration is not a new phenomenon and a number of studies has carried out to analyze the potential factors which determines the migration. In the Indian context, seasonal migration is not a new phenomenon and the issue has been researched at length by many scholars, either from the viewpoint of migration or non-farm employment (Haberfeld et al. 1999; Deshingkar & Start, 2003; Calı`& Menon, 2013). According Breman study in South Gujarat (1996) has written large extent about seasonal migration since 1970. He argues that the main reason for increased seasonal migration is the decline in agricultural employment and the presence of landless tribal households in this region. Further, he points out that increased urbanisation in Gujarat has attracted these individuals to migrate on a short-term basis to work in the informal sector. This diversification strategy has helped households in sustaining their livelihoods. The study of Mosse et al. (2005) argued that seasonal migration has become an "irreversible part of the livelihoods of rural Adivasi or Scheduled Tribe communities in western India. According to Calı` and Menon (2013) study argue that migration is a channel through which urbanisation and the growth of the non-farm sector lead to a reduction in rural poverty. They also discuss how seasonal migration is a mechanism of urban-rural linkage and benefit transfers. Haberfeld et al. (1999), based on a micro-study in southern Rajasthan, find that seasonal migration is a coping and risk-reducing strategy. They also find that seasonal migrant households are characterised by low levels of education and income. In their sample, almost 60% of the income of households can be attributed to seasonal migration. Reviewing the micro-studies on non-farm employment in the Indian context. Basu and Kashyap (1992) study reveals that, that temporary migration of [the] labour force from rural to urban area[s], particularly of commuting variety, account[s] for a sizeable portion of [the] workforce in various economic activities of the urban centres as well as form[ing] a major share of offseason employment of agricultural labour and small farmers. The study of Chandrasekhar et.al., (2014) argues the seasonal migration or short-term migration among agricultural farmers is higher than the other sectors, which observes that driven by the push factor at the source. Sucharita and Rout (2020) study investigates nature and extent of seasonal migration in Jharkhand.

3. Objective

To investigate the relationship between wage differential and seasonal migration with the unit-level data on unemployment, employment and migration, especially in Odisha.

4. Methodology

In order to find out the nature and extent of seasonal migration, data has been collected from the NSS 64th round 2007-08, Government of India. It is national representative survey on employment, unemployment and Migration conducted from July 2007 to June 2008 across 35

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states and Union Territories of India. The survey covered both rural and urban areas in India. In addition, to understand the characteristics/ determination of migrant with the help of logistic regression used to know the seasonal migrants.

$$Logit = X\alpha + X\beta + Xc \ldots Xn$$

It also used the OLS (Ordinary least Square model) to know the wage differential between migrants

$$Y = \beta 0 + \Sigma j = 1 \ldots p \, \beta jXj + \varepsilon$$

To know the regional variation of seasonal migrants across the districts of Odisha, GIS tools were used analyses the

5. Distribution of Seasonal Migrants of India

Seasonal migration in India is a dynamic demographic phenomenon characterized by the temporary movement of individuals or communities within the country in response to specific seasons. This unique pattern of population mobility is influenced by a myriad of factors, including economic opportunities, agricultural practices, and climatic conditions. The diverse geographical and cultural landscape of India contributes to varying degrees of seasonal migration across its states and union territories. Understanding the intricacies of this migration is essential for policymakers to formulate targeted interventions that address the specific needs and challenges associated with seasonal movement in different regions. As individuals seek temporary opportunities for employment, agriculture, or other seasonal activities, the patterns of migration offer insights into the socio-economic dynamics of different states, reflecting the complex interplay of factors shaping the movement of people within the country.

Table-1 Distribution of Seasonal Migrants of India (Number indicates percentage)

State/UT	Seasonal Migration	State/UT	Seasonal Migration
Andaman & Nicober	0.42	Lakshadweep	0.48
Andhra Pradesh	3.29	Madhya Pradesh	3.83
Arunachal Pradesh	4.05	Maharashtra	2.03
Assam	3.33	Manipur	0.6
Bihar	5.51	Meghalaya	2.73
Chandigarh	0.07	Mizoram	1.35
Chhattisgarh	4.08	Nagaland	7.65
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.13	**Orissa**	**3.01**
Daman & Diu	1.4	Pondicheri	2.99
Delhi	0.28	Punjab	0.8
Goa	1.97	Rajasthan	2.46
Gujarat	3.61	Sikkim	0.5
Haryana	1.29	Tamil Nadu	3.77
Himanchal Pradesh	1.31	Tripura	3.04
Jammu & Kashmir	3.38	Uttar Pradesh	3.86
Jharkhand	5	Uttaranchal	1.38
Karnataka	3.85	West Bengal	4.65
Kerala	1.52	**Total**	**3.29**

Source: Unit level data, NSS 64th Round 2007-08, Govt. of India

The provided data on the distribution of seasonal migration in India offers valuable insights into the varying patterns of population movement across different states and union territories. It is crucial to note that seasonal migration refers to the temporary movement of individuals or communities within a country in response to specific seasons, often driven by factors such as employment opportunities, agricultural practices, and economic conditions.

States like Bihar and Jharkhand exhibit a relatively high percentage of seasonal migration at 5.51% and 5%, respectively. These figures suggest a significant portion of the population engages in temporary movement, likely driven by economic factors and employment opportunities in other regions. The higher rates in these states may be indicative of the seasonal nature of certain industries or agricultural practices, compelling individuals to seek work elsewhere during specific times of the year.

Conversely, states such as Delhi and Punjab display lower percentages of seasonal migration at 0.28% and 0.8%, respectively. In the case of Delhi, the low rate could be attributed to its urban and cosmopolitan nature, where a stable and diverse economy may reduce the necessity for seasonal mobility. Punjab's lower migration rate may be linked to its agricultural and industrial stability, providing a more consistent economic environment throughout the year.
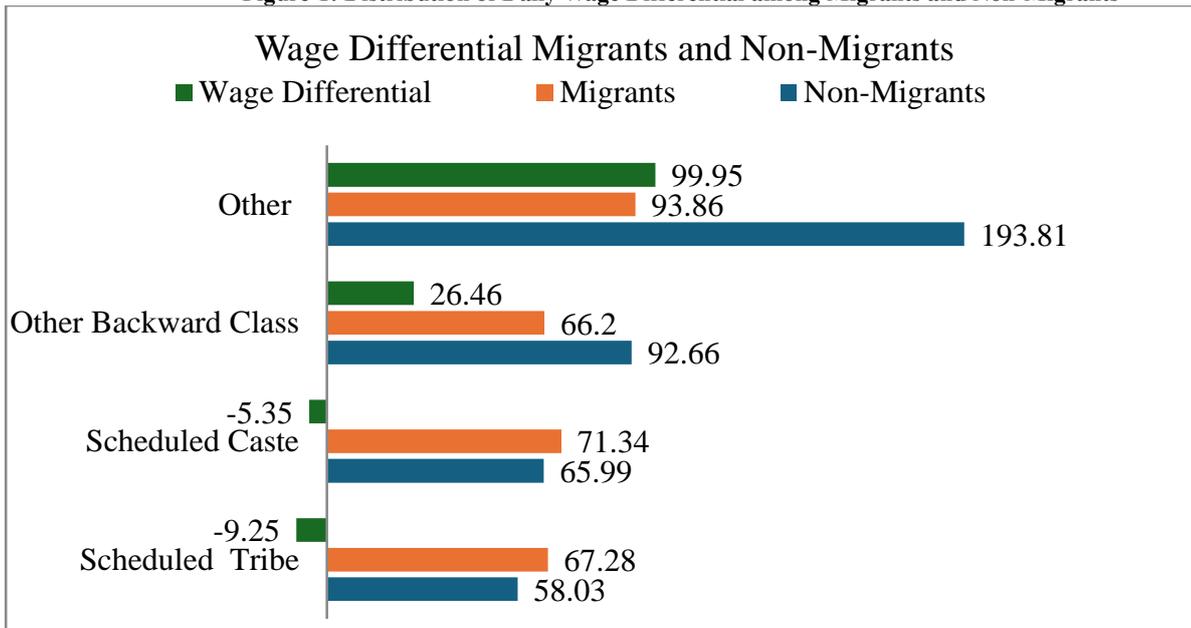
Geographical and climatic factors also play a role in shaping migration patterns. For instance, Lakshadweep, as an island territory, demonstrates a low migration rate of 0.48%. The geographic isolation and limited economic opportunities on the islands contribute to the lower mobility observed in this region. Similarly, hilly states like Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim exhibit moderate to low migration rates (1.31% and 0.5%, respectively), possibly influenced by their unique topography and challenges associated with seasonal movement.

Certain states, such as Nagaland, stand out with a notably high migration rate of 7.65%. This may be indicative of specific economic activities or agricultural practices that drive a significant portion of the population to migrate seasonally. Understanding these variations is crucial for policymakers to tailor interventions and support systems that address the specific needs and challenges associated with seasonal migration in different regions.

6. Wage Rate of Seasonal Migrants and Non-Migrants

The wage rate of rural area is the main reasons for economic migration. People migrate for wage salaries differential among places for their basic needs. If we want to discuss the reasons of migration we should discuss about the wage and salaries of migrant and non-migrants. Here the wage and salary of migrant has been discussed by using NSSO 64th round unit level data. The wage differential of migrants and non-migrants has been discussed according to their education, social group, gender, land holdings, religion and MPCE class.
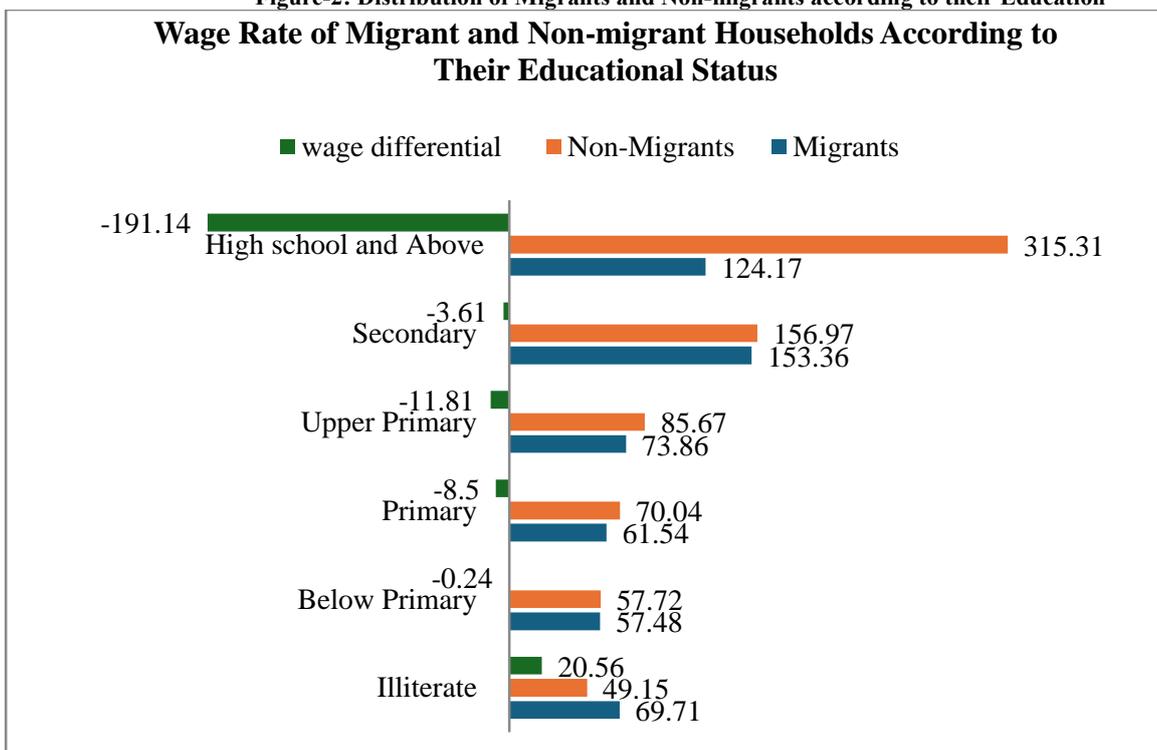
Figure-1: Distribution of Daily Wage Differential among Migrants and Non-Migrants

Wage Differential Migrants and Non-Migrants

Legend: ■ Wage Differential ■ Migrants ■ Non-Migrants

- Other: 99.95 (Wage Differential), 93.86 (Migrants), 193.81 (Non-Migrants)
- Other Backward Class: 26.46 (Wage Differential), 66.2 (Migrants), 92.66 (Non-Migrants)
- Scheduled Caste: -5.35 (Wage Differential), 71.34 (Migrants), 65.99 (Non-Migrants)
- Scheduled Tribe: -9.25 (Wage Differential), 67.28 (Migrants), 58.03 (Non-Migrants)

Source: Unit Level Data, NSSO 64th Round, 2007-08

The Figure-1 shows the daily wage difference of both migrant and non-migrant households to find-out the reasons of migration. It is considered as one of the reason of seasonal migration. It indicates that, ST communities who are getting67.28 rupees as daily wage are migrating more than the ST people are getting 58.03 rupees as their daily wage. While, SC communities who are getting 71.34 rupees as daily wage are migrating more than the SC people are getting 65.99 rupees as their daily wage. There is not much difference in wage rate of migrant households and non-migrant households. This wage rate does not have much impact on migration of ST and SC communities. Poor life style forces these people to migrate. In addition, it also explains that, OBC communities who are getting 66.20 rupees as daily wage are migrating more than the OBC people are getting 92.66 rupees as their daily wage. There are various study has finds that land less agricultural labourer are from the lower social strata, in case of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand poor and marginal households are trapped in debt bondage for the survival in the native area. In order to free from the debt bondage they migrate nearest urban city centres or within state for getting more wages (Jayaraman, 1979; Breman, 1994; Rogaly, 1998; Haberfeld et al., 1999; Rogaly et al., 2001; Vijay, 2005; Deshingkar and Farrington, 2009). The above shows that, General communities who are getting 93.86 rupees as daily wage are migrating more than the General people are getting 93.86 rupees as their daily wage. There is huge difference in wage rate of migrant households and non-migrant households. This wage rate does not have much impact on migration of OBC and General Communities'. Poor life style forces these people to migrate.

Figure-2: Distribution of Migrants and Non-migrants according to their Education

Wage Rate of Migrant and Non-migrant Households According to Their Educational Status

Legend: ■ wage differential ■ Non-Migrants ■ Migrants

- High school and Above: -191.14 (wage differential), 315.31 (Non-Migrants), 124.17 (Migrants)
- Secondary: -3.61 (wage differential), 156.97 (Non-Migrants), 153.36 (Migrants)
- Upper Primary: -11.81 (wage differential), 85.67 (Non-Migrants), 73.86 (Migrants)
- Primary: -8.5 (wage differential), 70.04 (Non-Migrants), 61.54 (Migrants)
- Below Primary: -0.24 (wage differential), 57.72 (Non-Migrants), 57.48 (Migrants)
- Illiterate: 20.56 (wage differential), 49.15 (Non-Migrants), 69.71 (Migrants)

Source: Unit Level Data, NSSO 64th Round, 2007-08

The figure-2 figure explains the daily wage difference of both migrant and non-migrant households to find-out the reasons of migration. The non-migrants having educational qualification high school and above are getting more money and those who are getting124.17 wage rate migrating to urban area. There wage differential is high in between migrant and non-migrant is high i.e. 191.14 rupees. The above figure shows that the people having qualification secondary, upper primary, primary, below primary and illiterate are getting 153.36, 73.86, 61.54, 57.48 and 69.71 rupees as their wage rate. Again the migrants having qualification secondary, upper primary, primary, below primary and illiterate are getting 156.97, 85.67, 70.04, 57.72 and 49.15 rupees. There is much difference in migrants and non-migrants having qualification secondary, upper primary, primary, below primary and illiterate.

Figure-3: Wage Rate of Migrant and Non-Migrant by their Religion
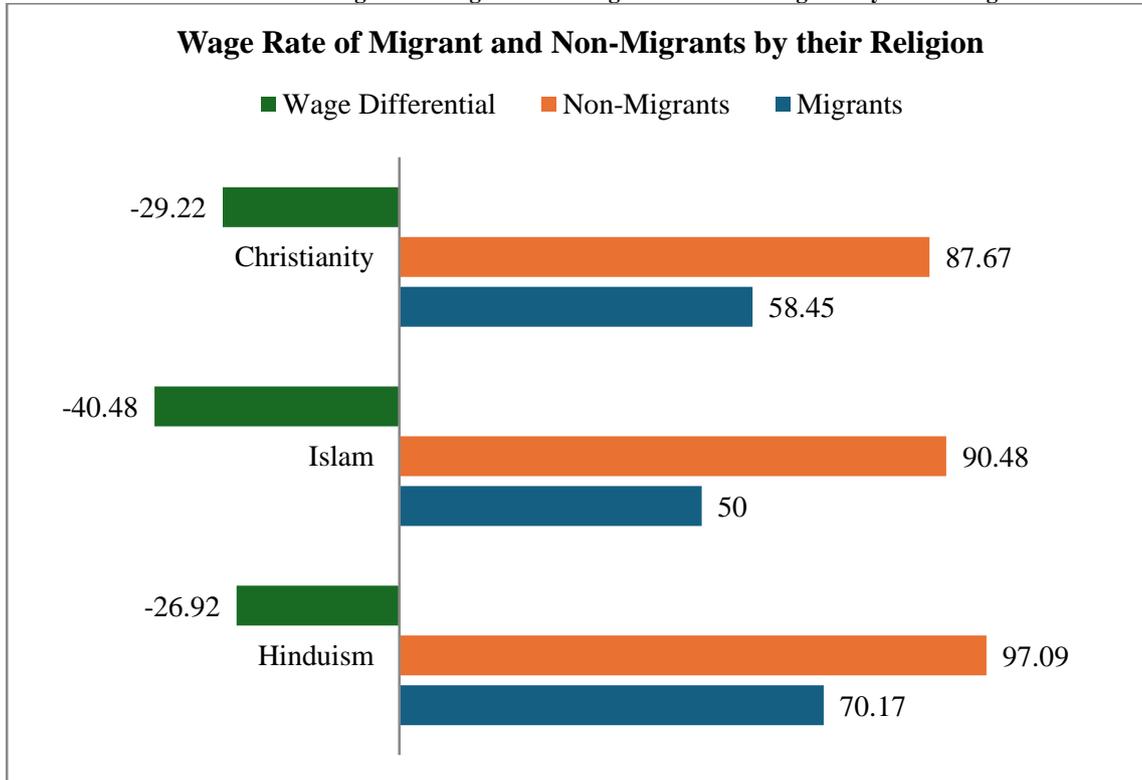
Source: Unit Level Data, NSSO 64th Round, 2007-08

The figure-3 explains the daily wage difference of both migrant and non-migrant households to find-out the reasons in different religions of migrants. The non-migrants having low wage rate are migrating to rural areas in different religions. The wage differential is high among Muslim. The Muslim people who are getting 50 rupees as their daily wage are more prone to migrate than those are getting 9.48 rupees as their daily wage at their native the wage differential is 40.48 rupees. But there is no much wage differential in Christian and Hindu people. The Hindu people who are getting 70.17 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 97.07 rupees as their daily wage. Similarly The Hindu people who are getting 58.45 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 87.67 rupees as their daily wage.

Figure-4: Distribution of Migrant and Non-Migrants by their MPCE Class
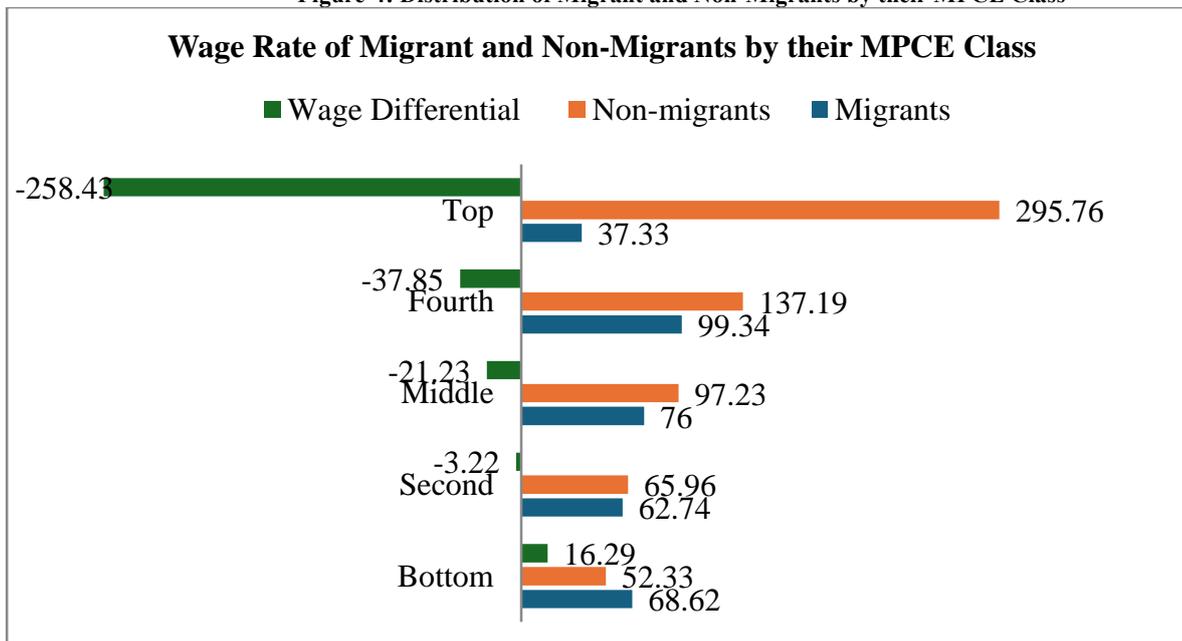
Source: Unit Level Data, NSSO 64th Round, 2007-08

The figure 4 explains the wage differential calculating the MPCE quintiles. The wage differential is high in the top quintiles than the other four type's quintiles. The people getting 37.33 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 295.76 as their daily wage. Similarly, the people getting 99.34 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 137.19 as their daily wage and the wage differential is 37.85 rupees in fourth quintiles. Again, the people getting 97.23 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 76 as their daily wage and the wage differential is 21.23 rupees in middle quintiles. The people getting 65.96 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 62.33 as their daily wage and the wage differential is 3.22 rupees in second quintiles. On the same way, the people getting 68.62 rupees are more prone to migrate than those are getting 52.33 as their daily wage and the wage differential is 16.29 rupees in bottom quintiles.

Table-2
OLS Regression Results

Log Daily Wage	Seasonal Migrants		Non-Migrants		Both Migrant and Non-Migrant	
	Coefficient	Std. Error	Coefficient	Std. Error	Coefficient	Std. Error
Sector (Rural)	-0.252***	0.081	-0.080***	0.029	-0.090***	0.027
Male	0.061	0.066	0.340***	0.021	0.327***	0.021
ST	-0.150	0.102	-0.102***	0.033	-0.123***	0.032
SC	-0.049	0.100	-0.100***	0.032	-0.102***	0.031
OBC	0.001	0.096	-0.087***	0.031	-0.089***	0.030
Hindu	-0.041	0.110	0.109**	0.064	0.072	0.059
Muslim	-0.737**	0.336	-0.024	0.086	-0.081	0.082
Below Primary	-0.015	0.063	-0.064***	0.027	-0.001	0.020
Primary	0.002	0.068	-0.061**	0.029	0.019	0.025
Upper Primary	-0.013	0.064	-0.045***	0.034	0.050	0.025
Secondary	0.300**	0.138	0.210***	0.048	0.270***	0.045
High School and above	0.316	0.296	0.552***	0.059	0.609***	0.060
Ln MPCE	0.102	0.076	0.416***	0.026	0.396***	0.024
Casual	-0.009	0.089	-0.176***	0.041	-0.152***	0.038
White Collar	0.668**	0.371	0.338***	0.059	0.369***	0.057
Pink Collar	0.244	0.177	0.190***	0.056	0.216***	0.054
Agricultural Labour	-0.189***	0.100	-0.038	0.073	-0.035	0.072
Blue Collar	0.347***	0.042	0.223***	0.020	0.254***	0.018
Constant	3.563	0.478	1.334	0.187	1.433	0.173
Number of Observation= 3411			R-squared=0.6552		F(18, 3392)=284.47	
			Root MSE=0.45951		Probability> F=0.0000	

Note: ***p<0.01, **p<0.05 and *p<0.1.
Source: Unit Level Data, NSSO 64th Round, 2007-08

The table 2 shows the log daily wage is high of migrant households in comparison to non-migrant households. Likewise, there is a significant relation with rural area households and insignificant relation with male with log daily wage. There is a negative significant relation with ST, SC and positive insignificant relation with OBC household and log daily wage. Again there is negative insignificant relation with Hindu household and negative significant relation between log daily wages. Similarly, the above table shows, a negative insignificant relation with educational qualification below primary and insignificant relation with having educational qualification of primary with log daily wage. The above table shows a negative insignificant relation with having educational qualification upper primary and a significant relation with having educational qualification of secondary, insignificant relation with having educational qualification high school and above with log daily wage. Again the above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.28 times more of a migrant household than a non-migrant household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.1 and 0.14 times more of a ST and OBC household respectively than SC household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.4 and 0.19 times more of a kachha and semi-pakka household respectively than pakka household.

The data shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.13 and 0.05 times more of a self-employed in own agricultural land and agricultural labourer household respectively than casual labourer household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.4 times more of an Indira Awash Yojana household than a non- Indira Awash Yojana household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.01 times more of a RSBY (health card) holders household than a non- RSBY (health card) holders household. The above table shows, the per-capita consumption is 0.02 times more of a Kishan Credit Card holders household than a non-Kishan Credit Card holders household.

7. Conclusion

Seasonal migration is an important for income diversification and distress-driven coping strategy for poor and marginal households at the place origin. It has been observed from study area that, there is limitation of access to non-agricultural based employment in rural areas one of the push factors of seasonal or temporary migration. It also found that uneven monsoon conditions prevent continues cultivation or frequent occurrence of natural disaster like cyclone, flood and drought leads to the poor and marginal household push them into the poverty trap and ultimate push them to migrate to nearby city or urban areas. In rural Odisha, agriculture is main sources of income and also agriculture practice is traditional and mono crops most of them unemployed after post-harvesting period. It can be considered as there is a strong linkage between migration msd agricultural production at the place of origin like Koraput district of Odisha. It is not only an important component of labour migration in country with an increasing shift of the labour force from agriculture to industry or tertiary sector but also crucial to the livelihoods of security for socially deprived sections like SC, ST and OBC. The data reveals that seasonal migration rate is about 70 percent of the western part in Odisha such as Bolangir, Kalahandi,Nuapada, Sonepur etc. Seasonal migration is more prevalent among the lower social strata of people i.e. ST and SC households. The historical record attests to the struggles faced by ST and SC households in Odisha's western region, characterized by limited resources in terms of land and capital. This current study underscores the prevalence of seasonal migration among rural, uneducated ST and SC poor households, often exceeding other social groups.

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