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Unraveling the nexus of urbanisation, migration, and livelihoods of farm households

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Abstract

The complex interplay between urbanisation, migration, and livelihoods is a critical aspect of contemporary socio-economic dynamics, particularly in regions experiencing rapid urban growth. Against the backdrop of urbanisation emerging as a global focal point, understanding its ramifications on the livelihoods of farm families assumes paramount importance. This study presents a comprehensive investigation into the intricate nexus of urbanisation and migration and its effects on the livelihoods of farm households in and around Bengaluru, India. Using a random sampling method, villages around Bengaluru were categorised into urban, transition, and rural gradients. A total of 260 farm households were surveyed, comprising 60 from urban areas and 100 each from transition and rural gradients. Results revealed varying migration rates across gradients, with the highest observed in rural areas (52%), followed by urban (46.67%) and transition (35%) gradients. Notably, rural-urban migration emerged as the predominant stream. In rural areas, migration was primarily driven by higher wages at destinations (41.76%) and better job opportunities (31.87%). A probit model analysis highlighted the significant factors influencing migration, including education, household size, non-farm income, and outstanding debt, while farm income exhibited a negative impact.

Furthermore, findings from the fractional probit model underscored the positive correlation between urban households and livelihood security, with urban households exhibiting greater livelihood security (0.61) compared to transition (0.55) and rural (0.52) households. Based on our study findings, policymakers should prioritise improving rural infrastructure, such as transportation, healthcare, and education, to make rural areas more attractive and reduce migration. Additionally, targeted interventions promoting skill development, access to credit, and financial literacy can empower farm households to diversify income sources and manage debt effectively. These measures can foster more inclusive and resilient rural economies, ultimately enhancing the well-being of farm households amidst urbanisation pressures. This study contributes to the understanding of urbanisation dynamics, migration patterns, and their implications on livelihoods of farm households. The insights garnered can inform policy interventions aimed at fostering sustainable development and enhancing livelihood security in rapidly urbanizing areas like Bengaluru's periphery.

Keywords: Farm households, livelihoods, migration, rural-urban interface, urbanisation