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Title of the Research Paper: Seasonal Migration as Adaption for livelihood choices among environmentally stressed Tribal Agrarian Households in Latehar district of Jharkhand: An Analysis

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Abstract: Tribal Agrarian households in many part of Latehar district of Jharkhand are relying depend on natural resources for livelihood as well as subsistence farming. Seasonal migration among agrarian is one of the oldest livelihood strategies adopted by rural agrarian farmers. Seasonal migration reflects the dynamic relationship between people, environment and economy. In recent decade Seasonal Migration has emerged as an adaptive livelihood strategy to sustain livelihoods, diversify income, improving standard of living and reduce vulnerability. This research paper is primarily intended to examine the environmental factors that lead to livelihood stress among tribal agrarian households, to study the trends and patterns, duration and destinations of seasonal migration among tribal agrarian communities, to highlight the major causes of seasonal migration among agrarian tribal's, to suggests policy interventions and livelihood alternatives for reducing seasonal migration. The research is conducted using both primary and secondary sources data and mixed method approach has applied. The prime causes among seasonal migration among agrarian tribal's are- climate vulnerability, chronic drought, water scarcity, flash flood and water logging in the agricultural fields, crop failures to due intensive heat waves, cyclones and strong winds, unseasonal rainfall, environmental degradation, soil infertility, soil erosion, soil salinity and alkalinity, erratic and excessive rainfall patterns, overflowing rivers, hailstorms, lightning and thunderstorms, land degradation, heavy frost etc. The analysis demonstrates that 73.14 percent of the agrarian farmers are migrated to inter-state in semi-urban and urban areas of the country. At the destination place tribal migrants farmer are engage in agricultural labour work, construction work, factories and industries, urban informal sector etc. The findings of the study show that promoting sustainable adaption through

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agroforestry, skill development and rural enterprise can provide alternatives to distress migration and ensure long-term livelihood stability. The researchers recommended that inclusive and sustainable rural development, better social protection measures, adoption of mixed farming and crop diversification with climate resilient agriculture to reduce distress-driven migration.

Keywords: Seasonal Migration, Livelihood insecurity, Agrarian distress, Climate variability, Rural Poverty, Migration Patterns, Inclusive development

Introduction: The primitive and indigenous tribal communities inhabiting Latehar district of Jharkhand had livelihood threat due changing climate and its variability. Seasonal migration creates changes in the deep rooted as well as social and cultural life of individual as well as their community. However, seasonal migration is practices many tribal communities in our country such as Gujjars and Bhakarwalls in Jammu and Kashmir. In Jharkhand, seasonal migration from rural areas to urban areas is an important that is gaining more significance year after year. The majority of tribal agrarian farmers in Jharkhand are most climate-sensitive social groups due to their heavy dependence on rain-fed farming, forest and natural resources and small fragmented landholdings. Seasonal –temporal migration among tribal farmers has emerged as a critical livelihood strategy and opportunities in the response of climatic variability. The extreme weather and climatic variability events will result in detrimental effects on crop yield, decreased soil moisture, increases pest and disease incidence and thus resulted in crops damages and agricultural production too. Majority of the crops are highly sensitive to effects of extreme temperatures, irregular monsoon and low precipitation, excessive rainfall and flash flood. Tribal Agrarian households in many part of Latehar district of Jharkhand are relying depend on natural resources for livelihood as well as subsistence farming. Majority of the indigenous and tribal community are depended on land and forest for their livelihood in Jharkhand. Seasonal migration among agrarian is one of the oldest livelihood strategies adopted by rural agrarian farmers. Seasonal migration reflects the dynamic relationship between people, environment and economy. In recent decade seasonal migration has emerged as an adaptive livelihood strategy to sustain livelihoods, diversify income, improving standard of living and reduce vulnerability.

Seasonal migrations among tribal community are take places due to climatic vulnerability and crops failures (Prakash Chandra Deogharia 2012). Seasonal temporal migration among the PVTGs and Non-PVTGs tribal agrarian communities to Indian cities and towns due to several

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factors (Sweety Marandi and Sasmita Patel 2022). Seasonal migration is one of the most commonly adopted livelihood strategies among the tribal and non-tribal agrarian communities in the dry land and drought prone regions of Hyderabad - Karnataka states (Mohammad Habib 2017). Seasonal migration has shaped many of tribal agrarian distress families for maintaining their economic well-being among the tribal communities inhabiting the hilly regions of Tamil Nadu state (S. Vasanthapriya and M. Asokhan 2019). Seasonal migration is a serious problem with effects for tribal agrarian farmers, the economy and society (Ujjawal Gaur, 2024). Seasonal migration greatly affects on changing the population of any areas of country**.** Their study reveals that the Tribals people are seasonally migrated for agricultural works such as transplanting, caring and harvesting of crops (Areful Hoque and Mohammad Taufique).

Statement of Problems: Agriculture and its allied sectors is the main economic activity and source of livelihood for the scheduled tribal PVTGs and Non PVTGs communities residing in Latehar district state of the Jharkhand during the normal years. Climate change and its associates variability has become an critical issue concern in recent decades. But this prime activity is affected by climate vulnerability, chronic drought, water scarcity, frequent flash flood and water logging in the agricultural fields, crop failures to due intensive heat waves, cyclones and strong winds, unseasonal rainfall, environmental degradation, erratic weather pattern phenomenon, soil infertility, soil erosion, soil salinity and alkalinity, erratic and excessive rainfall patterns, forest fires, overflowing rivers, hailstorms, lightning and thunderstorms, land degradation, heavy frost etc. Moreover, other cause includes lack of employment opportunities in remote rural areas, debt economic pressure, unemployment, lack of medium scale and small-scale industries, migration traditions etc. These climatic variability and stresses reduce agricultural crop productivity, increase food insecurity and intensify economic vulnerability among the tribal farmers of Latehar district. Seasonal temporal migration has emerged as a key coping and adaptation strategy of the tribal farmers. Majority of tribal farmers are migrated to nearby large urban centres, industrial zones areas, mining areas in search of daily wage labours. Some of the migrants are in distress at the destination places and remained outside from their homeland and their family even during the festivals like Sarhul, Karma, Diwali, Sohrai, Christmas and New Year. Seasonal migration is certainly not a new phenomenon in rural areas of Latehar district of Jharkhand. These various combined problems and challenges faced by tribal agrarian farmers in different villages of Latehar regions of Jharkhand state, so the researchers are deep and genuine interest to take this

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research topic. The findings and results from this study will be very helpful for researchers, bureaucrats, policy makers, Ministry of Tribal welfare department Government of India and the state government of Jharkhand.

Table 1. 1: Push-Pull Factors among Tribal agrarian Farmers

Push-pull theory	**Pull Factors**
Crop Failure	Higher Wages
Poverty	Regular Income
Indebtness	Employment Opportunities
Extreme weather and Climatic Variability	Good Remittance Returns
Drought	
Flash Flood	
Unseasonal and erratic Rainfall	
Lack of seasonal employment opportunities	
Depended on Natural resources	
Lack of irrigation infrastructures	
High farm expenses	
Lack of effective agricultural extension service	
Lack of institutional Support	
Weak implantation of tribal welfare schemes	

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Objectives of Research: The research paper mainly aims to

(i) To examine the climatic vulnerability and environmental factors that lead to livelihood stress among tribal agrarian households.
(ii) To identify the seasonal migration trends and patterns, duration and destinations of seasonal migration among tribal agrarian communities.
(iii) To assess the impact of migration on agriculture and household economy among the tribal agrarian communities.

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(iv) To highlight the major causes of seasonal migration among agrarian tribal's, to investigate the consequences of seasonal migration for livelihoods as migrants and their families.

(v) To suggests policy interventions and livelihood alternatives for reducing seasonal migration.

Database and Research Methodology: The current study is based on both Primary as well as Secondary sources of data to examine the relationship between climatic variability and seasonal migration among tribal agrarian farmers in Latehar district of Jharkhand. The primary data collected through household field survey has been conducted village level of various Community Development Block (Mahuadanr and Garu) of Latehar district on the basis of well structured questionnaires and field-based empirical investigation during the year 2024 (August-December). The stratified random and snow ball sampling has been used. A total 200 respondents has been selected based on Quantitative as well as depth interview on the basis of socio-economic profile, migration history and seasonal patterns, climatic stress and vulnerability (drought, erratic rainfall, crop failure) and 40 respondents Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on the basis of collective perceptions of climate change and traditional coping and adaption strategies on the aspects of Qualitative method. The research work follows a descriptive and analytical research design, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to analyze the impacts of climatic variability on seasonal migration among tribal communities in Latehar district of Jharkhand. Among the blocks, the villages have been selected based on high concentration of tribal populations and evident based seasonal migration trends.

Table 1. 2: List of Selected Respondents among various Tribal Communities in Latehar district

Tribal Communities	Selected Blocks in Latehar district	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Oraon	Mahuadanr and Garu	50	20. 00
Asur	Mahuadanr and Garu	50	20. 00
Korwa	Mahuadanr and Garu	50	20. 00
Kharwar	Mahuadanr and Garu	50	20. 00

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Total	**200**	**100. 00**

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field-based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

The Secondary data will be collect from of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and Jharkhand report, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Reports, Indian Metrological Department, Ranchi division, Jharkhand State Agriculture and disaster management department Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) annual report, Census of India Report, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) report, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Report, Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development Annual Report, Government of India, District Statistical Handbook Annual Report of Palamu divisions, District Gazetteer, Newspaper, Research Paper and Articles, Various book etc. After the data were collected, the results were presented through Simple Percentage Method (SPM), factor analysis, SWOC analysis had applied.

Geographical outlook of the Study area:

Latehar district is located between **23°44′ North latitude and 84°31′ East longitude of the state of Jharkhand.** It is one of the notable districts of Jharkhand, particularly in terms of natural beauty and scenery, lush-green forest, hills and plateau areas, store house of bauxite minerals, and tourism. Administratively, Latehar district forms a part of the **Palamu Division** and is popularly known as the **"City of Mahua" (*Mahua ki Nagri*)** in Jharkhand. The district covers a total geographical area of **3,652 sq. km.** For administrative convenience, it is divided into **two sub-divisions**, namely **Latehar Sadar** and **Mahuadanr**, which are further subdivided into **nine Community Development Blocks**- Latehar, Chandwa, Balumath, Manika, Barwadih, Garu, Mahuadanr, Bariyatu, and Herhanj. The district comprises a total of **773 villages and 115 Gram Panchayat as per 2011 census.** As a large part of the district falls under drought-prone conditions and is inhabited by several PVTGs and Non-PVTGs tribal communities such as **Oraon, Munda, Asur, Korwa, Birjia**, among others. Latehar receives financial assistance under the **Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)** scheme. The major rivers flowing through the district and various blocks include the **Auranga, Sukari, Koel, and Burha rivers**. Agriculture forms the primary livelihood, with major crops cultivated by farmers being **rice, wheat, maize, potatoes, and groundnut.**

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Empirical Results and Analysis:

Table 1. 3: Gender-Wise Tribal Migrants Respondents

Gender- Specific	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	135	67.5
Female	65	32.5
Total	**200**	**100.00**

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field-based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 3 illustrate that 67. 50 per cent respondents are Male tribal agrarian farmers and 32. 50 per cent are female tribal agrarian farmers.

Table 1. 4: Age-based Tribal Migrants Respondents

Age- based Group	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
18-30 Year	26	13.00
31-45 Year	127	63. 05
46-59 Year	39	19. 05
60+ Years Above	8	4.00
Total	**200**	**100.00**

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field-based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 4 examine that 63. 05 per cent respondents are belongs to 31-45 years age-group which is maximum percentage and 4.00 per cent respondents are belongs to 60+ years above which is lowest percentage among the respondents.

Table 1. 5 : Reason given for Seasonal Migration among Respondents

Causes of Migration	Respondents Percentage (%)
Crops Failure	37. 04 %
Crop damage due to flash flood	48. 68 %

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High Indebtness	21. 29 %
High cost in crops production	41. 29 %
Climatic variability	56. 14 %
Unemployment	39. 60 %
Lower wages in agricultural sector	65. 72 %
Others Reasons	30. 19 %

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field- based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 5 describe that prime causes of seasonal - migration among the tribal agrarian farmers are due to lower wages in agriculture sectors which is 65. 72 per cent and due to climatic variability that is 56. 14 per cent among the respondents.

Table 1. 6: Pattern of Seasonal Migration among Respondents

Duration (in Months)	**Respondents Percentage (%)**
1-6 Months	81.74 %
6-12 Months	41.18 %
12- 18 Months	34. 56 %
18-24 Months	23. 67 %
Total	**100.00**

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field-based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 6 narrate that 81. 74 per cent respondents are migrated 6-12 months duration at destination places and only 23.67 per cent of the respondents are migrated for 18-24 months which is lowest percentage.

Tab1e 1. 7: Destination areas of Migrants Respondents

Types of Migration	**Destination**	**Respondents**

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		Percentage (%)
Inter District	Ranchi	82. 62 %
	Dhanbad	34. 42 %
	Bokaro	25. 76 %
	Jamshedpur	18. 53 %
Inter State	Kerala	53. 43 %
	Bengaluru	42. 81 %
	New Delhi and NCR	32. 66 %
	Punjab	20. 43 %
	Haryana	12. 76 %
	Mumbai	27. 82 %
	Kolkata	48. 53 %
	Bengaluru	41. 66 %
	Gujarat	21. 16 %
	Hyderabad	11. 52 %

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field-based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 7 illustrate that tribal agrarian farmers are migrated to both inter-district and inter-state migrations types and among them 82. 62 per cent migrated to Ranchi city for employment purpose and 53. 43 per cent migrated to Kerala state.

Table 1. 8: Nature of Work performed by Migrants at destination Workers

Nature of Works	Percentage (%)
Construction Works	52. 45 %
Agricultural Works	80. 34 %
Driver	23. 63 %
Hotel Jobs	34. 78 %
Hawkers Jobs	19. 52 %
Security Jobs	8. 73 %
Others	26. 62 %

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Source: Computed by Researchers, Field–based Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Table 1. 8 outline that 80. 34 per cent of the tribal agrarian farmers are performed agricultural related works such as sowing and planting works, crop monitoring and field inspection works, harvesting and post-harvest works, allied agricultural works etc.

Table 1. 9 SWOC Analysis of Tribal Agrarian Seasonal Migrants duet to Climatic variability and distress

Strengths (S)	Additional livelihood opportunities, Income generation, employability, Maintain standard of living
Weakness (W)	Damage and loss of crops, Crops failures, Poverty, Isolation from family members and Society,
Opportunities (O)	Remittance send to family, Socio-Economic well-beings of family, livelihood diversification, Survival strategy,
Challenges (C)	Exclusion from social security schemes at destination places, increasing climatic uncertainty, Occupational health hazards, Gender vulnerability, long hours of works at destination places,

Source: Computed by Researchers, Field Survey data, Latehar district, Jharkhand August-December, 2024

Significant Findings of Research:

1. Majority regions of Latehar district is hilly and plateaus areas the respondents found to have undulated cultivation and agricultural activities area and less water storages facilities due to sloppy land shapes.

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2. The uneven climate change and climatic variability such as irregular rainfall, short-term temperature fluctuations, heat waves, cold waves, unseasonal rainfall, changes in humidity level resulted in the reduction of crop yield.
3. To meet out the daily needs and maintain their level of living among tribal agrarian communities are migrated to metropolitans areas and cities and towns.
4. The various welfare schemes of Government of India as well Government of Jharkhand is not partially fruitful in the study area.
5. The field investigation indicated that migration is distress driven rather than choice-based.
6. The Inter-state seasonal migration take places among tribal agrarian distress communities of Latehar district of Jharkhand.

Strategic Recommendation and Policy Implications:

(i) The tribal agrarian farmers in Latehar district of Jharkhand should adopt crop diversification, agro-forestry and mixed farming, livestock farming, fisheries, poultry farming climate-resilient agriculture in their fields.

(ii) The weather meteorological centre Ranchi, Jharkhand should forecast of weather and climatic phenomena at local and regional level to the farmers.

(iii) The department of Agriculture, Latehar district should test the soil on regular basis among the various fields.

(iv) The tribal agrarian farmers in Latehar district should adopt water conservation strategies and methods such as drip irrigation techniques and rainwater harvesting practices etc. in their agricultural field.

(v) The cropping pattern should be regulated and base on resources availability of the region especially High Yielding Variety of Seeds (HYVs) irrigation system, rainfall pattern etc.

(vi) The local district administration and Department of Agriculture Latehar district, Minimum Support Price (MSP) for specific crops to protect producers from price drops.

(vii) The local district administration and NGOs should organized Skill development programe and tribal welfare policies for tribal communities at village level.

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(viii) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India should be given Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to the climatic vulnerability suffered farmers.

Conclusion: Seasonal causal migration among agrarian tribal communities in Latehar district of Jharkhand has conventionally understood as the result of climatic variability as well changes and it leads poverty among them. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-prolonged approach focusing on climate-resilient crops production, expansion of irrigation facilities, promotion of livelihood diversification and opportunities, strengthening of social protection mechanisms and effective implementation of tribal welfare schemes in tribal regions of Latehar district in the state of Jharkhand. Livelihood among the tribal communities in Latehar district in the state Jharkhand is a complex, dynamic and multidimensional phenomena. As several tribal communities are economically, educationally and socially backward, it is crucial for the local government and district administration, state government as well central government to strictly implicate the provisions for the better standard living and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Sustainable rural development and inclusive polices are essential to reduce the seasonal migration among agrarian distress farmers in Latehar district of Jharkhand.

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