

Exploring Rural Urban Linkages through Educational Migration: A Case of Dhankuta District

Bina Limbu, Social Science Baha

Abstract

Rural and urban areas are interlinked in various socio-economic aspects; however, they have been treated in isolation to one another for most of our development history. Educational migration is also one of such linkages that have been connecting the rural and urban spheres. This research was an attempt to understand the context of educational rural-urban linkage by exploring the impact of urban education in the rural economy, at individual level. For this purpose, HathikharkaVDC in Dhakuta district was selected as the research site. Adhering to qualitative methodology with interpretivist paradigm, 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with educational returnees in the village and 3 key informant interviews. The study found an increasing tendency of rural to urban educational migration determined by physical linkages, economic constraints, social/family relations, choice of study and so on. Overall, the findings suggest that urban education did not make significant impact in the lives and economy of rural individuals as their employability was not much affected by their educational qualifications, be it rural or urban education. This was due to lack of employment opportunities in the village for the rural returnees, whose life choices were mostly limited to unemployment, competition for government jobs, agriculture or foreign employment.