

Persistent Drought Social-Ecological Regime Shift and Migration among Agricultural Communities in Bundelkhand Region India

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Drought is a hydro-meteorological syndrome of 'prolonged period of water scarcity affecting natural resources, environment and, thereby, the people'. Different parts of India suffer from drought incidences of varying periodicity, with all 13 districts of Bundelkhand region repeatedly declared as drought-prone. Spread over the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Bundelkhand falls in the rain shadow, semi-arid zone of the northern extreme of Peninsular India. In recent years, because of changing pattern of monsoons across India, rainfall in Bundelkhand in addition to being deficient has also become unpredictable. Such unpredictability has made agriculture in Bundelkhand region a risky and less attractive proposition and farmers are increasingly forgoing agriculture in villages in favour of livelihood opportunities in urban areas. Thus, there has been a constant flow of rural to urban migration in towns and cities in Bundelkhand. The present study analyses the changing land use pattern of Bundelkhand with the help of land use classification and explores the trend of rural-urban migration in Bundelkhand in the light of Galor's Model of Migration. In the current work, Climate Change is taken as a major driver behind migration decision and with the help of primary survey, a two-generational, inter regional model based on Galor's model has been developed.

Keywords: Bundelkhand, Drought, Migration, Galor's Model