

Diminishing Household Numbers In Rural Areas (An Analytical Study Of Chayangtajo CD Block Under East Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh (India)).

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Abstract of the Study:

The current study on diminishing dwelling houses in rural villages has been focused on the present study. Despite efforts being taken up by the government at the center and the state through different departments to check the migration from rural areas, the scenarios of migrations are reported from many regions only from the study area. The migration of the population directly affects the number of households in that particular area which is a cause of concern. The area of concern is that many people migrated from the villages; however, they continued to register their names at villages in the electoral roll, MGNREGS, and general census. Further, their names are also registered in the migrated places. Such dual registration is a cause of concern for the government, policymakers, and planners which resulted in duplicity and improper utilization of government schemes. The noble programs of the government like model village/vibrant village initiatives and various flagship programs launched by the government to make the rural areas towns and cities alike and make them suitable to reside hardly check the plying of the population from rural areas. Urban congestion is the other side of the coin that every responsible citizen should think about instead of solely depending on central and state governments all the time. Proper spreading of Information Education and Communication (IEC), Awareness Generation to users group of all govt. facilities and Training and Capacity Building for the functionaries to take ownership of the development activities, proper monitoring system, besides, adoption of a strict legal provision and grievance redressal mechanism in the area shall be ultimate tools to revive the rural population and thereby compel the migrated members to re-build their dwelling houses in their respective villages.

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I. Introduction:

The study of the population has a wide scope for the researchers world over, and the study of migration is part and partial to the population. The current study reveals the facts about the scenarios of Chayangtajo, CD Block for 2 (Two) decades since 2001, 2011 (Census), and 2022 (annual report). The records available in the census revealed that the population of the Block increases spontaneously at an exponential rate shown in the village census. However, the number of dwelling houses owned by the people is decreasing rapidly in rural areas which needs a comprehensive study to find out the possible forces of diminishing rural settlement in the area.

The villages that had 50 to 60 numbers of houses a decade or two earlier are having only 15 to 20 households at the time of reporting (As on 2023). However, the population as per the census and voters list has increased in the same villages due to continuous enrolment of the members of the migrated households in their domicile village. The causes of the people migrating from the domicile village to other places are to engage in different fields for their livelihoods and to meet the necessities of life such as Government jobs, children's education, medical treatment, and other business purposes. However, it is also known that the members of the migrated households used to visit frequently the village to perform community feasts and local Pujas, cast votes during elections, and occasionally take care of the ancestral assets movable and immovable properties like land, domestic animals, Forest, farmland, and to meet the living non-migrant parents, grandparents, step-parents, step-grandparents, etc. who are still settled in the village.

Further, in the recent past, it has been observed that many educated employed youth who had migrated from the village had started to re-construct dwelling houses in their respective villages although they reside in the towns and cities, which resulted in the existence of memberless houses in the villages. All those, members who had constructed houses in the village had continuously registered their names in the census and voters list in the village as well as in their places of actual residents making double entries of the same members in multiple locations.

II. Comparative presentation on the status of diminishing household numbers based on the study of 2 decades (2001-2011 and 2011 – 2022)

The status of the number of households from 10 villages under the Chayangtajo Community Development Block for the census years 2001, 2011, and 2022. There were 379 households during the census 2001 in 10 villages and after a decade number of households increased to 571 as per census 2011 and provides shelter to around 4000 population with an increased percentage of 51%. However, 2 villages viz. Kesse Bagang and Kilo had negative growth during the period. The report after a decade, however, shows something different with drastic decreases in the numbers of households by (61%) which is shown in the table below.

Table 1. shows the comparative Status of the overall Migration of Households from the Village based on the Census 2001, 2011, and Physical Report as of 2022 for Chayangtajo CD Block.

Sl. No	Name of Village	No. of HH as per Census 2001	No. of HH as per Census 2011	No. of HH as per Present reports of 2023	% of increase/ decrease in migration during the census period (from 2001 to 2011)	% of increase/ decrease in migration (from 2011 to 2022)
Chayangtajo Community Development Block						
1.	Kesse Bagang	50	34	20	-16(-32%)	-14(41%)
2.	Jayang Bagang	71	105	35	34(48%)	-70(67%)
3.	Yangfo	60	98	49	38(63%)	-49(50%)
4.	Keyang-Tarawa	19	44	17	25(132%)	-27(61%)
5.	Rebe	17	45	21	28(164%)	-24(53%)
2.	Wada Bagang	49	61	13	12(24%)	-48(79%)
3.	Tajo	17	20	18	3(18%)	-2(10%)
4.	Laching	11	87	20	76(690%)	-67(77%)
9.	Sosi-Namchar	42	46	19	4(10%)	-27(59%)
5.	Kilo	43	31	11	-12(29%)	-20(65%)
Total		379	571	223		

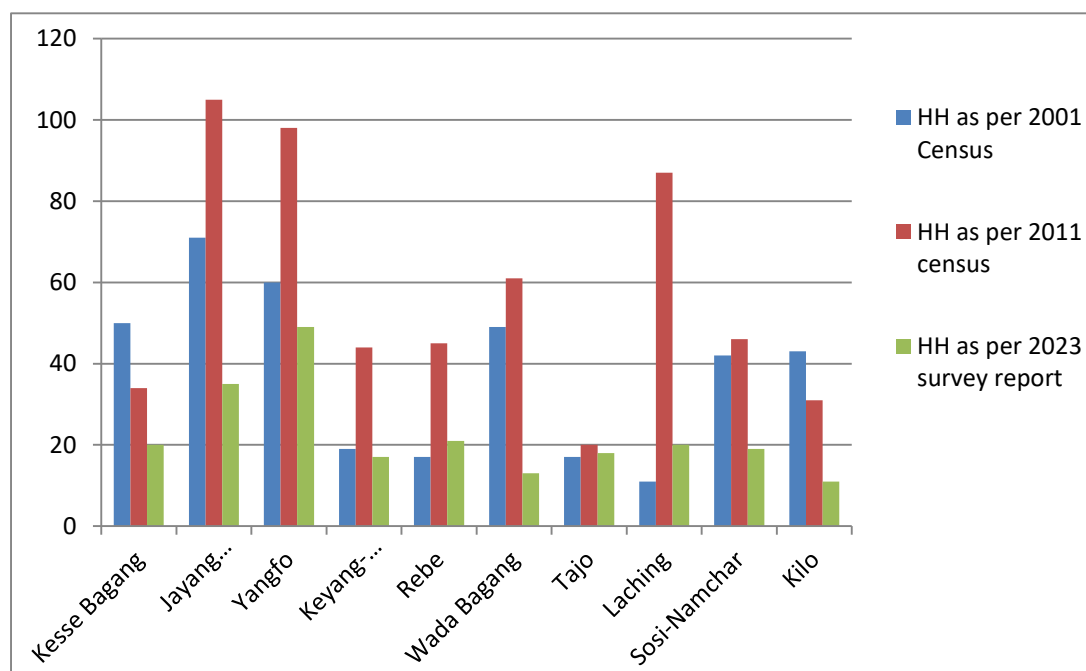


Diagram 1. shows the number of households status of 10 villages under the Chayangtajo CD Block during 2001, 2011, and 2022.

The information depicted in the table and bar diagram above clearly indicates an increase in the number of households during the decade 2001-2011, however, the number of households drastically decreased during the decade 2011 to 2021. The probable cause of the diminishing number of households was on account of the continuous migration of people from the village and the discontinuation in the construction of households by the youths in the village. During this period many aged parents migrated with the dependants members to the towns and cities.

The increase in the number of households during the decade 2001-2011 signifies that during the decade, the level of education in the area was not as much as in the decade 2011-2021, with the increase in levels of educated youths and engagement of educated youths in government job and other business field, they discontinued to construct dwelling house in the villages. Other reasons were leased influence of modern development like telephone, televisions road connectivities in the villages, the tribal residents were not much bothered about the outside world. However, many migrated members of the households are keen to construct dwelling houses in the domicile village, although they are engaged in business and employed in govt. job which is a positive sign for a revival of rural settlement.

The probable causes of migration were gathered from the villagers during the survey and stated to be due to a host of reasons such as non-availability of medical facilities, children’s education, earning (daily wage labor and govt. employment), marriage, higher wage rates, etc.

III. Factors of diminishing number of households in the area.

Certain push and pull factors determined the decrease in the number of households from the villages. the push factors include- low productivity from the agriculture field, absence of basic facilities like health, education, electricity, road communication, telecommunication, govt. establishment etc. The members who migrated most are young members of the family thereby they discontinue to rebuild their houses in the village.

The pull factors include- employment opportunities in the nearby towns and cities, higher wage rates, health care facilities of the towns and cities, children’s education, transport and communication facilities available, etc., the categories of migrants are those educated youths, followed by those families whose dependent parents migrated to towns and cities. The reasons for diminishing households from the study area can be seen in the following table where opinions were drawn from 200 respondents from the study area.

Table 2. shows the causes of migration which resulted in a decrease in the number of households in the village.

Sl. No	Influencing Factors of Migration	No. of respondents	% of respondents
1	Self/Children’s Education	60	30%
2	Health ground	44	22%
3	Govt. Job	35	17.5%
4	Parents Transfer	29	14.5%
5	Business and earning for a better life	22	11%
6	Any other reasons	10	5%
	Total	200	100.00%

Diagram 2. shows the causes of migration which resulted in a decrease in the number of households in the village.

The data shows that there were various reasons for the migration of households from the village. Amongst the causes, migrations of households for self and children’s education accounted for 30%, followed by migration of households for health grounds accounted for 22%, followed by migration of household’s dependent members for govt. employment with 17.5%, following the migration of dependent parents accounted for 14.5%, migration from the village for business and earning accounted for 11% and other reasons such as internal conflicts, marriage outside the village, etc. accounted for 5%.

IV. The negative impact of diminishing rural population:

The Government at the Center and the State are very much concerned about the plying of rural populations towards the towns and cities all over the country. In order to check the trend, the government at the center and state level have initiated many development programmes to make the rural area an urban alike.

The diminishing rural households directly induce pressure on the nearby towns and cities which ultimately leads to urban congestion in the District Headquarters and State Capital and increases the

development of unwanted social elements in the towns and cities. Many youths left peaceful rural life and abandoned the traditional rural lives and loitered in the towns and cities looking for an easy way of life which is not at all possible which ultimately leads to domestic violence, drug abuse, looting, gambling, dacoity, vehicle stealing, road accidents, traffic congestion, etc. Such situations prevailing in the towns and cities become routine cases and headaches for the parents of the migrants in particular and the government in general. The government at the center and the state have launched various poverty alleviation and development-oriented programmes in rural areas but the trend still seems hardly change. The blame is that the government is not providing funding support to the rural areas, however, one can't hide the programs and policies launched by the central and the state governments to alleviate poverty by extending all-around development facilitating all basic necessities in rural areas every year. Few initiatives of government can be seen from the proceeding paras.

V. Steps initiated by the Government and the community dwellers to check the rural migration.

Vibrant Village Programme activities(2022-23):

The vibrant village program launched in the state of Arunachal Pradesh is a boon to the rural people, the program is a renaming of an earlier smart village program, funded by the central government with the objectives for economic growth, road connectivity, housing infrastructure, communication, promotion of tourism, financial inclusion, skill development, and entrepreneurship, etc. however, due to selective funding by the government, many villages in the reported area are deprived of such facilities, that is why continue migration is taken place in the area. Two to three villages of the reported area benefited from Smart Village/Vibrant Village schemes, but the situation remained the same in terms of migration of villagers.

Sansad Adharsh Gram Yojana (SAGY):

The SAGY program launched in 2014 with the initiatives of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament to adopt 2 villages every year for all-round development, such initiatives by the government encourage the community to make rural villages have all basic necessities available in the village to make the village conducive for living.

Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

The BADP program was launched in the year 1997-98 by the Ministry to develop the border villages. the core objectives were to meet the special developmental needs and well-being of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the entire essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/State/ BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach.

Despite huge fund flow in the area annually, the developments are not up to the mark which results in diminishing household numbers in the area.

Chief Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana (CMAGY - 2017):

The objective of the scheme is to develop 60 Model Villages in Arunachal Pradesh, which are equipped with all basic amenities such as 24x7 Piped Drinking water, Electricity at household level, primary school, primary health infrastructure, internal roads, avenues of employment generation and are open defecation free.

On account of limited provisions, the noble program didn't reach the block and the rural villages, however, other funding support from the State Govt. through the Hon'ble MLA such as Member of Legislative Assembly's Local Area Development Fund (MLALAD), State Infrastructure Development Fund (SIDF), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), etc., however, improper implementation of such schemes for development fund hardly impacts the village from migration.

Samagra Shiksha:

The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire scope of education right from pre-school education to class XII. The Samagra Shiksha scheme aims to ensure that every child has access the quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

Despite the launching of the scheme in the block, many schools in the study area are on the verge of closure in the absence of students, non-availability of infrastructures, shortage of teaching staff, etc. The ultimate result is the migration of parents towards nearby towns and cities for children's education.

Other Government Schemes successfully implemented in the Study Area:

The Central Govt. schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Rural Health Mission (NHM), Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc., are implementing in the Block, however, the residents are tendency to migrate from the area.

Every eligible adult has job cards under MGNREGA, BPL families are included under PMAY schemes, every village in the Block are now connected with all weather road under PMGSY, and 50% of villages have electrified under Dendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), every un-connected electricity villages have been connected with solar light under Saubhagya Yojana, every rural household are providing LPG gas connection in subsidized rate under Pradhan Mantri Ujjala Yojana (PMUY), maximum vulnerable category of people are covered under NSAP viz. Old Age Pension, Widow pension, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension etc. However, diminishing numbers of households are continued in the villages.

VI. Educational Implication of the Study:

As a thumb rule, the decrease in the number of households from rural areas clearly shows the decrease in population in the villages and the causes of the decrease in population from the villages could be due to migration of population, low productivity of the population due to existence of aged parents, death of young population due to epidemics, etc., however, the case of the present study is different from the cases of other rural areas within and throughout the country.

The situation of the present study area is different where despite having an average population of around 300 people per village, as per the census 2001 the population of Chayangtajo CD Block was 6941 resided in 379 households and the average person residing in the house is 18.31 persons. For the census year 2011, the population of the block reported was 8746 and the number of households reported was 571. The average person residing in a house was 15.31 persons. Further, the assumed population of the block is 11020 people (census 2021 not carried out calculated a 26% increase from the population of 2011) and the households of 37 villages of the block reported for 223 only and the average person residing per house is accounted for 49 persons which are not at all practicable.

By seeing the data, the registration of the migrated population in the village census is clearly revealed. Although, the maximum number of people in the villages migrated to other places, however, they continued to enroll their names in the villages, such anomalies happened to be the probable causes of failure in the implementation of various development programs in the area. The details about the census population and numbers of households are shown in the table below for a clear idea.

Table No. 3. Shows the average household to accommodate the population of the village.

Census years	Total population	Total number of HH	Average HHs
Census 2001	6941	379	18.31
Census 2011	8746	571	15.31
Census 2021 (assumption)	11020	223*	49.41

**Physical report of a research study carried out in 2022)*

While revealing the information an aged person from remote Kesse Bagang Village informed that most of the youths and migrated members hardly visit the village, he further, stated that they used to visit like tourists at the time of elections only although their names are enrolled in MGNREGS Job Cards and electoral roll.

By seeing the information above, we can conclude that urban congestion is the product of rural migration which needs thorough and judicious planning involving all levels of stakeholders. The seepage of fund flowing path needs to be mended properly through capacity building and training, awareness generation through Information Education and communication (IEC) activities targeting the last miles residents. The mindset of the community as well as programme implementation agencies the planners and policy makers are changing for a revolution in the village. Further, electing an ideal person to the leadership post, especially in Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) in particular and the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Member of Parliament in general.

The absence, of a grievance redressal mechanism and poor legal action system, further encourage the habits of wrongdoers targeting the poor rural dwellers by showing cash and kinds to lure the public and succeed in their ill motives during election as well as for carry out construction works in the rural areas by compromising the quality and quantity of the works.

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