

# **Determinants and Outcomes of Internal Labour Migration for Rural Livelihoods in the Global South**

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# Relationship between migration and rural livelihoods

- Optimism for broad development benefits of internal labour migration
  - Low barriers to entry (relative to international migration)
  - Stable transfer of remittances (relative to international migration)
  - Contribution to growth of domestic industries and infrastructure



<http://kscwcu.org/organisation.html>



# Relationship between migration and rural livelihoods

- Pessimism
  - Structural factors perpetuating economic and social inequality
  - Non-economic costs associated with labour mobility (e.g. health)
  - Exploitative labour arrangements (bonded labour, child labour)
  - Conflict between urban and migrant populations



<http://www.rediff.com>



# Internal Migration: Indian Context



- Anti-migrant speech by MNS (Maharashtra Renaissance Army) leader, Raj Thackeray in 2008
- Led to violent protests and attacks in Mumbai and surrounding cities
- Hundreds of thousands of migrants fled the state

# Relationship between migration and rural livelihoods

- Determinants
  - Who migrates?
  - Who stays behind (within and between households)?
- Outcomes
  - For migrants?
  - For family member who stay behind?

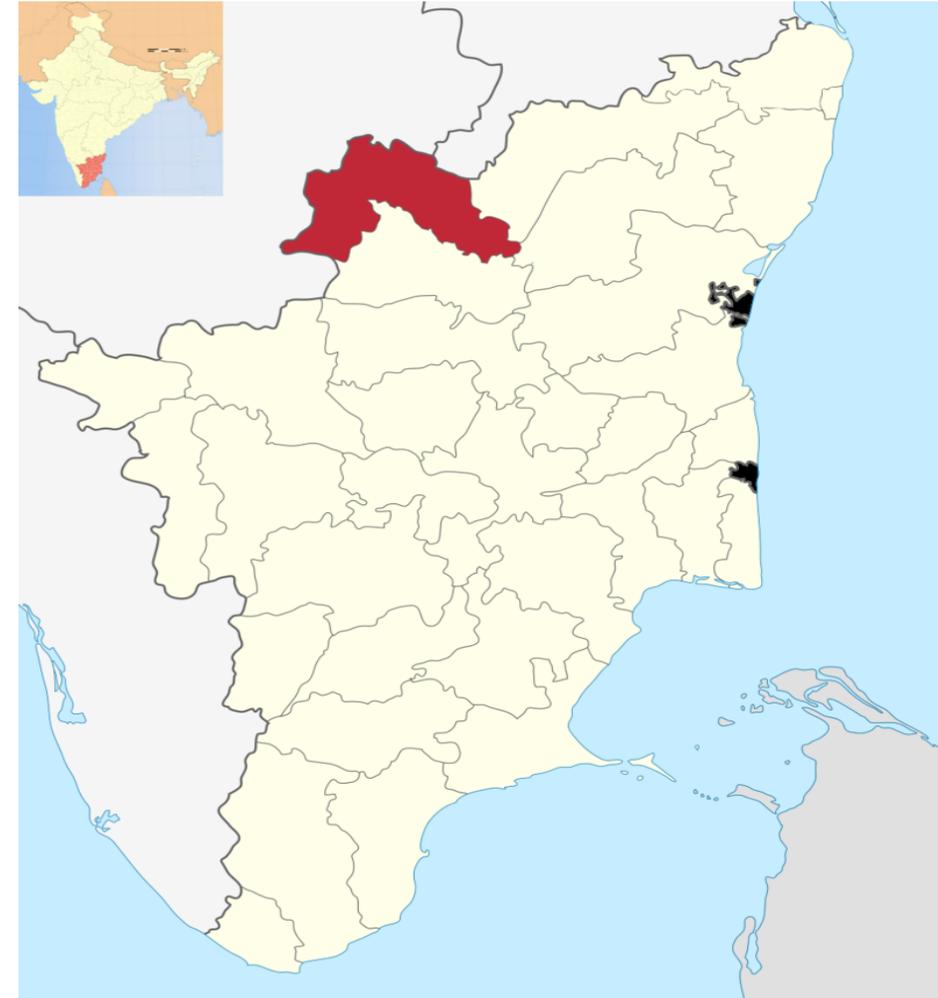


[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



# Case Studies

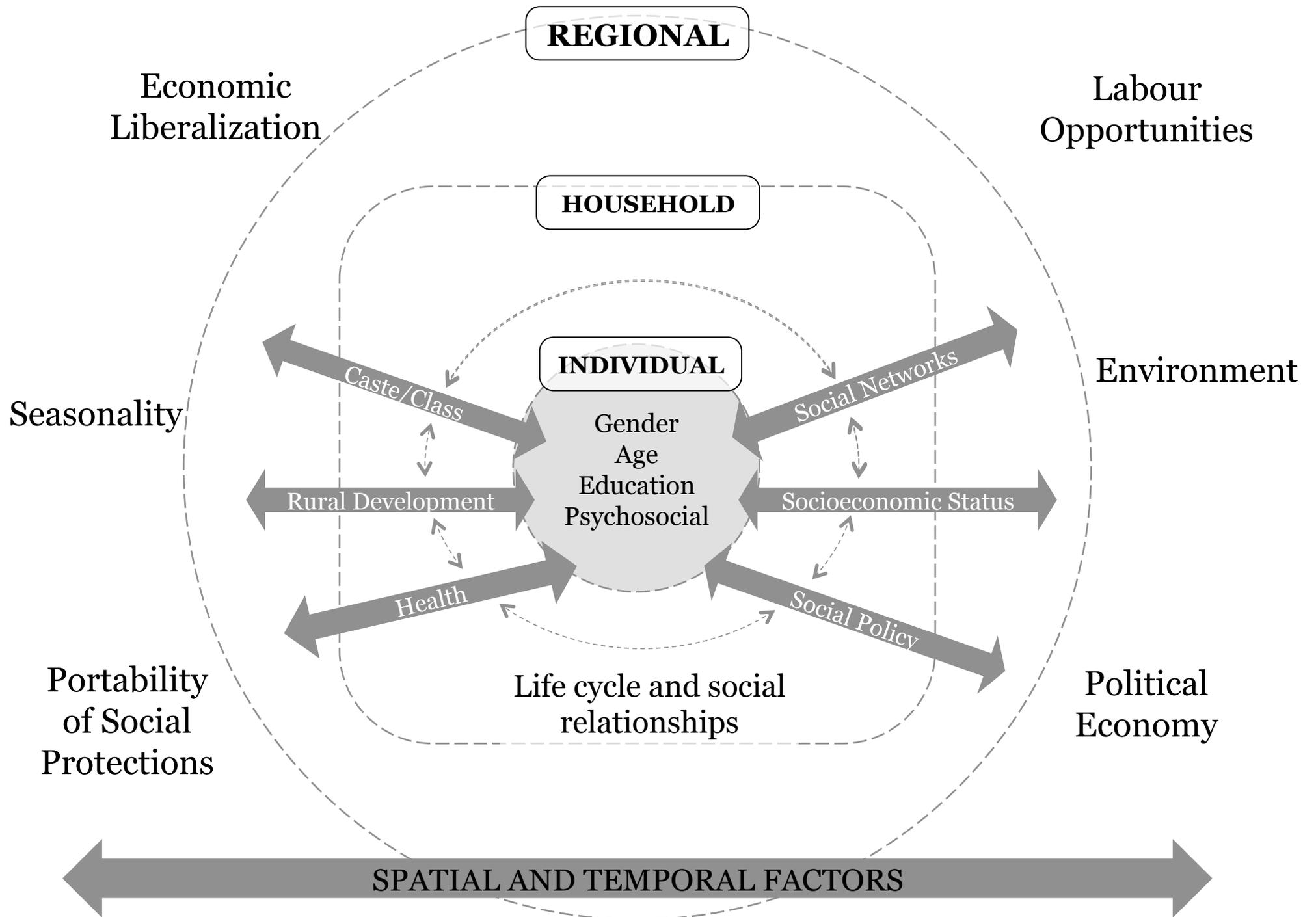
- Tamil Nadu, India (South)
  - 300 household surveys + 66 interviews in 26 communities
  - 46% of households had at least one migrant member



# Case Studies

- Yorito, Yoro, Honduras
  - 248 household surveys in 22 communities
  - 19% of households had at least one migrant member
    - 84% of migrants were internal migrants





# Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- Established in 2005
  - Operationalize 'Right to Work'
  - Largest public employment scheme
- 100 days of employment/year
- Nationally implemented, locally administered
- Implicitly targeted at rural poor and women
- Tamil Nadu viewed as leader in administration
- Poverty reduction, rural development



The Hindu



# MGNREGA and migration

- Ambiguous relationship (methodology, discipline, context)
- Problematic political and public discourse
  - March 2015, the Chittoor District Water Management Authority Project Director in Andhra Pradesh asked MGNREGA staff to increase the availability of work from 100 to 150 days in order to prevent interstate migration during the dry season
  - April 2016, MGNREGA administrators in the Ballari and Koppal districts of Karnataka praised the ability of MGNREGA to prevent migration in spite of ongoing drought conditions



The Hindu



# Key Findings

- Household characteristics differed between ‘MGNREGA households’ and ‘remittance households’
  - Unlikely that MGNREGA is a substitute for internal labour migration
- 20% of households used MGNREGA and internal labour migration as complementary livelihood strategies
  - Low caste, poor asset base, fewer income streams



The Hindu

# Connecting internal labour migration and health



# Results – Household Perceptions

- 62 migrant households (45.3%) saw an overall decline in the health of their migrant members
- 45 households (32.9%) saw no change in health
- 18 households (13.1%) saw an overall improvement in the health of their migrant members
- 12 households (8.8%) were unaware of the health conditions of their migrant members



<http://kscwcu.org/organisation.html>

# Results - Pathways

## Occupational Factors

- Destination
- Industry
- Position
- Working hours
- Employer

## Livelihood Factors

- Housing
- Food security
- Water security
- Medical care
- Social networks
- Physical environment



<http://www.poverties.org/urban-poverty-in-india.html>

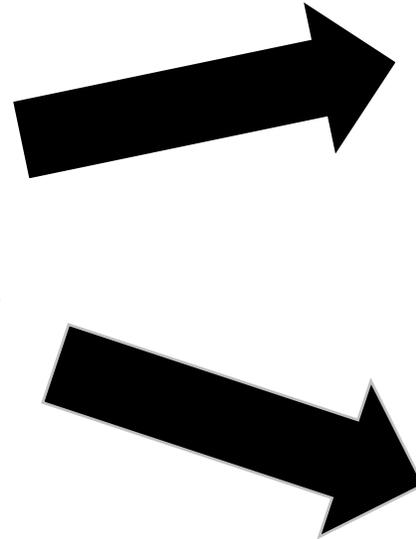


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# Results – Social Networks

- Destination
- Industry
- Position

Presence and strength of social networks



Positive influence on health:

- Securing employment
- Securing housing and food
- Protection, support, advocacy

Negative influence on health:

- Picking up poor habits
  - e.g. alcoholism and smoking

Dodd et al. (2018). Determinants of internal migrant health and the healthy migrant effect in South India: a mixed methods study. BMC International Health and Human Rights, 17(1),1-23.

# Relationship between migration and rural livelihoods

- Different factors (e.g. social policy, health) operate and interact across scales
  - Individual
  - Household
  - Regional
  - National
- Understanding experiences of migrants, migrant households, and non-migrant households
- Interconnectedness between urban and rural



# Future areas of research

- Methodological
  - Longitudinal studies on determinants and outcomes
- Empirical
  - Understanding relationship between rural-urban migration accounting for multiple scales and factors
    - E.g. role of rural development policy in directing and shaping migration to urban areas
  - Mechanisms underlying economic and non-economic outcomes for migrants and migrant households
  - Portability of social protections



# Thank You

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