

Research Paper: Analysis of the Social Implications of Population Movements in Rural Settlements (Case Study: Langarud County in Northern Iran)

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The present study aims to illuminate the social effects of population movements in the villages of Langarud County.

Methods: This research is applied in terms of its objective and employs both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It is descriptive-analytical in terms of method and execution. Additionally, data analysis was carried out using SPSS software.

Results: The findings indicated that the positive and negative social consequences of out-migration include improvement in the quality of life of migrants, disorder, and chaos among villagers and destination cities, a lack of sense of place among migrants, population imbalances in villages and cities, and increased awareness and education among migrants. Among these effects, the most prominent was an improvement in the quality of life of migrants. Furthermore, there was an increase in awareness and education among villagers as a result of in-migration in the villages of Langarud County: changes in food habits, progress in rural development plans, increased youth literacy among the rural populace, and also unity and cohesion among villagers. Among these. The most significant was the increase in literacy among the rural youth.

Conclusion: The issue of migration in villages should be addressed fundamentally and rationally. Considering all factors, efforts should be made to minimize migration from Langarud villages to nearby towns and instead facilitate migration from village to village or from village to town.

1. Introduction

Current times are enveloped in issues, troubles, and instabilities in various as-

pects, including the environmental, economic, social, and physical (Soleimani et al., 2015). Some of the challenges include depletion of natural resources, pollution, salinization of fertile soils, lack of welfare and infrastructure facilities, exacerbation of poverty, and deepen-

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ing spatial and social inequalities (Rokneddin Eftekhari et al., 2011). The instabilities are interdependent with the relationships between the various human groups and their environment and with one another (Mitara & Murayama, 2017). Thus, according to Jung (1990), sustainability is concerned mainly with efficiently tackling of root causes of instability instead of treating the symptoms and effects. Furthermore, Silvas considers migration one of the causes of instability.

Migration is a crucial demographic event and part of population analysis. People tend to shift from areas where prevailing political, economic, social, and ecological conditions are unfavorable to areas with comparatively better job prospects, higher wages, and superior living conditions (Ebrahimi, 2016). Hence, migration in developing countries is seen as an effort toward the betterment of life (i.e., securing jobs, higher income, and amenities), thus bridging the gap between urban and rural areas. Therefore, migration is seen as a survival strategy and is equally important in the development process. Rural-to-urban migration is a universal phenomenon in many rural areas, observed globally, both in developed and developing contexts (Chen et al., 2016). In Iran population movement or migration began with the industrialization of cities: young people flocked from the villages, in search of industrial and service jobs, which resulted in positive outcomes—the state of the economy improving, youth awareness, education increasing, social interaction, and leisure (Azmi & Tarbiatpanah, 2020: 56). Agriculture is facing numerous challenges, including lack of job opportunities, technological advancements and services in rural areas leading to economic challenges that further increase poverty. Out of frustration, life in these areas becomes less desirable. In contrast, mismanagement of resources has emerged as a significant source of sustainability challenges for rural areas. Negative outcomes include the disconnection of youth from families in villages, interrupted gender ratio interaction in villages and cities, delinquency, social troubles in different spheres, and increased formation of urban slums (Ghasemi Siyani, 2009: 162). Although the dominant migration model in Iran has primarily been a permanent one-way migration from villages to cities, over the last few decades, another pattern of population movement (in-migration) or reverse migration has intensified in rural areas of the country (Ghasemi et al, 2014: 16). Reverse migrants (city to the village) according to census results from 2011 until 2016 show no significant difference compared to traditional migration (village to the city) (Census of Population and Housing, 2016). In reality, urban-rural migration in Iran is primarily driven by medical treatment, retirement, and utilizing rural set-

tings for leisure or reducing the psychological burden of the urban environments (Afarakhteh et al., 2016: 84). Besides alleviating some urban societal problems, this population movement contributes to the revitalization and prosperity of villages and a more equitable distribution of population across geographical spaces within the country, albeit accompanied by several negative consequences.

In comparison to the net migration rate (the difference between in-migration and out-migration) in other regions of Iran, Gilan Province and, specifically, Langarud have experienced high net migration rates. The same applies to this county with both rural-urban migration and reverse migration, which are widely and freely practiced. Similarly, the government initiated a new campaign promoting the decentralization of large cities toward small towns and villages, which has led to the adoption of the slogan “Anti-Urbanization-Urban Reverse Migration.” The ever-increasing incidences of urbanization affect the gradual transformation of cities, such as Langarud and its villages, which have been integrated. With the improvement of the road network, villages adjacent to the growing city of Langarud have undergone modernization.

With this change in the physical structure of the villages, the expansion of housing construction and military settlement is accompanied by the establishment of villa-style homes and apartment houses in rural areas. The social function of these villages is also likely to experience both positive and negative impacts due to these changes. Hence, addressing this is crucial in understanding migration, both in terms of population influx and out-migration from the region. Thus, the significance and necessity of the current study lie in understanding this social process by informing policymakers and emphasizing the proper attention of the official entities regarding the economic system and management of social consequences, both positive and negative sense the villages, of Langarud County.

2. Literature Review

Different definitions of migration The movement of an individual or group from one place to another geographical location is defined by some definitions as one of the most significant phenomena in the modern world and one of the integral parts of developmental changes (Nicolavea, 2001), whereas others define this concept as a change of residence by an individual, family, or household head (Newbold, 2010: 125). In other words, this form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility occurs

between geographical units (Tornna, 2012: 178, as cited in Amani et al., 1975, 71). Migration may involve most of the population in terms of spatial mobility across a geographic area and is usually defined as the movement of an individual or group of individuals from one settlement unit to another for either permanent or temporary residence in a place different from their birthplace (Stockdale, 2014). For example, migration generally requires suitable conditions at both home origin and destination; a lack of optimal conditions either leads to non-migration but still a burning desire to migrate (Shayan et al., 2021). Migration is one of the clearest examples of population mobility that involves leaving rural areas to relocate to urban areas.

Rural-urban migration among humans has been one of the oldest and most far-reaching phenomena since early times and has gained massive proportions following the Industrial Revolution and modernity. The phenomenon is generally characterized as rural-urban migration, which is one of the most prevalent and common types of migration. Migration from rural to urban areas has been a continuous trend throughout human history in all countries and at all times. Social scientists study and interpret this phenomenon through different theoretical frameworks prevailing in society. Rural-urban migration, in itself, is considered an integral part of the economic development process, with some scholars considering economic development as a transfer of manpower from the agricultural sector to the industrial field (Moulaei Hashjin et al., 2014: 75).

There are, therefore, two types of migrations: the rural-urban migration and reverse migration, which are of significant interest. Regarding reverse migration, the perspectives vary widely in analysis and interpretation. Reverse migration has been termed ex-urbanization (Shift urbanization (Amanpour, 2018)), anti-urbanization flow (Lucas & Meyer, 2002: 166), and the urbanization of rural areas (Pacion, 1985: 183). In the broadest sense, reverse migration occurs due to deconcentration, changes in migration behavior, changes in economic conditions, and the redistribution of employment and residence (Ghasemi Ardehai & Nobakht, 2016). For a clear conceptual and semantic connection, some commonly used terms for this phenomenon include floating migrant population (Xu, 2010), population circulation, backward circulation, and pseudo migration (Wiltshir, 1979). This has resulted in various ideas and theories on the causes of migration, which have and causes triggering migration, which then become the focus of innumerable studies examining different aspects of migration. Acculturation strategies are defined as a learning pro-

cedure whereby individuals adapt to life in a new socio-cultural environment; thus, the essence of acculturation is the counterpart of initial socialization in their previous society. Such processes take place for most groups, including migrants, as well as for the dominant group that interacts more closely with the larger society. Thus, acculturation is a reciprocal process between all people who reside in a culturally plural society. The study of acculturation has, therefore, become essential in unraveling intercultural relations in culturally pluralistic societies (Sam & Berry, 2006).

Various long-lasting effects may arise from the process of acculturation. A study conducted by Sam and Berry (1995) illustrated the influence of two main factors, social support and acculturation attitudes of young immigrants, on their self-confidence. They found that interpersonal relationships and attitudes independently contributed to self-confidence in different ways. This study was carried out in a multicultural Norwegian setting (Kovacev & Shute, 2004: 260). Berry proposes that adaptation to the new environment by individuals and groups takes place via two separate and distinguishable processes: (1)-their well-being (psychological adaptation to life) and (2)-their usefulness in society (socio-cultural adaptation) (Berry, 2008: 50).

Within this theoretical approach, Berry tackles some of the basic questions: 1- How do young immigrants integrate into the new culture? 2- How do they get adapt? 3- What is the best way to adopt the culture to succeed in the new society? Regarding the first question, it is evident that no individual experiences cultural adaptation in the same ways; all individuals and groups have unique strategies for acculturation (Berry, 2008: 50). Berry's two-dimensional model, explains acculturation, by categorizing acculturation attitudes as relevant to both migrants and the citizens of the larger society. According to Berry, migrants face two fundamental questions:

- should I preserve my ancestors' culture?
- Is it at all valuable to build relationships with other ethnic-cultural groups?

Based on their answers four acculturation strategies emerge: integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization (Safdar, 2009; Rudmin, 2006; Rodriguez, 2009; Phinney et al., 2001). Some of the internal research and entrance linked with the current article is provided below: Maleki et al. (2019) examined the "Effects and Results of Reverse Migration on the Environmental-Ecological and Physical Transformations in Coastal Vil-

lages of Rasht County” and acknowledged that co-urban migrations have become more prominent in recent years, with stronger tendencies towards rural communities. In this light, the physical influences most of these coastal areas compared to the rest, without forgetting the proportionate subjective and cultural impacts it has foregone.

Taheri et al. (2020) stated that reverse migration plays an important role in the economic and social development of rural settlements in their findings in their analysis titled “Explaining the Role of Reverse Migrations in Economic-Social Development of Rural Settlements: The Case Study of Region 19 Villages.” Saberi and Ghanbari (2021), in their study titled “Exploring Factors Affecting the Different Interests of Youths in Urbanization: the Case of Semirrom County,” stated that aside from some variables which contained socio-economic status, gender, distance from the city to the village, or the types of mass media used, almost all variables like age, accessibility of rural welfare services, satisfaction in educational facilities, easy access to the city, and effect from mass media were also highly related to the tendency toward urbanization.

Migrant workers in India can benefit substantially from the recognition that by improving access to education, housing, and health programs, they can live in better conditions, as found by Gnana (2022). Meanwhile, Hashem-pour et al. (2023) explain the past decrease in the area of agricultural land, with 6% over the last ten years. The effects of this decrease in area and agricultural output are very great regarding population movements amongst the villages. Villages get benefits since they are nearer to cities and the sea and cohabitate with residents in terms of job availability and getting services and infrastructure, which lowers living costs in housing rent or land or housing purchase. Thus a population increase in these villages. On the other hand, those far away could not “afford” to live near the city because of inaccessibility and poorly serviced facilities, causing agricultural land value from land use changes and reducing populations in these areas. Liman et al. (2023) highlighted that seasonal migration has historically been an adaptive strategy in arid lands, suggesting the necessity of a digital database management system for tracking demographic data and migration history.

3. Methodology

The methodology of the study is therefore realized in objective terms; it is applied in nature, it is both qualitative and quantitative; and finally, in terms of method execution, it is a survey type with an exploratory de-

scriptive and analytical approach. The information has been analyzed using grounded theory methods as well as SPSS and GIS software. In terms of quantitative research, the tool used was a questionnaire, and interview research tools complemented the qualitative part of the research. Thus, data analysis was conducted to address the research question: What are the social consequences of population movements (migration and immigration) in rural settlements of Langroud County, and which one matters the most?

To begin, a grounded theory model was utilized, and then each of the proposed outcomes was reflected in the questionnaire and circulated among the sample community. The data in the second phase of the study were analyzed with SPSS software.

The statistical population in the present research consists of two parts: the first part includes the residents of the villages in seven rural districts (Chaf, Deyoshel, Gol Sefid, Otaghour, Lat Lileh, Daryasar, and Moridan). The second part includes specialists and experts in the study area (population geography, rural planning), experts, and knowledgeable individuals in the villages, including the village heads and council members. The sample size in the first part, due to the dispersion and large number of villages in Langroud county, only considered villages with more than 100 households. Based on the 2016 census results, the total population of villages with over 100 households was 8,744 people. Using random sampling and Cochran’s formula, 368 people were selected as the sample population. The distribution of the sample population in the villages of the county was based on the percentage volume distribution (Table 1). It is also worth mentioning that the sample population includes two parts (sending and receiving migrants).

The sample population in the migrants-receiving section, which was in the villages, was accessible in the following forms:

- Contact with family during weekend visits
- Traveling to their villages for harvest collection of agriculture, horticulture, and livestock products
- Renting their houses in the village as tourist accommodation
- Phone contacts with the migrants through council members and village heads

Table 1. Distribution of the Sample Population among the Studied Villages in Langroud County

Rural District	Village	Household Population	Sample Population
Chaf	Khalkiasar	286	13
	Kooshalshad	352	15
Deyoshol	Bazareh Golbagh	188	8
	Jedanoo Kar	106	5
	Kharat Mahalleh	122	6
	Deyoshol	777	33
	Talash Mahalleh	374	16
	Lila Kooh	564	24
	Siyah Kaldeh	109	5
	Fatideh	297	13
Gol Sefid	Darya Kenar	342	15
	Gol Sefid	286	13
Otagoor	Parvarish Paeen	135	6
	Kafsh Kol Mahalleh	166	7
	Tazeh Abad Kord Serakoh	143	6
	Liseh Rood Tazeh Abad	117	5
Lat Lil	Kohlestan	179	8
	Lat Lil	247	11
Dariyasar	Kalidbar	576	27
	Paeen Ghazi Mahalleh	234	10
	Dariyasar	1051	55
	Bala Sal Kooyeh	172	8
	Paeen Sal Kooyeh	332	14
	Sigarood	212	9
	Haji Sara	249	11
Moridan	Moridan	413	18
	Seloosh	126	6
	Kiya Gahan	214	10
	Parshkooh	334	15
	Liseh Rood	141	6
	Kol Khanovar	8744	368

Source: Research Findings, 2024



In the second section, purposive sampling was employed to define the sample. To this effect, 30 local experts, graduates, and knowledgeable people-semi members of the village councils and mayors were selected as the sample community. Langarud County is located east of Gilan Province. This county is located between 50°10'30" and 37°11' at an altitude of -14 meters above the Caspian Sea. The western border is adjacent to Lahijan County, whereas the eastern border is adjacent to Rudsar County. The central city of this county is Langarud. Covering an area of approximately 480 square kilometers, Langarud County is located at the eastern end of Gilan Province, some 60 kilometers away from the

provincial center. According to the most recent national administrative divisions conducted in 2016, the county consists of three districts, seven rural districts, five cities, and 208 villages of which 193 are inhabited within the county.

Using random sampling and Cochran's formula, 368 people were selected as the sample population. The distribution of the sample population in the villages of the county was based on proportional allocation (Table 1). It is also worth mentioning that the sample population includes both sending and receiving migrants.

The sample population in the migrant-receiving section within the villages was accessible in the following forms:

- Contact with family members during weekend visits
- Traveling to their villages for harvest collection of agricultural, horticultural, and livestock products
- Renting their houses in the village as tourist accommodations
- Phone communication with migrants through council members and village heads

4. Findings

From the evaluation of experts' views, the concepts needed for the definition of social consequences have been extracted for the assessment of out-migration and in-migration. The analysis of interview texts revealed approximately 36 different concepts for out-migration social consequences and about 22 concepts for in-migration social consequences related to rural settlements in Langarud County. Due to their large number, the initial codes were transformed into secondary codes (the initial codes were grouped into similar categories). Several secondary codes were, by grouping similar categories together. Several secondary codes were, in turn, grouped into conceptual codes. Tables 1 and 2 present the results of open coding based on secondary codes, conceptual codes, and categories.

The social consequences of out-migration include the following: the appeal of ease and comfort of urban life for rural migrants, disorder in cities due to rural migrants, increased social isolation among villagers, disruption

of the demographic structure in villages and cities, decreased social security in suburban areas with the arrival of migrants, increased life expectancy among migrants in cities, improved education and literacy level of migrants, increased awareness among rural migrants, social dislocation among migrants, greater linkages between urban and rural cultures, increased bargaining power and disruptions in the otherwise peaceful and traditional village environment, and finally the downgrading of status of rural migrant's status. Furthermore, the categories related to social consequences of out-migration are presented in Table 3.

Based on Table 3 and Figure 2, the advantages and disadvantages of migration can be summed as follows: improved quality of life for the migrant, turmoil, and disorder among the villagers and in destination cities, a sense of uprootedness for the migrant population imbalances between village and city, and greater specialization among the migrants in knowing and getting educated.

The semantic units, as described in Table 4, include the following: Migrant education programs for villagers, - changes in the sale and distribution of food products, - acceleration of rural development processes, increased awareness among villagers regarding the negative consequences of migration to cities, motivation for academic progress among rural youth with the arrival of migrants, - social cohesion among villagers, development of rural projects through new ideas from migrants, utilization of all available resources and facilities in villages due to the arrival of migrants. Furthermore, the categories related to the social impact of immigration are displayed in Table 5.

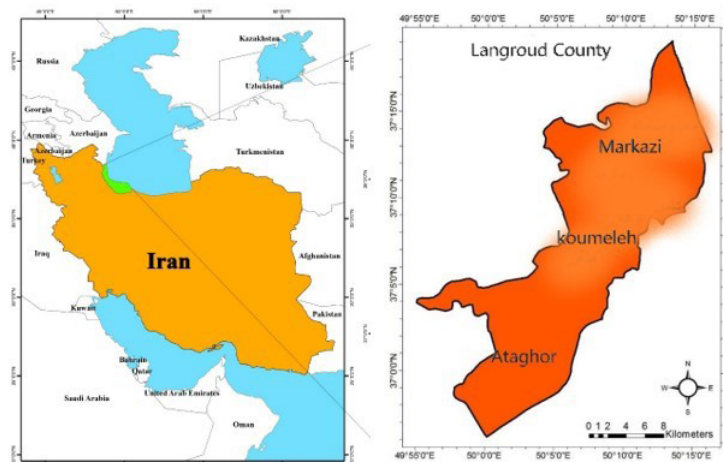


Figure 1. Geographical Location of Langerud's Sections in the County, Source: Research Findings, 2024

Table 2. Results of Open Coding Based on Secondary Codes (Social Consequences of Out-Migration)

Row	Semantic Unit	Example
1	Ease and comfort of urban life for migrant villagers	Better access to healthcare facilities Better access to recreational facilities Better access to sports facilities Better access to cultural facilities (libraries, cultural centers, etc.) Better access to health facilities
2	Disorder in cities by rural migrants	Disorder in cities by rural migrants Vandalism in cities by migrants Decreased parental authority of rural parents over their youth in the city
3	Increase in social isolation among rural migrants	Reduced visits to their birthplace in the village The Feeling of Being a Stranger and Alienation in the City Reduced social interaction of migrants with neighbors, acquaintances
4	Disruption of demographic structure in villages and cities	Imbalance of age and gender composition of population in villages Aging of villages Deterioration of marriage conditions for girls in villages
5	Reduced social security in suburban neighborhoods with the arrival of migrants	Increase in suburban population Expansion of ethnic conflicts among residents of suburban areas Reduced social security in suburban neighborhoods
6	Increased life expectancy for migrants in the city	Increased recreation and leisure in the city Spending leisure time in scenic and commercial places in cities
7	Improvement of education and literacy among migrants	Utilizing educational facilities in the city for educated rural migrants Utilizing educational centers for female migrants
8	Increasing awareness among rural migrants	Increasing the level of awareness among migrants Awareness of their rights and demands
9	Lack of social integration among migrants	Loss of social cohesion and participation among migrants Expansion of social abnormalities Tendency of migrants towards addiction Increase in moral corruption among them Theft, robbery, moral harassment Loss of social cohesion and participation among migrants Expansion of social abnormalities Tendency of migrants towards addiction
10	A bridge between urban and rural cultures	Introducing urban life to rural people Increase in the use of urban daily life manifestations such as satellite, computer, internet, etc., among rural people
11	Increase in tensions and many abnormalities in the peaceful and traditional village environment	Change in the clothing of rural female migrants Breakdown of rural cultural spaces to achieve urban social rights Dominance of living culture of rural youth like urban youth
12	Reduction of the social status of rural migrants	Decreased sense of belonging to the village Increased sense of a better future in the city Uncertainty about the future of children in the village

Source: Research Findings, 2024

Table 3. Categories (Social Consequences of Sending Migrants)

Row	Category	Semantic Unit
1	Improvement in the quality of life of migrants	Ease and comfort of urban life for rural migrants Increased life expectancy of migrants in the city
2	Disorder among villagers and destination cities	Disorder in cities by rural migrants Reduced social security in suburban neighborhoods with the arrival of migrants Increase in tensions and many abnormalities in the peaceful and traditional village environment. Lack of social integration among migrants
3	Lack of sense of place among migrants	Increase in social isolation among rural migrants Reduction of the social status of rural migrants
4	Imbalance of population in villages and cities	Disruption of demographic structure in villages and cities
5	Increase in awareness and education among migrants	A bridge between urban and rural cultures Improvement of education and literacy among migrants Increasing awareness among rural migrants

Source: Research Findings, 2024

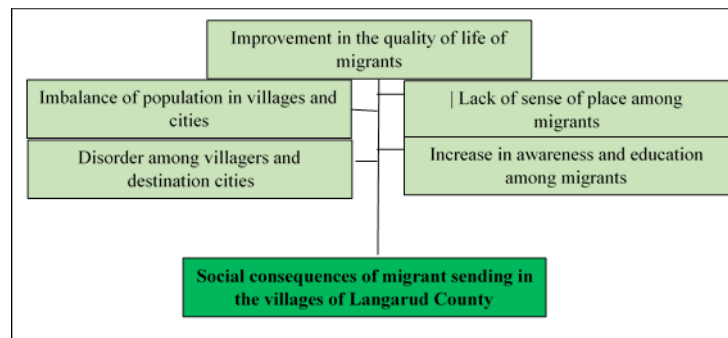


Figure 2. Schematic Model of the Social Impacts of Emigration in the Villages of Langerud County. Source: Research Findings, 2024



Table 4. Results of Open Coding Based on Secondary Codes (Social Impacts of Immigration)

Row	Semantic Unit	Example Evidence
1	Training migrants to villagers	Teaching new agricultural techniques to villagers Awareness and training in Internet and digital space Awareness and training in new businesses in the village
2	Changes in the sale of food products	Expansion of packaged goods and food sellers in villages Increase in supermarkets selling packaged food products Increase in snack shops and pizzerias.
3	Accelerating the rural development process	Increase in modern knowledge among villagers through migrants Increase in technical skills in villages from migrants.
4	Motivation for educational progress among rural youth with the arrival of migrants	Transfer of educated labor to villages Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of young migrant workers in implementing rural projects Motivation for education among rural youth with the arrival of educated migrants Motivation for education among rural women and girls
5	Increasing awareness among villagers about the negative consequences of migration to cities	Encouraging known migrants in the city to return to the village Discouraging villagers from migrating to other cities Informing villagers about the problems and negative consequences of migration

Table 4. Results of Open Coding Based on Secondary Codes (Social Impacts of Immigration)

Row	Semantic Unit	Example Evidence
6	Social cohesion among villagers	Increasing participation among village people with the arrival of migrants Enhancing social cohesion in the village with the arrival of migrants
7	Developing the implementation of rural projects with new ideas from migrants	Developing new ideas to expand health, recreational, and educational services in the village with the arrival of migrants Cooperation and participation of migrants in implementing rural projects
8	Utilizing all potentials and facilities in villages with the arrival of migrants	Creating local associations in villages Organizing meetings to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the village with the arrival of educated migrants Cooperation of village beneficiaries with migrants in creating new ideas in the village

Source: Research Findings, 2024



Table 5. Categories (Social Impacts of Immigration)

Row	Category	Semantic Unit
1	Increase in awareness and education among villagers	Training migrants to villagers Increasing awareness among villagers about the negative consequences of migration to cities
2	Change in dietary habits among villagers	Changes in the sale of food products Accelerating the rural development process
3	Progress in rural development projects	Developing the implementation of rural projects with new ideas from migrants
4	Expansion of literacy among rural youth	Motivation for educational progress among rural youth with the arrival of migrants
5	Integration and cohesion among villagers	Social cohesion among villagers Utilizing all potentials and facilities in villages with the arrival of migrants

Source: Research Findings, 2024

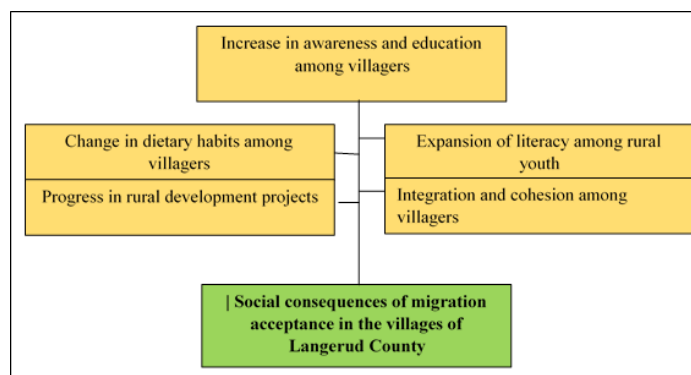


Figure 3. Schematic Model of the Social Impacts of Immigration in the Villages of Langerud County. Source: Research Findings, 2024



The increased awareness and public education among villagers, transformation of dietary patterns, advancement in rural development projects, expanded literacy among the rural youth, and integration and greater integration and cohesion among villagers have been identified in Langerud County villages as both the positive and negative impacts of immigration.

Additionally,, it was considered necessary to quantify the impact of migration on social aspects within the studied villages. This was done after identifying the social dimensions of population movements (immigration and out-migration) in the studied villages using grounded theory methodology. For this purpose, the impact and its respective semantic units were incorporated into a questionnaire which was then distributed among the sample population in the villages. The questionnaire requested

feedback on the extent to which immigrant inflow in the area contributed to positive and negative social impacts (Table 6).

As shown in Table 6 and Figure 4, all social impacts of out-migration, according to the local community in the studied villages, are considered moderate to high. Among these impacts, the improvement in the quality

of life of migrants has the highest average, with a value of 4.39.

Based on the results shown in Table 7 and Figure 5, all social impacts of immigration derived from the interviews are considered moderate to high by the local community in the studied villages. Among these impacts, the expansion of literacy among rural youth, with a value of 4.22, has the highest average.

Table 6. The Role of Migrant Departure on the Social Impacts of Emigration from the Perspective of the Local Community

Approximate Position on the Spectrum					Average Outcome	Average Indicator	Indicator	Abbreviation Code	Outcome
Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low					
	Average to high				39/4	45/4	Ease and comfort of urban life for rural migrants	a1	Improvement in the quality of life of migrants
						33/4	Increased life expectancy of migrants in the city		
	Average to high				95/3	11/3	Disorder in cities by rural migrants	a2	Disorder among villagers and destination cities
						33/4	Reduced social security in suburban neighborhoods with the arrival of migrants		
						25/4	Increase in tensions and many abnormalities in the peaceful and traditional village environment		
						11/4	Lack of social integration among migrants		
		Average			16/3	22/3	Increase in social isolation among rural migrants	a3	Lack of sense of place among migrants
						11/3	Reduction of the social status of rural migrants		
	Average to high				22/4	22/4	Disruption of demographic structure in villages and cities	a4	Imbalance of population in villages and cities
	Average to high				23/4	14/4	A bridge between urban and rural cultures	a5	Increase in awareness and education among migrants
						25/4	Improvement of education and literacy among migrants		
						31/4	Increasing awareness among rural migrants		

Source: Research Findings, 2024

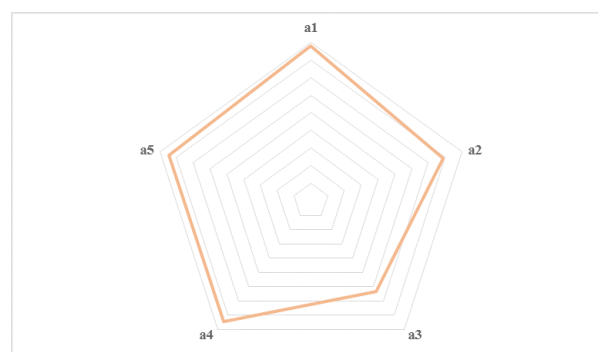


Figure 4. The Role of Migrant Departure on the Social Impacts of Emigration from the Perspective of the Local Community Source: Research Findings, 2024



Table 7. The Role of Immigrant Arrival on the Social Impacts of Immigration from the Perspective of the Local Community

Approximate Position on the Spectrum					Average Outcome	Average Indicator	Indicator	Abbreviation Code	Outcome
Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low					
		Average			16/3	22/3	Training migrants to villagers		Increase in awareness and education among villagers
						11/3	Increasing awareness among villagers about the negative consequences of migration to cities	x1	
		Average			24/3	24/3	Changes in the sale of food products	x2	Change in dietary habits among villagers
						22/4	Accelerating the rural development process		
		Average to high			95/3	41/4	Developing the implementation of rural projects with new ideas from migrants	x3	Progress in rural development projects
						22/4	Motivation for educational progress among rural youth with the arrival of migrants	x4	Expansion of literacy among rural youth
		Average to high			16/4	21/4	Social cohesion among villagers		
						11/4	Utilizing all potentials and facilities in villages with the arrival of migrants	x5	Integration and cohesion among villagers

Source: Research Findings, 2024

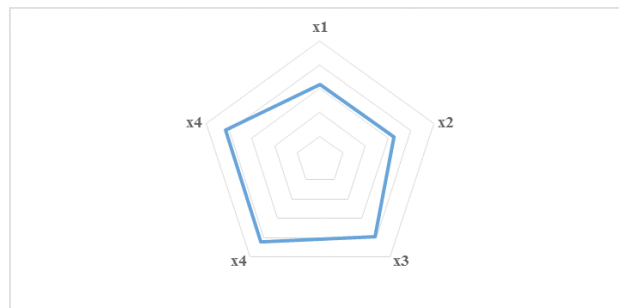


Figure 5. The Impact of Migrant Influx on the Social Consequences of In-Migration from the Perspective of the Local Community. Source: Research Findings, 2023.



5. Discussion

In the present study, we try to ascertain the positive and negative social repercussions of migration in the Langarud villages. The findings were consequently organized into two divisions: (social consequences of rural outmigration) and (social consequences of reverse migration). The results of each portion, therefore, are:

Social consequences of migration (out-migration) in the villages of Langarud County

Of the most positive social consequences for migrants from Langarud villages are improving their quality of life, access to health, and recreation-sport-cultural services in cities where they live enjoying the convenience and comfort of urban life. In addition, leisure and rest

opportunities for them in the cities have increased considerably compared to those found in villages, thus increasing their chances of survival. Moreover, thrift awareness and education among migrants can also be considered as a positive or negative social consequence of out-migration. According to experts, this is attributed to the fact that once migrants enter cities and get to know city residents, they will gradually learn their rights and demands. Furthermore, even women have educational opportunities in cities alongside other educated rural migrants. Some informed individuals (council members and village heads) have also stated that “a bridge is built” between urban and rural cultures. In other words, this informs us that while the young migrants travel back and forth to their village, some modern urban lifestyles come to certain rural areas, which, of course, are likely to have their negative aspects such as changes in housing

construction and clothing styles, modification to dietary habits, and many more.

In addition, one of the negative effects of out-migration is demographic imbalance in villages and cities. Experts have stated that the age and sex composition balance in the village is disturbed, which gradually ages these villages of the county with absolutely no progress or development made in them. Conversely, the environment for the marriage of girls in the villages is deteriorating as young migrants leave. Some other adverse social effects of out-migration include some disorder and chaos among the rural populace on the one hand and the cities of destination on the other: rural migrants create anarchy in the cities, reduce social security in the suburban neighborhoods due to the influx, and increase pressure and anomalies in the traditionally placid rural setting. Due to financial constraints, rural migrants are often forced to settle in suburban areas which not only jeopardize their personal and financial security but also create disorders and an unattractive outlook in cities. Once young people separate from their families, they lose parental support, and without parental supervision and with waning parental authority, unpleasant social consequences can develop. Many rural youth reject cultural spaces steeped in ancestral traditions and create tensions and anomalies such as adopting new clothing styles, and food habits, in the serene rural environment in their quest for urban social rights.

Another social outcome that out-migration creates in the Langarud villages is the lack of attachment to their place of origin. Accordingly, rural migrants develop a strong attachment to city life but feel disconnected from both their rural hometowns and new urban locations⁷. A weakened attachment to the villages results in fewer rural visits and, consequently, an increased feeling of alienation and strangeness in the cities, where a serious reduction of social interaction with neighbors and acquaintances adds to the social isolation of these rural migrants.

Social Consequences of Population Movement (In-Migration) in the Villages of Langarud County

By in-migration, the villages of Langarud have experienced marked positive social consequences in literacy development among rural youth. Respondents in this regard noted that with the influx of educated labor into the villages, motivation for education among rural youth increases, and through the presence of educated workers, knowledge and expertise in the implementation of rural development projects will also increase.

The second positive social consequence of in-migration is the unity and cohesion that prevails among the rural communities. The presence of new migrants in the villages directly contributes to increased cohesion among rural residents while mobilizing them to enhance participation and prevent disorder within a village. It should also be noted that the introduction of more educated young workers increases the willingness of rural people to participate in rural development projects in collaboration with executive institutions. In fact, it creates grassroots organizations at the village level and holds meetings to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in these villages due to the presence of such educated migrants.

Another aspect of the social effect created by in-migration in the villages of Langarud is related to advancement in rural development projects. In this regard, an influx of educated individuals into the villages brings modern knowledge and technical skills, all speed up the development process. On the other hand, rural development projects implement new approaches to improving health, recreational, and educational services in villages. When population shifts occur, changes in dietary habits among rural residents become a social ill. Packaged goods (like canned foods) enter the villages due to the influx of migrants, and the number of vendors selling such goods increases. Furthermore, with the arrival of migrants, fast-food and pizza outlets proliferated in the villages, leading to the decline of Gilani cuisine, which is renowned for culinary tourism. On the positive side, the arrival of the migrants often increases the awareness and education of the rural residents concerning modern knowledge and current issues. The influx of educated young workers in agriculture and animal husbandry facilitated the transfer of new methods of farming and animal husbandry to rural folk would increase production and productivity. Another advantageous effect of in-migration is the rise in awareness and education about Internet use and social media for coming up with new ideas-for example, promoting the attractions of their villages for tourism and attracting both domestic and foreign investors to tourism. In this regard, the findings of the study align with the studies of [Taheri et al. \(2020\)](#) and [Saber and Ghanbari \(2021\)](#).

Conclusively, from the attained results, the following recommendations are made:

It is recommended that to reduce the tendency of rural children to migrate for schooling, educational facilities such as primary, secondary, and high schools, as well as

agricultural vocational schools, be established in villages to meet their educational needs.

Rural depopulation should be addressed by establishing welfare and medical centers to support a rural lifestyle. Creating health and medical centers in center villages can be an effective step to meet the medical needs of surrounding villages, thereby reducing permanent migration to cities. Also, the creation of welfare centers to meet the essential needs of rural residents could further reduce permanent migration.

Establish a scientific working group or specialized committee comprising graduates in geography, demography, and relevant academic fields to provide scientific and practical solutions to the issue of reverse migration and its social consequences.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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