

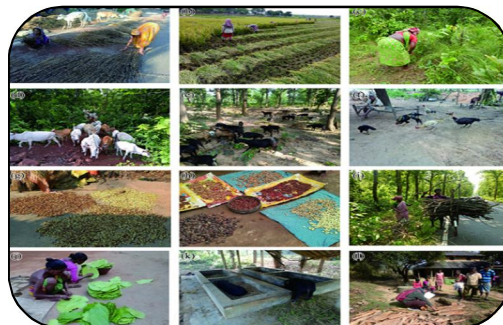


CHANGING LIVELIHOOD PATTERNS IN RURAL INDIA

Mrs. Kavita Bollu
Research Scholar

ABSTRACT

Changing livelihood patterns in rural India reflect the significant economic, social, technological, and environmental transformations taking place in the countryside. Traditionally, rural households have depended heavily on agriculture and allied activities such as animal husbandry, fishing, forestry, and small-scale farming. However, declining agricultural profitability, land fragmentation, climate variability, increasing education, improved transportation, and access to technology have encouraged rural people to diversify their sources of income. Many households are increasingly engaged in non-farm employment, small businesses, construction, manufacturing, services, migration, and self-employment. Government initiatives, self-help groups, rural employment programmes, digital connectivity, and skill-development opportunities have also contributed to this transition. At the same time, changing livelihood patterns have created new opportunities as well as challenges, including insecure employment, seasonal migration, income inequality, and the weakening of traditional occupations. This paper examines the major factors responsible for changing livelihood patterns in rural India and analyses their impact on rural households, employment, income, social relations, and economic development. It argues that sustainable rural development requires greater diversification of employment, improved agricultural productivity, access to finance and markets, skill development, social protection, and inclusive policies that strengthen the resilience of rural communities.



KEYWORDS: *Changing Livelihood Patterns; Rural India; Rural Livelihoods; Agricultural Diversification; Non-Farm Employment; Rural Employment; Migration; Self-Employment; Rural Development; Sustainable Livelihoods..*

INTRODUCTION

Rural India has traditionally been characterized by agriculture and allied activities as the primary sources of livelihood. A large proportion of rural households have historically depended on farming, livestock rearing, fishing, forestry, and other natural-resource-based occupations for their income and sustenance. However, the rural economy has undergone considerable transformation in recent decades due to economic development, technological advancement, urbanization, educational expansion, improved transportation, and changing employment opportunities. As a result, rural livelihoods are increasingly

becoming diversified, with households combining agricultural activities with non-farm employment and other income-generating activities.

One of the major changes in rural livelihood patterns is the growing importance of non-agricultural employment. Rural people are increasingly engaged in construction, manufacturing, retail trade, transportation, education, healthcare, tourism, small businesses, and various service-sector activities. Migration to nearby towns and cities has also become an important livelihood strategy, particularly among young people seeking better employment and income opportunities. Remittances earned by migrant workers often provide an important source of financial support for rural families. At the same time, self-help groups, microfinance, digital platforms, skill-development programmes, and government employment initiatives have created additional opportunities for rural households.

Agriculture itself is also changing as farmers increasingly adopt commercial crops, modern technologies, mechanization, irrigation facilities, improved seeds, and diversified agricultural practices. Allied activities such as dairy farming, poultry, horticulture, fisheries, and food processing have become important components of rural income. However, these changes are not uniform across all regions and social groups. Small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, women, and economically disadvantaged households may continue to face difficulties related to limited land ownership, inadequate access to credit, unstable employment, climate change, market fluctuations, and insufficient social security.

Changing livelihood patterns therefore represent both opportunities and challenges for rural communities. Diversification can increase household income, reduce dependence on agriculture, and improve economic resilience. However, informal

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

Aim:

The main aim of this study is to examine the changing livelihood patterns in rural India and to understand the economic, social, technological, and environmental factors influencing the shift from traditional occupations to diverse and modern sources of livelihood.

Objectives:

1. To study the traditional livelihood patterns prevalent in rural India.
2. To examine the major factors responsible for changes in rural livelihoods.
3. To analyze the impact of agricultural modernization and technological development on rural employment.
4. To study the increasing diversification of rural occupations beyond agriculture.
5. To examine the role of education, migration, and skill development in changing livelihood patterns.
6. To understand the contribution of government schemes and policies to rural livelihood development.
7. To assess the impact of changing livelihoods on the socio-economic conditions of rural households.
8. To examine the role of women in emerging rural livelihood activities.
9. To identify the challenges faced by rural communities in adapting to new livelihood opportunities.
10. To suggest suitable measures for promoting sustainable and secure livelihood opportunities in rural India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The changing livelihood patterns in rural India have been widely examined by scholars in the context of agriculture, rural employment, migration, poverty, education, technology, and economic transformation. Earlier studies generally viewed agriculture and allied activities as the primary sources of

rural livelihood. However, recent research indicates that rural households increasingly depend on multiple livelihood sources, including wage employment, small businesses, non-farm activities, migration, self-employment, and government employment programmes. This diversification has become an important strategy for reducing economic risks and improving household income.

Chambers and Conway (1992) introduced the concept of **sustainable livelihoods**, emphasizing that livelihood consists of capabilities, assets, and activities required for a means of living. Their work provides an important theoretical foundation for understanding rural livelihood changes and highlights the importance of social, economic, human, physical, and natural resources. Scoones (1998) further developed the sustainable livelihood framework and identified agricultural intensification, livelihood diversification, and migration as major strategies adopted by rural households.

Ellis (1998, 2000) examined rural livelihood diversification and argued that households do not depend exclusively on agriculture. They combine farm and non-farm activities to increase income and reduce vulnerability. His work is particularly relevant to India, where rural households increasingly combine cultivation with wage labour, petty trade, services, and migration. Ellis also emphasized that livelihood diversification is influenced by economic opportunities, household resources, markets, and social conditions.

Studies on rural transformation in India have highlighted the declining relative importance of agriculture as the sole source of employment and income. **National Sample Survey and Periodic Labour Force Survey findings** indicate increasing participation in non-farm employment and significant differences in livelihood patterns across regions, gender groups, and social categories. These studies demonstrate that rural India is experiencing occupational diversification rather than a complete shift away from agriculture.

Rural employment and poverty have also received considerable attention. Research on the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** suggests that employment programmes can provide wage opportunities, strengthen household income, and offer support during periods of agricultural unemployment. Such programmes have also contributed to the changing relationship between rural households and traditional agricultural labour markets.

Migration is another major factor identified in the literature. Researchers have shown that seasonal and long-term migration has become an important livelihood strategy for households facing limited local employment opportunities. Remittances from migrants can support household consumption, education, housing, and investment. At the same time, migration may create challenges such as family separation, insecure employment, and poor working conditions.

The literature also emphasizes the growing role of **education, digital technology, infrastructure, and improved market connectivity** in transforming rural livelihoods. Better access to roads, mobile phones, digital financial services, markets, and information has created new opportunities in trade, services, transport, online activities, and small enterprises. However, unequal access to technology and skills continues to create differences between households and regions.

Women's participation in changing rural livelihoods has been examined through studies of self-help groups, microfinance, agricultural activities, livestock, small enterprises, and wage employment. Research suggests that participation in diverse economic activities can increase women's contribution to household income and improve their decision-making capacity. Nevertheless, gender inequality, unpaid care work, limited access to land and credit, and lower wages continue to constrain women's livelihood opportunities. Environmental and climatic changes have also emerged as important themes in recent literature. Studies on rural livelihoods indicate that droughts, irregular rainfall, declining natural resources, and climate variability can negatively affect agricultural households. As a result, diversification into non-farm

employment, migration, livestock, and other activities is increasingly used as a coping and adaptation strategy.

Overall, the literature indicates that **rural India is moving from predominantly agriculture-dependent livelihoods towards diversified and multidimensional livelihood systems**. However, the process is uneven and varies according to region, caste, class, gender, land ownership, education, infrastructure, and access to markets. Existing studies provide substantial information about individual aspects such as agriculture, migration, employment, and livelihood diversification, but there remains a need for integrated studies examining how these factors interact and reshape the overall socio-economic structure of rural households. The present study therefore focuses on the changing livelihood patterns in rural India by considering economic diversification, technological development, migration, government interventions, gender participation, and sustainability.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study adopts a **descriptive and analytical research methodology** to examine the changing livelihood patterns in rural India. The study focuses on understanding the transformation of traditional rural occupations and the emergence of diversified livelihood opportunities. It considers agriculture, agricultural labour, non-farm employment, self-employment, migration, small businesses, government employment programmes, and other income-generating activities.

The study is based on both **primary and secondary data**. Primary data may be collected from selected rural households through structured questionnaires, personal interviews, and field observations. The respondents may include farmers, agricultural labourers, rural workers, women engaged in self-help groups, small entrepreneurs, and migrant workers. A suitable sample of rural households can be selected through purposive or stratified sampling, depending on the geographical area and objectives of the study.

Secondary data are collected from government reports, Census publications, National Sample Survey and Periodic Labour Force Survey reports, economic surveys, research articles, books, journals, institutional publications, and reliable online sources. These sources help in understanding long-term changes in employment, income, migration, agriculture, rural development, and occupational diversification.

The collected data are organized and analyzed using **percentage analysis, averages, tables, charts, and comparative analysis** wherever appropriate. The study compares traditional and emerging livelihood activities and examines factors such as education, landholding, access to technology, availability of employment, migration, infrastructure, government schemes, and market opportunities.

The research also considers the **socio-economic dimensions** of livelihood transformation, including household income, employment security, women's participation, living standards, and economic vulnerability. Special attention is given to the challenges associated with changing livelihoods, such as unemployment, seasonal employment, agricultural uncertainty, migration, climate-related risks, and unequal access to resources.

The study is limited to the selected rural areas and respondents covered by the research. The findings are interpreted in relation to the available data and may not necessarily represent every rural region of India. Ethical principles such as voluntary participation, confidentiality, and appropriate use of collected information are followed throughout the research process. Overall, this methodology provides a systematic framework for examining the causes, nature, and consequences of changing livelihood patterns in rural India.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Rural India has traditionally been dependent on agriculture and allied activities such as farming, animal husbandry, fishing, and agricultural labour. However, rapid economic development, technological advancement, urbanization, education, migration, climate change, and changing market conditions have significantly transformed the livelihood patterns of rural communities. Agriculture is no longer the sole source of income for many rural households, and people increasingly depend on wage employment, small businesses, services, self-employment, migration, and other non-farm activities.

Despite these changes, rural households continue to face several challenges, including unemployment, seasonal employment, low and unstable income, small landholdings, rising agricultural costs, limited access to markets and credit, and environmental uncertainties. The expansion of non-farm employment and migration has created new opportunities, but these opportunities are often associated with insecure employment and unequal wages. Women and economically disadvantaged groups may also have limited access to productive resources, skills, finance, and emerging employment opportunities.

The changing livelihood structure therefore raises important questions about the **nature, causes, and consequences of livelihood transformation in rural India**. It is necessary to understand why rural households are shifting from traditional occupations, what factors influence their livelihood choices, and how diversification affects their income, employment security, living standards, and social conditions. There is also a need to examine the role of government programmes, education, technology, infrastructure, migration, and market access in creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The problem addressed by the present study is therefore to examine the changing livelihood patterns in rural India and to identify the major factors responsible for this transformation. The study also seeks to understand the opportunities and challenges associated with livelihood diversification and to suggest measures for promoting **sustainable, inclusive, and secure livelihood opportunities for rural communities**.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

The study of changing livelihood patterns in rural India is important because rural communities are undergoing significant economic and social transformation. Traditionally, agriculture and allied activities were the major sources of livelihood. However, increasing urbanization, industrialization, education, technological development, migration, climate change, and changing market conditions have encouraged rural households to adopt diversified sources of income.

The study is needed to understand the **shift from traditional agricultural occupations to non-farm and diversified livelihood activities** such as wage employment, small businesses, services, self-employment, migration, and various government-supported employment programmes. Understanding these changes can help identify the factors that influence rural households in choosing alternative livelihood strategies.

The study is also important for examining the **economic conditions and living standards of rural households**. Changes in livelihood sources can influence household income, employment security, expenditure, education, health, housing, and overall quality of life. At the same time, livelihood diversification may not benefit all sections of rural society equally. Differences in land ownership, education, gender, skills, access to credit, technology, and market opportunities can create inequalities.

Another important need for the study is to understand the role of **government policies and rural development programmes** in supporting sustainable livelihoods. An assessment of employment schemes, skill-development programmes, financial inclusion, self-help groups, agricultural support, and entrepreneurship initiatives can help determine their contribution to rural livelihood development.

The study is also necessary because **migration and climate-related challenges** are increasingly affecting rural livelihoods. Seasonal migration has become an important strategy for households facing limited local employment, while irregular rainfall, drought, floods, and other environmental changes can affect agricultural income. Understanding these factors is essential for developing effective livelihood and adaptation strategies.

Therefore, the present study is needed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the **nature, causes, and consequences of changing livelihood patterns in rural India**. It can help researchers, policymakers, development agencies, and local institutions formulate appropriate strategies for promoting sustainable employment, reducing rural vulnerability, strengthening income opportunities, and improving the socio-economic well-being of rural communities.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH:

Future research on changing livelihood patterns in rural India can be expanded to examine the long-term transformation of rural economic and social life. The following areas may be considered for further research:

1. **Regional Comparison:** Comparative studies can be conducted across different states and regions to identify variations in rural livelihood patterns.
2. **Agricultural Transformation:** Further research can examine the impact of mechanization, modern farming techniques, irrigation, and agricultural technology on rural employment and income.
3. **Non-Farm Employment:** Greater attention can be given to emerging non-farm occupations, rural entrepreneurship, small businesses, services, and digital employment.
4. **Migration and Livelihoods:** Future studies can investigate the relationship between seasonal migration, remittances, household income, and rural development.
5. **Women's Livelihoods:** Research can focus on women's participation in agriculture, self-help groups, micro-enterprises, wage employment, and digital economic activities.
6. **Youth and Employment:** Studies can examine changing aspirations among rural youth, skill development, education, unemployment, and their movement towards non-agricultural occupations.
7. **Technology and Digitalization:** Further research can assess how smartphones, digital payments, e-commerce, online services, and digital financial inclusion are creating new livelihood opportunities.
8. **Climate Change:** The impact of droughts, irregular rainfall, floods, changing temperatures, and other environmental changes on rural livelihoods requires greater investigation.
9. **Government Schemes:** Future research can evaluate the effectiveness of rural employment, skill-development, financial inclusion, agricultural support, and entrepreneurship programmes.
10. **Social Inequality:** Further studies should examine how caste, class, land ownership, gender, education, and access to resources influence livelihood opportunities.
11. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Research can explore environmentally sustainable livelihood strategies, including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, livestock development, and natural-resource management.
12. **Longitudinal Studies:** Long-term studies can be undertaken to understand how rural livelihood patterns change over time and how households respond to economic, technological, social, and environmental changes.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

Scope of the Study

The present study focuses on the changing livelihood patterns of rural communities in India. It examines the transition from traditional agriculture-based livelihoods to diversified sources of income and employment. The study covers agriculture, agricultural labour, livestock, small businesses, non-farm employment, self-employment, migration, and service-sector activities.

The study also examines the major factors responsible for livelihood changes, including **education, technological development, urbanization, industrialization, infrastructure, market access, government schemes, migration, and climate change**. It considers how these factors influence employment opportunities, household income, occupational choices, and living standards.

The study gives attention to the participation of **women, rural youth, farmers, agricultural labourers, and economically disadvantaged groups** in emerging livelihood activities. It also considers the role of self-help groups, skill development, digital technology, financial inclusion, and rural entrepreneurship in creating new livelihood opportunities.

The study further aims to understand the socio-economic consequences of livelihood diversification, including changes in income, employment security, consumption patterns, migration, and quality of life. The findings may be useful to researchers, policymakers, rural development agencies, and community organizations for developing sustainable and inclusive livelihood strategies.

Limitations of the Study

The study has certain limitations. Rural India is geographically and socio-economically diverse, and therefore it may not be possible to cover all regions and communities within a single study. If primary data are collected, the findings will depend on the responses and experiences of the selected respondents.

The availability and quality of secondary data may also vary across states and regions. Differences in definitions, survey periods, and data-collection methods can make comparisons difficult. Livelihood patterns are also dynamic and may change because of seasonal employment, migration, economic conditions, technological development, and environmental factors.

The study may face limitations related to **time, financial resources, geographical coverage, and sample size**. Some respondents may also be unwilling or unable to provide complete information about income, employment, migration, or household activities. Informal and temporary employment can be particularly difficult to measure accurately.

Despite these limitations, the study provides a useful framework for understanding the major trends, factors, opportunities, and challenges associated with **changing livelihood patterns in rural India**.

FINDINGS:

The study of changing livelihood patterns in rural India reveals that rural livelihoods are gradually moving from a predominantly agriculture-dependent structure towards a **more diversified livelihood system**. Agriculture continues to remain an important source of income and employment, but rural households increasingly combine farming with agricultural labour, wage employment, small businesses, self-employment, services, and migration.

A major finding is that **livelihood diversification has become an important strategy for rural households**. Uncertain agricultural income, small landholdings, rising input costs, seasonal unemployment, and changing market conditions encourage households to seek additional sources of income. Non-farm

activities have therefore become increasingly important in supporting household consumption and economic security.

The study also finds that **education and skill development influence occupational choices**. Educated rural youth are increasingly interested in salaried employment, entrepreneurship, services, technical occupations, and other non-agricultural activities rather than depending entirely on traditional agricultural work. However, limited local employment opportunities often encourage young people to migrate to towns and cities.

Migration is an important component of changing rural livelihoods. Seasonal and permanent migration provides employment and income opportunities to households with limited local resources. Income earned through migration can contribute to household expenditure, education, housing, and other investments. At the same time, migration may create problems such as family separation, insecure employment, and dependence on informal labour markets.

Another important finding is the **increasing participation of women in diverse livelihood activities**. Women contribute to agriculture, livestock, self-help groups, small businesses, wage employment, handicrafts, and other income-generating activities. These activities can strengthen household income and improve women's economic participation, although unequal access to resources, credit, skills, and markets continues to create challenges.

The study further indicates that **technology and digitalization are influencing rural livelihoods**. Mobile phones, digital payments, online information, improved transport, and access to markets have created new possibilities for rural entrepreneurs, farmers, and service providers. Nevertheless, differences in digital literacy, internet access, and financial resources limit the benefits for some rural households.

Government programmes and rural development initiatives also contribute to livelihood security by providing employment, financial assistance, skill development, infrastructure, and support for self-employment. Their effectiveness, however, depends on awareness, accessibility, implementation, and the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries.

Environmental changes have emerged as another significant factor. **Irregular rainfall, drought, floods, and other climate-related risks** can negatively affect agricultural livelihoods. Consequently, rural households increasingly adopt alternative activities such as livestock, wage employment, migration, and non-farm work to reduce their dependence on agriculture.

Overall, the findings indicate that rural India is experiencing a **complex process of livelihood transformation rather than a complete decline of agriculture**. Traditional and modern occupations increasingly coexist, with households combining several livelihood activities according to their resources and opportunities. Sustainable rural development therefore requires greater attention to employment generation, skill development, women's participation, agricultural resilience, digital inclusion, rural entrepreneurship, and access to markets and financial services.

DISCUSSION:

The changing livelihood patterns in rural India reflect a broader transformation in the economic and social structure of rural communities. Traditionally, agriculture was the primary source of livelihood, but increasing economic diversification has encouraged rural households to combine agricultural activities with non-farm employment, wage labour, small businesses, services, self-employment, and migration. This transformation demonstrates that rural households are increasingly adopting multiple livelihood strategies to manage economic uncertainty and improve their standard of living.

One important aspect of this transformation is the **declining dependence on agriculture as the sole source of household income**. Small and fragmented landholdings, increasing input costs, uncertain

agricultural returns, and seasonal employment make it difficult for many households to depend entirely on farming. As a result, rural families increasingly seek supplementary sources of income. Livelihood diversification can provide greater economic security, although access to alternative opportunities differs according to education, skills, financial resources, land ownership, and geographical location.

Education and skill development have also influenced rural occupational choices. Rural youth are increasingly interested in employment outside agriculture, particularly in services, trade, construction, transport, technical occupations, and other non-farm sectors. However, the lack of suitable employment opportunities within villages often leads to migration towards towns and cities. Migration therefore functions both as an employment strategy and as a response to limited local livelihood opportunities.

The discussion also highlights the growing importance of **women's participation in rural economic activities**. Women are increasingly involved in self-help groups, livestock activities, agriculture, small enterprises, handicrafts, wage employment, and other income-generating activities. Such participation can strengthen household income and women's economic independence. However, social norms, unequal access to land and credit, limited skills, and unpaid domestic responsibilities continue to restrict their full participation in the rural economy.

Technological development and digitalization have created new possibilities for rural livelihoods. Access to mobile phones, internet services, digital payments, online markets, agricultural information, and government services can improve access to information and economic opportunities. At the same time, digital inequality remains a concern because households with limited digital literacy, connectivity, or financial resources may not benefit equally from these developments.

Government programmes and rural development initiatives have an important role in supporting changing livelihoods. Employment programmes, skill-development initiatives, financial inclusion, self-help groups, agricultural support, and entrepreneurship programmes can provide additional opportunities to rural households. However, their impact depends on effective implementation, awareness among beneficiaries, accessibility, and the availability of complementary infrastructure and markets.

Climate and environmental changes further complicate rural livelihood transformation. Dependence on rainfall, droughts, floods, soil degradation, and changing climatic conditions can make agricultural income uncertain. Rural households may therefore adopt livelihood diversification, migration, livestock activities, and non-farm employment as strategies for reducing vulnerability. Sustainable livelihood planning is consequently becoming increasingly important.

Overall, the discussion suggests that changing livelihoods in rural India should not be understood simply as a movement away from agriculture. Instead, it represents a **process of livelihood diversification**, in which agriculture continues to coexist with non-farm employment and other income-generating activities. Future rural development policies should therefore focus on creating stable employment, improving skills and infrastructure, strengthening agricultural resilience, promoting women's economic participation, expanding rural entrepreneurship, and ensuring equitable access to markets, technology, finance, and social protection.

CONCLUSION:

The study of changing livelihood patterns in rural India shows that rural communities are experiencing significant economic and social transformation. Agriculture continues to be an important source of livelihood, but rural households are increasingly adopting diversified livelihood strategies such as wage employment, small businesses, self-employment, services, livestock activities, and migration. This diversification has become an important means of managing economic uncertainty and improving household income.

The study indicates that factors such as **education, technological development, urbanization, migration, infrastructure, market opportunities, government programmes, and climate change** play an important role in shaping rural livelihood choices. While these changes have created new employment and income opportunities, they have also introduced challenges such as insecure employment, seasonal work, migration-related difficulties, unequal access to resources, and agricultural uncertainty.

Women and rural youth are becoming increasingly important participants in emerging livelihood activities. Digital technology, self-help groups, skill development, financial inclusion, and rural entrepreneurship have the potential to strengthen their economic participation. However, inequalities related to gender, land ownership, education, skills, income, and access to technology continue to affect the distribution of livelihood opportunities.

The study concludes that changing rural livelihoods should not be viewed as a complete shift away from agriculture. Instead, rural India is moving towards a **diversified livelihood structure in which agricultural and non-agricultural activities coexist**. Sustainable rural development therefore requires policies that strengthen agricultural productivity while simultaneously expanding non-farm employment, skill development, entrepreneurship, digital access, social protection, and market opportunities.

In conclusion, creating **secure, sustainable, inclusive, and diversified livelihood opportunities** is essential for improving the socio-economic well-being of rural communities. A balanced approach involving government institutions, local communities, private organizations, and development agencies can contribute significantly to building resilient rural livelihoods and reducing rural economic vulnerability.

REFERENCES:

1. Chambers, R., & Conway, G. R. (1992). *Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century*. Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.
2. Ellis, F. (1998). Household strategies and rural livelihood diversification. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 35(1), 1–38.
3. Ellis, F. (2000). *Rural Livelihoods and Diversity in Developing Countries*. Oxford University Press.
4. Scoones, I. (1998). *Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Framework for Analysis*. Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.
5. Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford University Press.
6. Government of India. *Census of India*. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
7. Government of India. *Economic Survey of India*. Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
8. Government of India. *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)*. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.
9. Government of India. *Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land and Livestock Holdings of Households in Rural India*. National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
10. Government of India. *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): Annual Report*. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
11. Government of India. *India Rural Development Report*. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
12. Planning Commission, Government of India. *Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017): Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth*. Government of India.
13. NITI Aayog. *Strategy for New India @ 75*. Government of India.
14. National Sample Survey Office. *Employment and Unemployment Situation in India*. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

15. Desai, S., Dubey, A., Joshi, B. L., Sen, M., Shariff, A., & Vanneman, R. (2010). *Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition*. Oxford University Press.
16. Dreze, J., & Sen, A. (2013). *An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions*. Princeton University Press.
17. Breman, J. (1996). *Footloose Labour: Working in India's Informal Economy*. Cambridge University Press.
18. Kabeer, N. (1994). *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*. Verso.
19. World Bank. (2007). *India: Inclusive Growth and Service Delivery: Building on India's Success*. World Bank.
20. International Labour Organization. (2018). *India Wage Report: Wage Policies for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth*. International Labour Organization.
21. Food and Agriculture Organization. (2018). *The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development*. FAO.
22. International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2016). *Rural Development Report 2016: Fostering Inclusive Rural Transformation*. IFAD.
23. Asian Development Bank. (2017). *Asia Development Outlook: Transcending the Middle-Income Challenge*. Asian Development Bank.
24. Deshingkar, P., & Start, D. (Eds.). (2003). *Seasonal Migration for Livelihoods in India: Coping, Accumulation and Exclusion*. Overseas Development Institute.
25. Rigg, J. (2006). Land, farming, livelihoods, and poverty: Rethinking the links in rural Southeast Asia. *World Development*, 34(1), 180–202.