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ABSTRACT

International migration poses complex challenges with profound effects on both the countries of origin and destination. The migration trend from Bihar to the Gulf region traces back to the 1970s, driven by the economic boom in oil-rich nations that demanded a substantial workforce. This migration has far-reaching implications for migrant families, regional economies, and societies, particularly in the post-Gulf migration period. Migrant workers predominantly consist of young men adhering to Islam, migrant workers from Bihar are sought after due to the physical labour-intensive nature of many jobs in the Gulf. Both push and pull factors play a significant role in migration. The state of Bihar exhibits low levels of education, mirrored in the selected study districts. Saudi Arabia is the primary destination, followed by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, with the majority engaging in blue-collar occupations. Migration entails significant financial burdens, including recruitment fees and travel costs, particularly impactful for low-income families. Visa procurement through agents adds to these costs, although technical education and prior work experience can alleviate some expenses. Determinants of migrant workers' length of stay include marital status, age, family type, and religion as positive factors. Conversely, education level and pre-migration income are negative determinants. Surprisingly, land ownership plays no significant role. Migrants, typically single and under 30 at departure, often transition to married status in the Gulf, leading to a shift from traditional joint to nuclear family structures for financial security. The study reveals improved housing conditions post-migration, with a shift from kutch-style to pucca-style housing, resulting in increased rooms and amenities. The Gulf migration positively impacts access to healthcare and education, significantly enhancing the overall quality of life for migrant workers and their families.