

Common Property Resources Degradation and Migration: A Case Study of Assam

Ratul Mahanta¹ and Daisy Das²

*¹Department of Economics, Gauhati University, Guwahati 781014, Assam, India
E-mail: mahanta_r@yahoo.com*

*²Department of Economics, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong 793022, Meghalaya, India
E-mail: daisy.das@gmail.com*

KEYWORDS Natural Growth Index. Migrational Growth Index. Demographic Indicator. Natural Resource Indicator. Livestock Indicator. Factor Analysis

ABSTRACT Deterioration of common property resources increases the incidence of poverty level because poor people depend on forest resources. Earnings of rural people are mostly the combination of income from private property and common property resources. Reduction in common property resources reduces earnings of rural people leading them to migrate to nearby urban areas in search of livelihood. Thus, there is a link between common property resource degradation, poverty and migration. On the basis of these arguments, an attempt has been made to study the linkage between common property resource degradation and migration in the state of Assam. With the help of thirty variables at two points of time, 1991 and 2001, thirteen indicators have been constructed to represent demographic, natural resource and livestock related indicators. Factor analysis has been used to find the linkages between common property resource degradation and migration. The study finds that decreasing common property resources distress out rural people to urban areas in search of livelihood.