

PREVENTING RURAL EXODUS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF POLICIES ON RURAL EMPLOYMENT & URBAN MIGRATION — INDIA PERSPECTIVE

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Rural-to-urban migration in India results from agricultural challenges, limited rural jobs, and the belief in better urban opportunities. While migration can diversify income and manage risks, it presents issues for both sending and receiving areas. This article assesses India's legal frameworks and policies aimed at preventing distress migration by increasing rural job opportunities and livelihoods. It also reviews major programs like MGNREGA and skill development initiatives, identifying their strengths, necessary improvements, and potential unintended effects. The study highlights ineffective laws due to poor implementation, lack of coordination, and inadequate attention to gender and structural issues. Recommendations include increasing rural employment chances, aligning skills with rural economic needs, enhancing social protections, and supporting land reforms to transform migration into an alternative rather than a necessity. The article earmark policymakers, legal experts, and rural development practitioners for guidance on promoting sustainable rural livelihoods.
