Impact Of Rural-Urban Migration On Agricultural Development In Delta State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The study examined the impact of rural-urban migration on agricultural development in Delta State, Nigeria. Rural-urban migration has had a significant impact on agricultural development in Delta State. As people move from rural areas to urban centers in search of better economic opportunities, the agricultural sector in rural areas experiences a decline in labor force and productivity. This migration trend has led to several implications for agricultural development in Delta State. Delta State is located in a tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons, these are the rainy season (April to October) and dry season (November to March). The south-south wind city's yearly temperature is $28.64^{\circ}C$ ($83.55^{\circ}F$) and it is -0.82% lower than Nigeria's averages. Delta typically receives about 241.52 millimeters (9.51 inches) of precipitation and has 296.16 rainy days (81.14% of the time) annually. The states bordering Delta State are Edo to the north, Ondo to the northwest, Anambra to the east and Bayelsa and Rivers to the southeast. The study concluded from the findings that it is abundantly evident that the young people have moved from rural to urban areas, leaving the adults to continue the exercise. However, when there is a significant reduction in labor, it is impossible to guarantee the sustainability of agricultural practices. It was recommended that reduced rural-urban migration could be achieved in large part by improving crop and livestock varieties and encouraging young people to pursue careers in agriculture through extension visits.

Keywords: Rural-Urban, Migration, Agricultural Development, Delta State.

Introduction

Rural-urban migration has had a significant impact on agricultural development in Delta State, Nigeria. As people move from rural areas to urban centers in search of better economic opportunities, the agricultural sector in rural areas experiences a decline in labor force and productivity. This migration trend has led to several implications for agricultural development in Delta State. According to Migration is the term used to describe the temporary or permanent relocation of individuals from one geographic area to another (Ofuoku, & Chukwuji, 2012). The predominant pattern of internal migration is widely observed to be rural-urban movement worldwide. Migration is a selecting process that impacts people or families based on specific demographic, social, educational, and economic traits. People move away from one another for a variety of reasons, depending on the circumstances at the time ((Ofuoku, & Chukwuji, 2012).

Agricultural development and rural-urban migration are complicated topics that need to be given careful consideration when assessing the implications for other industries (Ayiti, & Adedokun, 2023). The distribution of social and economic infrastructure and utilities, such as pipe-borne water, good roads, electricity, health facilities, and industries, among others, in rural and urban communities, is unequal and persistently unequal, which is the root cause of the agricultural-urban migration phenomenon. Ever since the colonial era, this has been happening (Ayiti, & Adedokun, 2023).

However, given the rural-urban migration and the agricultural development in Nigeria, two contradictory conclusions arise from the impact of rural-urban migration on rural development, of which agricultural development is a component. Some scholars believe that there are positive outcomes in terms of increasing labor scarcity resulting from migration and productivity outcomes and wage increases in the rural areas (Mini 2000), which opens the door to the possibility of land consolidation and reduced land values as benefits to rural areas. Ayiti, and Adedokun, (2023). believes that rural-urban migration leads to a better reallocation of labor, particularly in countries with regional resource disparities, which improves the efficiency of resource use.

According to Von Braun (2004), given the existence of a positive marginal product of labor in agriculture, particularly in the relatively land-rich economies of Africa, Latin America, and several South Asian countries, a decline in agricultural output is likely to result from rural-urban migration. Young workers frequently migrate to urban areas, which has been shown to breed an older labor force in rural areas. This is a significant factor impeding the adjustment process, which primarily explains low productivity and stagnation in the affected rural settlements.

Nigeria has a high percentage of rural residents and the rural sector, which is characteristic of developing nations. Given that uniform activity characterizes a rural area, the most distinctive feature of Nigeria's rural areas is the extensive participation of the populace in agriculture. After oil, the agricultural sector is the most significant contributor to the country's GDP. Approximately 65% of the workforce is employed in the sector, which also employs 80% of those living in rural areas. Its contribution to the nation's

GDP is approximately 41% (African Development Fund (ADF), 2005). In Nigeria, for example, there is a discernible difference between rural and urban areas with regard to the proportion of agricultural and non-agricultural economic activity in each sector. The exploitation or utilization of land is, therefore, the central focus of economic activity in rural areas. It primarily focuses on fishing, forestry, farming, animal husbandry, poultry, food processing, and cottage industries. The lack of access to essential economic and social infrastructure, such as power, water, and roads, as well as health care, has resulted in low agricultural productivity and a low standard of living for those living in rural areas for a variety of reasons.

Statement of Problem

The impact of rural-urban migration on agricultural development in Delta State, Nigeria has been a subject of concern for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders in the agricultural sector. While rural-urban migration can bring about some benefits, such as increased labor supply and urban demand for agricultural products, it can also lead to a decline in agricultural productivity and rural development. One of the main challenges faced by rural areas in Delta State is the out-migration of young and educated individuals to urban centers, leading to a shortage of skilled labor and a lack of succession planning in agricultural enterprises. This has resulted in the average age of farmers increasing, and the sector facing a significant skills gap. Additionally, the lack of access to finance, infrastructure, and technology in rural areas has made it difficult for farmers to adopt modern farming practices and improve their productivity.

Additionally, the migration of young people from rural areas to urban centers has led to a decline in the agricultural labor force, resulting in a decrease in agricultural production and productivity. This has made it difficult for the agricultural sector to contribute significantly to the state's economy. Consequently, the study aims to examine the impacts of rural agricultural development on rural-urban migration, and the general objectives of this study are to determine the impacts of rural agricultural development on rural dwellers in Delta State, and assess the contribution of rural agricultural development on rural-urban migration in Delta State.

Literature Review

Concept of Migration

Migration is the process of movement by people or animals from one place to another with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in a new location. It is a fundamental aspect of human history and has been a key driver of social, cultural, and economic change. Migration can occur within a country (internal migration) or across international borders (international migration). According to Ayiti, et. al. (2023) there are contextual factors play a role in migration, including "pull factors" that draw migrants to urban areas and "push factors" that drive them out of rural areas. It is still true that secondary and tertiary activities are clearly trending toward predominance in the counter's urban centers, even in Nigeria. These disparities in occupation between Nigeria's rural and urban areas have serious ramifications for the city's heavy reliance on the rural economy, underscoring the need for more focus on rural agricultural development.

Rural-Urban Migration

Rural-urban migration refers to the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas in search of better living conditions, economic opportunities, and improved access to services and amenities. This phenomenon has been observed in many countries around the world, especially in developing countries with rapidly growing economies and urbanization (Akingbade, & Adeola, 2018). There are several reasons why people migrate from rural areas to cities. One of the main reasons is the lack of economic opportunities in rural areas, such as low wages, lack of infrastructure and resources. Additionally, rural areas often have limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation, which can make life difficult for those living in these areas (Akinlo, & Adeniyi, 2017).

Another reason for rural-urban migration is the desire for a better quality of life. Cities often offer a more urbanized lifestyle with access to modern facilities, amenities, and services that are not available in rural areas. These can include better schools, hospitals, transportation, and entertainment options, among others (Akinlo, et. al., 2017). However, rural-urban migration also has its challenges. Many migrants face difficulties adjusting to city life, including finding housing, accessing healthcare and education, and dealing with the stress of living in an unfamiliar environment. Additionally, the influx of migrants can put pressure on urban infrastructure and resources, leading to issues such as overcrowding, traffic congestion, and pollution (Oke, & Oyewole, 2019).

To address these challenges, governments and organizations have implemented various policies and programs aimed at managing rural-urban migration. These can include providing financial assistance to rural communities, investing in infrastructure and services, and promoting sustainable development in rural areas (Oke, et. al., 2019). Additionally, many countries have established laws and regulations to protect the rights of migrants and ensure their well-being.

In all rural-urban migration is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by a range of factors, including economic, social, and environmental considerations. While it can bring many benefits, it also poses challenges for both rural and urban communities.

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By understanding the causes and consequences of rural-urban migration, governments and organizations can work towards sustainable solutions that benefit everyone involved.

Rural-Urban Migration in Agricultural Development in Nigeria

Rural-urban migration has been a significant phenomenon in Nigeria, impacting agricultural development in various ways. The movement of people from rural to urban areas has implications for the labor force, land use, and food security. This migration has been driven by factors such as limited employment opportunities in rural areas, better living standards in urban areas, and access to social amenities. As a result, it has influenced the dynamics of agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

The migration of individuals from rural to urban areas has led to a reduction in the agricultural labor force in rural communities. This exodus of labor has affected farming activities and productivity, as there is a decrease in the number of individuals engaged in agricultural work. Consequently, it has posed challenges for sustaining agricultural production and meeting the demands of a growing population.

The migration has also influenced land use patterns in rural areas. As people move to urban centers, there is often an abandonment of farmland or a shift towards less intensive agricultural practices. This can result in underutilization of arable land and a decline in agricultural productivity. Additionally, the outflow of labor from rural areas may lead to the adoption of less efficient farming methods, further impacting overall agricultural output.

Rural-urban migration has raised concerns about food security in Nigeria. With a reduced agricultural labor force and changes in land use, there are implications for the availability and affordability of food products. The shift away from traditional farming practices due to migration can affect the diversity of crops grown and the overall food supply chain. These factors contribute to challenges related to ensuring food security for both rural and urban populations.

In conclusion, rural-urban migration significantly influences agricultural development in Nigeria, affecting the labor force, land use, and food security. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for implementing targeted interventions that support sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Methodology

The Area of Study

Delta State is located in a tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons, these are the rainy season (April to October) and dry season (November to March). The south-south wind city's yearly temperature is 28.64°C (83.55°F) and it is -0.82% lower than Nigeria's averages. Delta typically receives about 241.52 millimeters (9.51 inches) of precipitation and has 296.16 rainy days (81.14% of the time) annually. The states bordering Delta State are Edo to the north, Ondo to the northwest, Anambra to the east and Bayelsa and Rivers to the southeast.

Agricultural Practice in Delta

Agriculture is one of the main occupations of the people of Delta, and serves as a major source of income in the rural areas in many states. Some agricultural produce in the state is cash crops such as oil palm, kola nut, plantain, bananas, citrus and timber; arable/food crops such as rice, yam, cassava, maize, and groundnut pea. The greater majority of the population in Delta state lives in the urban areas while minorities of the population live in the rural areas, and their major occupation is farming in some cases because of housing problem, some persons live in the rural but pull out to the urban area daily for their work or business.

Table 1: Cash Crops

Cash crops	Location	Uses
Timber	Widespread	Log, Planks, Panel, Furniture and
		Export
Rubber	Widespread	Tyre manufacture, crepe and Export
Cocoa	Isoko	Cocoa Butter, Cocoa Liquor, Cocoa
		Powder,
		Beverages
Oil Palm	Widespread	Food processing, Cosmetics.

Source: Britannica, (2023).

Table 2: ARABLE CROPS

Arable crops	Location	Industrial products
Yam	Widespread	Flour
Cassava	Widespread	Cassava Chips, Cassava Flour, Cassava Starch, Garri, Livestock Feeds, Alcohol Product, Mosquito expeller,
Rice	Isoko, Ijaws.	Flour, Grain, Grits.

Plantain and Banana	Across the state	Plantain Beer, Plantain Balls, Chips/crepe, Plantain Flour,
Maize	Amai, Agbor, Isoko, Urhobo	Flour Corn, Pop Corn, Striped maize.
Ground nut	Uwheru	Ground nut cake, Lubricating Oil, Ground nut oil, Insecticides

Source: Britannica, (2023).

Methodology

The research design for the study will be survey. The oral question and questionnaire will be administered to respondent to elicit response from respondents. According to Bernard, Soon-Gyo, and Joni, (2023), survey research is a research method that involves collecting data from a sample of individuals by using standardized questionnaires (called surveys or survey instruments). This method is deemed most appropriate for this study.

Population of the Study

The twenty-five (25) local governments area (LGA) in Delta State make up this study's population. Respondents from each LGA were selected for this study based on the number of farming operations observed in each local government. Descriptive statistics were employed to analyze the data gathered because 350 respondents were chosen at random from the study area. Each LGA received twenty (20) questionnaires to collect primary data, as indicated in the table below.

Table 3: Gender Distribution of Respondents

S/n	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	199	57
2.	Female	151	43
	Total	350	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Results and Discussion

Gender Distribution of Respondents

Table 3 showed the gender distribution of the respondents as displayed. This shows that both sexes participated in the survey and that the majority 57% were male and 43% were female, it does not follow that there are more men than women in the study area.

Table 4: Age Distribution of Respondents

S/n	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	20-29	75	21
2.	30 - 49	132	38
3.	40 - 59	123	35
4.	60 - 70	16	05
5.	71 above	4	01
	Total	350	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 4 shows the age distribution of respondents based on their responses. In the response table, 132, which represents 38% (30–49), is the highest percentage. This in a way is a reflection that most youths have embarked on rural-urban migration, leaving the elderly; furthermore, age bracket 71 and above has 01%, which represents 4 respondents and is the lowest percentage, while 16 respondents, which represents 05% (60–70), show that the elderly within the age bracket have embarked on rural-urban migration, which is a low percentage.

 Table 5: Marital Status Distribution of Respondents

S/n	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Single	113	32
2.	Married	157	45
3.	Separated	46	13
4.	Divorce	21	06
5.	Widows	13	04

Total 350 100	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
	Total	350	100	

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 5 shows the respondents, response of marital status distribution. This indicated the summary of the data collected among respondents as 157 respondents which represents 45% has married, while 113 respondents represent single which is 32%. The separated and divorce represents 46 and 21 respondents which represents 13% and 06% respectively. The widows are the lowest with 13 respondents which represents 04% of response.

Table 6: Level of Education Distribution of Respondents

S/n	Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Primary	76	22
2.	Secondary	165	47
3.	Tertiary	85	24
4.	No Education	24	07
	Total	350	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 6 shows the level of education distribution response as 165 which represents 47% of respondents attended secondary education, while 85 respondents which represents 24% attended tertiary education. Also, 76 respondents which is 22% attended primary education while 24 respondents had no education which is 07%. The table shows that majority of respondents end up are the secondary education level.

Table 7: Size of Farm

S/n	Size of Farm in Acre(s)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	1-2	173	49
2.	2-3	96	27
3.	4-5	45	13
4.	6-6	27	08
5.	7 and above	09	03
	Total	350	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 7 shows the size of farms per acre, which represents the respondent's size of firm land. In their response, 173 respondents have 1-2 acres, which represents 49%, while 2-3 acres were owned by 96 respondents, which represents 27%. Also, 45, 27, and 09 respondents own 4-5, 6-7, and 8 and above acres of farm size, which represents 13%, 8%, and 3%, respectively. This response percentage implication is that most people in the study area engage in farming either as their major business or as an additional means of income.

Table 8: Farm Experience Distribution Respondents

S/n	Years of Farm Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1.	1-10	154	44
2.	11-20	122	35
3.	21-30	41	12
4.	31-40	26	07
5.	41 and above	07	02
	Total	350	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 8 shows the farming experience of distribution among respondents over the years, which means that most people in the study area are involved in one form of firming or another. The percentage response to farming shows that 44% of farmers between 1 and 10, which represents 154 respondents, have farming experience, while 35%, which represents 122 respondents, between the years 11 and 20, have farming experience. It was also observed that 31–40 represents 26 respondents, of which 7% have farming experience, and 07 respondents, of which 2% have years of farming experience between 41 and above. In Table 8 above, the years of farming experience declined with passing years, which implies that most young people do not have much interest in farming owing to rural-urban migration.

Table 9: Source of Livelihood

S/n Years of Farm Experience	Frequency	Percentage	
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1.	Farming	97	28	
2.	Trading	78	22	
3.	Farming & Civil Service	58	17	
4.	Civil Service	71	20	
5.	Handcraft	46	13	
	Total	350	100	

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 9 reveals that most of the people in the study area are farmers, with a response value of 97, which represents 28% of respondents, while the 78 respondents are involved in trading, which represents 22%. Again, the number of respondents who are farmers and civil servants is 17%, which represents 58 respondents. Also, the study indicated that 71 respondents are civil servants with a response rate of 20%, while the handcraft responses show 46 respondents of 46 with a response rate of 13%. This implication means that most people in the study area are either active or passive farmers. Thus, farming is one of the major occupations in the study area.

Table 10: Annual Income						
S/n	Annual Income	Frequency	Percentage			
1.	100,000-200,000	147	42			
2.	201,000-300,000	89	25			
3.	301,000-400,000	52	15			
4.	401,000-500,000	37	11			
5.	501,000 and above	25	07			
	Total	350	100			

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

Table 10.

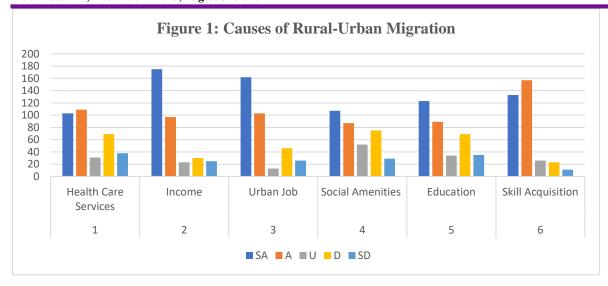
The annual income of residents in rural areas is shown in Table 10. According to the responses, 89 respondents, or 25% of the sample, earn between 200,000 and 300,000 naira annually, while 147 respondents, or 42% of the sample, earn between 100,000 and 200,000 naira annually. The table additionally indicates that the respondents earn between 301,000 and 400,000 naira annually, representing 52 and 37 respondents with respective percentages of 15% and 11%. Additionally, the study revealed that a notably smaller percentage of respondents, 25 percent of them, had an annual income of 501,000 naira or more. A summary of the respondents' annual income is provided in Table 10 above. The respondents' living conditions and the reasons behind their desire to move from rural to urban areas are explained by the income breakdown, which includes youth who earn between 100,000 and 200,000 and 300,000 per year, respectively.

S/n	Causes of Rural/Urban Migration	SA	Α	U	D	SD	Total
1.	Health Care Services	103	109	31	69	38	350
2.	Income	175	97	23	30	25	350
3.	Urban Job	162	103	13	46	26	350
4.	Social Amenities	107	87	52	75	29	350
5.	Education	123	89	34	69	35	350
6.	Skill Acquisition	133	157	26	23	11	350

Table 11:Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

Annual Income

Source: Fieldwork 2023.

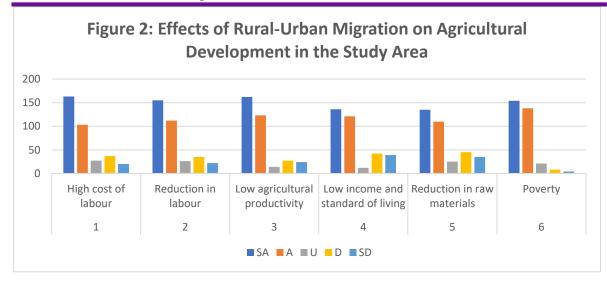


The study area's rural-urban migration causes are delineated in Table 11 and Figure 1. While Table 9 provides a great deal of detail, Figure 1 also makes good use of language and clarity. The main factors causing rural-urban migration in the study area are all six of the peculiar causes listed above: seeking health care services; seeking a better income for a better living condition; searching for a better urban job; having an appetite for good social amenities; seeking quality education; and acquiring good skills. The following factors are responsible for the migration from rural to urban areas: 109, 97, 103, 87, 89, and 157 agreed (A) that the factors are responsible for the migration from rural to urban areas; in contrast, the respondents who strongly agreed (SA) were 175, 162, 107, 123, and 133. Some respondents (U) gave answers that were undecided (U)-31, 23, 13, 52, 34, and 26-despite the causes being as agreed upon. Respondents 69, 30, 46, 75, 69, and 23 disagreed with the statement that the aforementioned causes are not the cause of rural-urban migration; conversely, 38, 25, 26, 29, 35, and 11 strongly disagreed (SD) with the aforementioned factors. These numbers were also recorded in the chat above.

S/n	Causes of Rural/Urban Migration	SA	Α	U	D	SD	Total
1.	High cost of labour	163	103	27	37	20	350
2.	Reduction in labour	155	112	26	35	22	350
3.	Low agricultural productivity	162	123	14	27	24	350
4.	Low income and standard of living	136	121	12	42	39	350
5.	Reduction in raw materials	135	110	25	45	35	350
6.	Poverty	154	138	21	08	04	350

Table 12: Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Agricultural Development in the Study Area	
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Source: Fieldwork 2023.



The effects of migration from rural to urban areas on agricultural development in the study area are shown in Table 12 and the chart in Figure 2. One consequence is that labor costs are very high. There were 350 respondents, of whom 163 strongly agreed (SA), 103 agreed (A), 27 were undecided (U), 37 disagreed (D), and 20 strongly disagreed (SD) that labor costs would rise as a result of ruralurban migration. Similarly, regarding the decrease in labor, one of the direct consequences of rural-urban migration in the study area, of the 350 respondents, 155 strongly agree (SA), 112 agree (A), 26 are undecided (U), while 35 disagree (D), and 22 strongly disagree (SD) that migration from rural to urban areas would result in a decrease in labor. In another development, out of the 350 respondents, 162 strongly agree (SA), 123 agree (A), 14 are undecided (U), 27 disagree (D), and 24 strongly disagree (SD) that migration from rural to urban areas can result in poor agricultural productivity. Regarding the claim that rural-urban migration would result in low income and a low standard of living in the study area, 136 respondents strongly agree (SA), 121 agree (A), 12 were undecided (U), 42 disagree (D), and 39 strongly disagree (SD). Again, 135 strongly agree (SA), 110 agree (A), 25 are undecided (U), 45 disagree (D), and 35 strongly disagree (SD) with the statement that migration from rural to urban areas can result in a shortage of raw materials out of 350 respondents. Similarly, of the 350 respondents, 154 strongly agreed (SA), 138 agreed (A), 21 were undecided (U), 8 disagreed (A), and 4 strongly disagreed (SD) that poverty in the study area would result from rural-to-urban migration.

Conclusion

One of the main industries and practices that has helped define Delta State is agriculture, but there is a significant shortage that needs to be filled immediately. The findings make it abundantly evident that the young people have moved from rural to urban areas, leaving the adults to continue the exercise. However, when there is a significant reduction in labor, it is impossible to guarantee the sustainability of agricultural practices. The current government needs to take immediate action to investigate the uncontrolled rate of rural-urban migration. To stop rural-urban migration and stop young people from drifting into urban areas, the government must implement the proper rural development programs. Again, non-commitment and non-adherence to policies started by previous governments is one of the obstacles to rural development. Agricultural practices will evolve in tandem with the development of rural areas. Another option to stop rural-urban drift is to provide comparable basic amenities for rural areas. In order to prevent rural-urban migration, it is imperative that rural areas be equipped with the social infrastructure that will keep young people within their borders. This will also have a positive impact on urban areas. Young people who are looking for high-paying jobs also have a tendency to migrate to urban areas because they think there are more well-paying jobs there, which will help them overcome the poverty that plagues them in the rural areas. The majority of young people would prefer to remain in their communities if the government could fulfill the employment requirement and raise wages to match those in rural areas.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made in connection with the study, that:

- 1. Basis amenities should be provided fully in the rural areas like the urban areas.
- 2. The facilities that the youths actually surgeon for in the urban areas should be replicated in the rural areas to curtails the rural-urban migration issues.
- 3. Reduced rural-urban migration could be achieved in large part by improving crop and livestock varieties and encouraging young people to pursue careers in agriculture through extension visits.

- 4. Insecurity needs to be addressed, particularly the problems involving farmers and herders.
- 5. Job payment equality should be replicated in the rural areas to encourage the young people to appreciate staying and working in their locality.

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