

NOTE

UNDP REPORT 2009

I Satya Sundaram writes :

The focus of this year's UNDP report is on migration. It believes that migration from villages to cities or between nations is generally good for the economy. Of course, it does not support wholesale liberalisation on international migration. According to the Report, migration can help improve their income, education and enhance their children's future prospects. The Report does not believe in brain drain.

The Report states that internal migration reduced the incidence of poverty in India. It states that in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, poverty rates in households with a migrant fell by about half between 2001-02 and 2006-07. Migration has enhanced workforce participation rate.

Worldwide nearly one in seven people is a migrant. The Report argues that migrants boost economic output at little or no cost to locals. The Report argues that migration ought not to become a substitute for development in the countries of origin.

But, internal migration in developing countries has created many problems like overcrowded cities, growth of slums etc. In recent times, some regions are not allowing labour from other regions. The plight of Indian workers in Gulf countries is miserable. In most developing countries, internal migration is a product of lop-sided development. These countries are rich in natural and human resources. Hence, they should aim at inclusive growth. The pattern of development is as important as the pace of development. □□□