

Review of: "Weathering changes – livelihood adaptation to weather shocks in rural India by disadvantaged social groups"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In Abstract:

"We use household and village level data from two consecutive waves of the Indian Human Development Survey and gridded weather data from the CRU, the University of East Anglia, for our analysis. Our results indicate that in India, major changes in dryness do significantly increase migration." **Please define CRU.**

Introduction, Paragraph 3:

Can you add some references that support the claims regarding the disadvantaged social groups.

Additionally, I found it confusing at when you switched from Scheduled Groups and Scheduled Tribes and also you later used abbreviations for these terms. I feel you can make this more clear by changing the first sentence of paragraph 3,

"India has several social groups that were either historically excluded from its development process or for whom the development process remained distant because of their remote location--**this includes both Scheduled Groups (SG) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).**"

Introduction, paragraph 4:

In this sentence, "For example, Garg, Jagnani, and Taraz (2020) observed that hot days during the growing season reduce agricultural yields and test score performance with comparatively modest effects of hot days in the non-growing season."

What does "test score" refer to here? Is test score a noun? Or is meant to be a verb like, "and tested score performance". **Please make this sentence more clear.**

Introduction, Paragraph 7:

I would not use the term, "the poor". It feels a bit outdated. I would rather recommend using a term like, "people experiencing poverty". Similarly, in this paragraph, you refer to poor people collectively as "they" and "them". You should never generalize a entire group of people. I recommend rephrasing these sentences.

Research Questions

Throughout your Research Question section, you use the term “we” however, it seems this study only has one author **Are there multiple authors?**

In the first paragraph you mention, “. Earlier research on India does indicate that there is an association for people to migrate based on weather anomalies, but it is not clear whether agricultural or groundwater drought would lead to similar movements”

Can you add a reference here and describe what previous weather anomalies these were?

For your research questions, I would make them more explicit. Perhaps you can clearly state them as:

1. Does slow-onset climate change lead to migration in rural India, and how does it differ from migration triggered by rapid onset weather events like floods or heatwaves?
2. Do disadvantaged social groups in India actively participate in migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change?
3. Does access to social networks explain the variation in migration probability among disadvantaged groups in India?
4. How does the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) impact the pattern of migration among disadvantaged social groups in the face of climate change?

Data

In the 10th paragraph, “While the survey identifies several groups, here we identify the social groups in three broad categories — Backward Class (OBC), Scheduled groups, and others not classified either as OBC or Scheduled groups. We introduce the OBCs who face similar economic disadvantages like the scheduled group, but unlike the latter, they do not face social barriers like untouchability (Thorat and Joshi 2020) and they have been more successful in altering their conditions through political and social organizations in recent years.”

I feel you should clarify, that you are using terminology and grouping that is typical of the Government of India.

For example, you could say, “While the survey identifies several groups, here we classify these groups into three broad categories based on the Indian Government’s definitions — Backward Class (OBC), Scheduled Groups, and Others. Then I feel you should explicitly describe which social groups were included in each category.

The formulas:

I recommend adding a table where all of the variables used in your linear probability model are described.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should directly address each of your research questions and the answer to each question.

Overall, this paper has great potential. It just needs a little more editing (grammar, flow, phrasing) and development of the results.

