

# 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.

- The paper addressed a very timely research question. I found the paper to be well-written and informative. However, there are a few areas where I believe the paper could be improved.
- Research questions: The paper claims to explore how households from disadvantaged social groups in India adapt through migration to climate-related shocks. However, it seems that the paper's current research question is not addressing the specific mechanism through which migration helps these households adapt to climate change. Instead, the study seems to be focusing on whether there is a correlation between climate-related stresses and migration, as well as the influence of certain factors on migration. To better align the research question with the study's objectives, it might be helpful to revise it.
- Improvements for the abstract: Abstract does not state the methodology used to analyse data and the conclusion of the study is reached.
- I found the author's suggestion for improving the implementation of NREGS to be quite insightful. However, it is worth considering the potential impact that such intervention might have on the lives of rural migrants, particularly as migration can heavily impact agriculture. While reducing the risk at the farmer level is certainly important, it may not always be necessary or healthy to intervene in this way. As the paper highlights, dryness can have a significant impact on livelihoods and force people to migrate. Additionally, scheduled cast people may face financial constraints that make migration difficult. In light of this, I would suggest providing recommendations that aim to reduce vulnerability to climate stressors among these groups. Encouraging better adaptation practices that build resilience within agriculture systems, particularly among scheduled cast people, could be a helpful way to increase farmers' income and reduce their vulnerability to climate-related stressors. By adopting such practices, these groups could become better equipped to cope with the challenges posed by climate change and continue to thrive in their agricultural pursuits.
- Suggest discussing the theoretical background of the study. The relationship between climate-induced migration and social network. Suggested reading: Nawrotzki, R. J., Riosmena, F., Hunter, L. M., & Runfola, D. M. (2015). Amplification or suppression: Social networks and the climate change—migration association in rural Mexico. *Global Environmental Change*, 35, 463-474.
- Methodology: Suggest to state years of two Human Development surveys in the methodology and the abstract. The assumption of the study is the main driving force behind migration is climate stress. I am just wondering whether there could be any other social changes during the study period that stimulate migration.

- The conceptualization of the variable SocNet is problematic. *It was not entirely clear whether the acquaintances and relatives referred to in the variable lived in the location of interest. Further clarification was needed to fully understand how this variable enabled migration.*
- When analysing the change in migration as a binary variable, it is important to note that a negative coefficient does not always indicate a negative association. In fact, it simply means that the probability of increased migration has decreased during the study period. Additionally, a value of 1 indicates an increase in migration, while a value of 0 indicates no change or a decline in migration. It is crucial to interpret these results with caution in order to fully understand the impact of migration during the specified time frame.
- Equation 3: Suggest running the model specified in Equation (3) taking only one social network variable at a time if you think they are alternative ways of measuring the social network.
- Results: suggest discussing the results with respect to control variables as well.
- It's interesting to note that there are differing effects of SPE 16 and SPE 18. It would be useful to discuss why this is the case and what factors might contribute to these differences.