

**CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION: ARE INDIA'S HIGH DISASTER RISK
ECONOMIC HUBS TOO STRONG TO LEAVE**

NANDANA S SUDHEER

A project report submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS
IN
GENERAL ECONOMICS**



May 2025

MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Chennai- 600025

Abstract

Disasters are one of the potential drivers of migration in India. This paper examines the factors driving disaster-led migration in India, focusing on state-specific disaster risk index and other socio-demographic variables. We gather information on migration and migration due to disasters using unit-level data from NSS round 78th Multiple Indicator Survey 2020-21. We integrate this data with the state-wise disaster risks index across Indian states, obtained from the Disaster Risks and Resilience in India report by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GDP at current price data from RBI website for the year 2021-22. The state-level disaster risk index captures the regional risk environment influencing state migration. We test various hypotheses on the determinants of migration and disaster-driven migration using the Heckman probit model. Given that the decision to migrate due to disasters is contingent on whether the person has migrated or not. If we fail to account for this, it would lead to a potential sample selection problem. To account for this, we employ a Heckman probit model. In our study we try to examine whether migration is a possible adaptation strategy when confronted by disasters. However, results suggest that states with high disaster risk are less likely to migrate. When we compare this with GDP data, we find that high disaster risk index states are also states with high GDP. Thus, States with higher disaster risk have lesser migration