



Migrant Labour Policies and Rural Livelihoods in Kenya's North Rift Valley: Economic Gains and Gender Dynamics, 2012

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Abstract

This study examines migrant labour policies in Kenya's North Rift Valley and their impact on rural livelihoods, particularly focusing on economic gains and gender dynamics. A qualitative study was conducted through semi-structured interviews with stakeholders including farmers, government officials, and community leaders. Focus groups were also used for deeper insights into gender roles and economic activities in migrant labour-dependent areas. Findings indicate that while some policies have led to modest increases in agricultural productivity (up to 20% in certain regions), these gains are not uniform across all communities, with disparities observed between men's and women's incomes. Gender dynamics reveal that despite policy intentions to promote equal participation, traditional gender roles often limit women's involvement in labour-intensive activities. While migrant labour policies have shown promise in boosting rural economies, they require more targeted interventions to address existing gender-based inequalities and ensure sustainable development outcomes. Recommendations include strengthening policy frameworks to enhance inclusivity by promoting skills training for both genders and encouraging community-led initiatives that empower women economically. Additionally, regular evaluations should be conducted to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments.

Keywords: Kenya, North Rift Valley, Qualitative Study, Migration Studies, Gender Analysis, Livelihoods, Empowerment Theory

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