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Education and rural urban linkage with special reference to commuting: A case study of Jorhat district in Assam

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Abstract
The chief institutional apparatus for building knowledge and skills base is the formal and partially non formal educational system of a country. Most of the developing countries of the world are now compelled to believe that it is the rapid quantitative growth of educational opportunities that holds the basic key to development and works as the basic foundation of future potential manpower. All these countries have, therefore, committed themselves to the target of universal education in the shortest possible time.
The acceleration of seasonal migration, circular migration and commuting of people out of rural areas of developing economies into urban areas is recognized as defining characteristic of demographic, economic and social change with unfathomable implications for socio-economic transformation of rural areas.
The paper mainly examines the relationship between and educational attainment of people in rural areas and rural commuting in sample villages of Jorhat District in Assam. Besides an attempt is also made to find out the prevailing educational status of rural people in the sample villages. The paper concludes that there is significant positive relationship between education and rural commuting.

Keywords: Education, urbanization, urbanization index, education index, adjusted mean years of schooling

1. Introduction
The chief institutional apparatus for building knowledge and skills base is the formal and partially non formal educational system of a country. Most of the developing countries of the world are now compelled to believe that it is the rapid quantitative growth of educational opportunities that holds the basic key to development and works as the basic foundation of future potential manpower. All these countries have, therefore, committed themselves to the target of universal education in the shortest possible time.
The paper mainly examines the relationship between and educational attainment of people in rural areas and rural urbanization in sample villages of Jorhat District in Assam. Besides an attempt is also made to find out the prevailing educational status of rural people in the sample villages. The paper concludes that there is significant positive relationship between education and urbanization of rural areas.

2. Objectives: The main Objectives of the paper are as under
▪ To study the educational status of the selected villages.
▪ To study the nature of rural commuting in the sample villages.
▪ To study the impact of education on rural commuting.

3. Hypothesis
The paper wants to test the following null hypothesis:
"Rural Commuting is unaffected by the educational attainment of the rural people".

4. Methodology
The present study covers the Jorhat District of Assam. The study covers all types of households, ethnic groups and communities on the random sampling basis.

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The data required for the study have been collected from 15 sample villages viz., Atapam Gaon, Auria Gaon, Bajal Bari Gaon, Balijan Gaon, Bangal Gaon, Chungi Gaon, Guhain Gaon, Kachari Gaon, Kukurachua Gaon, Kunder Gaon, Na-Chungi Gaon, Panbari Gaon, Puranimati Gaon, Ratanpur Gaon and Thengal Gaon of the selected district through field investigation. In each of the villages 15 households were selected randomly for collecting necessary primary statistics, Thus the sample size becomes 15×15=225. The data collection was done in 2014.

SPSS software package is used to run a regression line. On the basis of the estimated regression line the hypothesis is tested.

To explore the relationship between education and rural commuting, the following model is constructed.

CI= α + β EI

Where,
CI=Commuting Index
EI=Education Index

The general formula to transform a raw variable, say X, into a unit-free index between 0 and 1, which allows different indices to be added together have been used in the study.

$$x \text{ index} = \frac{x - \min(x)}{\max(x) - \min(x)}$$

Where, min(x) and max(x) are the lowest and highest values the variable x can attain, respectively.

5. Educational Attainment of Household Heads in Sample Villages

Parental educational level is an important predictor of children's educational and behavioral outcomes. In fact, research suggests that educational attainment and skill knowledge of the household heads eventually to a large extent determines the achievements of their other family members.

The Table -1 shows the educational attainment of the head of the households surveyed in the sample villages of Jorhat District.

Table 1: Educational Attainment of Household Heads in the Sample Villages

Sl, No.	Village	Level of Education Completed			Completed Years of Schooling	Mean Years of Schooling
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary		
01	Atapam Gaon	7	3	0	72	5.40
02	Auria Gaon	7	1	0	49	3.87
03	Bajal Bari Gaon	5	4	3	120	8.40
04	Balijan Gaon	7	1	2	72	5.20
05	Bangal Gaon	3	3	1	62	4.60
06	Chungi Gaon	5	3	1	72	5.07
07	Guhain Gaon	5	3	2	88	6.20
08	Kachari Gaon	7	1	2	79	5.27
09	Kukurachua Gaon	7	3	1	78	5.53
10	Kunder Gaon	8	3	1	91	6.13
11	Na-Chungi Gaon	8	1	0	48	3.33
12	Panbari Gaon	8	3	2	100	6.87
13	Puranimati Gaon	9	0	1	64	4.40
14	Ratanpur Gaon	8	1	0	53	3.73
15	Thengal Gaon	6	2	1	64	4.27
	Total	100	32	11	1112	5.23

Source: Field Survey

It is revealed from the table that no household head completing higher education was found in Atapam Gaon, Auria Gaon, Na-Chungi Gaon and Ratanpur Gaon. Majority of the respondents of the villages were found to have completed basically primary level of education.

The concept of Mean Years of Schooling (MYS) is relevant in this paper which was used by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as one of the education indicators in the computation of the Human Development Index (UNDP, 2010) [3]. The MYS indicates the average number of years of schooling completed of a country's population; exclusive of years spent repeating individual grades. In addition to the completed years of education, incomplete education may also be considered for exact assessment which is calculated on the basis of actual years of completed education without having any relation to level of education completed. In the present study, the researcher has used 'Adjusted Mean Years of Schooling' in order to be more specific and to get appropriate idea about the educational attainment of the household heads and to construct a more reliable education index (EI).

The total years of schooling completed is found to be highest in the Bajal Bari Gaon and lowest in the Na-Chungi Gaon. Similarly, the adjusted mean years of schooling is found highest in the Bajal Bari Gaon and lowest in the Na-Chungi Gaon. Thus, in the present study Lohajani village is found to be most forward village and Mora Gadhadhar village is found to be the most backward village in respect of educational attainment of the rural people. As far as the factors including the rural people of to commute are concerned, it is observed that the main two reasons of commuting are earning and education. The village wise data related to mean years of schooling is shown in the Figure-1.
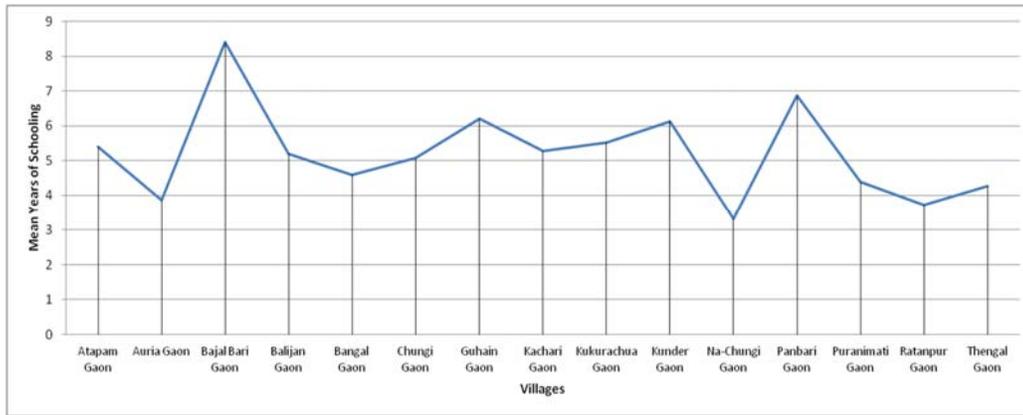

The education and commuting indices of the sample villages have been constructed on the basis of the field survey data. It is revealed that the education index is highest in the Bajal Bari Gaon and lowest in the Na-Chungi Gaon. The commuting index is found to be highest in the Guhain Gaon and lowest in the Auria Gaon.

Box-1

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	R	R²	F	α	β	t
CI	EI	0.470	0.221	3.696*	0.123	0.470	1.922*

Note: * at 1% level of significance
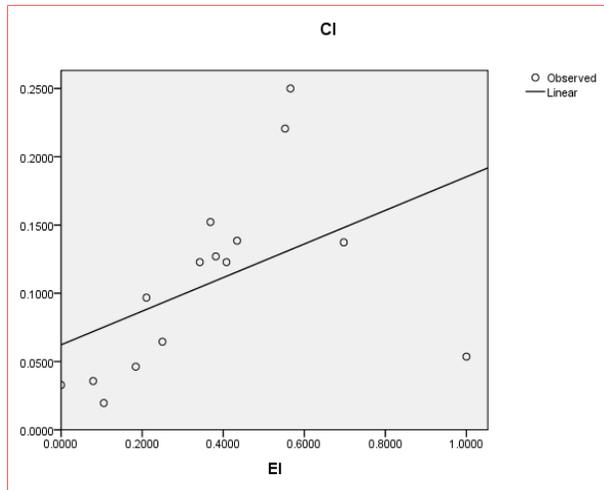
Fig 2: Scatter Plots Showing Correlation between Education Index and Commuting Index

The Box- I reveals the following results.
- The person's Coefficients of Correlation between CI and EI is found 0.470. Therefore, it can be asserted that there is a positive relationship between education and habit of commuting of villagers in the sample villages. This is evident from the following scatter diagram which shows strong positive correlation between education and commuting.
- The coefficient determination is estimated at 0.221which implies that 22 percent of the variation in commuting habit of villagers can be accounted for by variation in educational attainment.
- The t value is estimated at 1.922 which is significant at 1 percent implying that the predictor makes a considerable impact on the commuting habit of the villagers in the district.
- The F values is estimated at 3.696 which is significant at $p<0.001$ which implies that there is less than 0.1 percent probability that such a large F –value will emerge by chance alone indicating that the regression model overall predicts the change in the commuting habit of the rural people efficiently. Thus it asserts that the regression model overall predicts the change in the commuting habit of the rural people efficiently.

Hence, we reject the null hypothesis that rural commuting is unaffected by the level of educational attainment of people in rural areas.

7. Conclusion
Thus it can be concluded that education is one of the chief factors affecting commuting and rural urban- linkage. Provision of better education to the rural people can be an effective instrument to bridge up the rural – urban disparity which will eventually also act as strong positive force for rural poverty reduction.

8. References
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