

Trends and Pattern of Internal Migration in India

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ABSTRACT

Young people under age of 15-24 years constitute 35% of India's total population (2001 census). Not only does this cohort represents India's future in the socioeconomic and political realms but its experience will largely determine India's achievement of its goal of overall socio-economic development, population stabilization and harvesting its demographic dividend. Understanding migration pattern and the characteristic of migration is crucial for formulating migration related policies. So the major objective of the present paper is to show trends and pattern of migration in India.

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INTRODUCTION

Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi-permanent residence. Along with fertility and mortality, migration is a component of the population change. A migrant is classified both on the basis of place of birth as well as by place of last residence. Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the regional, national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination places. Migration is an extremely diverse phenomenon. Its economic impact on each origin country and the impact of policy will depend on many circumstances like skill and former employment of migrants, the history of migration, the sectors affected, pattern of trade and production, the investment climate, available information of about the distance and differences in culture between the countries of origin and destination and the restrictive policies of countries etc. The purpose of policymakers in developing countries to establish the transparency, consumer protections, payment system infrastructure are the concerning issues to provide the remittance service. Government should also consider means to prevent and prosecute trafficking and other abuse of migrants and to strengthen migration related partnerships between origin and destination countries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **Lewis (1954)** shows that migration is an equilibrating factor, which causes transfer of labour from the labour surplus sector to labour deficit sector and brings about equality between the two sectors. According to Lewis's theory, rural-urban migration is caused by geographic differences in the supply and demand for labour.
2. **Gupta (1961)** shows that the propensity to migrate varies inversely with the family status. According to his study, the intensity of migration is higher among educated persons from family having small or no agricultural land.
3. **Schultz (1961)** finds that the internal migration to take advantage of better job opportunities has the same nature as an investment in education and health. Accordingly cost of migration must be compared with the returns from migration.
4. **Herrick (1965)** shows that the nature of migration is affected by the educational policy-decision. If educated youths do not have employment opportunities available in the area, they will feel the urge to migrate, while vocational education to imparting skills related to education in rural area and small towns would have the opposite effect.
5. **Lee (1966)** observes that each individual is constantly exposed to a set of factors at origin and destination, a set of intervening obstacles and a series of personal consideration. According to him, decision to migrate or not to migrate stems from the evaluation of all these factors.
6. **Todaro (1969)** formulates a rural-urban migration model which argues that when analyzing the determinants of urban labour supplies one must not look at the prevailing income differential as such but rather at the rural-urban expected income differential i.e., the income differential adjusted for probability of finding an urban job.
7. **Petersen (1975)** concludes that migration changes the size of population and rate of growth of two areas involved. He further finds that most migrants are young adults and their out-migration changes the age structure and also the demographic patterns of both the areas.

There are four migration streams: rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban. Further the stream can be intra-district, intra-state, inter-state. As is evident of majorities of the migrants move within the state, i.e. move within same districts or move to other districts of the same state. Inter-state migration in India is mainly from states having

low agricultural productivities. Orissa, Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, part of Bengal and Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh fell in this category. Inter-state migration takes place for casual and temporary employment in the following spheres.

- 1) Seasonal agricultural labour required at the time of harvesting and for agricultural operations in Punjab, Haryana and western UP.
- 2) Construction labour engaged in irrigation projects, major road and rail projects all over the country.
- 3) Specialized labour like Oriya labour in Madhya Pradesh brick kilns, sugarcane harvesting labour in South Gujarat and other coastal states, textile labour in Surat and Bhivandi in Maharashtra. Data on migration involve two elements i.e. migration stock abroad and migration flows from India. The stock of migrants abroad changes not only with new migration flows but also with returning migration. Migrant population estimates for India differ from one source to the other. Available data show that the Canada, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, The United Kingdom and The United States are the most important countries for outward migration from India while the neighboring South Asian countries Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the most prominent sources of inward migration to India.

Migrants from Bangladesh account for the largest number. The estimates of irregular migration from Bangladesh to India range from 5 million to 20 million. These are concentrated in the state of West Bengal and The North Eastern States notably Assam. In addition, megacities like Delhi and Mumbai also attract Bangladeshi migrants in search of better economic opportunities. The India Nepal border is wide open to people movement making Nepalese the second largest migrant community in India. Estimates about the number of Nepalese migrants in India vary from 1 million to 3 million. Close to 90 percent of Nepalese migrants concentrated in five Indian states Assam, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Some Nepalese also serve in the Indian Army.

As per 2001 census, the total number of internal migrants was 309 million based on place of last residence that constituted nearly 30 per cent of total population. Although number of internal migrants has doubled since 1971 (from 159 million in 1971 to 309 million in 2001), but the proportion continues to be around 30 per cent since 1971 except 1991 census when it has declined to 27 per cent to the total population. It is generally accepted that migration has slowed down during the decade 1981-91 as a result of increased unemployment and sluggish growth in the Indian economy. On the other hand, the proportion of immigrants constitute only 5 per cent of India's population in 2001- a decline of 3 percentage points was observed from the level of 1971. Most of the immigrants are the displaced persons who opted for India during the partition of the country at the time of independence in 1947. Also many came to India at the time of the formation of Bangladesh in 1971. The declining proportion of immigrants shows that many older immigrants have died who came to India half a century ago.

CONCLUSION

The magnitude and variety of internal migration flow in India as well as the distresses associated with them are enormous. A basic overview of this complex phenomenon makes clear that in spite of the vast contribution of migrants to India's economy the social protections available to them still remain sparse. It can be concluded from the above discussion that the population mobility in the country which was decreasing up to 1991, increased often the adaptation of new economic policy. The economy of the country is based on agriculture; as a result rural to rural stream dominates in the migration process. As far as reasons of migration are concerned employment among males and „marriage“ among female is the main reasons of migration in the country. The push and pull factors have dominated much of the understanding of migration. Push factors like low income, low literacy, dependence on agriculture and high poverty are cited as some examples associated with place of origin. On the other hand, high income, high literacy, dominance of industries and services, are the pull factors associated with place of destination. It has been found that both in and out- migration rates have significant positive association with per capita income, percentage of workforce and share of GSDP in the non-agricultural sector.

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