

# Flow of Migration in India

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## ABSTRACT

Migration plays a vital role in the economic activities both at the place of origin as well as at the place of destination. Normally people migrate when they think that the place of destination is more useful to them as compared to the place of origin. There are various push and pull factors responsible for migration. Push and pull factors are those factors which either forcefully push people into migration or attract them to an area. Green revolution is also creating an unprecedented demand for labour from other states in agriculture sector. The present paper is based on secondary data and deal with flow of migration in India.

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## INTRODUCTION

The word 'migration' derives from the Latin 'migrare', which means to change one's residence, but by current definition it means rather to change one's community. A person who moves from one home to another in the same neighbourhood and who, therefore, retains the same social framework, is not deemed a migrant. Literally, the term 'migration' means settlement or shifting of an individual or a group of individuals from one cultural area or physical space to another, more or less permanently. The term has been defined in the New Webster's Dictionary (1966) as (i) the act or an instance of moving from one country, region or place to settle in another and (ii) the act or instance of moving from one area to another in search of work. These days, the meaning and scope of migration has become more complex and it is felt that mobility in physical space cannot fulfill the definition of migration. Different scholars have understood the term migration in different ways.

**Chauhan (1966)**, defines migration as "change of residence from one geographical area to another for a certain specified period of time (one year or more).

**Lee (1966)**, defines migration broadly as "a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. No destination is placed upon the distance of the move or upon the voluntary and in voluntary nature of the act and no distinction is made between external and internal migration.

In the Indian census, the term migration is solely defined by the concepts of place of birth and place of enumeration (**Premi: 1989**). Accordingly a person born at a place other than the village or town of enumeration is considered as migration. Migration may take the form of out migration or in-migration. Out migration which is also known as emigration may be either internal or international.

**Internal migration** based on the place of birth and the place of census enumeration may roughly be classified into three migration streams:

- 1 Intra-district migration: - Movement of people outside the place of enumeration but within the same district.
  - 2 Inter-district migration:- Movement of the people outside the district of enumeration but within the same state/union territory, and
  - 3 Inter-state migration: - movement of the people to the states, union territories in India, but beyond that of enumeration. Further, based on the rural or urban nature of birth place and the place of enumeration, internal migration in India as classified above can also be classified into four migration streams – rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban<sup>1</sup>.
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The individuals who migrate are not only the part of their immediate urban atmosphere, but they also reflect the social and culture condition of the communities of their origin. So, we can say that there are some kinds of interdependence between the communities of origin and the communities of destination. There are some individual as well as some professional factors which compel the various individuals to migrate from one place to another, these may be economic, domestic, educational etc. These factors do affect the life of any individual who migrates and also the societies or communities of that particular individual's place of origin and the place of destination, if we want to know something about any social change taking place in any society, we have to take migration into consideration as an important agent of social change. So we can say that the migration is an important process for human being.

**Rao, M.S.A. (1981):** talks in term of some kind of inter dependence between the locals and the outsiders. He says that the migrants work for the economic and culture development of that particular area in which they migrate. In other words we can say that Rao talks in terms of adjustment between the locals and the migrants.

**Myron Weiner (1978):** has tried to highlight the problem of cultural assimilation of the migrants as a process of social change. So from all these views, we can conclude that migration involves two processes that are immigration and emigration. The persons who migrate are called immigrants at the place of destination and called emigrants at the place of their origin. Then there are two kinds of migration, one is of temporary kinds and the other is of permanent type.

According to **I.L.O. (International Labour Office):** has suggested in its studies that the statistics of temporary migration should cover that person who passes from one country or one place to another for more than a month and not more than a year and on the other hand, the statistics of permanent migration should comprise of those person who move from one place to another for more than a year. Migration was recorded beginning from the first Census of India conducted in 1881. These data were recorded on the basis of place of birth. However, the first major modification was introduced in 1961 Census by bringing in two additional components viz.; place of birth i.e. village or town and duration of residence (if born elsewhere). Further in 1971, additional information on place of last residence and duration of stay at the place of enumeration were incorporated. Information on reasons for migration was incorporated in 1981 Census.

#### **MIGRANTS DEFINED BY PLACE OF BIRTH**

If a person born in the village or town where he/she is being enumerated, the person is not a migrant. However, in case of person born outside the place of enumeration, the enumerators were advised to ascertain if there place of birth was a village or town at present. If village it was considered rural and if town it was urban, but, it is possible that at the time of migration the status of the place of birth might be different particularly in those cases of migration. A person born in other state of India or in any foreign country was recorded accordingly. When a person born on the high seas, it was recorded 'born at sea' and no administrative or territorial status was assigned. However, in the case of person born in train, boat or bus or aircraft etc within the country, the administrative and territorial status was determined for them and recorded in relation to the place where the birth has actually occurred.

It is easy to determine the migrants/non migrants status of a person if place of birth is known, but if a person migrates from his or her place of birth and returns at the time of census enumeration, his or her place of birth and place of enumeration will be the same. As a result the person will not be classified as migrant. The census question on place of birth is, therefore, not able to capture the return migrants.

#### **MIGRANTS DEFINED BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE**

Last residence at some prior place of last residence is most commonly used as measure to determine the migrant's status of a person. In some countries, date is also introduced. For example, census of Mozambique collected data on where people were living 'at the end of the war in 1992' (Bell, 2003). Several instructions provided in determining place of last residence seem to be anomalous and need revision in order to make data on migrants more meaningful for the formulation and evaluation of various policy and programmes of the government. In contrast to the census, the national sample survey organization, a wing of Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation, Government of India has been carrying out all India household surveys once in five year in order to know the employment and unemployment situation in the country. This survey includes a question on migration. The last and the sixth such survey were conducted in July 1999-2000 provided information on internal migration in the country.

However, the differences in defining migrants between the census and National Sample Survey. The concept of Usual Place of Residence is adopted by N.S.S. to define migrants. A usual place of residence is defined as a place (village/town) where the person had stayed continuously for a period of six month or more. According to National Sample Survey “a migrant is defined if he or she had stayed continuously for at least six months or more in a place (village/town) other than the village/town where he and she were enumerated. The village/town where the person had stayed continuously for at least six months or more prior to moving to the place of enumeration was referred to as the last usual place of residence of that migrated person” (National Sample Survey Organization, 2001). In the definition birth occurred in hospital will not be counted as migrants as baby is unlikely to stay six month and more in the hospital.

## DURATION OF RESIDENCE

Indian census does not specify any duration of stay, which is necessary to qualify for reckoning the place of last residence. The census instruction says that the circumstances of each case would have to be taken before deciding a person’s last residence. For example, a Government officer who is transferred for a short period must be moving from his or her place of previous posting, which would become his or her place of last residence irrespective of his or her stay in the new job. However, temporary movement like women moving into hospital for delivery, a person moving into a hospital for treatment etc., at a place other than their usual residence will not be considered as the place of last residence. But in case of a child born in hospital will be treated as the place of last residence for the child, not for the mother (Census of India, 1991). As such, the child will be defined as migrant based on place of last residence, whereas the mother is not.

## TYPES OF MIGRATION

Mainly two types of migration:

1. **Internal Migration**, i.e. migration within one’s country.
2. **International Migration**, i.e. movement (migration) from one’s country to another.

It is possible to identify three types and four streams of internal migration as follows:

### A. Intra-District Migration

- 1) Rural to Urban
- 2) Urban to Rural
- 3) Rural to Rural
- 4) Urban to Urban

### B. Inter-District Migration

- 1) Rural to Urban
- 2) Urban to Rural
- 3) Rural to Rural
- 4) Urban to Urban

### C. Inter-State Migration

- 1) Rural to Urban
- 2) Urban to Rural
- 3) Rural to Rural
- 4) Urban to Urban

Migration of population within the boundary of a district is defined as intra-district migration but when the movement is outside the district but within the state is known as inter- district migration, when the movement beyond the state and union territory (UT) but with in the country is known as inter-state migration.

Migration has been an integral part and a very important factor in redistributing population over time and space. India has witnessed the waves of migrants coming to the country from Central and West Asia and also from Southeast Asia. In fact, the history of India is a history of waves of migrants coming and settling one after another in different parts of the country. Similarly, large numbers of people from India too have been migrating to places in search of better opportunities especially to the countries of the Middle-East, Western Europe, America, Australia and East and South East Asia.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Indians have migrated to different parts of the world at different periods of time. In terms of sheer numbers, they make the third largest group, next only to the British and the Chinese. The people of Indian origin with nearly 20 million populations settled in 70 countries constitute more than 40 per cent of the population in Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana and Surinam. They are smaller minorities in Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, UK, USA and Canada. Historically, Indian emigration to distant lands may be categorized into broadly three types:

- (i) **Pre-colonial migration:** - in Indian context, emigration has been a continuous process since pre-colonial time when it was for the purpose of trade and the propagation of religion. As far as historical and archival data is concerned, Indian emigration goes back to the first century AD when Indian princes, priests, poets and artisans migrated to Southeast Asian countries. Among the distinguished names of this period Angkor Wat, Lara Djonggrang and Borobudur stands testimony. The early emigration from India owed its origins to the Buddhist missionaries, when the Hindu kingdoms of medieval Southeast Asia attract labour and craftsmen from India during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The trade contacts slowly developed and thereby small colonies established themselves in East Africa and Southeast Asia. It is observed that merchants from Gujarat, Bengal and Tamilnadu settled down in the great cities of Southeast Asia like Malacca, Acheh, Ternate and Tidore during this period. They gradually got assimilated with the local people.
- (ii) **Colonial migration:** - it was only in the wake of European imperialist expansion during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century that conditions from emigration of large numbers of Indians of different parts of the world were created. New plantations, industrial and commercial ventures in European colonies needed large supplies of labour and with the abolition of slavery in the British, French and Dutch colonies respectively in 1834, 1846 and 1873, there severe shortage of labour to work in the sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa and rubber plantations. Looking for alternative sources of labour, aside from the African ex-slaves and European immigrants, the colonial government imported Indians under the ingenious scheme of "Indentured labour". Indentured labour is a system in which individual labourers were required to sign an agreement or contract (girmit) to work on a plantation for a specified number of years, usually three to five years. The emigration of indentured labour started during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thousands of Indians emigrated to south and east Africa, Mauritius, Fiji and the Caribbean under this system. Calcutta and Madras were the main ports of embarkment and the major districts for recruiting labour included parts of Madras presidency with Tamil and Telugu populations and the districts of Bhojpuri region of Eastern U.P. and Northern Bihar. Approximately 1.3 million Indians crossed the oceans under contracts of indenture. There are several factors that pushed Indian migrants into seeking employment under indenture. The first was the poor condition that prevailed at that time in India because of the social oppression, shrinking of cottage industry, periodic famine resulting in extreme poverty and unemployment. The West on the other hand was getting affluent because of industrial development. Second, all colonial masters found Indian skillful, hard working and useful, as a result of which the British, the French, the Dutch and the Portuguese all took Indian skilled labour for development of plantations and agricultural economics of their territories. Upon their arrival in the colonies, the immigrants were assigned to plantations to which they were bound for five or more years. They lived in isolated and insulated conditions. Although they were promised fair wages and a return voyage to India in exchange for a predetermined number of years spent working in the colonies, poverty and the desire to build a new life ensured that very few of these indentured labourers ever returned to India. Many chose to settle down permanently in those countries as they neither had the financial resources to neither return back nor hope for better life at back home. Emigration to Sri Lanka, Burma and Malaya presents a marked difference in contract to the African and Caribbean countries. All the emigrants to Sri Lanka and Malaya were from the Southern parts of India and the immigrants were recruited by the headman known as the 'Kangani'. The Indians worked on the tea, coffee and rubber plantations. During the period 1852 and 1937, 1.5 million Indians went to Ceylon, 2 million to Malaya and 2.5 million to Burma. After 1920 the Kangani emigration (totaling around 6 million) gradually gave way to individual or un-recruited, free migration due to fall in demand for Indian labour.
- (iii) **Post – colonial migration :-**

The post world war-II scenario has changed the whole international migration process by affecting each and every migrant country, and India was not far behind in this process. During this period migration was directed towards developed countries and the migrants were mostly constituted talented professionals, skilled labourers, entrepreneurs from the peripheral, colonial and under- developed countries besides Angl- Indians. This post –war migration was totally different from the earlier migration of indentured, kangani and other forms of labour

migration. Large-scale migration of Indians took place during this period to the development countries like the U.K., the U.S.A., Canada, and Australia and New Zealand. Apart from India, Indians from other parts of the world especially from the former colonies (Diasporas) also started coming to these countries. They are best referred to as twice migration. There are two instances: (a) Africanization policies (b) Ethnic violence in which Indians from former colonies express their interest to immigrate to these new lands.

**Types of international migration flow:-** With globalization accentuating the trend in international migration, there is considerable diversity in the types of migration flows. Broadly, such migration can be categorized as authorized or unauthorized and as temporary or long term. Each form of migration has varied impacts on economic and social development at the points of origin and destination.

**Permanent high-skilled migration:-** Over recent decades, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States have selectively granted permanent residence to a limited number of high-skilled foreigners who are likely to offer these countries positive economic benefits. Whereas Australia, Canada and New Zealand operate a points system to rate the desirability of potential immigrants, the United States primarily relies on nominations of potential immigrants by local companies who wish to hire them. Among source countries, India and China lead the way.

**Temporary high-skilled migration:-** In many development countries, programs that grant permanent residence to foreigners who do not have historical or ethnic ties to the destination country are politically difficult. In such cases, governments may seek to fill occupational shortages through the recruitment of high-skilled migrants on a temporary basis. Historically, these flows have been concentrated in education and health-related services. During the 1990s, however, booms in information and communication technology (ICT) led to a shortage of related skills in many high-income countries, resulting in a jump in flows of technology professionals, most from India.

**Temporary low-skilled migration:-** Despite the fast growth of temporary high-skilled migration, these flows are dwarfed by temporary low-skilled migration, in which countries admit migrant workers to provide low-cost services on a strictly temporary basis. Countries typically implement these programs when rapid economic growth has improved the wages and work conditions of the local workforce and left them correspondingly unwilling to work at low-wage jobs. India and Pakistan are major sources of manual laborers and construction workers.

**Family migration:-** Family migration is among the largest official channels of migration and represents a large share of flows from low and middle income countries to high income countries. The mode of migration enables foreign spouses of citizens, children born abroad and even foreign-born parents and siblings of citizens to gain permanent residency.

**Visa free migration and students:-** Visa-free migration exists (with some exceptions) within the European Union, as well as between New Zealand and Australia. This channel grants citizens the right to work for an unlimited time in any of the countries that are party to the agreement. Finally, students who travel to foreign countries for educational purposes have emerged as a major avenue by which young people from developing countries can, having satisfied a number of conditions, obtain the right to work and permanently reside in developed countries.

The large-scale Indian migration to the advanced industrial societies of Europe and North America began in the last sixties, though the history of Indian emigration goes back to the early years of the twentieth century in North America and nineteenth century in Britain. The characteristic features of this type of migration have been its totally voluntary nature and the migration of highly educated professionals and skilled or semi-skilled industrial workers.

## SPATIAL VARIATION IN MIGRATION

Some states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana attract migrants from other states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. Maharashtra occupied first place in the list with 2.3 million net in-migrants, followed by Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh (-2.6 million) and Bihar (-1.7 million) were the states, which had the largest number of net out-migrants from the state.

## CAUSES OF MIGRATION

According to Lee's (1966): push-pull theory divides factors causing migrations into two groups of factors: Push and pull factors are those factors which either forcefully push people into migration or attract them to an area.

Push factors	Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough jobs</li> <li>• Few opportunities</li> <li>• Primitive condition</li> <li>• Desertification</li> <li>• Famine or drought</li> <li>• Political fear or persecution</li> <li>• Poor medical care</li> <li>• Loss of wealth</li> <li>• Natural disasters</li> <li>• Death threats</li> <li>• Slavery</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Poor housing</li> <li>• Landlord / tenant issues</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• Poor chances of marrying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunities</li> <li>• Better living condition</li> <li>• Political and religious freedom</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• industry</li> <li>• Enjoyment</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Better chances of marrying</li> </ul>

## CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION

Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas; people migrate from and migrate to. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

**Economic Consequences:** - A major benefit for the source region (place of origin) is the remittance sent by migrants. Remittances from the international migrants are one of the major sources of foreign exchange. In 2002, India received US\$ 11 billion as remittances from international migrants. Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu receive very significant amount from their international migrants. The amount of remittances sent by the internal migrants is very meager as compared to international migrants, but it plays an important role in the growth of economy of the source area. Remittances are mainly used for food, repayment of debts, treatment, marriages, children's education, agricultural inputs, construction of houses, etc. For thousands of the poor villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, etc. remittance works as life blood for their economy. Migration from rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to the rural areas of Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh accounted for the success of their green revolution strategy for agricultural development.

Besides this, unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding. Development of slums in industrially developed states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi is a negative consequence of unregulated migration within the country.

**Demographic Consequences:** - Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country. Rural urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population growth of cities. Age and skill selective out migration from the rural area have adverse effect on the rural demographic structure. However, high out migration from Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Eastern Maharashtra have brought serious imbalances in age and sex composition in these states.

**Social Consequences:** - Migrants act as an agent of social change. The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girl's education, etc. get diffused from urban to rural areas through them. Migration leads to intermixing of people from diverse cultures. It has positive contribution such as evolution of composite culture and breaking through the narrow considerations and widens up the mental horizon of the people at large. But it also has serious negative consequences such as anonymity, which creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals. Continued feeling of dejection may motivate people to fall in the trap of anti-social activities like crime and drug abuse.

**Environmental Consequences:** - Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas. This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and

formation of slums shanty colonies. Apart from this, due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution and disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

**Others Consequences:** - Migration (even excluding the marriage migration) affects the status of women directly or indirectly. In the rural areas, male selective out migration leaving their wives behind puts extra physical as well mental pressure on the women. Migration of 'women' either for education or employment enhances their autonomy and role in the economy but also increases their vulnerability. If remittances are the major benefits of migration from the point of view of the source region, the loss of human resources particularly highly skilled people is the most serious cost. The market for advanced skills has become truly a global market and the most dynamic industrial economies are admitting and recruiting significant proportions of the highly trained professionals from poor regions. Consequently, the existing underdevelopment in the source region gets reinforced.

Migration plays a vital role in the economic activities both at the place of origin as well as at the place of destination. Normally people migrate when they think that the place of destination is more useful to them as compared to the place of origin.

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