

## Causes and consequences of migration

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### Abstract:

*Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence.*

*The **causes** can be put into two broad categories: (i) **push factor**, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin; and (ii) **pull factors**, which attract the people from different places. In India people migrate mainly due to marriage of women, poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc. Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake also reasons for migration,*

***Consequences** of migration can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms. Unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding, increased crime and development of slums which is a negative consequence of unregulated migration. Cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes .A major benefit for the source region is the remittance sent by migrants. Remittances from the international migrants are one of the major sources of foreign exchange. 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.*

*Governments at State and Central level should take measures to 1. Reduce the migration due to **push factors** and 2.Liberalize the norms / regulations that facilitate migration due to **pull factors**.*

**Keywords:** Push factor, pull factor, migration

**Introduction:**

India lives in its villages, and while the cities have grown immensely over the last 20 years, rural areas have not seen that kind of development. Rural areas are still plagued by problems of malnourishment, illiteracy, unemployment and lack of basic infrastructure like schools, colleges, hospitals, sanitation, etc. For India's economy to be strong, the rural economy needs to grow. If rural India is poor, India is poor. India will grow only when rural India marches hand in hand with cities in the twenty first century. This has led to people moving out of villages to work in cities.

**Migration:**

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. People, generally is emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence.

National Sample Survey Organization (*NSSO*) (2008) defined migration as "A household member whose last Usual Place of Residence (*UPR*) any time in the past was different from the present place of enumeration was considered as a migrant member in a household." Census of India (2001) defined "A person is considered as a migrant by place of last residence, if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of immediate last residence."

While, population studies defines: "migration implies a permanent or at least a semi-permanent change in the place of residence of an individual from one location to another."

**The International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Geneva defines Migration** as "The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification". **Forced migration** - A migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects).

In nutshell, permanent or semi –permanent change in the place of residence of an individual is a basic characteristic of the migration.

**Types of migration:**

There are two types of migration. First is **International** Migration and second is **Internal** Migration. International migration implies that when the national boundary of a country is involved in migration, while, when migration takes place within the national boundary of a country it is called internal migration.

Marriage and Employment drive the migration patterns in India. The major reason for women to migrate is due to marriage and for men it is search for better employment/transfer. Women who marry and migrate are involved in Domestic Duties, while men who migrate are employed as wage employees. Rural to Rural Migration is dominant, and very rarely urban population moves to Rural .Intra-state migration is higher than the inter-state migration.

Migration is stimulated by rational economic considerations of relative benefits and costs.The decision to migrate depends on expected rather than actual urban-rural wage differentials. The probability of obtaining of urban job is directly related to urban employment rate.

Internal migration (movement from one place to another in India) is the most common type of movement for India. International Migrants Day is observed on **18 December**.

**International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, UNESCO and ILO are some international organizations that work for better living conditions of migrants across the globe.**

#### **Causes of migration:**

The Causes can be put into two broad factors (i) **PUSH FACTORS**, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin, the push factor is forceful and which relates to the country which a person migrates. A push factor is a flaw or distress that drives a person away from a certain place, some of the push factors include poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, not enough jobs, few opportunities "primitive" conditions, desertification famine/drought, political fear ,poor medical care, loss of wealth, natural disasters, death threats, slavery, pollution, poor housing land lords bullying, poor chances of finding courtship etc., and are reasons for people in India to migrate from rural to urban areas.

And (ii) **PULL FACTORS**, which attract the people from different places. A pull factor is something concerning the country to which a person migrates. It is generally a benefit that attracts people to certain place. Some major pull factors include: job opportunities, better living, political and/or/religious freedom enjoyment, better medical care, education, security, family links, and industry better chances of finding courtships.

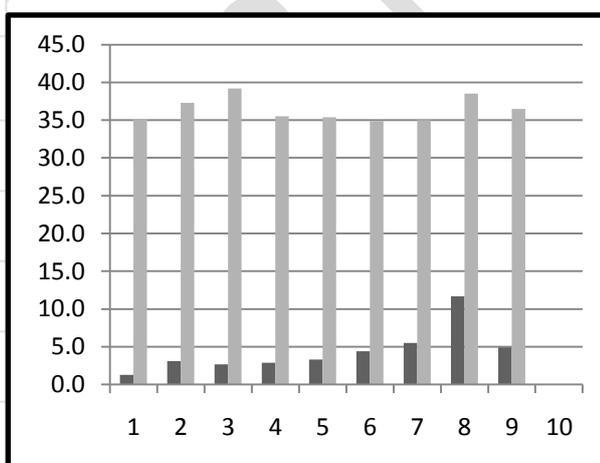
In India people migrate mainly due to marriage of women, poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc. Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake also are reasons for migration, Census of India and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducts periodic surveys and record patterns, trends and intensity of migration and this data is used by, economists, planners, researchers, and policy makers for various purposes.

Migration is broadly categorized into the following four streams

- (a) Rural to rural
- (b) Rural to rural
- (c) Urban to urban and
- (d) Urban to rural.

In addition to the above streams, migration is also categorized on the basis of duration such as short term, temporary and permanent. The following tables from the NSSO give us a brief picture of migration.

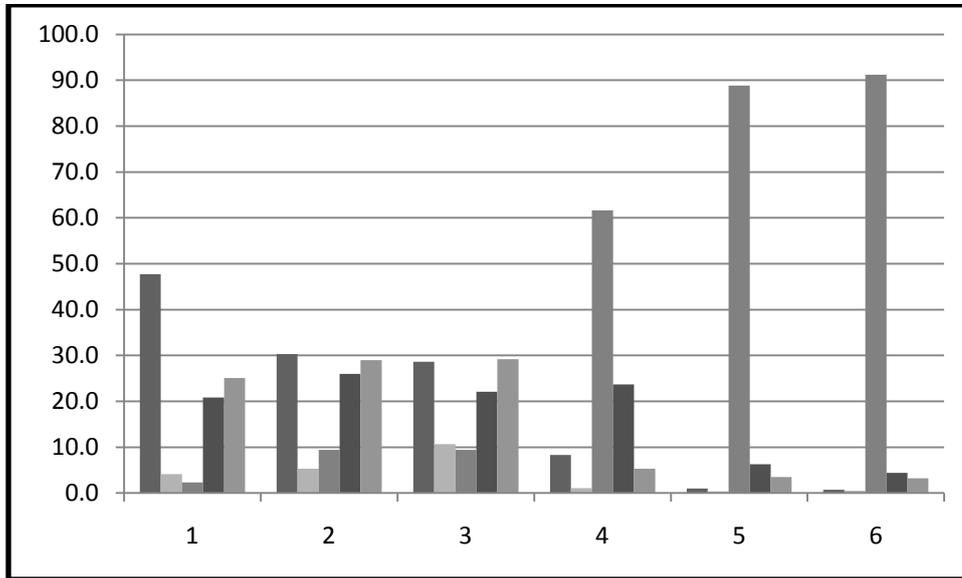
CATEGORY OF PERSONS	rural-male	rural- female	rural person
1983	7.2	35.1	20.9
1987-88	7.4	39.8	23.2
1993	6.5	40.1	22.8
1999-2000	6.9	42.6	24.4
2007-08	5.4	47.7	26.1



Notes: Migrant: A household member whose last usual place of residence (UPR), anytime in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration is considered as a migrant member in a household; UPR: UPR of a person is defined as a place (village/town) where the person has stayed continuously for a period of 6 months or more.

REASONS FOR MIGRATION	MALES			FEMALES		
	1993	1999-2000	2007-08	1993	1999-2000	2007-08
EMPLOYMENT	47.7	30.3	28.6	8.3	1	0.7
STUDIES	4.1	5.3	10.7	1.1	0.4	0.5
MARRIAGE	2.3	9.4	9.4	61.6	88.8	91.2
MOVEMENT OF PARENTS/EARNING MEMBER	20.8	26	10.7	23.7	6.3	4.4
OTHER REASONS	25.1	29	29.2	5.3	3.5	3.2

Notes: Migrant: A household member whose last usual place of residence (UPR), anytime in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration is considered as a migrant member in a household; UPR: UPR of a person is defined as a place (village/town) where the person has stayed continuously for a period of 6 months or more.



We can observe from the above table 1 the migration rate of rural persons is constantly increasing since 1983 and reached to about 26 percent by 2007-08 which is alarming and needs intervention by the governments at various levels for reducing migration.

From the above table 2 we can infer that the major reasons for males for migration are employment related, movement of parents and studies whereas for females the primary reason is marriage.

It is desired that migration rate of *urban to rural* is high which is called reverse migration, that will result in better living conditions to the population of India at large both in rural and urban areas.

Table 2.5: State-wise Proportion of Internal Migrants by Type of Migration (Per Cent) (2007–08)

States	Rural-to-rural			Rural-to-urban			Urban-to-urban			Urban-to-rural		
	Males	Females	Persons									
Andhra Pradesh	33.3	68.0	59.5	41.3	19.1	24.5	17.8	7.7	10.2	7.6	5.2	5.8
Arunachal Pradesh	26.4	40.5	30.5	28.7	28.6	28.1	16.1	26.2	21.1	28.7	4.8	20.3
Assam	49.2	83.6	77.4	35.7	9.0	13.8	11.7	3.5	5.0	3.5	4.0	3.9
Bihar	28.5	83.5	79.2	49.2	8.5	11.7	16.9	3.6	4.7	5.4	4.3	4.4
Chhattisgarh	42.1	79.8	73.1	30.2	10.5	14.0	18.2	6.3	8.4	9.5	3.4	4.5
Delhi	3.2	4.9	4.0	57.5	53.9	55.9	37.5	38.7	38.1	1.7	2.5	2.1
Goa	16.6	29.1	24.5	35.0	36.3	35.8	43.0	28.5	33.9	5.4	6.1	5.9
Gujarat	19.1	63.2	53.5	54.1	20.6	28.0	21.1	11.1	13.3	5.7	5.1	5.2
Haryana	20.1	67.9	59.8	51.1	16.4	22.3	20.9	10.1	11.9	7.8	5.7	6.0
Himachal Pradesh	37.0	86.4	75.5	16.8	6.0	8.4	7.4	2.5	3.6	38.9	5.1	12.6
Jammu & Kashmir	28.1	80.0	74.4	27.2	9.2	11.1	19.9	6.4	7.9	24.7	4.3	6.9
Jharkhand	17.7	79.0	71.8	43.6	7.9	12.1	36.1	9.2	12.3	2.5	3.9	3.7
Karnataka	24.7	66.2	56.1	33.3	16.8	20.8	27.9	11.8	15.7	14.2	5.2	7.4
Kerala	53.4	67.4	63.5	16.5	15.0	15.4	13.3	7.4	9.1	16.9	10.1	12.0
Madhya Pradesh	31.1	71.0	66.6	32.5	13.2	15.4	29.5	10.5	12.7	6.9	5.2	5.4
Maharashtra	22.0	58.1	47.7	42.0	20.5	26.7	29.7	15.9	19.9	6.3	5.5	5.8
Manipur	51.4	30.7	39.4	20.3	37.6	30.3	14.9	28.7	22.3	13.5	3.0	8.0
Meghalaya	58.1	60.5	59.3	11.8	14.4	12.8	5.0	9.7	7.1	25.1	15.5	20.8
Mizoram	32.8	29.0	30.7	33.3	33.6	33.5	30.0	32.1	31.1	4.0	5.3	4.7
Nagaland	15.9	31.1	24.1	34.3	30.0	32.0	26.0	22.4	24.0	23.8	16.4	19.8
Odisha	33.6	83.0	76.3	30.9	9.4	12.3	24.5	5.1	7.7	11.0	2.5	3.6
Punjab	26.9	61.1	54.7	41.7	14.0	19.2	20.8	17.8	18.4	10.6	7.1	7.7
Rajasthan	31.2	74.8	68.2	46.5	12.8	17.9	15.0	8.5	9.5	7.3	3.8	4.4
Sikkim	63.2	73.8	70.0	15.2	11.0	12.5	12.2	7.4	9.2	9.5	7.8	8.3
Tamil Nadu	25.2	52.7	45.8	33.1	23.7	26.1	30.1	16.2	19.7	11.6	7.4	8.5
Tripura	65.9	75.9	73.5	25.7	14.5	17.3	6.4	5.6	5.8	2.0	3.9	3.4
Uttar Pradesh	26.0	76.5	71.1	37.2	10.8	13.6	26.4	8.6	10.5	10.4	4.1	4.7
Uttarakhand	35.6	69.2	59.5	21.7	11.5	14.4	25.4	12.7	16.4	17.3	6.6	9.7
West Bengal	27.3	74.4	67.4	33.2	10.9	14.2	31.0	11.0	13.9	8.6	3.7	4.4
All-India	27.2	70.0	61.7	39.0	14.8	19.5	24.8	10.3	13.1	8.9	4.9	5.7

From the table 1.3:if we look into the all India figures, we can observe that rural to rural migration is highest followed by rural to urban and lowest from urban to rural. There are 14 states(Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh , Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura , Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal )where the migration rate is higher than the all India figure of 61.7 in respect of rural – rural migration. Similarly there are about 12 states where rural-urban migration rate is higher than the all India figure of 19.5. The urban-urban migration rate for all India is 13.1 and for 12 states the figures is higher. For urban –rural migration rate of 13 states is higher that the all India figure of 5.7.

### Consequences:

Major consequences of migration can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms. Unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding, increased crime and development of slums which is a negative consequence of unregulated migration. Cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, and disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

Internal migrants, of which 70.7 percent are women, are excluded from the economic, cultural, social and political lives of society and are often treated as second-class citizens. The constraints faced by migrants are many- lack of formal residency rights; lack of identity proof; lack of political representation; inadequate housing; low-paid, insecure or hazardous work; limited access to state –provided services such as health and education and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender. In the absence of proofs of identity and residence, internal migrants are unable to claim social protection entitlement and remain excluded from government sponsored schemes and programs. Children face disruption of regular schooling, adversely affecting their human capital formation and contributing to the inter-generational transmission of poverty. Further, migrants are negatively portrayed as a “burden” to society, discouraged from settling down and excluded from urban planning initiatives.

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.

Brain drain causes great loss to the source nation. It refers to the emigration of intelligent, well-educated individuals for better pay or conditions, causing their places of origin to lose skilled people, or “brains”. When the expatriates are going abroad in search of greener pastures, India has been losing its major skilled workforce that includes doctors, engineers, scientists and technicians. If we analyze the brain drain trends in India, we could find that there are many reasons why the country fails to hold back its talented youth.

There are some *positive consequences* of migration also. A major benefit for the source region 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.

Note: Any former member of a household who left the household, any time in the past, for stay outside the village/town is considered as out-migrant provided s/he is alive on the date of the survey

The below table 4 gives us average money received in reference to *Monthly per Capita Expenditure* (MPCE) deciles from both internal and out migrants.

Migrants act as agents 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.

**Table 4: All-India Proportion of Households Reporting Out-migrants and Reporting Receipt of Remittance (Per Cent) and Average Remittance Received (Rural) (Rs) (2007–08)**

MPCE decile class	No. of households reporting out-migrant per 100 households	No. of households reporting out-migrant to another country per 100 households reporting out-migrant	No. of households received remittance per 100 households reporting out-migrant	Average amount of remittance received per reporting household (Rs)
0–10	20.8	1.0	36.2	9,300
20–30	26.5	1.3	35.1	12,200
30–40	27.4	3.1	37.3	12,600
40–50	27.7	2.7	39.2	14,800
50–60	29.0	2.9	35.5	16,500
60–70	29.6	3.3	35.4	17,000
70–80	33.4	4.4	34.9	17,900
80–90	34.8	5.5	35.0	22,800
90–100	41.7	11.7	38.5	40,300
<b>All groups</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>20,700</b>

#### CONCLUSION:

Migration can affect the economy of the nation in the context of India being agriculture based and labour intensive. Agriculture contributes nearly one-fifth of the gross domestic product in India. Our country needs food grains to feed our population and the quantum of food grains to feed our population and the quantum of food grain production needs to be in line with the growing population. This can be met with more people living in rural areas, engaged in agriculture and related activities. Otherwise we need to import from other countries which is a huge burden on the government by way of expenditure resulting in loss of foreign exchange.

In order to increase the growth of agriculture, the government has planned several programs pertaining to Rural Development in India. Agriculture, handicrafts, fisheries, poultry, and dairy are the primary contributors to the rural business and economy.

Rural development aims at improving rural people's livelihoods in an equitable and sustainable manner, both socially and environmentally, through better access to assets (natural, physical, human, technological and social capital), and services, and control over productive capital (in its financial or economic and political forms) that enable them to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable and equitable basis.

The basic objectives of Rural Development Programs have been alleviation of poverty and unemployment through creation of basic social and economic infrastructure, provision of training to rural unemployed youth and providing employment to marginal Farmers/Laborers to discourage seasonal and permanent migration to urban areas.

Following major development programs are being implemented by the governments at different levels to reduce internal migration, better living conditions and increased purchase power of people living in rural areas.

1. MGNREGS provides 100 days of employment in a year to every household
2. Support for construction of Houses through Indira Awaas Yojana
3. National Rural Health Mission to provide better health care
4. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) to improve educational facilities
5. Mid day Meal (MDM) to attract and reduce school drop outs
6. Total sanitation campaign(TSC) to provide sanitary latrines to improve sanitation and reduce health hazards
7. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to enhance skills of rural people and improve livelihood activities.

The Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, allocated More than 1,00,000 crores of rupees for the program called Digital India. This program envisages creation of digital infrastructure across the nation. This will open up entrepreneur and employment opportunities for providing IT enabled services (ITES) in rural areas and reduces internal migration.

Initiatives for development of skills for taking up livelihoods, providing funds/loans for setting up enterprises, opening of health care and education facilities at affordable price, provision of implements for better agriculture practices resulting in better yield, provision and supply of electricity for long hours, protected drinking water and security to assets will contribute to reduction of internal migration to a large extent.

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