Migration in India: Causes and consequences

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Abstract

Migration is a form of spatial mobility of population between one geographical unit and another involving a permanent change of residence (UN, 1958). The census of India defines migration by place of birth or residence. If a person was born at a place other than the place of enumeration, then he is treated as migrant. For a large country like India, the study of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society better. The study describes the factors responsible for migration. In rural areas, due to less employment opportunities, low wages, drought, lack of basic amenities, landlessness, social factors act, people migrate to urban areas to get more employment opportunities, higher income, better wages, better facilities activities. A large part of migrated population particularly in large and metropolitan cities lives in marginal settlements, slums and squatter areas with limited infrastructure services threatening health, environmental degradation of urban areas, traffic and other problems of urban areas. The paper is an attempt to understand the concept of migration, its causes and consequences in India.

Keywords: migration, movement, pull and push factors, consequences

Introduction

Migration is a natural process that often happens depending on the socio-economic, demographic, cultural, political and environmental factors related to the migrant people. Migration is not a mere shift of people from one place of residence to another. It is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space content and space relationships of areas (Gosal, 1961) [2]. Bogue (1959) [1] considers it an instrument of cultural diffusion and social integration which yields more meaningful redistribution of population. Smith (1960) has stated about three-fold impacts of migration on (1) the area of out- migration (2) the area of in-migration and (3) the migrants. The persons of the areas of out- migration decrease while the population of in- migration increases. The migration from rural to urban areas has been increasing slowly with industrialization and modernization in India. The main reason for migration is employment or business related migration. The male migration constitutes the highest level of migration in India due to employment purpose. The female usually migrates as accompanists of males through several other factors like after marriage or family transfer, but with the recent survey single females are also slowly increasingly moving out in search of a jobs. There are many definition of migration. According to Lee, 'Migration is permanent or semi-permanent change of residence." According to Weinberg, "Human migration as change of place permanently or temporarily for an appreciable duration as in case of seasonal worker. According to Safa, "Migration is normally viewed as an economic phenomenon through non-economic factors obviously has some bearing (Singh, 1989) [6].

Migration process has been one of most dynamic human activities from the very beginning of human life. In early days people moved from one forest to another in search of forest products. When most of people divorced forest life and adopted civilized life they developed relationship with domesticated animals and fertile land. As a result, mobility of mankind changed considerably. The people continued to move from one region to another in search of fertile land for developing cultivation. The people moved from early civilized area to other parts of world, partly for agricultural purposes or for trade and partly for investigation. Migration of the people to big cities takes from all the corners of the country with different social and cultural background. When such people meet in cities and stop living together, a new cosmopolitan culture develops. Such cultures are more liberal, impersonal, self-centered and more materialistic.

Migration and census of India

Migration data were recorded at the time of first census in 1881 based on the place of birth. In 1961, modification were made to include place of birth and duration of residence. 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 in1981 census and modified in consecutive censuses. In the census of India, migration is enumerated on the following two bases: (1) Place of birth: if the place of birth is different from the place of enumeration (known as life- time migrant)
(2) Place of residence: if the place of last residence is different from the place of (known as migrant by place of last residence).

Migration in India is primarily of two types (1) Long term migration- resulting the relocation of an individual or household (2) Short term migration- involving a back and forth movement between a source and destination. Mostly short term migration belongs to socially economically deprived groups such as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes having negligible educational attainment, limited assets and resource deficits. Between2001-11, about 5.65 million people migrated annually. Migration is rising to 4.5 percent per annum in 2001-11 from2.4 percent in 1991-2001.About 45.31 crore (37%) people in India are migrants and above 80 percent

migrants are males (Srivastava, 2011). The north Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have highest percentage of rural population with 18.6 and 11.1 percent of people living in villages in 2011. These states are largest migrants sending states. Substantial flow of labour migrants relocates from Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Punjab and Haryana. Other major migrants sending states are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand.9b7 All the major sending states are characterized by low social and economic development. Cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta are largest destination for internal migration in India. Seasonal migration vary by area and industry. Numbers of people from drought prone areas including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka migrate seasonally to work in brick making, construction, tile factory and crop cutting. About 90 percent of labourers in construction industry are internal migrants. Seasonal migration is also attracted by agricultural work such as rice harvest in West Bengal, sugar cane in Gujarat.

Causes of Migration
Urbanization: Urbanization has been a major driver of internal migration. Rates of urbanization influence rural-urban wage differences. An increase in the demand for labour in urban areas can attract urban wages and increase migration. The pull factors of better job facilities, good salary, and more income, medical and educational facilities are attracting the rural people to move to the cities (Kundu, 2012) [5]. The push factors of no job facilities, low salary, less income, drought, less medical and education compel people towards cities.

Marriage: Marriage is a very important social factor of migration. Every girl has to migrate to her in-law's place of residence. Thus, the entire female population of India has to migrate over short or long distance. About 49.35 the percent people shifted their residence after marriage in 2011.

Employment
People migrate in large number from rural to urban areas in search of employment in industries, trade, transport and services. The rural areas does not provide employment to all the people living there. Even the small-scale and cottage industries of the villages fail to provide employment to the entire rural community. About 10.22 per cent of migrants migrated for employment in 2011(Table 1).

Table 1: India: Migration by reason, 2001-11

	2001(%)	2011(%)
Work/employment	14.70	10.22
Business	1.20	0.96
Education	3.00	1.77
Marriage	43.80	49.35
Moved after birth	6.70	10.57
Moved with household	21.00	15.39
Other reason	9.70	11.74

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Education
Due to lack of educational facilities in rural areas, people migrate to the urban areas for higher education. Many of them settle down in the cities for earning a livelihood after completing their education. In 2011 census, about 1.77 percent people migrated for education.

Lack of Security
Political disturbances and interethnic conflicts drive people away from their homes. Large number of people has migrated out of Jammu and Kashmir and Assam during the last due to disturbed conditions there. People also migrate on a short-term basis in search of better opportunities for recreation, health care facilities etc.

'Pull' and 'Push' Factors: Two principle factors- push and pull are responsible for migration. The push factors are poverty, lack of work opportunities, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic condition, lack of opportunities, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities, scarcity of cultivated land, inequitable land distribution, low agricultural productivity etc., Pull factors attract migrant to an area (area of destination), like, employment and higher education opportunities, higher wages facilities, better working condition. Millions of people migrated from their far-off villages to the big cities of Kolkata, Mumbai or Delhi. The appalling living conditions like slums, lack of safe water, absence of sanitation, overcrowding with the attendant increase in crime, insecurity for women, sexual abuse and exposure to frequent epidemics and AIDs are the immediate outcome of this population shift.

Consequences of migration
Migration affects both the area of origin of migration and the areas of destination of the migrant population. The consequences of migration can be defined as.
1. Demographic consequences: Migration changes the characteristics of the population in regions of out migration and regions of in- migration. It changes age and sex composition of population with rate of growth of population. The proportion of old, children and females increases due to out- migration in source region. The high sex ratio is found in the source areas because mostly the youthful male population is involved in migration. Consequently, these areas are depleted of the youth population and results in lowered rates of births and lower population growth rates.
2. Social consequences: Migration results in intermixing of diverse cultures and leads to the evolution of composite culture. It breaks the narrow thoughts and widens the mental horizon of the people. In history, India received migrants from different cultural groups causing different cultures but sometimes migration creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals and people fall in crimes and drug abuse (Khullar, 2014) [4].
3. Economic consequences: Migration changes the resource-population ratio. If the people are moving from an over populated area to an area of under population the result is in the balancing of the resource- population ratio. If the migration is from an area of under population to over population or optimal populated, the results are harmful to both the areas. Migration affects the occupational structure of population. The population of receiving areas becomes more productive causing dependency ratio in the source areas. Brain drain is another consequence of migration. Skilled people migrate from poorer countries to developed countries in search of better economic opportunities. People migrating out send remittance to their families at home and add to economic prosperity.

4. Environmental consequences: Large scale movement of people from rural to urban areas causes overcrowding in cities and puts heavy pressure on resources. It causes haphazard growth of cities and causes slums lacking basic infrastructural facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, sewage etc. Overcrowding is also responsible for any environmental problems of air, water, land and noise pollution, disposable and management of solid wastes.

5. Other consequences: Migration enhances remittances to the source region but causes heavy loss to human resource, in terms of skilled labour. Leg- behind women enjoy empowerment effects with increased interaction in society including their partnership as workers and decision making of households.

Policies for Migration

Due to the increasing trends of shifting people from rural to urban areas, urban areas are suffering from many problems such as slums, high population density, overcrowding and lack of infrastructural facilities. So, government has started some Rural Development Programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) etc. These programmes were also necessary for the development of the rural areas of the country but all are not sufficient to stop rural-urban migration. The Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) is one of the five major components of former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdual Kalam's dream, his vision2020 for a developed India. The PURA defers from the conventional ideas of economic development of rural areas in different ways. It aims at a comprehensive development of rural areas to generate urban level income and not mere poverty alleviation. It seeks modern industry investment in the migration from rural to urban in intra state is been increasing slowly with industrialization and modernization in India.

Suggestions

1. Increase financial and human resources in migration prone areas
2. Promote public- private partnership for promotion of safe internal migration
3. Providing banking facilities for migrants to enable safe and secure transfer of remittances.
4. More focus in national development plans (Five Year Plans, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and City Development Plans).
5. Establishment of a universal national minimum social security package covering minimum wages and labour standards and incorporating portability of benefits in all government social protection schemes and public services.
6. Design special outreach strategies for migrants within public services and government programmes.
7. Adopting development strategies in backward areas such as sustainable livelihood opportunities, food security programmes and creating opportunities for access to credit.
8. Revise the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (1979)

Conclusion

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. People move in search of employment, better educational and health facilities etc. The male migration constitutes the highest level of migration in India due to employment purpose. The female usually migrates as accompanists of males through several other factors like after marriage or family transfer. More people migrate to urban areas because small land holding, low income, low living standard, less agricultural productivity compels them to migrate in urban areas where diversification of economy and urbanization provides a lot of job opportunities. But overcrowding in cities causes many environmental problems such as land, water, and air pollution, over utilization of resources. So, there is a need to provide employment facilities in rural areas to minimize the rural to urban migration and to prevent to move to cities. A large percentage of the rural population should be able to make decent living through non-agricultural occupations. All basic amenities like roads, electricity, safe drinking water, health facilities (health centers), job opportunities in business and service sectors should be develop by the government in rural areas.

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