

Research Paper



DYNAMICS OF INTERNAL LABOUR MOBILITY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Research subject: The pattern of growth under globalization has impacted on the pace of migration in the last two decades has increased the gap between rural and urban areas, and it has steadily concentrated in a few areas and a few states. **Purpose:** This study attempted to present the trends in flow of migrants in various phases. Paper discusses on growing migration patterns and streams in detail. It also highlights the socio-economic drivers of migration. **Methodology:** The methodology used in this study was quantitative in nature, based on Census and NSSO data. **Results:** Unbalanced regional development in India have major influence on migration. It is also found that uneven spread of migration across states. The paper ends with policy recommendations for promotion of safe migration in order to accrue its benefits and to this end, need to conduct detailed mapping of internal migration for better understanding of migration.

KEYS WORDS: Internal migration, Streams of migration, National Sample Survey Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration is a universal phenomenon and throughout human history, people have migrated to escape poverty and to improve their life chances and living standards. In recent years, focus on migration and development has increased the attention of researchers as well as policy makers due to its role in the process of economic development and social transformation,

In the Indian context, it is observed that less mobility of Indian population is due to high dependency on agriculture for livelihood, presence of rigid of caste system, strong community ties, low level of education, and the difference of languages and culture. (Davis, 1951). Pre economic reforms period witnessed decline in internal migration (Kundu and Gupta, 1996; Srivastava, 1998; Bhagat, 2010). Post economic reforms period witnessed increase in internal migration due to multiple factors. (Srivastava, 2012; Parida and Madheswaran, 2010; Mahapatro, 2012).

Objectives of the study:

1. To analyze the changing trends and patterns of internal migration in India during 1981-2001 period.
2. To examine magnitude and main streams of internal migration in India
3. To identify the driving factors contributing to the decision to migrate

2. CONCEPTUAL AND DATA ISSUES

Analyzing the overall migration trends and its developmental into nations require a careful study of data from across regions, times and sources. Two major sources of data on internal migration in India are Census of India and National Sample Survey Organization. Both these sources same definition of migrant, any person who lives in a place that is different than their place of birth or place of last residence at the time of enumeration is defined as migrant. In both the surveys, migrant with more than six months or more taken into consideration.

3. MIGRATION: TRENDS AND PATTERN

Table 1 shows the share of internal migrants in India over the last three decades. Table reveals that 30 percent of India's population is classified as migrants in 2001 Census and further females are more subject to mobile than males in the country. According to NSS 2007-2008 migrants account 28.5 per cent of the total population which is similar to the Census in terms of female predominance, and male domination in urban streams. However, there slight difference in emerging trends in migration from the two sources of data.

According to Census table.1 percentage of migrants in the population, as per 'place of last residence' has come down from 30.3 percent in 1981 to 27.0 percent in 1991. However growth of communication and transport facilities between rural and urban areas has resulted in decline in population mobility. (Hassan, 2007: 71)



**Table: 1 Internal Migrants as Percentage to Total Population in India, 1981-2001
(As per place of last residence criterion)**

Census Years	All Areas			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1981	30.30	17.22	44.30	28.29	12.06	45.34	36.80	33.24	40.84
1991	27.00	14.05	40.85	25.56	9.71	42.45	30.91	26.28	36.10
2001	30.07	17.04	44.05	27.98	11.14	45.79	35.51	31.98	39.44

Note: The Migration figures for 1981 exclude Assam and the 1991 figures exclude J&K.

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables D-01 and D-02 for various years.

Studies reveal that mobility is also said to have decreased due to rise in social and political constraints (Kundu and Gupta, 2002: 264). But in 2001 census the percentage of migrants has increased by 3.07 percentage points due shift in our economic policy in 1991. Liberalization and privatization policies have attracted investments to those areas that were already developed and had better infrastructural facilities. People started migrating from The situation in some underdeveloped states to developed areas. As a result of lopsided development, interregional income inequality was

further widened and impacted the migration process in the country (Bhagat, 2010; Hassan and Daspatanayak, 2007: 69). Urban population is more mobile than rural, over 35 per cent of population classified as migrants in the urban areas, whereas one-fourth of its population are reported as migrants in rural areas. Further, it is observed sex differential in mobility, with female population is more mobile than male population, both in rural and urban areas. However, higher mobility rate among females in the country is due to marriage. However, excluding NSSO 49th round the successive rounds of the NSS, shows increasing total migration rates since 1983.

Table.2. Migration rates (per 1000 persons) obtained from different NSS rounds.

NSSO round(year)	Category of persons in rural area			Category of persons in urban area		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
38 th (1983)	72	351	209	270	366	316
43 th (1988)	74	398	232	268	396	329
49 th (1993)	65	401	228	239	382	307
55 th (1999)	69	426	244	257	418	334
64 th (2007)	54	477	261	259	456	354

Source. NSS Report 533, p. 23.

As shown in table.2, the NSS findings are that these trends are mainly due to rising female migration rates both in rural and urban areas. It is observed that in both the rural and urban areas, migration rates have been gradually increasing during the period 1983 to 2007-08, except for a marginal fall in migration rate in NSS 49th round. The migration rates increased from 21 per cent in 1983 to 26 per cent in 2007-08 in rural areas and from 32 per cent in 1983 to 35 per cent in 2007-08 in urban areas. However, this increase in migration rate is observed to be primarily due to the increase in migration rates for females. It is observed that the male migration rates have shown a downward trend. In the rural areas, the male migration rate has decreased by 2 percentage points from 7 per cent in 1983 to 5 per cent in 2007-08, while the migration rate for females has increased by 13 percentage points from 35 per cent in 1983 to 48 per cent in 2007-08. The similar trend has been observed in the urban areas, where the male migration rate has decreased by 1 percentage point from 27 per cent in 1983 to 26 per cent in 2007-08 while female migration rate has increased by 9 percentage points from 37 per cent in 1983 to 46 per cent in 2007-08.

3.1. Magnitude of migration

In 2001, the Census reported 30.9 crore internal migrants and by NSSO 2007-2008 estimates 32.6 crore or 28.5 per cent of the population. Indian migrants are primarily of two types: Long-term migration and short term migration. Estimates of short term migrants vary from 15 million (NSSO 2007-2008) to 100 million (Deshingkar and Akter 2009).

Short-term migrants commute between source and destination higher among the poor and especially SCs and STs having low educational attainment, little assets and resource deficits. Among the total internal migrants, 70.7 per cent were women and almost two thirds of the migrants (67.2 per cent) were rural and remaining 32.8 per cent urban. Urban stream is dominated by male migrants and in more distant streams. The percentage of intra-district migration was dominated by females with 66.9 per cent and males with 52.2 per cent. This shows females are more mobile at shorter distances, whereas males dominate in distant streams like inter-district and inter-state migration with 26.7 per cent and 21.1 per cent, respectively, compared with, 23 per cent and 10.1 per cent, respectively, for female migrants in these streams. Major migrants source states include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, whereas receiving host destination states are Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala and Karnataka. Prominent migration corridors within the country include: Bihar to National Capital Region, Bihar to Haryana and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan to Gujarat (UNESCO UNICEF, 2012).

3.2. Migrants by Streams

There are four flows of migration i.e. rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural. According to Census data there has been increase in urban migration and in inter-state migration over a period of time (Table 3). Total

urban migration as a percentage increased from 28.7 per cent of total migration in 1981 to 29.5 per cent in 1991 and further to 32.85 per cent in 2001. As a result, rural migration decreased marginally from 71 percent in 1981 to 67 percent in 2001.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of internal migrants in India by different streams

Census Year	Rural - Rural	Urban - Rural	Unclassified - Rural	Total Rural	Rural - Urban	Urban - Urban	Unclassified Urban	Total Urban	Total
1981	65.03	6.11	0.08	71.22	16.59	12.1	0.1	28.79	100
1991	64.21	5.97	0.29	70.47	17.67	11.7	0.16	29.53	100
2001	55.51	4.2	7.45	67.16	16.71	11.82	4.32	32.85	100

Note: The figures under 'Unclassified' are those that are not included in any stream in both areas (Rural and Urban).

Source: Census of India, 1981, 1991, and 2001, Table D-2.

According to 64th round of NSS during 2007-08, rural-to-rural migration was the most dominant migration stream, accounting for 62 per cent of the total internal migrants, followed by rural-to-urban migration stream, which is nearly 20 per cent of the total internal migrants corresponding to the census results of 2001. The share of urban to urban migration stream accounted 13 per cent, while urban-to-rural migration stream shared only 6 per cent of total internal migrants. However, the pattern displayed by male migrants are different from that of female migrants. Rural-to-urban migration stream was more dominated by males which shared nearly 39 per cent of total male internal migrants, while for female more rural-to-rural migration stream shared nearly 70 per cent of

the total internal female migrants. The urban-to-urban migration stream shared by males with nearly one-fourth of the total internal male migrants, while for female it was nearly one-tenth.

3.4. Migrants by Distance Categories

There are four flows of internal migration i.e. intra-district, inter-district, intra-state, inter-state. As shown in table 4, more than 86 percent of internal migrants in India have moved within the state boundaries while remaining 13 percent have moved from one state to another state. Male domination is observed in the share of inter-state migrants. Basically, males move to distant places for economic reasons. Intra state migration is dominated by females.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of internal migrants in India by different Distance categories, 1981-2001.

Distance categories	Census Years		
	1981	1991	2001
Intra-District	64.96	62.14	62.57
Inter-District	23.02	26.05	24.12
Intra-state	87.98	88.19	86.69
Inter-State	12.02	11.82	13.31

Source: Census of India, 1981, 1991, and 2001, Table D-2.

According to NSS and Census there is increase in inter-state migration in recent years. Census results show that there is decline in inter-state migrants as a proportion of total migrants from 12.02 per cent in 1981 to 11.82 per cent in 1991 and subsequently in 2001 increased to 13.31 per cent (Table 4). The NSSO results of 55th and 64th round specifically shows an increase in inter-state migration between 1999-2000 and 2007-2008 from 19.9 per cent to 22.9 per cent (NSSO Report No-533, Statement 4.11).

3.5. Reasons for Migration

One of the important aspects of studying migration is to find out the reasons for which person leaves his

residence and finds a new residence. Since 1981 Indian Census collected information on reasons of migration based on place of last residence criterion. The 2001 Census provides information on reasons for migration into seven categories as shown in table.5

It is observed from the table that among males 'employment' and among females 'marriage' is the most important reasons of migration. Around 28 percent of internal male migrants have moved due to employment purpose and observed more so in case of 'rural to urban' stream. The 'employment' as a important reason of migration increases as one moves up in the distance category.

Table.5.Reasons for migration of migrants by last residence with duration (0-9 years) India 2001 census

Gender	Percentage share of Total Internal Migrants(2001)							
	Work/ Employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after birth	Moved With household	Others	Total
Male	37.6	2.9	6.2	2.1	10.4	25.1	15.7	100
Female	3.2	0.3	1.3	64.9	4.8	18.9	6.7	100
Total	14.7	1.2	3.0	43.8	6.7	21.0	9.7	100

1991 Census

Gender	Percentage share of Total Internal Migrants(1991)								
	Employment	Business	Education	Family moved	Marriage	Moved after birth	Natural calamities	Others	Total
Male	30.4	6.6	9.0	30.4	2.6	NA	0.9	20.1	100
Female	3.0	0.8	0.8	18.6	65.9	NA	0.3	9.6	100
Total	12.1	2.7	4.2	22.5	44.9	NA	0.5	13.1	100

Source: Table D3, 2001 and 1991 Census

From the table.5, it is evident that marriage is the most important reason for migration among females during 1981- 1991-2001 and continues to be in 1991-2001. However, there is decline proportion of female migrants who had migrated due to marriage from 64.9% from 65.9% in 1981-1991 to that of 1991-2001. Against there counterpart, migration among males induced by economic reasons has increased from 30 percent to 37 percent from 198-1991 to 1991-2001. Males, who are invariably the bread earner of the household, migrate

to urban centres in search of job opportunities. As such, 'Work/Employment' remains to be important reasons for migration among the males.

Both the Census and the NSS figures confirm that marriage as the most important reason for migration among females This is mainly due to presence of social custom of exogamous marriages. NSS provides information on set of 18 reasons, which can further be combined into broader categories, as given the table

Table.6.Distribution (per 1000) of migrants by reason for migration during 2007-08, India

Reasons for migration	Male	Female	Total
Employment related reason	456	11	99
Studies	82	10	24
Marriage	44	836	681
Movement of parents/earning member	241	107	134
Other reasons (incl.n.r)	177	36	62
All	1000	1000	1000

Source: Statement-4.12, Report No. 533 (Migration in India), 2007-2008, NSSO.

As per NSS figures in Table 6, among all (male + female) migrants, marriage-related migration among the females found to be 68.1 per cent of all migration in 2007 -08 which corresponds to the Census figures of 2001 records 65 percent.

Table 7: Distribution (per 1000) of migrants by reason for migration during 1993, 1999-2000 and 2007-2008, all India (NSSO)

Reason for migration	Migrated in			
	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
49th round (1993)				
Employment related reason	477	83	415	49
Studies	41	11	180	70
Marriage	23	616	9	317
Movement of parents/earning member	208	237	283	495
Other reasons (incl.n.r)	251	53	113	69
All	1000	1000	1000	1000
55th round (1999-2000)				
Employment related reason	303	10	519	30
Studies	53	4	62	13
Marriage	94	888	16	585
Movement of parents/earning member	260	63	270	310
Other reasons (incl.n.r)	290	35	133	62
All	1000	1000	1000	1000

64th round (2007-2008)				
Employment related reason	286	7	557	27
Studies	107	5	68	22
Marriage	94	912	14	608
Movement of parents/earning member	221	44	252	294
Other reasons (incl.n.r)	292	32	109	49
All	1000	1000	1000	1000

Source: Statement-4.13, Report No. 533 (Migration in India), 2007-2008, NSSO.

As per estimates of three NSS rounds given in Table 7, It is found that for females, the prominent reason for migration was marriage and the estimates obtained in these three periods. Among the females, 91.3 per cent in rural areas and 60.8 per cent in urban areas (83.6 per cent totally) found to be marriage as the reason for migration in 2007-2008.

Over the successive surveys there is increase in share of marriage related female migrants, In 1993, it was estimated that nearly 62 per cent of the rural female migrants had migrated due to marriage, the share had jumped to 89 per cent in NSS 55th round and further increased to 91 per cent in 64th round and among the urban female migrants the shares increased from 32 per cent, 59 per cent and 61 per cent during the same period respectively. As such marriage-related migration dominates in both rural and urban migrants. Among males, economic reasons has been found as the most important reason for migration. Among 28.5 per cent of rural male migrants and more than half of the urban male migrants gave economic reasons for migration in 2007-2008. The second most important reason for migration is cited as

movement of parents and/or the earning member of the household for both male and female migrants in both urban and rural streams.

Thus Census and the NSS data reveal that an increase in employment-related migration rates among the males. The Census shows an increase by seven percentage in these rates over 1991-2001 (Table. 5 and 7). On the other hand, the NSS depicts increase in these rates confined to urban male migrants only.

3.6. Reasons for migration other than marriage

The domination of marriage-related migration biased results on trends and patterns in certain directions. Exception to marriage-related migration, internal migration in India is more male employment oriented and long distance. More than about half the total number of migrants during last ten years have cited 'Marriage' as the reason for migration, predominantly by the females, an examination of this dataset excluding this particular reason, would help in understanding other reasons that are important. Table.8. presents such a compilation showing reasons of migration other than marriage.

Table.8: Reasons for migration (other than marriage) of migrants by last residence with duration (0-9 years) India 2001

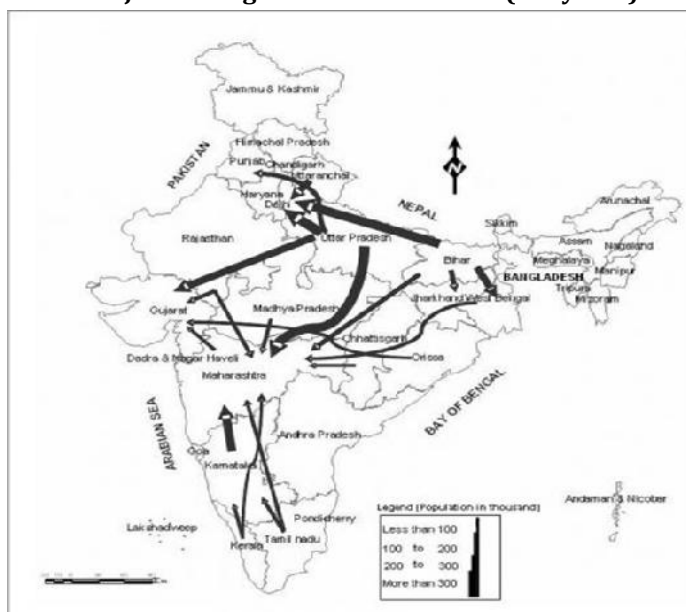
Reasons for migration	Male	Female	Total
Work/Employment	38.4	9.0	26.2
Business	2.9	0.8	2.1
Education	6.3	3.8	5.3
Marriage	Excluded		
Moved after birth	10.6	13.7	11.9
Moved with households	25.6	53.7	37.3
Others	16.0	18.9	17.2
Total	100	100	100

Source: Table D3, Census of India 2001

Exclusion of migrants who moved due to marriage, the proportion of different reasons for migration, major change is observed among female migrants during 1991-2001. Among female migrants, nearly 54 percent cited migration due to 'Moved with household' as the reason. No major change is visible among males, as the male migrants any way did not

cite marriage as an important reason. Work/employment was the most important reason for migration among males with share of 38 percent followed by the 'Moved with households' as the second most important reason for migration among the male migrants.

Major net migration flows in India (0-9 years) 2001



Source: Adapted from R.B. Bhagat and S. Mohanty, "Emerging Pattern of Urbanization and the Contribution of Migration in Urban Growth in India," *Asian Population Studies*, vol. 5 no. 1 (2009): 5-20.

FINDINGS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Internal migration is an essential component of the socio-economic life of the country, given uneven pace of regional development and labour scarcity. There is a growing recognition that if migration promoted under conditions of safety and dignity then it accrues benefit to the migrants as well as source and host areas. Migration in India is mostly influenced by social system and unequal pattern of development. The process of migration was accelerated by the development policies of all the successive governments since independence. Unbalanced development is the main cause of migration. Added to it, are the wide spread disparities, inter and intra-regional and amongst different socio-economic groups. Migration provides an opportunity to overcome caste divisions and rigid social norms and to work with dignity and freedom at the destination. However, lack of data and the absence of a strong policy framework and strategy, migration imposes heavy costs on human development through poor labour arrangements and working conditions of migrants, and migrants often face problem of establishing identity, results in a loss of access to entitlements and social services such as subsidized food, fuel, health services, or education. In order to fill research gaps to enable to formulate evidence-based policies and standards ensuring safety for all labour migrants and protection of labour rights including the right to redress of grievances. There is need for mapping of internal migration countrywide for ascertaining the true level of migration across districts and states and role of migration in the socio economic lives of the households in these states. To that extent develop migration profiles of states, including nature, time, duration and magnitude of migration cycles, multiple reasons for migration, sector-wise contribution of migrants, domestic remittances including their contribution to Gross Domestic Product by engaging research institutions and with the support of NGOs, Civil society organizations, Labour departments and Panchayat bodies at local level.

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