

Causes of Internal Migration in India and Its Effects

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Abstract

Internal migration is an important factor which effects social and economic development especially in developing countries. The study of different trends of migration in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society. Based on the data from census 2001, this paper presents different trends of internal migration in India – Within states and also between different states. From the data it is observed that the majority of internal migration in India takes place from rural to urban areas. The main reason for migration among males is lack of proper employment in rural areas which makes people to migrate to urban areas for better employment. While in case of females the reason for majority of them is marriage. Migration has both positive as well as negative effects on the areas to which people migrate and from where people migrate. The consequences or effects of migration are given in social, economic, environmental and demographic terms.

Key Words: Migration, Internal Migration, Types of Migration.

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Introduction

Migration is an integral part and an important factor in redistributing the population over time and space. Migration is defined as the movement of people from one place to another across the political boundaries. Migration is a sign of *wide range of disparities* in economic and social conditions between different regions. In countries like India, Migration takes place mostly due to unemployment, natural calamities and under development at the place of origin. Internal migration i.e. migration within the country is an important factor which effects social and economic development.

DATA SOURCE

This paper is based on data from census 2001. Migration data is recorded in India during census based on place of birth, place of last residence and duration of stay at the place of enumeration. Also the reason for migration is recorded.

TYPES OF MIGRANTS

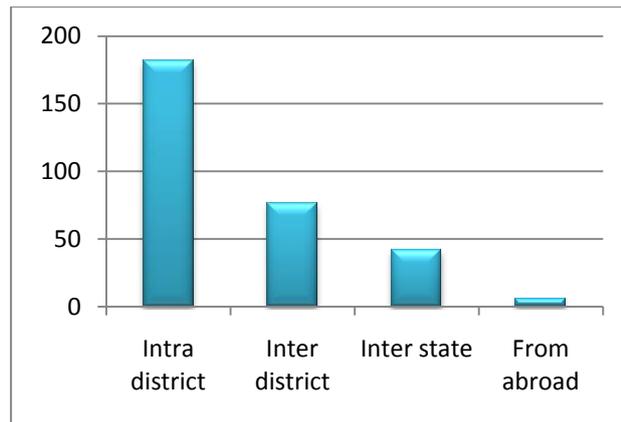
Internal Migrants in India can be classified into the following types

- 1) **Migrants by place of birth** – People who are enumerated at a place other than their place of birth.
- 2) **Migrants by place of last residence**- People who are enumerated at a place other than their place of immediate last residence.

Migrants by place of Birth:

Among the total of 1.02 billion people in India, 307 million (30%) were reported as migrants by place of birth. The following table shows number of migrants by place of birth (in millions).

Persons	307.1
Males	90.4
Females	216.7
Intra district	181.7
Inter district	76.8
Inter state	42.3
From abroad	6.1

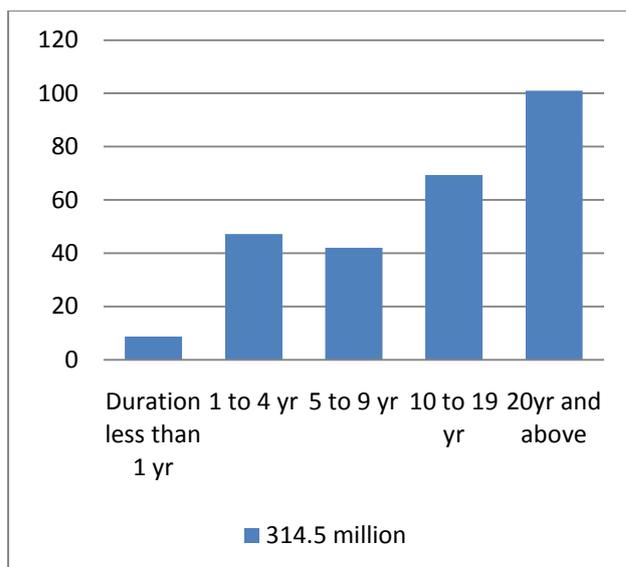


Out of the total 307 million migrants by place of birth, 90.4 million were males and 216.7 were females. Majority of the migrants were *intra-district migrants* (181.7 million). The maximum number of migrants by place of birth moved to the state of Maharashtra. About 7.9 million migrants by place of birth moved to Maharashtra. The other states which received highest migrants by place of birth are Delhi and West Bengal.

State	Number of migrants by place of birth
Maharashtra	7.9 million
Delhi	5.6 million
West Bengal	5.5 million

Migrants by place of last residence: The number of migrants by place of last residence along with the duration since they migrated is given below.

Totals migrants	314.5 million
Duration less than 1 year	8.8
1 to 4 year	47.2
5 to 9 year	42.1
10 to 19 year	69.4
20 year and above	101
Duration not stated	45.6



Among the total migrants of 314.5 million, 101 million of them moved at least 20 years back. About 98.1 million of them migrated over last decade.

MIGRATION STREAMS

Direction wise migration streams in India can be of following four types- rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban. Based on *distance of migration*, the migration streams can also be classified as intra-district, intra-state and inter-state.

Migration data on migrants with duration of residence 0-9 years at the place of enumeration by various migration streams is as given below.

Rural to Rural	53.3 million
Rural to urban	20.5 million
Urban to Rural	6.2 million
Urban to Urban	14.3 million

It can be seen that out of 97.5 million internal migrants in the country, 53.3 million (54.7%) moved within rural areas. Around 20.6 million (21.1%) persons moved from rural areas to urban areas and 6.2 million (6.4%) persons moved from urban to rural areas. The number of persons who moved from one urban area to another are 14.4 million (14.7%).

Inter-state and intra-state migration:

Out of the total 97.5 million internal migrants in the country, 80 million were intra-state migrants and 16 million were inter-state migrants.

Inter-state migration

Migration Stream	Persons	In%	Males	In %	Females	In %
Rural to Rural	4,474,302	26.6	1,759,523	20.7	2,714,779	32.7
Rural to Urban	6,372,975	37.9	3,803,737	44.7	2,569,218	30.9
Urban to Urban	1,053,352	6.3	522,916	6.1	530,436	6.4
Urban to Urban	4,490,480	26.7	2,201,882	25.9	2,288,598	27.5
Unclassified	435,790	2.6	224,103	2.6	211,687	2.5

Among inter-state migrants, majority of the migrants (37.9%) moved from rural to urban areas. Also among male inter-state migrants, maximum number of them (44.7%) moved from *rural to urban areas*. But among females the majority of them (32.7%) migrated from *rural to rural areas*.

Intra- state migration

Migration Stream	Persons	%	Males	%	Females	%
Rural to Rural	48,880,074	60.5	9,985,581	41.6	38,894,493	68.6
Rural to Urban	14,222,276	17.6	6,503,461	27.1	7,718,815	13.6
Urban to Urban	5,213,151	6.5	2,057,789	8.6	3,155,362	5.6
Urban to Urban	9,898,29 4	12.3	4,387,563	18.3	5,510,731	9.7
Unclassified	2,519,646	3.1	1,063,889	4.4	1,455,757	2.6

Out of the total 80 million intra state migrants, majority of them (60.5%) moved from rural to rural areas. Among male and female intra state migrants also the majority of migration (41.6% and 68.6% respectively) is from one rural area to another one.

Migration streams for top 5 states in case of intra state migration

Rank	Rural to Rural	Rural to Urban	Urban to Rural	Urban to Urban
1	Bihar(79.9%)	Mizoram(39.1%)	Goa(26.7%)	Tamil Nadu(27.4%)
2	Jharkhand(75.8%)	Meghalaya(27.4%)	Kerala(13.3%)	Mizoram(25.5%)
3	Assam(73%)	Nagaland (26.8%)	Nagaland(13.2%)	Goa(21.9%)
4	Himachal Pradesh(71.8%)	Arunachal Pradesh (26.1%)	Sikkim(11.8%)	Nagaland(20.3%)
5	Sikkim(70.8%)	Gujrat (25.9%)	Tamil Nadu(11.5%)	Maharashtra(19.2%)

Rural to rural migration is highest in the state of Bihar (79.9%) and in Mizoram(39.1%) is the top first state in which rural to urban migration is highest. The urban to rural migration is maximum in the state Goa (26.7%) and urban to urban migration is highest in the state Tamil Nadu (27.4%).

In Intra- state migration the majority of migration is from one rural area to another and in case of inter-state migration majority of migration is rural to urban areas.

Reasons for migration

In case of internal migration in India, it is observed that the reason for migration in case of males and females vary significantly. *Work* or employment among *males* and *marriage* among *females* are the main reasons for migration. The second important reason for migration is moving along with family members in case of both males and females.

Percentage distribution of Reasons of migration by last residence with duration (0 to 9 years)

Reason for migration	Persons	Males	Females
Work	14.7	37.6	3.2
Business	1.2	2.9	0.3
Education	3	6.2	1.3
Marriage	43.8	2.1	64.9
Moved after birth	6.7	10.4	4.8
Moved with house hold	21	25.1	18.9
Other	9.7	15.7	6.7

People migrate due to various reasons. As it is observed that the majority of internal migration in India is from rural to urban areas, the reasons for this are scarcity of cultivated land, low agricultural productivity, concentration of rural economy mostly on agriculture, etc., Every summer in India we see reports about people driven out of their homes by drought. Nearly all the villages in the dry areas across India witness migration. The other reasons related to the above are the need of money for repaying debts, covering deficits created by losses in agriculture. Some of the other reasons for migration of people are unavailability of enough *job opportunities*, lack of better *educational opportunities*, poor medical care, loss of wealth, pollution, poor housing, natural disasters like famine/drought, etc., All these factors are called *Push factors*- i.e. the reasons which make people leave the place. Because of the above difficulties people migrate to areas where they can overcome their problems. People move to regions where they can have better job opportunities, better living conditions, proper educational facilities, better medical care, etc., These factors which attract people to a place are called *Pull factors*.

Consequences of migration

Migration occurs due to *uneven distribution* of opportunities over the space. Migration creates both benefits and problems for the areas people migrate from and migrate to. The effects of migration can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

Economic Consequences

For the source region one of the major benefits is the *remittance* sent by the migrants. This remittance plays an important role in the growth of economy of the source area. The remittances sent by migrants are mainly used for food, repayments of debts, children's education, construction of houses, etc. Migration to the urban areas causes overcrowding in those areas. Development of slums in industrial areas is a negative consequence of migration within the country.

Social Consequences

People who migrate are agents of cultural and social change. Migration leads to intermixing of people from different cultures which brings up a composite culture among the people.

Environmental Consequences

Overcrowding of people in a particular region creates pressure on the existing physical infrastructure in that region. This may lead to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums. Also due to over exploitation of natural resources problems like depletion of ground water, air pollution, etc. may occur.

Demographic Consequences

Migration produces a remarkable effect on size, structure and growth pattern of population in different areas of the country. Rural to urban migration is one of the important factors effecting the population growth in the urban regions. High migration of males to urban areas for employment brings an imbalance in the age sex composition of rural areas.

Conclusion

Internal migration in India is taking place at different levels for various kinds of reasons. Migration in India is mainly from *rural areas to urban areas*. For majority of the people the reason for migration is work or employment which reflects that there is inequality in regional development. Migration has both positive as well as negative consequences across various factors. On one side it is helping in re balancing the economy and intermixing of cultures and on the other side it is creating problems related to over population, environmental effects, etc. There is a need for *balanced development* across all regions. More focus is needed on the *development of rural areas* and better schemes should be designed to overcome the negative effects of migration.

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