

GENESIS OF MIGRATION AND ITS THEORIES

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Abstract

Although we no longer practice the norms of nomadic life, yet there is a trait in humans who tend to muse for migrating from one place to another, for innumerable reasons, some of which have not even been recorded in books of chronology providing details of the migration. In modern times also people migrate to lands, which are unknown to them. They may go there temporarily, or settle themselves permanently, to cater to the need of their life and heart.

Human life swings between two poles: movement and settlement. As such, it chooses to be either sessile or mobile. The settlement seems to be the indicator of security and contentment whereas mobility tends to signify development and welfare. Mobility, thus, leads humanity towards better living standards and in turn towards a better lifestyle. Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution postulates that human progress is the consequence of the movement.

Keywords

Human settlements, migration, push and pull factors, theories, etc.

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Introduction

The term migration has become a catchphrase for people who want to develop beyond their social and cultural norms, and go, find and explore the unknown, to make a difference for themselves and their immediate families and kinship. This may happen in the quest for knowledge, fortune or just for finding luck or change. However, if taken in literal terms it has been an activity, which has been undertaken by people wherein they move from their natural or local surroundings or vicinity in search of a job or good prospects.

People have been migrating since times immemorial for reasons more in number that can be enumerated or explored. There can be no account in written history, which can precisely tell when the first person thought of migrating from his familiar surroundings and settled at some unknown abode. However, humanity has always migrated since it originated and experienced hunger. The nomadic life of our ancestors who learned to farm and moved places to cultivate the land, till it possessed fertility and thereafter abandoned, it when the fertility of the terra matter in that area ceased to support its survival, which again made him to move to the journey of new patches of land?

Defining Migration

As per the glossary of migration, migration stands for “The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a region, district, or state of the same nation.”

In some flow, a migrant is a term, which is used much as an umbrella term that stands for a person who moves away from his usual surroundings and usual place of residence, to a place, which is within his country, or across the international boundaries in some other nation. The movement in this can be temporary, seasonal, recurrent, seasonal, or permanent for myriad reasons.”

Types of Migration

Internal Migration

Internal migration takes place when people migrate within a single nation, to which they belong, and the movement is only local or regional in nature. Under his type of migration, they may migrate within the same district or state of a larger federal state like in India.

External Migration

Then people migrate to some other nation across the international boundary that involves taking up a visa, or else taking up an illegal route to enter the land to which their entry is forbidden.

Temporary Migration

When people migrate for a few months of the year to find work in some other area to complement the income that they get from agriculture or to earn from whatever activity they can earn from, wherever they can find work is called the temporary type of migration.

Seasonal Migration

When people migrate to some place and remain there during that particular season for work-related issues, it is called seasonal migration. For example, during harvesting season in northern states of India labor from different states travel to reach Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab to earn on farms.

Recurrent Migration

When the migration of the same group of people takes place during a particular season year after year, or after a particular time interval; it is called recurrent migration. For example, the migration of people to work in sugar mills, which employ people on a contract basis after every six months gap, as the sugar mills remain functional only for 6 months during every year.

Permanent Migration

When people leave the area or land they have been living in, since their birth, and take route to some other place to permanently settle there it is called permanent migration. For example, sometimes people sell their homes and land, to settle in cities for a better prospect, or people move to some foreign country for better prospects, with no or very little possibility of returning back is called permanent migration.

Female Migration

It has been estimated that out of total internal migration 70.7 percent of the women, who have to migrate to other places have to do so because they get married. This is the most prominent reason for the migration of women to both the urban and rural areas.

Male Migration

Male migration in the Indian economy has many reasons in both the urban areas. They may migrate to search and hunt for work, for better education facilities, for themselves and their children, for getting employed in the armed forces, for other type of jobs in urban areas in formal and informal sectors.

Employing Sectors in India for Migrants

The areas which offer shelter and venues for employment to the people in rural areas are the construction sites, the textile sector of India, brick kilns,

transportation, mines of different types- like coal and iron ore, etc. quarries, and agriculture, etc.

Reasons for Migration

Migration by its nature is a global phenomenon, which takes place primarily for economic reasons. However, there are a plethora of reasons that lead to the migration of people from one region to another, or from one nation to another. There are many pushes and pull factors that lead to migration.

The Role of Push and Pull Factors in Migration

There are many factors that are responsible for migration that takes place internally at a level of some particular nation or at an international level. Push and pull factors in this regard play a major role and lead people to migrate either internally, or at the international level.

Push Factors

Factors, which act to compel, coax, force a person or motivate him or her, to leave a place of his or her familiarity, or the place where he or she has originated, and undertake the step of migrating to some other place, whether at national level, meaning to move to different district or state or at international level are known as push factors. They are responsible for the out-migration of the country or the region, which experiences or bears it.

Pull Factors

As against the push factors, pull factors are the factors that attract, allure, tantalize, draw, or fascinate an individual to move from his familiar surroundings or the nation to settle in some other area or nation. These factors are responsible for the in-migration of people into a region or nation.

Theories of Migration

There have been many attempts, which have been made to develop a definite and general theory of migration, however, since human nature is not governed by the laws of natural science, and hence there is no definite and exact take on migration, which has been, or can be tested on empirical grounds. For several decades, or say, centuries the topic of finding a definite theory of migration has been at an impasse (see Arango 2000; de Haas 2010a; Massey et al. 1993; Massey 2019; Skeldon 2012). The subject has not relieved the treatment, which was due for it, and for that very reason, it has remained under the gallows of the underdeveloped theory process at a surprising level.

However, there are certain laws and theories of migration that have been forwarded by different scholars to provide a detailed insight into the theory and process of migration. Some of the most important are given as under:

Ravenstein's Laws of Migration

This was the first ever attempt made by anyone to deliver on the concept of migration and propound the laws of migration. It was E. G. Ravenstein in the year 1885 that he provided with the laws of migration in their most basic form.

The generalizations pertaining to these laws can be listed below (Grigg, 1977:42; Johnson et al, 1981:218):

- a) There exists an inverse relationship between the volumes of migration that takes place to the distance between the places of migration. People tend to move normally too short distances and go only to large centers, which support commerce and industry.
- b) There happens a step-by-step progression of migration.
- c) There is the emergence of a counter-current to the production of migration current.
- d) The mobility of rural natives is higher than their counterparts residing in urban surroundings.

There is tendency, which is most prominent in the case of migration and that it tends to decline with increasing distance. Evidence related to current and counter-currents indicated that industrialization and modernization have crucial roles to play in migration. The most important factor that can be forwarded for migration in any given nation at the internal level or the migration which takes place at international level, is the economic needs and aspirations of people, which is the single most important pusher for people to migrate and is even the single most important puller, towards the commercial and business hubs for people to migrate a thrive in.

Gravity Model

The concept of migration has a lot to do with geographical movements. The subject of geography has landed many contributions to the theory and practice of migration and the most important contribution among them is the relationship between distance and migration of a person. There exists a relationship that is apparent and inverse, which holds true in almost all types of migrations. It has been manifested in several studies of migration, which have been carried on empirically that migration is inversely related to distance (Woods, 1979:183). The law of gravity to plays a prominent role in the model of gravity, as it is based on the Newton's law of gravitation. The index of migration that can be expressed for two interacting centers can be expressed in the following form:

$$MI_{ij} = P_i P_j / d_{ij}^2 * K$$

Where M_{ij} is the volume that corresponds to the size of migration that takes place between two centers i and j , and P_i and P_j are the corresponding sizes of population of two centers under consideration and K is the constant.

This model also explains the area of migration analysis along with that it explains the flow patterns of human geography, such as the telephone services, the movements of passengers, the flow of commodities between different centers, etc.

The credit for applying the law of gravity goes to W.J. Reilly in the year 1929 for applying the law of gravitation to retail trade in a city center (Srivastava, 1994, 169). This application of Reilly received fame and came to be called upon as the 'Reilley's law of Retail Gravitation. The model goes on to state that the city has the capacity to attract trade from the customers who happen to have need, to buy from the retail stores of the city, which are located in its hinterland. This holds true for the interaction centers and the attraction that is done by the city in consideration, is proportional to the location of the hinterland and its size, and is inversely proportional to the square of the distance which separates them.

Stouffer's Theory of Mobility

S. A. Stouffer was an American sociologist who brought forward the 'Intervening Opportunity Model' in the year 1940. For that model, he offered the claim that there is very scarce possibility that there exists a relationship between the mobility of people and the distance between the two centers which are Interacting (Stouffer, 1940:846).

Contrary to this, there is a trend, which can be witnessed, as a decline in the volume of migration that takes place due to the increase, witnessed in the active number of opportunities that act or intervene with the increase in distance between the interacting centers.

There is yet another suggestion that has been forwarded by Stouffer, which suggests that there exists an inverse relationship between the number of opportunities that happen to intervene between the origin of migration and the distance which is to be covered by the individual in consideration to reach his destination.

Following is the mathematical formulation of the intervening opportunity model of Stouffer:

$$Y = (\sqrt{x}/x)k$$

This formulation helps in determining the expected number of migrants, which is expressed as Y , x , stands for the number of opportunities, which intervene actively and k is the constant in the model.

After a decade, or so, Stouffer modified this formulation and the theory, which expressed the nuances of migration in the middle of the decade of 1950.

Under this modification, he added that there is yet another component, which should be kept in mind while discussing the theory of migration and that is the concept of competing migrants from grabbing those existing opportunities.

The model which received a revision in the hands of Stouffer offered to propose that during a given time period or say the time interval the number of aspiring migrants from City₁ who aspire to reach City₂ can be expressed as a direct function of the number of opportunities in City₂, and has inverse function of the number of opportunities, which keep on intervening between interacting cities. Which made the revised formulation of the theory take the following form:

$$Y = (X_1/X_B/X_C)k$$

In this equation, Y stands for the migrants, that are taken in number from city₂ which are aspiring to migrate to city₂. X₁ is the number of existing opportunities that are available for the migrants in City₂. X₁ stands for the number of opportunities that are available in the intervention that exists between city₁ and city₂. X_c stands for the number of competing migrants in City₂ and k is the constant in the equation.

Lee's Theory

This theory of migration was proposed by Everett Lee that is one of the most comprehensive theories of migration that has been ever witnessed by theorists and scholars in the area of migration studies. Everett Lee presented this theory in 1966. The formulations of this theory were laid down as factors that, were pertaining to the spatial mobility of populations residing in any particular area.

The factors, which formed the base of the formulation of the theory of Everett Lee are as follows:

- a) Factors that connote to the place of origin of a migrant.
- b) Factors that signify the place or the destination that is proposed to be reached by the migrant.
- c) The obstacles, which stand in the intervening path or route to migration.
- d) Factors, which signify personal wellbeing.
- e) Factors, which are held important in determining the prospects of migrating to a new city.

As per the version of Lee pertaining to migration, there is a set of factors, which are positive and negative in their outcomes that imply for the circumstances that are awaiting the migration of individuals in any particular area, which provides good or bad outcomes for the migrant.

The theory of Migration as proposed by Everett Lee has the following points, which form the hypotheses of his formulation:

- a) The volume of migration that is witnessed by a place of destination tends to vary with the degree of diversity that is exhibited by the area or is included in the territory that is proposed as a place for migration.
- b) The diversity of people residing in the territory of the destination is yet another factor, which determines the volume of migration that will take place in any particular area or region.
- c) The difficulty that is confronted by the migrants in surmounting the obstacles, which lie in the intervening path also decides the volume of migration in any given region or area of destination.
- d) Fluctuation in the economy of the area that is proposed for migration too is yet another crucial factor that decides the volume of migration that is en route to that particular area or region.
- e) The checks, which happen to be imposed by the government or the border authorities, are yet another most important determinant of migration that is proposed to take place in any region or nation.
- f) Because of the authorities impose strict restrictions on the migration of people there will be lesser migration and if the government of that area is not skeptical of migrants, the migration automatically increases over the passage of time.
- g) The state of progress to determines the volume of migration and as the progress in any particular area determines the standard of living in any particular area. M
- h) Migrants from all over the world are attracted to the place, which offers a better progress rate of their land and helps others to grow whosoever migrates in their territory.

Conclusion

It can be seen that there are several reasons and theories for migration that have been forwarded by the scholars, that have always tried to explore the reasons for the fundamental causes that have always motivated and inspired people around the world to migrate from one place to another and from one nation to another. However, there is still a dearth of those laws and theories pertaining to migration that can offer them an all comprehensive answer for the reason for the migration of people.

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