

Migration in India: A Critical Review

Dr. Madhu Sharma

*Head, Department of Economics
R.S.S. College, Pilakhuwa, Hapur
Email: dr.madhusharma2@gmail.com*

Abstract

Rural to urban migration has become a key issue in the study of economic development, but whether it should be promoted or discouraged is a debatable topic. Rural-urban migration as both positive and negative effects on the migrants, the place of origin and the place of destination Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. It occurs as a response to economic development as well as social, cultural, environmental and political factors. Socio-economic and demographic implications of rural urban migration does have significant impact on both rural and urban areas (Lipton 1980).

Keywords

Migration, India, Urban, Rural, economic, demographic.

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Dr. Madhu Sharma

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In India 68.9 % of the population lives in 6.40 lakh villages. The share of agriculture to overall GDP in India come down to 14%, while 66.2% of rural males and 81.6 percent of rural females are engaged in agriculture as cultivators or labourer. Inadequate diversification has taken place in rural occupations as many as 66.2% of rural males and 81.6% of rural females, reporting agriculture as their principal economic activity. There is continuous migration from the rural to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities and living standard (Razi,2014).

Migration and poverty have become critical development issues in the contemporary world. Surprisingly, the two phenomena have seldom been considered interrelated except wherever anecdotal evidence is adduced on plausible effects of one on the other. Migration and poverty researchers, planners policy makers and program implements continue to work independent of one another, never comparing notes on the reciprocal relationship between the two. Migration can both cause and be caused by poverty. Similarly, poverty can be alleviated as well as exacerbated by population movement. Easy generalizations are impossible to make but it is likely that the relative impact of migration on poverty and of poverty on migration, varies by level of development of the area under consideration. In some parts of the world and under certain conditions, poverty may be a root cause of migration, where as in other parts, under different conditions, the poor will be among the last to move. Equally, in some areas, migration may be an avenue out of poverty while in others it contributes to an extension of poverty (Skeldon, 1997).

Types of Migrants

There are different types of internal Migrants in India which 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.

Rural- Urban Migration: Some Emerging Trends

- The Migration rate in the urban areas (35%) was far higher than the migration rate in the rural areas (26%).
- Magnitude of male migration rate was far lower than female migration rate, in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas nearly 48% of the females were migrants while the male migration rate was only 5%, and in the urban areas, the male migration rate was nearly 26% compared to female migration rate of 46%.

- Migration rate in rural areas was lowest among the scheduled tribe (ST), nearly 24%, and it was highest among those classified in the social group others, nearly 28%
- In urban areas, migration rate was lowest among other backward class (OBC) nearly 33% and it was highest among those classified in the social group others' nearly 38%
- For rural male, migration rate was lowest (nearly 4%) among the not literates, and it was nearly 14% among those with educational level graduate and above For urban males also, it was lowest for among the not literate (17%), and 38% for those with educational level graduate or above level.
- Among the migrants in the rural areas, nearly 91% had migrated from the rural areas and 8% had migrated from the urban areas, whereas among the migrants in the urban areas, nearly 59% migrated from the rural areas and 40% from urban areas.
- Nearly 60% of urban male migrants and 59% of urban female migrants had migrated from rural areas
- The most prominent reason for female migration in both the rural and urban areas was marriage for 91% of rural female migrants and 61% of the urban female migrants the reason was marriage.
- The reason for migration for male migrant, was dominated by employment related reasons, in both rural and urban areas Nearly 29% of rural male migrants and 56% of urban male migrants had migrated due to employment related reasons.
- A higher percentage of the persons were found to be engaged in economic activities after migration for males the percentage of workers increased from 51% before migration to 63% after migration in rural areas and from 46%-70% in urban areas, while for females it increased from 20%-33% in rural areas and from 8%-14% in urban areas.
- For rural males, self-employment had emerged as main recourse to employment after migration. The share of self-employment in total migrants increased from 16% before migration to 27% after migration, while the shares of regular employees and casual labours remained almost stable in both before and after migration (Gol. 2010)

Push and Pull Factors

Population Pressure The growing population pressure on our natural resources has led to a stage where they are being used and depleted at a rate more

than their natural rate of formation. The population pressure limits already limited opportunities and resources in the rural areas. More population means more and more peoples have to share the limited resources available with the rural families. This also forces them to migrate to safe destinations (Kumar, 2014)

Decreasing per capita availability of land. The increasing population has led to the fragmentation of land. The per capita availability of land has decreased considerably. More than eighty per cent of the farmers are now marginal and small. Such small holdings have now become uneconomical. The growing number of farmer suicides and the dropping out of farmers from their profession is an indicator of this Farming community is now looking out for other alternatives. This also has catalytic effect in migration to urban centers for better earning opportunities (Kumar, 2014)

Climate refugee. Dr. Thomas Fingar, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis and Chairman of the National Intelligence Council current research in Asia has reported that South Southeast, and East Asia will face risks of reduced agricultural productivity as large parts of the region face increased risk of floods and droughts. By 2025, cereal crop yields will decrease 25-10 per cent. The number of peoples who will migrate to other places to save themselves from the harsh extremities of weather is increasing. Increasing temperature will be more than from any other type of migration in the coming decades. Lack of livelihood opportunities in rural areas coupled with the absence of even day to day basic needs like good schools, health care facilities, financial institutions, inaccessibility and suitable markets have also compelled the rural peoples to migrate to their nearest urban centers (Kumar, 2014).

Improvement in communication and transport facilities. The areas which once were inaccessible and beyond reach are now accessible having good roads, communication and transport facilities. This has favored migration of the rural communities. Whenever they have lean periods or off season they migrate to urban areas for earning and then return back with the start of sowing season. Such type of seasonal and circular (also known as cyclical, oscillatory) migration has long been part of the livelihood portfolio of poor people across India. Urban areas also represent better educational, healthcare, employment opportunities which act as a pulling force for the rural peoples towards them (Kumar, 2014).

Employment: Most of the rural peoples leave their houses and move to cities in search of employment in various types of industries. In urban areas many different type of industries flourish (Table 1) which have the capacity to absorb work force in large numbers.

Table 1: Percentage of Rural Migrants Employed in Different Industries (NSSO, 2010)

S. No.	Industry	Percentage of Rural Migrants
1	Construction	41.6
2	Agriculture	23.6
3	Manufacturing	17
4	Mining and Quarrying	1.3
5	Trade	7.3
6	Transport	16.8

Causes of Migration There are numerous causes of migration from rural to urban centers and vice versa or from one region to another Notable among these are (Razi. 2014)

1. Social conflicts and social tension
2. Gap in civilization / culture
3. Law and Order situation
4. Inequalities in the available social and economic opportunities and other amenities of life between groups of people and or sectors.
5. Income maximization
6. Inequitable distribution of benefits of economic development.
7. Social mobility and social status aspirations.
8. Residential satisfaction.
9. Friend and family influences
10. Desire for attaining lifestyle, performance and enjoyment.
11. Development of some sort of complex.

Consequences of Migration

1. Urbanization: Migration aids in Urbanization. Thomson also viewed urbanization in the form of migration. Preston considers rural urban migration as an indicator of regional and sectoral distortions in the pattern of development. The UN also estimated that about 60 per cent of the urban growth in developing countries is due to the rate of natural increase of urban areas and the remaining 40 per cent is due to migration. Migration is the chief mechanism by which all the world's greatest urbanization trends have been accomplished (UNFPA, 2006).
2. Rural depopulation: Migration to urban areas results in rural depopulation. As most of the productive work force leaves rural areas in search of better

opportunities the rural areas are left behind with the old and the unable (UNFPA, 2006).

3. Social status: Migration is helpful in equalizing social status, income of rural urban settlements, checking fragmentation of land holdings and promotes concept of division of labour and specialization. Migration also helps in cultural diffusion and cultural assimilation as peoples from diverse cultures settle and in due course of time they share and exchange their cultural values and ethos thus helping in cultural diffusion (UNFPA, 2006).
4. Remittances: Income sent home in the form of monetary assistance can help in paying the debts, increasing food security, help diversify livelihoods and to reduce vulnerability associated with shocks. The NSSO 64th report also states that nearly 10 per cent of the households in the rural areas had used remittances for 'debt repayment and nearly 13 per cent of the households in the urban areas had used remittances for 'saving/ investment The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Indians living abroad transferred \$24.6 billion to India in the fiscal year 2005-2006. India, thus, continues to retain its position as the leading recipient of remittances in the world (UNFPA, 2006).

The National Commission for Rural Labour had first focused on a policy agenda for migration. Recently, the NCEUS has suggested (GOI, 2017):

- I. A systematic approach to labor migration within the framework of policies and programs for informal workers
- II. A comprehensive legislation for informal workers, covering minimum labor standards and issues specific to migrant labor
- III. A universal minimum social security package for informal workers incorporating three elements crucial for extending the coverage to migrant workers, viz., complete portability in terms of registration, payment of premium (where applicable), and receipt of benefits
- IV. To involve grassroots organizations in the registration of workers and that the workers be issued a family smart security ID card, which could be simultaneously utilized by the migrant and her/his family members.
- V. Livelihood promotion, addressing the regulatory framework in urban areas, and an approach to agricultural and rural development

The Consequences of Human Migration

1. Demographic Consequences: Migration may have profound effects on the size, structure and growth patterns of populations. Migration has effects on

both populations of the patterns of populations. Migration has effects on both population of the places that people leave & on the populations of those in which they settle. These effects vary with different types of migration & length of migrants stay in places. The absence of large number of either men or women may have a limited impact on the sending society in short term but if they are absent for longer periods time their absence will have significant effects on population growth rates in the medium and longer terms (Singapur & Sreenivasa, 2014).

2. **Social Consequences.** Migration may have important on the cultures & societies migration also has effects on the cultures of both the places that migrants leave and those in which they re-settle These effects vary with different types of migration the skills of the migrants & the lengths of time involved (Singapur & Sreenivasa, 2014)
3. **Political Consequences:** Migration can have an impact on politics in both the places which people leave and those to which they move Governments will have to make policies to attract migrants, to persuade migrants to return, or to limit migration to ensure that they have access to skills that they need. These are political effects very with different types of migration (Singapur & Sreenivasa, 2014)
4. **Economic Consequences.** Migration can have significant effect on economics Migration has impact on the economies that people leave and those in which they re-settle These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migration and length of time involved (Singapur & Sreerivasa, 2014).

Need for Policy Interventions

The issues and challenges of rural to urban migration and its economic impact and social consequences have overriding effects on the socioeconomic conditions of these people and hence significantly draw the attention of policy makers and planners to address such issues. The need of the hour is a lateral approach and need of different perspective to address and understand this social flux. To control rural-urban migration, there is need of policy interventions, and among many, few interventions have been elaborated categorically by addressing the problems at the place of origin. As the migration by far assumed to be distressed one, therefore policy focus has been clustered around the distressed factors which are enlisted as push factors in the model (Mohapatra, 2014):

- MNREGA has fetched magnetic changes in the rural life economically and socially. It has made sure that each adult member of a family, male or female

is provided with 100 days of work in year. This is certainly raises the purchasing power of the family and help in getting their livelihood This kind of stable, safe and secured income has always motivated them to work in their native land and hence possibly create an atmosphere to control migration to a great extent

- Although the MNREGA has started with best of intentions but real benefits is not being shared by the target demography. There is lot of loopholes at the stage of implementation and accounting process. Bringing rigor and transparency in implementation and furthermore community involvement may certainly control migration in large scale.
- Provisioning of better and adequate education and health facilities in the rural area is one of the essentials to control the pace and magnitude of migration. Beside, vocational education should be added to the curriculum and especially for rural colleges so as to give a practical exposure to the rural students to get their livelihood. The government should give importance to social sector development especially on housing, drinking water, medical facilities and education too.
- Increase in agricultural productivity may deter the migration process, the government should promote sustainable agricultural practices in general and at the areas where migration is dominant in particular through special provisioning of irrigation, high yield variety seeds, fertilizer in subsidized rate. Beside, provision of agricultural credit facility at large and crop insurance may add to the effort.
- Dairying has become the secondary source of income among many families in rural areas. The government should give more emphasis to the National Dairy Plan to increase milk production and thereby creating avenues to keep hold the people to their indigenous occupations. Similarly focus should be given on fisheries and poultry as a source of income and employment to revamp the rural economy.
- The government should encourage other allied sectors to enhance job creation in the villages through high value agriculture like horticulture, floriculture and etc.
- To increase income and employment, the government should ensure development of non-farm rural activity, beside its farm counterpart.
- Village Entrepreneurship Program should be initiated and incentives should be provided to the rural youth to start their new venture with the help of

available rural resources. To make it more successful, the government should provide training and teach them necessary skills for excellence

- Special effort has to be made to preserve the forest and to stop deforestation in the tribal belt which may slow down the pace of migration and help the natives to get their livelihood at their place of origin
- Electricity becomes an inevitable part of human being, without which life become miserable. Life style of rural people has undergone drastic changes and therefore to ensure sustainable rural development, there is need of continuous supply of electricity
- All the urban facilities like mobile services, multi channel TV connection, and medical and improved transportation facilities are very much essential to give a descent living in rural areas. Faster rural infrastructure development will certainly control migration in India.

Conclusion

The magnitude and variety of internal migration flow in India as well as the distresses associated with them are enormous. A basic overview of this complex phenomenon makes clear that in spite of the vast contribution of migrants to India's economy the social protections available to them still remain sparse. The economy of the country is based on agriculture, as a result rural to rural stream dominates in the migration process. As far as reasons of migration are concerned employment among males and marriage? among female is the main reasons of migration in the country. In spite of number of studies have been conducted still there is a lot issues related to the migration has not been addressed. The main cause and concern behind the migration is the economic factor, so agriculture and non-farm sector at rural landscape should be given the top priority to control migration.

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