

Review Article

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Trend and Pattern of Rural-Urban Migration in India

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ABSTRACT

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The study of internal migration has always fascinated demographers. Rural –Urban migration is an important factor that influences socio-economic development in developing countries. The present study is based on the census data to know the trend and pattern of internal migration as well as the rural-urban migration stream. As per 2011 census, around 450 million (37.2 percent) of population is classified as migrants in India. Finding shows that in 2011, the percentage of the in-migrants to the total population in three states Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal accounting about 44% of the total inter-state migrants in the country. The above mentioned three states were at top in 2001 census also with 39.5 % share of the total migrants in the country. Rural to rural migrations have the dominant stream among all the states. In this stream female are more mobile than male. Indian agricultural economy is reflected by this stream.

Introduction

Developing country like India, is facing a lot of problems due to the high rate of the population growth. Policy planners and social scientist are searching ways and means to balance population growth with the nation's economic resources.

Migration along with fertility and mortality is one of the important vital population processes that influenced the size, composition and distribution of population. Studies shows that when one side fertility and mortality differential declining, on the

other side inclining migration become the foremost component influencing the population redistribution (Beck, 1985).

An absolute immobile population does not exist anywhere in the world. Proper understanding of the patterns of migration would help in the estimation of future population redistribution. It is the most important component of population growth and influences the social, economic, cultural and political factors (Singh, 1998). During the days when there is a lot of economic and industrial development in various parts of the country and

when movement of the population has intensified, emphasis should be given to further understanding and study of the trends and patterns of migration.

Migration is a process involving movement of people. It is defined as a move from one migration defining area to another, usually crossing administrative boundaries made during a given migration interval and involving a change of residence (UN, 1993).

Internal migration that occurs within a country is now recognized as an important factor in influencing social and economic development, especially in developing country. Indian census is the main source of migration data. Census provide data on migration based on place of birth (POB) and place of last residence (POLR).

A person is defined as migrant if his/her place of birth or place of last residence is different from the place of enumeration (POE). As per 2011 census, around 450 million (37.2 percent) of population is classified as migrants in India.

Analysis of the spatial pattern of migration helps us to assess the role of various social and economic factors influencing migration. The spatial characteristics of migration can be studied in two ways: migrants by the distance categories and migrants by rural urban streams.

On the basis of the administrative boundaries crossed or not crossed, internal migration is classified as

Intra-district Migration: Movement of population within the boundary of a district

Inter-district Migration: Movement outside the district but within the state

Inter-state Migration: Movement beyond the state and union territory but within the country

This is roughly indicative of distance of migration.

There are four flow of internal migration according to their direction of movements within and between rural and urban areas. On the basis of rural and urban nature of place of last residence of migrants, these migration streams are identified as rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban. Most of the developing countries experiences significant rural-urban migration flows (Pison *et al.*, 1995).

Trend of Internal Migration in India

Table 1 shows the lifetime migrants (in million) based on the place of last residence (POLR) measure. In 1971 census, around 160 million persons which comprises 50 million males and 110 million females, were termed as migrants on the basis of place of last residence. This constitutes 29.1 percent migrants of the total population of India. There is increasing trend in migration from 1971 to 2011 in terms of total volume. In 2011 the total migration reached to 450 million. Percentage of migration to total population however declined to 27.4 percent in 1991 but it has increased to 37.2 percent in 2011. Sex wise differences can be clearly seen in every census year of the migration data. There is the dominance of female's migrants in all the census year.

Table 2 shows the growth of migrants by sex for different census years. There is steep growth of migrants in 2011 with males achieving about 60 percent increase over that of 2001 census figure.

Migrants by Distance Categories

In table 3, comparison of the 2011 census migration data with 2001 census shows that there was high growth (45.7 %) in the number of total migrants by place of birth, which is more than the natural growth of the population (17.7%). Strikingly, the inter-district migration rose sharply by 57.8 % from about 76.8 million in 2001 to 121.2 million in 2011 census. While comparing 2001 census with 1991, the natural growth of the population was (21.5%) and in total migrants this growth was (33.6%).

Noticeably, the migration of the population from across the boundary of the state (interstate) rose sharply by 55.1% from about 27.2 million in 1991 to about 42.2 % in 2001. There is the dominance of

short distance migration (intra-district) in all the census. About 60 % migrants move are within the district.

Table.1 Internal Migrants by sex, India 1971-2011

Year	Lifetime Migrants (in millions)			Percentage of migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1971	159.6	49.6	110.0	29.1	19.0	43.1
1981	201.6	59.2	142.4	30.3	17.6	43.9
1991	225.9	61.1	164.8	27.4	14.6	41.2
2001	309.4	90.6	218.7	30.1	17.5	44.6
2011	449.9	143.5	306.5	37.2	23.0	52.3

Table.2 Growth of Internal Migrants by Sex, India 1971-2011

Year	Growth of Migrants (%)		
	Persons	Males	Females
1971-81	26.32	19.35	29.45
1981-91	12.05	3.21	15.73
1991-01	36.96	48.28	32.71
2001-11	45.41	58.39	40.15
1971-11	181.89	189.31	178.64

Table.3 Migrants by Place of Birth and Distance category, India 1991-2011

Migrants by POB (million)	Census			Growth (%)	
	2011	2001	1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
<i>Total population</i>	1210.9	1028.6	846.4	21.5	17.7
<i>Total Migrants</i>	447.3	307.1	229.8	33.6	45.7
<i>Intra-district</i>	264.1	181.7	136.2	33.4	45.3
<i>Inter-district</i>	121.2	76.8	59.1	29.9	57.8
<i>Inter-state</i>	56.3	42.2	27.2	55.1	33.4

Table.4 Inter-state migrants by place of birth in major states- India 2001-2011

State	Total In-migrants (Inter-state & from abroad)		% In-migrants to total population		Share of total migrants	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
India	48.5	61.6	4.7	5.1	100.0	100.0
Maharashtra	7.9	10	8.2	8.9	16.3	20.6
Delhi	5.6	6.6	40.3	39.5	11.5	13.6
West Bengal	5.6	4.7	7.0	5.1	11.5	9.7
Uttar Pradesh	2.9	4.3	1.7	2.2	6.0	8.9
Haryana	2.9	3.9	13.7	15.2	6.0	8.0
Gujrat	2.6	4.2	5.1	7.0	5.4	8.7
Madhya Pradesh	2.3	2.3	3.8	3.2	4.7	4.7
Karnataka	2.2	3.4	4.2	5.6	4.5	7.0
Punjab	2.1	2.9	8.6	10.5	4.3	6.0
Rajasthan	1.8	2.7	3.2	3.9	3.7	5.6
Jharkhand	1.8	2.3	6.7	7.0	3.7	4.7
Bihar	1.8	1.4	2.2	1.3	3.7	2.9
Andhra Pradesh	1.1	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.3	3.7
Chhattisgarh	1	1.4	4.8	5.5	2.1	2.9
Rest	6.7	9.7	3.4	3.7	13.8	20.0

Source: Table D-1, Census of India 2001-2011

Table.5 Distribution of lifetime migrants (in million) of each sex by migration stream, India 1991-2011

Migration Stream	2011			2011 (%)		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total Migrants	449.9	143.5	306.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rural to Rural	213.8	36.8	177.0	47.5	25.6	57.8
Rural to Urban	78.2	35.4	42.8	17.4	24.7	14.0
Urban to Rural	26.9	10.1	16.8	6.0	7.0	5.5
Urban to Urban	78.1	35.2	42.9	17.4	24.5	14.0
Migration Stream	2001			2001 (%)		
Total Migrants	309.4	90.7	218.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rural to Rural	171.7	26.1	145.6	55.5	28.8	66.6
Rural to Urban	51.7	24.5	27.2	16.7	27.0	12.4
Urban to Rural	13	4.5	8.5	4.2	5.0	3.9
Urban to Urban	36.6	16.5	20.1	11.8	18.2	9.2
Migration Stream	1991			1991 (%)		
Total Migrants	225.9	61.1	164.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rural to Rural	145.0	26.5	118.6	64.2	43.3	72.0
Rural to Urban	39.9	18.2	21.7	17.7	29.8	13.2
Urban to Rural	13.5	4.5	8.9	6.0	7.4	5.4
Urban to Urban	26.4	11.5	14.9	11.7	18.9	9.0

Inter-state Migration

State-wise data on inter-state migrants by place of birth (POB) would help us to identify those, which were the most preferred destination of migrants, is presented (Table 4). The most important 14 major states in terms of interstate migration for 2001-11 census year. All the states reported more than 1 million in-migrants by place of birth from outside the state, as well as from other countries. Maharashtra is at the top of the list with 10 million in-migrant population followed by Delhi (6.6 million) and West Bengal (4.7 million) in 2011. The percentage of the in-migrants to the total population in these three states were 8.9 %, 39.5 % and 5.1% respectively, accounting for about 44% of the total inter-state migrants in the country. The above mentioned three states were at top in 2001 census also with 39.5 % share of the total migrants in the country.

Migrants by Migration Streams

Table 5 reveals the distribution of migrants by sex and migration stream for the India from 1991 to 2011. It is seen that in 2011, out of the 449.9 million internal migrants in the country, 213.8 million (47.5 %) moved within rural areas. About 78.2 million persons (17.4 % of the total migrants) moved from rural areas to urban areas.

The number of migrants who moved from one town to another is 78.1 million, i.e., about 17.4 percent of the total migrants. It is observed that rural to rural migration stream dominates the process of population redistribution in all the census years. The agricultural economy of the country is reflected through this stream. Declining trend is observed in rural to rural migration in the country. In 1991 it was 64.2% and reached to 47.5% in 2011.

Growth by Migration Streams

Table 6 shows the percentage growth of lifetime

migrants (migrants with all duration) for the period 1991-2001 and 2001-2011. There is the positive growth in migrants for both male and female in all the stream for the period 2001-11. Urban to urban growth is highest in last two decades for both male and female. Rural to urban growth in migration is the second highest stream for both male and female from 1991-2011.

Rural-Urban Migrants in Top Ten States

Table 7 shows the migration stream for top ten states in terms of internal migration for the period 2001-11. All the mentioned states have reported more than 10 million internal migrations for the mentioned period. There is the increasing trend in total migrants in all the mentioned major states in India for the period 2001-11. Significance difference can be seen among the all four migration stream of migrants for both period and gender wise in all major states. It is evident from the table 8 that Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have the highest and Maharashtra received the least rural to rural migrants for the period 2001-11.

Rural to rural migrations have the dominant stream among all the states. In this stream female are more mobile than male. Indian agricultural economy is reflected by this stream. Rural to urban migration is the second dominant stream in all major states. This stream is more economic than social in nature and is dominated by male migrants. Highest male migrants are in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Urban to urban migration is third dominant stream and known as 'Step Migration' and is motivated by economic factors mainly. In this stream people move to improve their employment prospects. Maharashtra is highest and Bihar is lowest number of migrants for this stream. Urban to rural migration is relatively less important phenomenon accounting less than 7 percentage of total internal migrants in the country.

Table.6 Growth of Migrants by Migration Stream, India 1991-2011

Migration Stream	1991-2001			2001-2011		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total Migrants	36.97	48.36	32.74	45.41	58.21	40.10
Rural to Rural	18.38	-1.33	22.77	24.52	41.00	21.57
Rural to Urban	29.54	34.34	25.50	51.26	44.49	57.35
Urban to Rural	-3.56	-1.04	-4.84	106.92	124.44	97.65
Urban to Urban	38.53	43.11	34.99	113.39	113.33	113.43

Table.7 Distribution of internal migrants (in million) of each sex by migration stream in major states of India 2001-11

State	Migration Stream	2001			2011		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Maharashtra	Total Migrants	41.5	16.7	24.9	57.0	24.0	33.0
	Rural to Rural	18.2	4.8	13.4	21.3	6.3	15.1
	Rural to Urban	10.5	5.6	4.9	12.9	6.7	6.2
	Urban to Rural	2.2	0.9	1.3	4.2	1.9	2.4
	Urban to Urban	7.5	3.6	3.9	12.6	6.1	6.6
Uttar Pradesh	Total Migrants	41.1	7.3	33.8	56.1	11.1	45.0
	Rural to Rural	27.4	1.7	25.7	32.8	2.3	30.6
	Rural to Urban	4.0	1.4	2.6	6.6	2.6	4.0
	Urban to Rural	1.2	0.2	1.0	2.4	0.4	1.9
	Urban to Urban	3.1	1.1	2.0	7.7	3.0	4.6
Andhra Pradesh	Total Migrants	23.4	7.8	15.6	38.2	14.5	23.7
	Rural to Rural	12.5	2.6	9.9	15.5	3.7	11.8
	Rural to Urban	3.2	1.5	1.7	5.6	2.6	3.0
	Urban to Rural	1.2	0.4	0.8	2.3	0.9	1.4
	Urban to Urban	2.3	1.2	1.2	7.5	3.6	3.9
West Bengal	Total Migrants	22.5	6.2	16.3	31.4	9.2	22.2
	Rural to Rural	13.0	1.7	11.3	15.5	2.2	13.3
	Rural to Urban	3.4	1.6	1.8	4.7	1.8	2.9
	Urban to Rural	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.1	0.8	1.2
	Urban to Urban	2.6	1.2	1.4	5.0	2.2	2.8
Bihar	Total Migrants	20.3	2.2	18.0	26.8	3.8	23.0
	Rural to Rural	16.0	0.6	15.3	19.9	1.4	18.6
	Rural to Urban	1.5	0.5	1.0	2.1	0.6	1.4
	Urban to Rural	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.8
	Urban to Urban	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.5	0.5	0.9
Gujarat	Total Migrants	19.2	6.7	12.5	26.7	9.9	16.8
	Rural to Rural	9.0	1.6	7.4	10.7	2.1	8.6
	Rural to Urban	4.5	2.3	2.2	7.3	3.7	3.6
	Urban to Rural	0.7	0.3	0.5	1.5	0.6	0.9

	Urban to Urban	2.8	1.3	1.5	5.1	2.4	2.7
Madhya Pradesh	Total Migrants	18.2	4.2	14.0	24.6	6.4	18.3
	Rural to Rural	11.4	1.5	10.0	13.8	2.0	11.8
	Rural to Urban	2.9	1.2	1.7	4.1	1.7	2.4
	Urban to Rural	0.7	0.2	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9
	Urban to Urban	2.2	0.9	1.4	3.6	1.4	2.2
Karnataka	Total Migrants	16.5	5.7	10.9	26.4	10.1	16.2
	Rural to Rural	8.4	1.8	6.6	10.4	2.6	7.8
	Rural to Urban	2.8	1.3	1.5	4.0	1.9	2.1
	Urban to Rural	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.9	0.7	1.1
	Urban to Urban	2.5	1.2	1.3	5.9	2.8	3.1
Rajasthan	Total Migrants	16.3	3.2	13.1	21.8	4.5	17.3
	Rural to Rural	11.2	1.2	10.0	13.3	1.4	11.9
	Rural to Urban	2.0	0.8	1.2	3.2	1.3	1.9
	Urban to Rural	0.7	0.2	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.8
	Urban to Urban	1.4	0.5	0.9	2.4	0.9	1.6
Orissa	Total Migrants	11.0	2.5	8.5	15.3	4.2	11.1
	Rural to Rural	7.6	0.9	6.7	9.3	1.3	8.0
	Rural to Urban	1.5	0.7	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.1
	Urban to Rural	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.4
	Urban to Urban	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6

Table.8 Percent Distribution of internal migrants of each sex by migration stream in major states of India 2001-11

State	Migration Stream	2001 (%)			2011 (%)		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Maharashtra	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	43.9	28.6	54.0	37.4	26.1	45.6
	Rural to Urban	25.4	33.8	19.6	22.6	27.9	18.7
	Urban to Rural	5.2	5.4	5.1	7.5	7.8	7.2
	Urban to Urban	18.1	21.8	15.5	22.2	25.4	19.9
Uttar Pradesh	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	66.6	23.5	75.9	58.5	20.4	67.9
	Rural to Urban	9.8	19.5	7.7	11.8	23.0	9.0
	Urban to Rural	2.8	2.5	2.9	4.2	3.9	4.3
	Urban to Urban	7.5	15.0	5.9	13.7	27.4	10.3
West Bengal	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	57.8	28.1	69.0	49.5	24.3	59.9
	Rural to Urban	15.1	25.9	11.0	15.0	19.5	13.2
	Urban to Rural	4.1	5.5	3.6	6.5	9.0	5.5
	Urban to Urban	11.8	19.4	8.9	16.0	24.1	12.6
Andhra Pradesh	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Rural to Rural	53.6	33.5	63.6	40.6	25.5	49.8
	Rural to Urban	13.8	19.7	10.8	14.6	17.9	12.6
	Urban to Rural	5.3	5.7	5.1	6.1	6.3	6.0
	Urban to Urban	10.0	14.9	7.6	19.6	24.8	16.4
Bihar	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	78.7	29.0	85.2	74.3	35.9	80.7
	Rural to Urban	7.2	21.5	5.5	7.8	16.8	6.3
	Urban to Rural	2.0	3.1	1.9	3.8	4.8	3.7
	Urban to Urban	3.0	9.9	2.2	5.4	14.0	4.0
Gujarat	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	47.0	24.0	59.4	40.0	21.2	51.1
	Rural to Urban	23.6	34.4	17.9	27.5	37.9	21.3
	Urban to Rural	3.8	3.9	3.7	5.7	6.1	5.5
	Urban to Urban	14.3	19.2	11.7	19.3	24.3	16.3
Madhya Pradesh	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	62.7	34.7	71.1	56.2	31.5	64.5
	Rural to Urban	16.0	28.6	12.2	16.6	27.2	12.8
	Urban to Rural	3.9	4.8	3.6	5.3	6.6	4.9
	Urban to Urban	12.2	20.7	9.7	14.6	21.9	11.9
Karnataka	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	51.2	32.4	60.6	39.3	25.3	48.3
	Rural to Urban	17.1	23.1	13.8	15.1	18.7	12.9
	Urban to Rural	5.3	5.6	5.1	7.0	7.4	6.9
	Urban to Urban	15.4	21.4	12.1	22.2	27.8	18.9
Rajasthan	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	68.7	37.1	76.4	61.1	32.1	68.6
	Rural to Urban	12.0	24.2	9.1	14.5	28.1	10.9
	Urban to Rural	4.1	5.9	3.6	5.3	7.3	4.8
	Urban to Urban	8.6	15.6	6.9	11.2	19.1	9.1
Orissa	Total Migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural to Rural	69.1	34.6	79.3	60.9	30.8	72.2
	Rural to Urban	13.6	28.3	9.2	13.1	20.6	10.2
	Urban to Rural	2.8	4.2	2.4	4.5	6.4	3.8
	Urban to Urban	5.6	12.0	3.7	7.2	12.2	5.3

Due to the high cost of living in urban areas people migrates towards the rural areas. Comparison of the 2011 census migration data with 2001 census shows that there was high growth (45.7 %) in the number of total migrants by place of birth, which is more than the natural growth of the population (17.7%). Sex wise differences can be clearly seen in every census year of the migration data. Most of the migrants in India have moved within the state

boundaries. There is the dominance of female's migrants in all the census year. It is observed that most of the migrants were from rural areas irrespective of whether the present usual place of residence is rural area or urban area. Rural to rural migration stream dominates the process of population redistribution in the country. The agricultural economy of the country and states is reflected through this stream.

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