



Pratidhwani the Echo

A Peer-Reviewed International Journal of Humanities & Social Science

ISSN: 2278-5264 (Online) 2321-9319 (Print)

Impact Factor: 6.28 (Index Copernicus International)

Volume-XI, Special Issue, June 2023, Page No.240-247

Published by Dept. of Bengali, Karimganj College, Karimganj, Assam, India

Website: <http://www.thecho.in>

A brief scenario of contemporary pattern and characteristics of Migration in India: A geographical analysis

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Abstract:

The labour market of India is highly governed by the absence of able bodied male work-force due to large rate of out migration. This affects the employment and job seeking sector of India covering 200 million people and other parts in globe. This paper focuses on individual and district level migration nature, causes, consequences in India in perspective of 'missing men' concept. It is associated with feminization of agrarian workforce, higher concentration of male labour in construction and non-farm based activities and sky hiking of wages for male workforce in rural economy. During the Covid-19 period, lock-down has been imposed, which severely impacted on migration flows. The nature and trend of migration during post Covid era has changes in a specific direction. The economic crisis and socio-cultural changes also analyzed for this said period.

Abstract: Male workforce, missing men, lock-down, out migration.

Introduction: The story of human migration is older as human civilization. In historical past, geographical obstacles played a crucial role in giving opportunities like employment, education, marital purposes and so on. In ancient past due to lack of ease in transportation system and language skills, the migration activities was limited into short distances. However, in the early 19th century, the crossing of state boundaries was only treated as migration and recorded, while movement within the state was not recorded and treated to be as migration. Although in recent era migration is a reflection and of industrialization, urbanization, technological progress, is facilitated by convenient transportation and economic progression. As per Census of India definition, a person is treated to be a migrant if his/her place of origin is different from the place of their visit where enumeration is done. It also treated as migration when the Place of last residence or else if the place in which he was enumerated during the census is different from his place of immediate last residence. Between the census year of 1991 and 2001, the Indian states of Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana pulled a large number of inter-states migrates in India. In contemporary years, the trend of migration has numerous changes in its policies governed by education, commerce and market in India. It has significantly created a gap between farm and non-farm based sector, between rural and urban areas in terms of employment and

labour turnover. Despite of having heavy burden of infrastructure in metropolitans, due to the ample employment opportunities, these metro cities have become the pivotal point to attract large numbers of migrating labours to find financial opportunities. The infrastructure facilities in addition the housing facilities in terms of well transport network and housing facilities in the adjoining areas also attract a large number of migrants to major cities. A large number of studies attempted to analyze the level and pattern of migration in India. (Davis; 1951, Premi, 1980, 1984; Skeldon, 1986; Bhagat, 2010, Singh, 1998). A set of research studies shown determinants and characteristics of migrants using NSS datasets (Bhagat, 2012). Some research studies found the impact of migration on females (Singh; 1978). In 2011 census, 455 million people were migrated from their last residence, which represents around 37% of the total country population of the country. This figure significantly shows an increase of about 44% from 2001 (total 314 million) and 97% from 1991 (total 231 million). The major determinants of migration have been detected as high employment rates, meagre incomes, dissatisfaction with housing, demand for higher schooling, high population density, a surplus of the labour force, rural-urban wage differentials, pattern of land possession, and the prior migration patterns, the distance between village and city,. Among three major population components, the migration is one of the major parameter of population growth in any region, which plays a crucial role in improving socio-economic conditions of people. The Indian Constitution provides the freedom to its people about their fundamental freedom to move from one part to any other part of India, which gives the full freedom to live and earn a livelihood of their choice. Several social, cultural, economic and political factors play an important role as the decision making factor to move. The impact of these factors significantly differs from time to time and place to place. For socio-economic, political and cultural factors affecting it the nature of migration as an unpredictable parameter to population growth. This analysis of trend and pattern of migration is important for taking planning policy and administration purposes. The main objective represents the trend of emerging migration levels and patterns of census year of from 2001 to 2011.

India has been undergone in lockdown since 25th March, 2020. During this time production and supply of commodities were completely or partially got shut down. All mode of transportation like rail, air, water were suspended. The working labours who has been worked since a long time in various factories, corporate sector and other service sector at various places; they have lost their job and have to return back in their native place due to shutting down their offices. The India govt. took various initiatives to make some arrangements for those aspirant migrants to come back in their home. The govt. also arranges various relief funds and initiates some special train to revert them in their own place. The Supreme Court of India also recognised these issues. On 9th June the Honourable Supreme Court has instructed to central and all state govt. to complete transport system in regards of reaching all remaining stranded migrants to their home and facilitate their employment status by providing assistance to join some local level non formal economy. In

this article, thrusts have been given on some major facts of migration, concise major relief funds declared by the government for the migrant population in India.

A general scenario of Migration: Migration is defined as the mobility or movement of people away from their native place or place of their own residence, across either internal (within various states of the country) or international (across the boundaries of countries) borders. The latest migration report found from last census report, 2011. As per the Indian Census, India had 45.6 crore migrants in the year 2011 (38% of the total countries population) in compared to 31.5 crore migrant people in the census year 2001 (31% of the total population). The difference shows between 2001 and 2011, population grew by 18%, while the numbers of migrant people have increased by 45%. In the census year 2011, 99% of total migration was occurred in form of internal migration where the international migrants (immigrants) comprised only 1%.^[1]

Patterns of Indian migration: Internal migration can be categorized according to origin and destination. It can be classified as

1. Rural-Rural,
2. Rural-Urban,
3. Urban-Rural And
4. Urban-Urban.

As per the 2011 census, there were around 21 crore people have migrated from rural to rural which constituted around 54% of classifiable internal migration. Generally Rural to urban migration and urban to urban migration has been accounted for around 8 crore migrants each. There were around 3 crore people who have migrated from urban to rural, which corresponds 7% of classifiable internal migration in its category. Other types of migration are:

1. Intra-state
2. Inter-state.

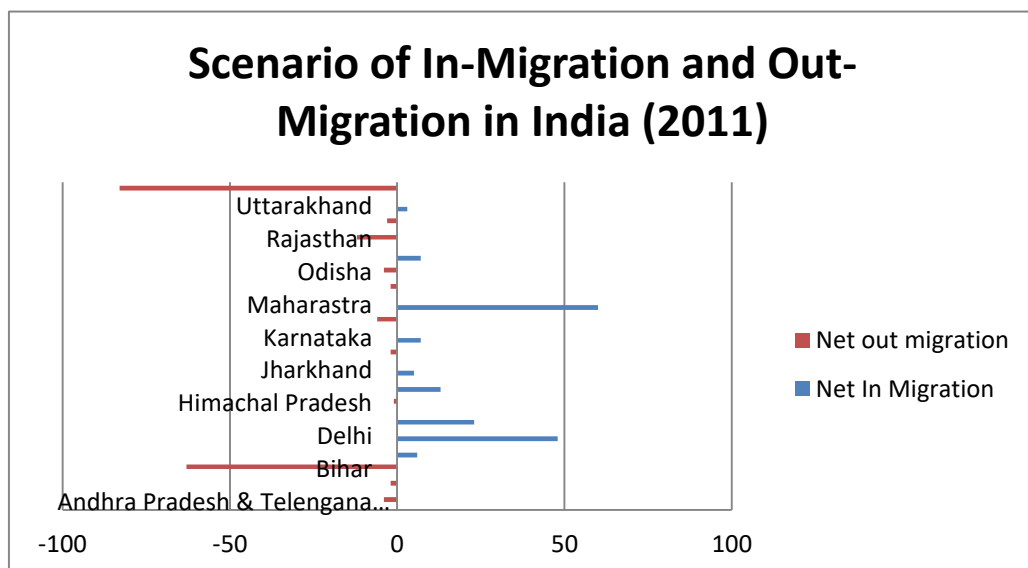
In 2011, intra-state migration was recorded almost 88% among all internal migration , which constitutes around 39.6 crore persons. There is a wide diversity and disparity found across various states in terms of inter-state peoples migratory flows. As per last census 2011, there were 5.4 crore migrants are moved within inter-state range. According to 2011 census, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were recorded the largest source of inter-state migrants (place of origin/departure) while Maharashtra and Delhi were the largest receiver states (place of destination). The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar accounted for 63 lakh and 83 lakh residents had moved either temporarily or permanently to other states. Approximately 60 lakh people from pan India had migrated towards commercial state - Maharashtra in the year 2011.

A net out-migrant state is defined as one state or territory where more people migrate out from the state than those that migrate towards into the state. On the other hand Net in-migration is the abundance of incoming migrants in respect of out-going migrants.

Table 1: Inter-state Migration (in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of the state | Net In Migration | Net out migration |
|---------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh & Telengana State | | -4 |
| 2 | Assam | | -2 |
| 3 | Bihar | | -63 |
| 4 | Chattisgarh | 6 | |
| 5 | Delhi | 48 | |
| 6 | Gujrat | 23 | |
| 7 | Himachal Pradesh | | -1 |
| 8 | Hariyana | 13 | |
| 9 | Jharkhand | 5 | |
| 10 | Jammu-Kashmir | | -2 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 7 | |
| 12 | Kerala | | -6 |
| 13 | Maharastra | 60 | |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | | -2 |
| 15 | Odisha | | -4 |
| 16 | Punjab | 7 | |
| 17 | Rajasthan | | -12 |
| 18 | Tamilnadu | | -3 |
| 19 | Uttarakhand | 3 | |
| 20 | Uttar Pradesh | | -83 |

Source: Census, 2011



Sources: Census 2011; PRS.

The principal factor for governing internal migration and size of the migrant labour force: As per census report of 2011, around 70% intra-state migration occurs due to marriage and family issue which differs from male to female. Among the total figure 83% of female migrated due to their marriage issue while the males have migrated from same issue around 39%. Among the total number around 8% people moved within a state for work/occupational reason among them 21% are male and 2% are female migrants.

In case of interstate migration male members have participated more (95%), where the female have participated only 5%. In census year 2011 around 4.5 crore migrants have migrated. As per the ‘Working Group Report on Migration’ said that census sometimes interpret it in unanimous way. Because majority of female migration took place by their marriage but after that they may join in a new job section which is not going to be enumerated. So the women movement guided for employment purpose is remains untouched.

As per the Economic Survey report published in 2016-17, the temporary migrants also played a crucial role to keep balance between population units. It estimates 6 crore people participates in Inter-state labor migration between 2001-2011 decade. The economic survey entails about 6 crore people have migrated during year 2011-2016. The Economic survey also focused on the population estimation of migrant laborer, who has estimated between the years of 2011 to 2016. On an average there are around 90 lakh people who travelled for occupational crisis.

Table 2: Scenario of intra-state migration

| Gender | Work | Education | Marriage | Move with family | Others |
|-----------------|------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Male | 21 | 2 | 4 | 35 | 37 |
| Female | 2 | 1 | 68 | 15 | 15 |
| Persons average | 8 | 1 | 49 | 21 | 21 |

Source: Census, 2011

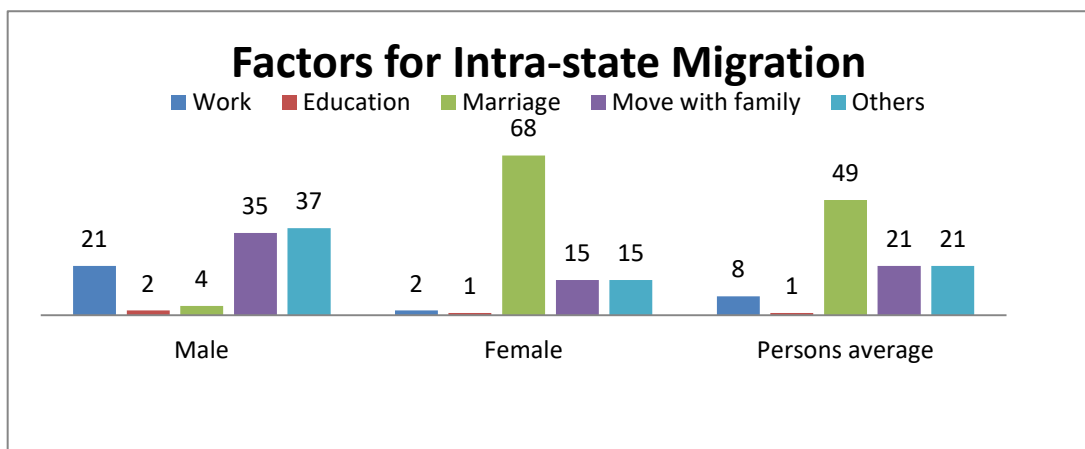


Fig: 2- Factors for Intra-state Migration

Table: 3: Scenario of inter-state migration

| Gender | Work | Education | Marriage | Move with family | Others |
|-----------------|------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Male | 50 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 18 |
| Female | 5 | 1 | 54 | 29 | 11 |
| Persons average | 25 | 1 | 31 | 29 | 14 |

Source: Census, 2011

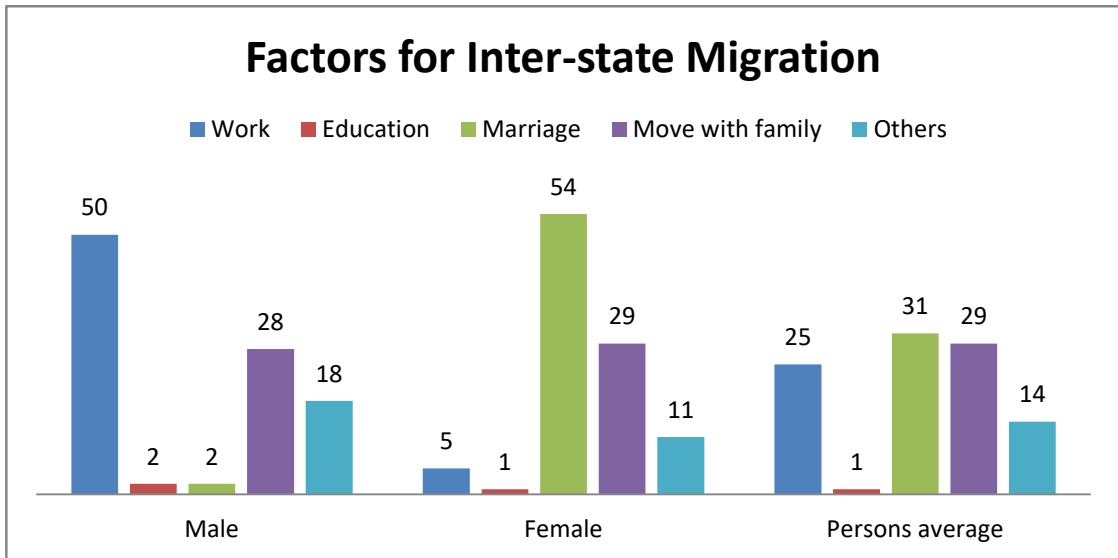


Fig: 3- Factors for Inter-state Migration

The major crisis faced by the migrant laborers in India: As per the Indian constitution, Article 19(1)(e) it guarantees about the right of any Indian to reside or settle in any places of Indian territory, subject to reasonable restriction in regards of general interest of public or any specific tribe. However the migrant labourers in India has faced major crisis like

1. Lack of socio-economic security and poor implementation of safety measures related laws and acts.
2. Lack of food security in terms of inadequate food supply through PDS system.
3. Lack of access of roof in terms of housing shelter with minimal requirement.
4. Besides that other major problems are defined below.

Fragile status of implementation for migrants working protocols: The Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 (ISMW Act) is made to protect inter-state migrant workers. As per the act, major recruiting contractors must have their own license, they recruits only the registered migrants with Govt. authorities and must arrange for the worker a valid passbook to show their identity. In addition the wages along with basic amenities like accommodation, free medical facilities, basic clothing need to provide by the contractor mentioned in its outline.

But as per the report, published on December 2011 by the e Standing Committee, the status of implementation of this acts and protocols are very poor and inadequate.

Lack of Portability benefits: As the migrant labourers are collecting food grains and other necessary food items through ration card in their own region. It doesn't have portability access. So after migration they faced difficulties in surrendering their existing ration card and get new one for the new place of arrival.

Lack of housing and accommodation facilities: In major cities of India around 47%¹ population belongs from migrant category. But in most of the cases due to poor income level and low level of living they have to stay in unhygienic environment of slum and ghettos. But recently as per the Prime Minister Awaas Yojana (PMAY) scheme it provides the benefits like slum rehabilitation, subsidised credit for home loans and subsidies up to Rs 1.5 lakh rupees to construct a new home etc.

Major mitigation to overcome these issues:

- a) **Transport assistance:** During the Covid pandemic situation, the country has undergone in Lock-down phase. The laborers tried to return home on foot due to suspension of all modes of public transportation system. A few buses and some Shramik special trains were permitted by the govt. authority, subject to coordination between states². As per the report published by railway ministry around 58 lakh migrants were transported through special train and 41 lakh were moved through roadways between 1st may to 3rd June.
- b) **Food distribution:** The Ministry of Health and Family Affairs have directed all state government to function some relief camps in regards of providing shelter, foods, clothing, sanitation and necessary medical services towards migrant labourers. On 14th May, the union govt. announced the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan in regards of providing free food grains for jobless migrant workers, who didn't had their ration card for those periods.
- c) **Housing:** Under the r the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Housing Mission (JNNURM) scheme an incentive was taken in regards of providing affordable rental houses for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor.
- d) **Financial aid:** Some states of India announces onetime cash transfer for returning migrant labourers. For instance UP govt. announced Rs. 1000 for returning labourers.

Conclusion: Henceforth, the pandemic situation has influenced the earning opportunities and level of living of migrant labourers. All state govt. along with central govt. takes some welfare and holistic approach to minimize their poverty and loss. The honourable Supreme Court in India provided interim direction to all central and state govt. for ensuring basic needs of the labourers like waived off train or bus fare of the returning migrant worker, providing free nutritious foods and cereals, health screening facilities in a free of cost. In addition it also covers the area of identification, registration of migrant labourers and

collecting data regarding their employability and skill record. A block level counselling centre also established in this period.

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