

Migrant Population in India : Trend and Patterns

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Abstract

The process of migration involves the movement of the whole of the population of a country, region within and across boundaries. Migration issues are pertinent at all levels – international, internal and local. The present study attempts to find out the different types of migration prevalent among Indian population, duration of residence in the present place, reason for migration, age wise classification of the migrants, educational level of the migrants and occupation of the migrants. The study is based on the 2011 Census Data of India. The main findings of the study are: of the total population of India, 99.53 per cent are born and living within India whereas a meagre percentage of 0.47 are born in India but living outside India. Of the population who are born and living within India, 95.33 per cent are born and living within the state whereas 4.67 per cent are born in one state and living in another state. Of the population who are born and living within the state, 66.46 per cent are born and living in the same place, 22.99 per cent are born elsewhere within the district and 10.55 per cent are born in other districts of the state. Of the total migrants 32.8 12 per cent are living in that place for 20 and above years. Among the male migrants majority (23.9 36 per cent) have migrated due to work / employment. Among the females the majority of migration took place as a result of marriage which is 66.48 per cent.

Key Words: Interstate Migration, Intrastate Migration, Migrants, Pattern of Migration

Introduction

Human migration is a crucial aspect of human civilization. It illustrates how humans have tried to survive under the most trying circumstances, both natural and man-made. Labour migration is a human phenomenon with deeper historical roots and broader ramifications. People have been migrating from one location to another ever since human civilization began due to the increasingly unequal and lopsided pattern of social, economic, political, and cultural development of so many different sections and regions of the world..

The studies on migration argue that migration is, by and large, closely linked with two basic arguments, that is, people are compelled to migrate due to development-driven factors and/or distress-driven factors (Akhil. K.O 2020). Migration of people is mainly motivated by better employment opportunities, higher wages, good quality education and health conditions and better living conditions at destinations. On the other hand, it is impelled by push or distress factors at home such as lack of employment, low wage rates, agricultural failure, debt, drought and natural calamities (Aswani T. D. and Shivashankar Bhat 2022)

Globalization and liberalization has led to the use of new technology in agriculture resulting in increased unemployment in the countryside. Consequently, this has forced large numbers of the poor in labour and farming communities to migrate from their home to far off places in search of employment (Kamal 2018).

As a consequence of historical and economic factors, there are serious income disparities, agrarian distress, inadequate employment generation, vast growth of informal economy and the resultant migration from rural areas to urban, urban to urban and backward to comparatively advanced regions in the most appalling conditions (Saha Akash and Adhikary M M 2018).

Statement of the Problem

Migration is regarded as the most ancient approach to reducing poverty and promoting economic progress and human development worldwide. In order to overcome obstacles to development, demographic worries, shifting patterns of supply and demand, consumption expenditures, and concerns about inequality, it is becoming more and more important. Migration issues are therefore relevant on all fronts: global, national, and local. In this background the present study attempts to find out the different types of migration of Indian population – migrating to other countries, migration between states in India, migration within the state in India, duration of residence in the present place, reason for migration, age wise classification of the migrants, educational level of the migrants and occupation of the migrants.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the present study is to analyse the migratory tendencies and pattern of migration among Indian population.

Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary data; particularly the 2011 Census Data of India. Percentage analysis was done to make the study quiet meaningful.

Discussion

Types of Migration among Indian Population: Gender wise Analysis

Indian Population Migrating to other Countries (International migration)

Indians migrate to other countries because of two reasons -- to get higher education and job opportunities. Improvement in higher education system in India creates graduates who are much productive. Indian graduates in the field of science and technology are in great demand in western countries. With the improvement in transport facilities travel has become easier and therefore Indians migrate to foreign countries for getting higher education and job opportunities.

Table 1

Indian Population Migrating to other Countries : Gender wise Classification

Birth and Living Place	Males	Females	Total Persons
1. Born and living within India	620,582,802 (99.57)	584,618,264 (99.50)	1,205,201,066 (99.53)
2. Born in India and living outside India	2,687,456	2,966,455	5,653,911

	(0.43)	(0.50)	(0.47)
Total Population of India (1+2)	623,270,258 (100.00)	587,584,719 (100.00)	1,210,854,977 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Of the total population of India, (Table 1), 99.53 per cent are born and living within India whereas a megre percentage of 0.47 are born in India but living outside India. Among the male population this was 99.57 per cent, 0.43 per cent and among the female population it was 99.50 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively.

Migration between States in India (Interstate Migration)

Migration between States occurs mainly for getting education, job opportunities and women moving to husband's house after marriage.

Table 2
Migration between States in India : Gender wise Classification

Birth and Living Place	Males	Females	Total Persons
1. Born and living within the state	595,735,238 (96.00)	553,168,265 (94.62)	1,148,903,503 (95.33)
2. Born in one state and living in another state in India	24,847,564 (4.00)	31,449,999 (5.38)	56,297,563 (4.67)
Total population who are born and living within India (1+2)	620,582,802 (100.00)	584,618,264 (100.00)	1,205,201,066 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Analysis regarding the migration of population between states in India reveals that (Table 2), of the total population who are born and living within India, 95.33 per cent are born and living within the state whereas 4.67 per cent are born in one state and leaving in another state. In the case of males this was 96 per cent and 4 per cent respectively and in the case of females this was 94.62 per cent and 5.38 per cent respectively.

Migration within the States in India (Intrastate Migration)

Migration within the state happens in two forms -- migrating within the district and migrating between districts.

Table 3
Migration within the States in India : Gender wise Classification

Birth and Living Place	Males	Females	Total Persons
1. Born and living in the same place	480,479,075 (80.65)	283,088,483 (51.18)	763,567,558 (66.46)
2. Born elsewhere in the district	77,306,410 (12.98)	186,802,255 (33.77)	264,108,665 (22.99)
3. Born in other districts of the state	37,949,753 (6.37)	83,277,527 (15.05)	121,227,280 (10.55)
Total population who are born and living within the state (1+2+3)	595,735,238 (100.00)	553,168,265 (100.00)	1,148,903,503 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Analysis regarding the migration within the states in India shows that (Table 3), of the total population who are born and living within the state, 66.46 per cent are born and living in the same place, 22.99 per cent are born elsewhere within the district and 10.55 per cent are born in other districts of the state. Among males this was 80.65 per cent, 12.98 per cent and 6.37 per cent respectively; whereas among females this was 51.18 per cent, 33.77 per cent and 15.05 per cent respectively.

Duration of Migrants Residing in this Particular Place

Table 4

Duration of Residence in the present Place

Duration of Residence in a Particular Place	Males	Females	Total Persons
Less than 1 year	7,805,017 (5.34)	9,781,027 (3.16)	17,586,044 (3.86)
1-4 years	21,283,776 (14.56)	42,609,475 (13.76)	63,893,251 (14.02)
5-9 years	18,425,569 (12.61)	42,003,406 (13.57)	60,428,975 (13.26)
10-19 years	25,979,400 (17.78)	68,733,788 (22.20)	94,713,188 (20.78)
20 and above years	35,148,111 (24.05)	111,273,390 (35.94)	146,421,501 (32.12)
Duration not stated	37,504,094 (25.66)	35,240,568 (11.38)	72,744,662 (15.96)
Total Migrants	146,145,967 (100.00)	309,641,654 (100.00)	455,787,621 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Analysis about the duration of migrants residing in a particular place (Table 4) reveals that of the total migrants 32.82 per cent are living in that place for 20 and above years, 20.78 are living for 10 to 19 years, 14.02 are living for 1 to 4 years, 13.26 per cent are living for 5 to 9 years, and 3.86 per cent are living in that place for less than 1 year. 15.96 per cent of the respondents have not stated the duration of residing in that place.

Migrant Population of India : Analysis by Place of Birth and Place of Residence

The birth and death of Indian citizens get registered in the official records of the local government to which the native place of the person falls; this is actually the place of birth of the person. If during enumeration of census data by the Indian government, the person resides in places other than his native place, he is considered as a migrant. A cross tabulation analysis of migrant population of India is done in terms of place of birth and the place at which the migrants reside at the time of enumeration is analysed in this section.

Table 5

Distribution of Indian Population on the basis of Place of Birth and Place of Residence

Birth place	Place of enumeration		Total
	Rural	Urban	
Total Population	833,748,852 (68.86)	377,106,125 (31.14)	1,210,854,977 (100)
Born within India	831,175,009 (68.97)	374,026,057 (31.03)	1,205,201,066 (100)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to row total

Table 5 reveals that of the total Indian population, 68.86 per cent are residing in rural areas, whereas 31.14 per cent a residing in urban areas. For those born and living within India this figure happens to be 68.97 per cent and 31.03 per cent respectively.

Table 6

Interstate Migration : Classification in terms of Place of Birth and Place of Residence

Place of Birth	Place of Residence	
	Rural	Urban
Within the state of enumeration	815,096,974 (98.07)	333,806,529 (89.25)
States in India beyond the state of enumeration	16,078,035 (1.93)	40,219,528 (10.75)
Total who are born within India	831,175,009 (100)	374,026,057 (100)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Analysis about inter-state migration by rural and urban Indian population reveals that (Table 6), of the total urban population who are born and living within India, 89.25 per cent are born within the state of enumeration whereas 10.75 per cent are born in some other Indian states beyond the state of enumeration. Of the total rural Indian population, 98.01 per cent are born within the state of enumeration and only a meager percentage of 1.93 per cent are born in other states of India, that is, beyond the state of enumeration.

Table 7

Intrastate Migration : Classification in terms of Place of Birth and Place of Residence

Place of Birth	Place of Residence	
	Rural	Urban
Born in the place of enumeration	560,572,499 (68.77)	202,995,059 (60.81)
Born elsewhere in the district of enumeration	193,992,402 (23.80)	70,116,263 (21.01)
Born in other districts of the state	60,532,073 (7.43)	60,695,207 (18.18)
Total who are born within the state of enumeration	815,096,974 (100)	333,806,529 (100)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Regarding intrastate migration it is observed that (Table 7), of the urban Indian population who are born within the state of enumeration, 60.81 per cent are born in the place of enumeration, 21.01 per cent are born elsewhere in the district of enumeration and 18.18 per cent are born in other districts of the state. Of the rural Indian population who are born within the state of enumeration this figure happens to be 68.77 per cent, 23.80 per cent and 7.43 per cent respectively.

Demographic Profile of Migrants

The study of demographic profile of the migrants helps us to understand their socio-economic condition.

Table 8
Age wise Classification of the Migrants

Age -group	Migrants		
	Males	Females	Persons
0-4	9,834,738 (6.73)	9,127,975 (2.95)	18,962,713 (4.16)
5-9	10,959,506 (7.50)	9,958,059 (3.22)	20,917,565 (4.59)
10-14	12,425,108 (8.50)	11,451,227 (3.70)	23,876,335 (5.24)
15-19	12,683,733 (8.68)	16,518,666 (5.33)	29,202,399 (6.41)
20-24	13,197,283 (9.03)	33,658,466 (10.87)	46,855,749 1(0.28)
25-29	13,045,214 (8.93)	37,522,017 (12.12)	50,567,231 1(1.09)
30-34	12,134,009 (8.30)	34,286,096 (11.07)	46,420,105 1(0.18)
35-39	12,060,030 (8.25)	33,054,887 (10.68)	45,114,917 (9.90)
40-44	10,900,143 (7.46)	27,261,236 (8.80)	38,161,379 (8.37)
45-49	9,704,026 (6.64)	23,447,716 (7.57)	33,151,742 (7.27)
50-54	7,940,152 (5.43)	17,842,986 (5.76)	25,783,138 (5.66)
55-59	6,161,754 (4.22)	15,192,910 (4.91)	21,354,664 (4.69)
60-64	5,401,736 (3.70)	14,347,372 (4.63)	19,749,108 (4.33)
65-69	3,687,082 (2.52)	10,141,196 (3.28)	13,828,278 (3.03)
70-74	2,662,421 (1.82)	7,033,728 (2.27)	9,696,149 (2.13)
75-79	1,341,572 (0.92)	3,493,001 (1.13)	4,834,573 (1.06)

80+	1,461,296 (1.00)	4,253,695 (1.37)	5,714,991 (1.25)
Age not stated	546,164 (0.37)	1,050,421 (0.34)	1,596,585 (0.35)
Total of All ages	146,145,967 (100.00)	309,641,654 (100.00)	455,787,621 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Age wise classification of the migrants (Table 8) reveals that among mails the majority of the migrants 9.03 per cent belong to the age group of 20 to 24 years; virus among females the majority of the migrants (12.12 per cent) belong to the age group of 25 to 29 years. On the whole major portion of migrants are from the age category of 20 to 39 years.

Table 9
Educational Level of the Migrants

	Males		Female		Total Person	
1. Illiterate		33,938,624 (23.22)		142,344,935 (45.97)		176,283,559 (38.68)
2. Literate	(100.00)	112,207,343 (76.78)	(100.00)	167,296,719 (54.03)	(100.00)	279,504,062 (61.32)
i. Literate without formal education	5,610,386 (5.00)		11,103,336 (6.64)		16,713,722 (5.98)	
ii. Literate but below Matric/Secondary	52,782,106 (47.04)		95,754,996 (57.24)		148,537,102 (53.14)	
iii. Matric/Secondary but below graduate	33,096,490 (29.50)		42,337,830 (25.31)		75,434,320 (26.99)	
iv. Technical diploma or certificate	2,540,202 (2.26)		1,172,183 (0.70)		3,712,385 (1.33)	
v. Graduate and above other than technical degree	14,043,831 (12.52)		14,209,703 (8.49)		28,253,534 (10.11)	
vi. Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	4,134,328 (3.68)		2,718,671 (1.63)		6,852,999 (2.45)	
Total Migrants (1+2)		146,145,967 (100.00)		309,641,654 (100.00)		455,787,621 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Educational level of the migrants (Table 9) reveals that 61.32 per cent of the respondents are literates where is 38.68 per cent are illiterates. Among males this was 70 6.78 percent and 20 3.22 per cent respectively and among females this was 45.97 per cent and 54.03 per cent respectively.

Of the males who are literates, 47.04 per cent are educated below matric / secondary School education, 29.50 per cent are educated up to matric / secondary School level, 12.52

per cent are graduates, 5 per cent are literates without formal education, 3.68 per cent are technical degree or post graduate degree holders and 2.26 per cent are having technical diploma or certificate.

On the other hand of the females who are literates, 57.24 per cent are educated below matric / secondary school education, 25.30 per cent are educated up to matric / secondary level, 8.49 per cent are graduates, 6.64 per cent are literates without formal education, 1.63 per cent are technical degree or post graduate degree holders and 0.70 per cent are technical diploma or certificate holders.

Table 10
Occupation of the Migrants

Occupation	Male	Female	Person
Main workers	76,415,461 (52.29)	62,704,336 (20.25)	139,119,797 (30.52)
Marginal Workers	10,658,453 (7.29)	44,200,249 (14.27)	54,858,702 (12.04)
Non-workers	59,072,053 (40.42)	202,737,069 (65.47)	261,809,122 (57.44)
Total migrants	146,145,967 (100.00)	309,641,654 (100.00)	455,787,621 (100.00)

Source : Census of India, 2011

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Regarding the occupation of the migrants it is observed that (Table 10) majority of the male migrants (52.29 per cent) are main workers, 7.29 per cent are marginal workers and 40.42 per cent are non workers. Among the female migrants majority are non workers who constitute 65.47 per cent, 20.25 per cent are main workers and 14.27 per cent are marginal workers. Overall of the total migrant population of India, 57.44 per cent are non workers, 30.52 per cent are main workers and 12.04 per cent are marginal workers.

Table 11
Reason for Migration

Reason	Males	Females	Total Persons
Work / employment	35,016,700 (23.96)	6,406,217 (2.07)	41,422,917 (9.09)
Business	2,683,144 (1.84)	907,343 (0.29)	3,590,487 (0.79)
Education	3,296,340 (2.26)	2,161,216 (0.70)	5,457,556 (1.20)
Marriage	5,346,733 (3.66)	205,839,698 (66.48)	211,186,431 (46.33)
Moved after birth	20,078,947 (13.74)	13,776,918 (4.45)	33,855,865 (7.43)
Moved with household	29,679,662 (20.31)	36,280,253 (11.72)	65,959,915 (14.47)
Others	50,044,441 (34.24)	44,270,009 (14.30)	94,314,450 (20.69)

Total	146,145,967 (100)	309,641,654 (100.00)	455,787,621 (100.00)
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Source : Census of India, 2011.

Note : Figures in parenthesis denotes percentage to column total

Analysis about the reason for migration (Table 11) reveals there among the males 23.9 36 per cent have migrated due to work / employment, 13.8 74 per cent have migrated after birth 3.66 percent because of marriage 2.26 person forgetting education 1.84 person for business purpose and 34 point 24 per cent have migrated for some reasons other than that stated above.

Among the females the majority of migration took place as a result of marriage which is 66.48 per cent, 11.72 per cent have migrated with household, 4.45 per cent have moved after birth, 2.07 per cent for work / employment, 0.70 per cent for getting education, 0.29 per cent for business purpose and 14.30 per cent have migrated for some other reasons then the one stated above.

From the above analysis it could be observed that for males, work / employment is the major reason for migration, whereas for females marriage is the main reason for migration.

Conclusion

Migration has long been thought of as a necessary component of the development process. Migration is the movement of workers and people from low productivity and low growth areas/sectors to high growth and high productivity areas/sectors, enabling increasing levels of productivity. Internal migration is on the rise and is causing significant shifts in the country's economic and social structure, as well as in the patterns of occupation. These migrants mostly belong to lower socio-economic groups and are situated in more adverse situation in the labour market. To lower unemployment and poverty, the national government should implement programs and policies that provide employment prospects in rural areas. A coordinated plan of action involving the Indian states and the central governments is necessary for migration policies to be effective.

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