



## Internal Migration in India

**Dr. Jasleen Kewlani**

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, Patiala

Email: jasleenkewlani@gmail.com

### Introduction

Movement is a very crucial as well as an inevitable human activity. Until and unless movement occurs, there can be no human interaction or sharing in social, cultural, economic, political or any other context. In formal terms movement of human beings has been understood and explored in form of migration and immigration. Migration denotes that act when a person moves from one place to another. This movement can be from one place to another, within the country; across the national boundaries. Migration can be related to an individual, a family, a group, or also to a community at large. However not leaving any knowledge gap we can also discuss the meaning of immigration here at this point of this paper. Immigration means when an individual family or a group moves to another country from the country of origin with due formal procedures through embassy. Both migrations as well as immigration are very important demographic phenomenon leaving remarkable and noticeable impacts on the place of origin, movement or destination. Migration from one nation to another and migration from state to another state of the same nation, both are two different things. In India, we notice that the Immigration industry is growing rapidly as people have quest to move to other countries for economic, political, educational or other reasons. But in India, the internal migration is also a very dominant human activity. It is very often noticed that people move from their city, town, village, district or state and move to other places within India. The reasons may be similar as that in case of international migration but need a thorough research. Studying migration or movement of people implies studying dynamics of that society in fact. Such efforts help exploring the factors which made the migrant/s stay at a place for long or considerable time period; the factors which pressurized him to take decision of changing his place of residence or survival and the like. There is a plurality of causes working at the back of internal migration in India. The factors are social, political, demographic, environmental, and economic and the like. According to the studies carried out by Daniel and Samita (both in 2011), there is no clear data available but there are about 15 million child migrants in India. The lead source states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu. On the other hand, the attractive destinations are Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Karnataka.



Situation hardly changed as compared to that of the years 2007-2008. The destination regions almost remain same with little or at some instances significant variations in the number of persons choosing those with individual choices. Anhita Mujherji, in an article publishes in Times of India dated 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 explains that according to a recent report published then, the largest flow of migrants anywhere in urban India is towards Delhi. The article adds that Delhi excluding the rest of NCR, had more migrants than any other state in the nation. The data for migration under Census 2011 has not yet been released making it compulsive for researchers to depend on the migration data retrieved from Census 2001 and the 64<sup>th</sup> Round of the National Sample Survey (2007-2008).

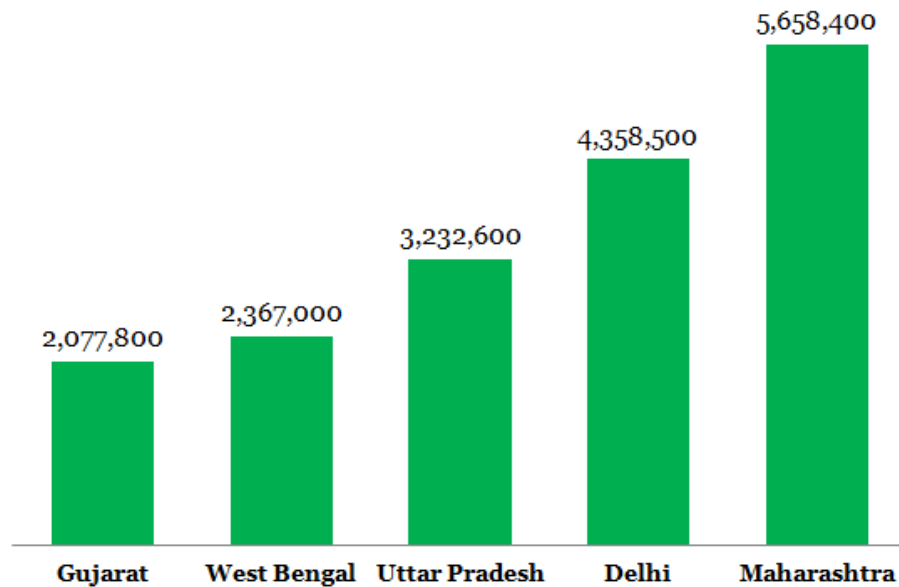
As per the census 2001, about 307 million persons had been reported to be cases of migration by place of birth. Out of these 307 million about 259 million (that is 84.2 percent) migrated from one part of state to another. As far as migration by last residence is concerned, the total number of migrants is reported to be 314 million persons; out of which about 268 million (that is 85 percent) were intrastate migrants. Further, according to the Census 2011, 45.36 crore Indians form the total migrants of the nation, who are now settled in 'different from their previous residence'. This bulk constitutes 37 percent of India approximately. Marriage, work and employment are the main reasons for which most of the people decide to move from their birth place or native region; however in case of men, 'work and employment' are more working and pressing factors. The following part of this paper presents a detailed discussion on these and other factors too.

The trends of In migration and Out migration is a crucial components of migration studies. In-Migration is when some people move 'from' one town or village of the state 'to' another town or village or district of the same state. In other cases, people move from one state to another state. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation ( MOSPI) worked on data related to the states with Highest Estimated In-Migration and the States where the ut-Migration exceeds the –in-Migration, both for the tenure 2007-2008. Figure 1 and Figure 2 shows that data.

**Figure 1: States with Highest Estimated In-Migration 2007-2008**



**States With Highest Estimated In-Migration,  
 2007-08**



Source: MOSPI

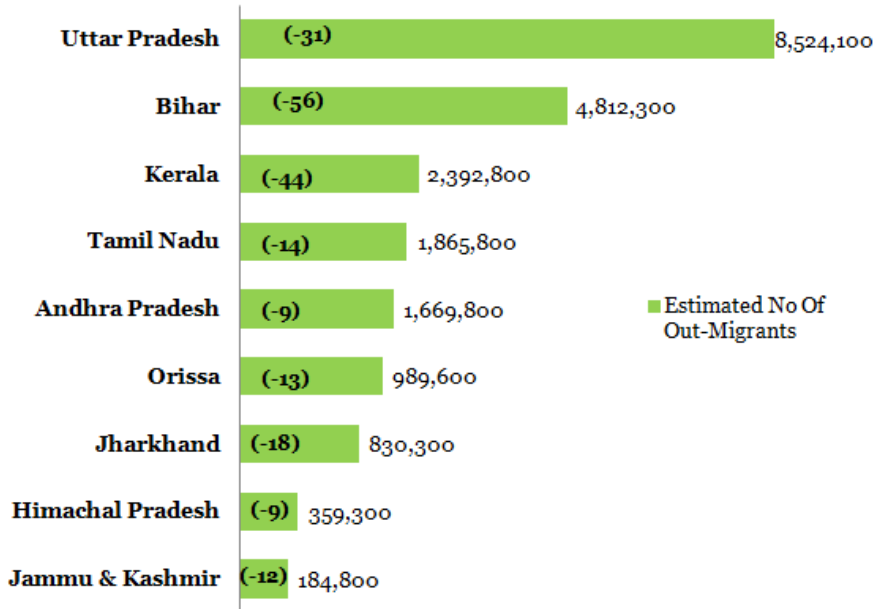
**Figure 2: States where Out-Migration Exceeds In-Migration 2007-2008**

Source: <http://www.indiaspend.com/sectors/how-gujaratis-love-gujarat-and-other-migration-stories-49968>, visited on 8th November, 2016 at 8:00 pm.

Figure 1 shows it clearly that Maharashtra is the state having highest estimated In-Migration in the year 2007-2008, followed by Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujrat. Although figures on these variables have not been yet released by the Census of India 2011, but we can still refer to the Times of India 2011’s component discussed above. The states for destination and the states as lead sources of migration have seldom changed. Figure 2 also reflects this analysis. In states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir the Out-Migration exceeded the In-Migration in 2007-2008 and the situation remained almost resembling in the year 2011.



**States Where Out-Migration Exceeds In-Migration,  
2007-08**



Figures in Brackets are Net Migration Rate per thousand, NOTE: Net Migration Rate = In-migration – Out-migration  
Source: MOSPI

Source: <http://www.indiaspend.com/sectors/how-gujaratis-love-gujarat-and-other-migration-stories-49968>, visited on 8th November at 8:00 pm.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation published a report entitled, ‘Migration in India’ in 2010 which was based on the 64th Round of the National Sample Survey. One of the key findings of the report states that 78 percent of the rural and 78 percent of the urban migrants household remained in the same state. The situation in the states where the out-migration exceeds the in-migration is worrisome. As per a Report by IndiaSpend, the people are ageing at the rate comparable to the Scandinavian countries. There is a combination of conditions and reasons that make the present scene of migration happen. In case of India, the factors behind migration are very particular and they need to be understood and interpreted in terms of the very the social, political and economic scenario of India as a nation as well as a region.



---

## Factors behind Internal Migration in India

Regional diversity is one main reason behind this migration influx on both intra-state and inter-state levels. The term ‘region’ means an ‘area’ and the term ‘regional’ can be understood through the synonyms like territorial, special, geographical, topographical, topical, local, provincial, sectional, and the like. On the other hand, the term ‘Diversity’ implies differences, variations, mixture, range, multiplicity, distinctiveness, divergence, heterogeneity, dissimilarity, multiformity and the like. Hence, regional diversity implies the differences and dissimilarities the people, regions and communities of India feature. India is well known and also respected in the world for its diversity which is very exclusive in nature. India is a big nation having twenty nine States and seven Union Territories. The basic principle of nature that is; no two or more regions can be completely similar. The geographical division of the states and UTs of India clearly depict extreme differences. States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra hold big portions of land of India. On the other hand, the states like Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram and the like hold a small portion of land. However, this geographical typology is also ardently featured with differential topographical, demographic, linguistic, religious, environmental and cultural differences and most dominantly economic factors. A person or a group for taking a decision regarding migration, sees or analyses the opportunities for better earning and better survival in the destination states or regions. This though is compulsorily a comparison between the destination region and the region of present residence.

The Census of India 2001 published data on reasons for migration. Figure 3 shows the Reasons for Migration of Migrants by Last Residence with duration (0-9 years) India 2001. According to the given data, the majority out of the total migrants in India move from their place of residence to another city, state or district for employment or work. The figure also depicts data on the migrants who moved after birth and who moved with their households. Highest number of migrants has moved from their places to others due to marriage, which seems very understandable with reference to Indian patriarchal structure; followed by a significant number of migrants who moved for work and employment. That makes it clear that economic reason is the paramount in case of decisions related to migration. In the report entitled ‘Migration in India’ published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme in 2010, it is well explained that a majority of the households migrated for employment-related reasons. The report reads, ‘Nearly 55% of the households in rural areas and 67% of the households in the urban areas had migrated for employment-related reasons’. Other than work and employment, Business, Education, Migration due to marriage, are some other prominent causes behind migration influxes in regions. ‘Education’ also plays a big role as a factor behind migration in both cases, that is In-Migration as well as Out-



Migration. People migrate from their place of birth or last residence for better educational opportunities. Although any latest data has not been made public after 2001 census and 64<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey regarding the reasons for migration, but it is expected to show similar trends whenever it is published.

**Figure 3 REASONS FOR MIGRATION OF MIGRANTS BY LAST RESIDENCE WITH DURATION (0-9 YEARS) INDIA 2001**

Reason for migrations	Number of Migrants			Percentage to Migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total migrants	98,301,342	32,896,986	65,404,356	100.0	100.0	100.0
Reason for migration : Work / Employment	14,446,224	12,373,333	2,072,891	14.7	37.6	3.2
Business	1,136,372	950,245	186,127	1.2	2.9	0.3
Education	2,915,189	2,038,675	876,514	3.0	6.2	1.3
Marriage	43,100,911	679,852	42,421,059	43.8	2.1	64.9
Moved after birth	6,577,380	3,428,673	3,148,707	6.7	10.4	4.8
Moved with households	20,608,105	8,262,143	12,345,962	21.0	25.1	18.9
<b>Other</b>	<b>9,517,161</b>	<b>5,164,065</b>	<b>4,353,096</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>15.7</b>	

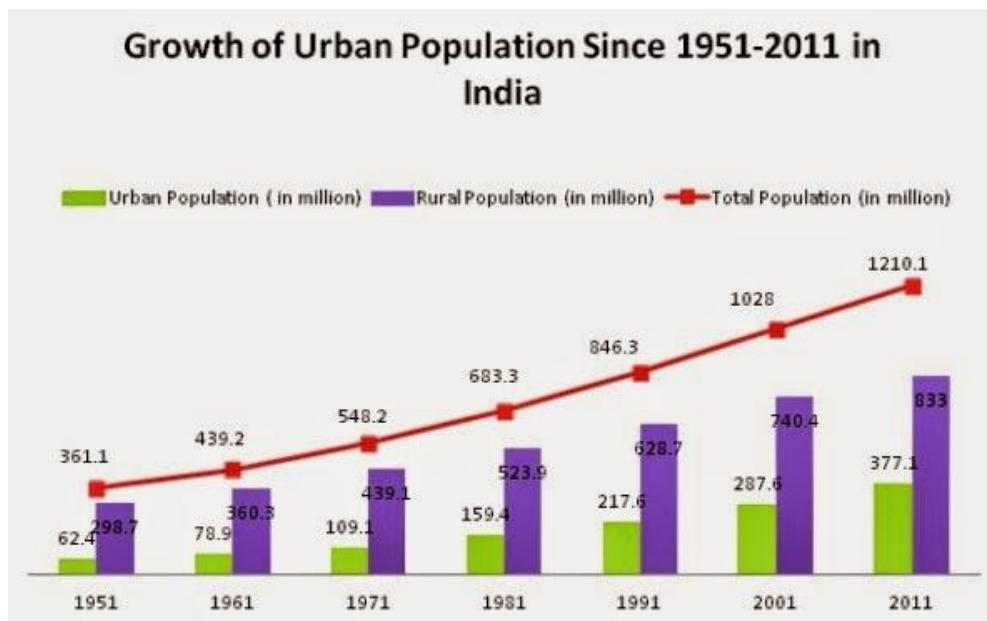
Source: Government of India, Ministry of home affairs, Office of Registrar in General & Census Commissioner, India, Census of India 2011, Head: House listing and House Census Data Highlights-2011.

This scenario moves in connotation to that of the educational Rural Urban Dichotomy in India. People move from their villages and towns to other towns, cities and districts for better schools, colleges and professional training institutions. India’s rural structure is one of its specific national identities, which is observed by the whole world when it comes to development and international regime. This makes the rural urban literacy gap a serious concern for the whole nation. There are still lesser number of schools than needed in Indian rural areas than the urban areas, whereas the rural population needs it more to attain functional literacy. And the bulk of population lives in rural areas. The rural population of India is 68.84 percent and the urban population is 31.16 percent of the total population. There is more population but fewer facilities for education. This makes Indian rural



population more decisive for migrating to urban areas. This phenomenon also results in higher rate of urbanization in India. Hence it will not be wrong is opined that Migration and Urbanization are closely related social processes having multiple repercussions on human being’s social life. Figure 4 shows the growth of urban population in India since 1951-2011. The data depicts that the urban population increased much faster than that of the rural population in all these decades. The urban areas are attraction for the migrants as these regions hold more and better opportunities for education, employment, and work. The urban population has increased rapidly due to the high paced process of urbanization, which took place in India over the decades. The process of urbanization takes place due to two major factors, those are (i) the expansion of the urban areas and satellite towns and, (ii) due to the influx of people from rural areas to urban areas. This makes the growth of rural population slower as compared to urban population. Further difference is because the rural population growth takes place with factors like birth , migration due to marriage predominantly, the quantum of which is not as heavy as that is in case of the factors behind urban population growth. Other major factor which attracts more and more influx of people from other regions, especially rural regions to urban areas is ‘industrialization’. More and more industries in the urban areas means more employment as well as more transport, making ‘movement’ seemingly convenient to be undertaken as a social change in the life of the concerned individuals.

**Figure 4: Growth of Urban Population since 1951-2011 in India**



Source: retrieved from <http://studyforcivilservices.blogspot.in/2015/09/urbanization.html> serfed on 10th November, 2011 at 3 :00 pm.



However, while talking about the factors behind migration, lack of social insecurity, environmental and natural disasters related threats, can not be ignored. But there is lack of data on these components of the discussion. The natural turmoil like Uttarakhand floods and the like do leave a large scale impact on migration but yet the data on these records have not been compiled. Availability of good higher education institutions in some states have also contributed in making them active and prominent destination regions, however very inadequate data is available for population studies in this content. Even the data on migration through the Census 2011 is awaited which might help in exploring the hidden or untouched issues related to migration further. In addition, the National Sample Survey's (NSS) 65<sup>th</sup> Round results are awaited too.

### **Repercussions of Internal Migration**

Internal Migration in India has taken form of being a determinant of social security of India's citizens; economic stability, social harmony and cohesion, political activities, religious diversity and many more such aspects of human life. People migrate at time with thought and at time with no thought. Migration without thought becomes a bone of contention for the migrants and the destination states and regions too. The resource mobilization does not take place at the same pace as that of the influx of the migrants in a region. For instance, the migrants need residence, in case of lack of which slums develop. Migrants need work or job in case of lack of which chances of rise in crime incidence increase; migrants share the regional resources of the local residents of the region, with which chances of communal riots increase as it happened in Maharashtra few years back. Administration has lack of data or predictability regarding the approximate number of people arriving in the destination region due to which health care facilities, social security like food clothing and all can be randomly provided to the migrants. With reference to the male migrants their left behind wives suffers for whole life in many cases. Either they marry illegally leaving the previous wife or they never return to them and keep sending them money and keep visiting them whenever they can afford. This affects the mental and physical health and in addition endorses the gender turmoil. States like Maharashtra are affected heavily due to thick density of population which again becomes an issue to handle with efficacy. Thick density in a region for long affects the death rates, birth rates, Mother Mortality Rates, Child care, employment opportunities, educational facilities being provided by government, lack of privacy leading to denial of dignity of survival and the like. Not only this, the migrants face deprivations and denial of basic entitlements as citizens of the nation at the destination regions already inhabited by the local dwellers. For example, subsidized food and drinking water; social security; legal protection; banking facilities and the like. We can also surely mention that the recent denomination policy must





have affected the migrants the most as they have no Identity proofs to maintain their saved income in bank accounts at the places of their present residences. Such instances are not foreseen, but can not be ignored with reference to the internal migrants in India. In all the repercussion of internal migration and further lack of maintenance of the record in this case may lead to increase in crime rate; increase in suicide rate; health related threats, lack of identification with the main stream leading to alienation and affect on the mental health of uncountable migrants.

### Conclusion

There is a need of rigorous thought by the governmental and non-governmental organization and also by the Common man. ‘Migrants’ not to be forgotten at all are very much the part of our own national community; they are India’s citizens and above all they are human beings having their due human rights including right to survive and right to dignity of survival. There is a need of institutional preparedness and capacity building to facilitate migration and support migrants for their social, cultural and dwelling needs. For this target there is a dire need of having an advance call or may say advance information regarding the expected number of migrants arriving a particular destination. This may be termed as interstate coordination. Identity cards to al the migrants, let it be interstate or intrastate migrants must be issued at the earliest and made compulsory to undertake any new job, work or even labor contract in the destination region. This shall to large extent help in maintaining the record of migrants and also keep check over criminal acts which take place due to anonymity.

### References

1. Adams, A. and S. Castle. 1994. Gender relations and household dynamics. Pp. 161–173 in G. Sen, A. Germain and L.C. Chen (eds), Population Policies Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment, and Rights. Boston: Harvard University. Google Scholar
2. Anker, R. 1998. Gender and Jobs: Sex Segregation of Occupations in the World. Geneva: International Labour Organization. Google Scholar
3. Arya, S. and A. Roy 2006. Poverty, Gender and Migration. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
4. Brown, B.B. 1983. The impact of male labour migration on women in Botswana. African Affairs 82(328): 367–388.
5. Shinde, Swati (13 Sep 2008). "Migration rate to city will dip". Times of India. Retrieved 2008-12-08.



### Web Links

<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/intra-state-and-inter-state-migration-as-seen-in-india/19859/>

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF03033894>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_states\\_and\\_union\\_territories\\_of\\_India\\_by\\_population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_union_territories_of_India_by_population)

[http://censusindia.gov.in/Data\\_Products/Data\\_Highlights/Data\\_Highlights\\_link/data\\_highlights\\_D1D2D3.pdf](http://censusindia.gov.in/Data_Products/Data_Highlights/Data_Highlights_link/data_highlights_D1D2D3.pdf)

[http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/1\\_Overview\\_Artwork.pdf](http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/1_Overview_Artwork.pdf)

<http://m.timesofindia.com/city/mumbai/70-migrants-to-Mumbai-are-from-Maharashtra/articleshow/16428301.cms>

<https://www.thehindu.com/data/45.36-crore-Indians-are-internal-migrants/article60645060.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Flow-of-migrants-highest-to-Delhi-not-Maharashtra/articleshow/10998577.cms?from=mdr>