



## A case study of factors affecting internal migration in India

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**Abstract:** Migration is a universal phenomenon. Internal migration in India, particularly interstate and rural urban streams have increased in volume and importance over time. Internal migration in India does not only fill demand and supply gaps but acts as an instrument of survival for millions of poor population concentrated in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh etc. A large number of push and pull factors influence migration pattern especially in case of out migration of male workers. This study analyses the pattern of internal migration in India and tries to identify the significant factors affecting in migration and out migration of seventeen major states of India. The study finds that internal migration rate has increased in both rural areas as well as urban areas. This increase in migration rate is primarily due to increase in migration rate for females.

The male migration rates have shown a declining trend in both rural and urban areas. Migration to urban areas has been mainly for employment purposes for males, whereas marriage is major reason for migration of females in rural as well as urban areas. Regression results show that urbanization and per capita credit to industry shows positive and significant relation with volume of in migration. Per capita income is negatively and significantly related with volume of out migration. Population below poverty line in rural as well as urban areas and percentage of irrigated area shows positive and significant relation with volume of out migration. Per capita income, literacy rate per capita credit to industry and per capita consumption of electricity are

positively and significantly related with inter-state rate of in migration. Migration is a universal phenomenon. Internal migration in India, particularly interstate and rural urban streams have increased in volume and importance over time. er-state rate of in migration.

Migration has become a universal phenomenon in recent years. Millions of people all over the world move out of their normal place of residence to seek their fortune elsewhere (Joseph, 1988). Internal Migration is considered as a universal phenomenon which accompanies economic development. In rural areas of developing economies, there is vicious circle of low agricultural productivity, under employment, low income and poverty. This

vicious circle leaves no opportunities especially for landless rural workers and compels them to seek employment opportunities elsewhere. Hence they are pushed to migrate to the places of better opportunities. (Oberai, 1987). Industrialization and economic development go side by side with the growth and expansion of the urban areas. Migrants tend to shift from regions of lower economic avenues to those of higher economic avenues. Urban places also have an attraction over and above that reflected by narrow employment considerations, but it is difficult to isolate the impact of these attractions. Migrants tend to find jobs quickly after moving (Bhattacharya, 2002). Internal migration is an important instrument of filling demand and supply gaps providing dynamism in the labour market. Migration has important implication for human development. Migration normally leads to higher income, savings and remittances with positive implication for human development and poverty reduction. But migrants face hardships in availing basic necessities of life like housing, education and health facilities and adequate food and nutrition. Migrants also experience difficulty in availing banking and credit facility as well as government welfare schemes like PDS etc. Migration is a historical reality and has been propounded by modern means of transportation and urban development. The phenomenon of migration is continuous one and is essential for economic growth and labour market stability.

**Review of Literature-** Piplai and

Majumdar (1969) reveal that majority of the migrant workers migrate to industrially developed states like Maharashtra and West Bengal. The major out migration states are the backward states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Rele, J.R (1969) study finds that rate of internal migration in India is low. Females usually migrate within district on account of marriage. Among the males major reason of migration is unemployment. Male migrants who move out for work during their young age tend to return to their place of origin in old age, which reduces the effectiveness of urbanization. Skeldon (1986) finds that migration in India is primarily rural to urban and long term in nature. The short term circulatory migration has declined over time. Majority of the migrants enter the informal sector and hence create their own employment. Kundu (1986) found that migration rate has decreased over time in both rural and urban areas. The study points out that the decline in migration rate is responsible for increasing inter-state disparities in terms of per capita output or labour productivity. Similarly Kundu and Gupta (1996) study found that the percentage share of inter-state migrants has been diminishing gradually over the 1961- 1981 period in all the developed states except Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana. Again Kundu (2003) found that there is a small decline in the role of rural migration in the growth of urban population due to anti migration prejudice in some states and absence of inclusive urbanization policies being pursued. Bhattacharya (1998) found that the informal

sector is no longer the least attractive employment sector or employer of last resort. Over the time this sector has matured and comprises hugely productive economic activities. This sector is productive enough to attract labour in its own right. Bhattacharya (2002) highlighted that urbanization and a great deal of rural-urban migration are inevitable consequences of economic development. Economic growth and availability of better opportunities in urban areas further promote rural-urban migration. Lusome and Bhagat (2006) found that internal migration rates vary by gender as well as region. During 1990s internal migration has increased. Migration is more long distance and from rural to urban. There is a significant increase in migration to urban areas both among males and females during 1991-2001. Male migration is primarily for employment and economic reasons. Ghuman, Ranjit Singh, Lakhwinder Singh and Inderjeet Singh (2007) found that after green revolution a large number of the migrant workers migrated to Punjab. This inflow was maximum in 1990s as compared to 80s. Majority of the migrant workers belonged to economically backward states Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Mitra and Murayama (2008) found that in poor and economically underdeveloped states there is large population which is mobile and searching for adequate livelihood. Even in developed states of Maharashtra and Gujarat male population is quite mobile. Bhagat and Mohanty (2009) found an increase in the contribution of migration towards urban

population during 1990's in comparison with 1980's. Bhagat (2009) found higher growth of interstate migration in comparison with intra-state migration during 1990's. There is a strong relationship between per capita income and inter-state migration; both in migration and outmigration. Interstate migration is also correlated with the share of non-agriculture in GSDP and employment as well as rural poverty. Srivastava (2009) found that remittances and savings are making significant addition to migrant workers income. These additional resources help in improving living standard of migrant families. Thus remittances also help in growth of areas of origin of migrant workers. There is also a change in workers tastes, perceptions and attitudes due to migration. Kohli (2010) found that economic underdevelopment, low wages, unemployment and increasing number of landless workers in the native states of the migrant workers are push factors in migration. The pull factors which attract migrant workers to Punjab are increasing demand for migrant workers in agriculture sector due to the adoption of green revolution technologies, higher wage rates, tremendous increase in the demand for skilled and unskilled labour in the urban industrial and informal sector of Punjab. Vipul Kant Singh, et al. (2011) found that in interstate migration the percentage of rural urban stream was found higher than other streams. Major reason for male migration was unemployment and in case of females marriage was found to be the main reason for migration. Maharashtra and Madhya

Pradesh lead among all in migrating states, while the economically backward states Uttar Pradesh and Bihar occupied top position among out migrating states. Chakraborty and Kuri (2013) found that on economic front, better employment opportunities in urban centers attracted a sizeable proportion of workers from the rural to urban areas. Rural indebtedness is an important push factor. Roy and Debnath (2011) found that per capita income and level of infrastructure shows positive and significant relationship with net migration rate and negative relation with unemployment and cost of living.

Das and Saha (2013) found that workers migrate from economically less developed states to relatively more developed states. The growth rate of migration has increased during the period 1991-2000. Poverty shows negative and statistically significant relation with in migration rate. The volume of in-migration is positively correlated with per capita bank deposit, per capita bank credit to industry and urbanization. Malhotra N and Devi (2014) found that migration in India has raised labour force participation rates and employment rates for both males and females. Migration is normally more productive utilization of labour force and hence contributes towards economic growth. Per capita net state domestic product and human development index show positive and significant relationship with interstate in-migration rate.

**Contribution of the Study-** The present study identifies the push and pulls

factors which play important role in migration decision. For this purpose, study used the NSSO data on migration and various socio economic variables. The study has examined these factors and identified the factors which are significantly explaining variation in the internal migration.

#### **Objectives of the study**

The present study has following objectives: 1. To study the changing pattern of internal migration in India. 2. To identify factors causing internal migration in India. 3. To study the relationship between interstate migration (in migration rate, out migration rate, volume of in migration and volume of out migration) and socio- economic indicators.

#### **Database and Methodology-**

The present study is based on the secondary data. Data on migration has been taken from the NSSO three rounds 49th round, 55th round and 64th round. Data on socio economic indicators of the major seventeen states have been taken from NSSO 64th round, Data-book Compiled for use of Planning Commission, Handbook of Statistics on Indian State, Economic Survey and Agriculture Statistics.

#### **Reason for Migration-**

percentage distribution of migrants by reasons for migration have been presented for NSS 55th round (1999-2000) and NSS 64th round (2007-08). The share of employment related reasons in rural male migration had decreased from 30.3 percent in 1999-00 to 28.6 percent in 1999-00, while for urban male the share of employment related reasons increased from

52 percent in 1999-00 to 56 percent in 2007-08. Table shows that employment related reasons declined in importance in case of male migrants from rural areas while the same has increased in importance in case of male migrants in urban areas. Table also shows that the important reasons for the movement of the females were marriage.

#### **Simple Linear Regression**

**Results-** Table 8 presents the result of simple regression between migration and socio economic indicators. In this table an effort has been made to analyze the relationship between migration and various socio economic indicators for the selected seventeen Indian states with the help of simple linear regression analysis, with migration as a dependent variable and socio economic indicators as independent variables. The results are given only for those variables which show significant relation with migration. Table shows that urbanization and per capita credit to industry is positively and significantly related with volume of in migration.

Per capita income is negatively and significantly related with volume of out migration. The result shows that less income results in more out migration from the state. Population below poverty line in rural as well as urban areas shows positive and significant relation with volume of out migration. Percentage of irrigated area is positively and significantly related with volume of out migration. The study finds that Human Development Index, Income index and education index show negative and significant relationship with volume of out

migration. The study finds that Human Development Index and Income index show positive and significant relationship with rate of in migration. Per capita income is positively and significantly related with rate of in migration. The result suggests that more income attract more people to the states and in migration rate will be high. Literacy rate is positively and significantly related with in migration rate. Education plays a very important role in the process of migration. Education attainment and migration are positively related. If the persons have higher educational attainment all else being equal, they will be more mobile. Highly educated persons search for employment in regional and national labour markets in which employers seek qualified employees. Education helps the persons to have information about employment opportunities elsewhere (McConnell and Brue, 1986). Per capita credit to industry and per capita consumption of electricity also shows positive and significant relation with in migration rate.

**Factor Analysis Results-** The technique of Factor Analysis is used to find out the variables responsible for internal migration. The results of the factor analysis with varimax rotation are given in the Table 9. Factor analysis of socio economic variables of seventeen major states of India is completed which has given following three main factors, showing the main economic structure of all the states of India. The value of Kaiser-meyer-olkin measure of sampling adequacy is 0.705 which tells us that we should be confident that factor analysis is

appropriate for this data, while, Barlett's test is highly significant which also shows factor analysis is quite suitable for data. The cumulative percentage of the variances of these factors is 80.70. Economic development factors explaining 31.99 percent of the total variance, is the most dominant factor in this case. The variable having the highest loading in the first factors are Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (.916), Per Capita Consumption of Electricity (.877), Per Capita Credit of Agriculture (.712), Per Capita Credit of Industry (.702), Population below Poverty Line in rural areas (-.698) and literacy rate (.590). The second factor accounts for 29.47% of total variance and includes share of workers in the service sector (.883), percentage of cultivator workers (-.867), share of workers in the agriculture (-.793), share of the workers in manufacturing (.712) and urbanization (.699). These variables represent the share of workers in various sectors and urbanization. The Third factor explains 19.24% of the total variance and contains percent of irrigated areas (.933) and per capita consumption of fertilizer (.858) and may be termed as agriculture factors.

**Conclusion-**The present study makes an attempt to analyse the trend and changing pattern of internal migration in India. The study also attempts to identify factors causing internal migration in India. Based on NSSO survey data, during the period 1983 to 2007-08, the study found that migration rate increased over the time but male migration rate decreased over time. It

has been found that the share of rural-rural migration has been a dominant migration stream and on the other hand rural-urban migration has been increased. The study shows that higher migration rate and higher rural to rural migration is due to female migration marriage. Inter-state migration rate for rural to urban stream and urban to urban stream have increased while the intra-state migration rate have declined during the period 1999-2000 to 2007-08. Analysis of reason of migration shows that migration to urban areas has been mainly for employment purposes for males, whereas marriage is major reason for migration of females in rural as well as urban areas. The study found that in migration was the highest in the state of Maharashtra followed by Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. The out-migration was the highest for the state of Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar and Rajasthan. Net migration rate was the highest for Maharashtra followed by Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat. The rate of in migration is positively correlated with per capita net state domestic product, per capita credit to agriculture and per capita consumption of electricity.

The regression results show that Human Development Index, Income index and education index show negative and significant relationship with volume of out migration. The study finds that Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana are the industrial and agriculture developed states and in these states in migration rate is high whereas Bihar, Uttar Pradesh are the economically backward states and out

migration is highest in these states. Regression results show that urbanization and per capita credit to industry show positive and significant relation with volume of in migration. Per capita income is negatively and significantly related with volume of out migration. Population below poverty line in rural as well as urban areas and percentage of irrigated area shows positive and significant relation with volume of out migration. Per capita income, literacy rate, per capita credit to industry and per capita consumption of electricity is positively and significantly related with rate of in migration. Factor Analysis Results show that the variable having the highest loading in the first factors are Per Capita Net State Domestic Product, Per Capita Consumption of Electricity, Per Capita Credit of Agriculture, Per Capita Credit of Industry, Population below Poverty Line in rural areas and literacy rate.

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