

## Internal and International Migration: An Overview

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### Abstract

Migration is one of the important factors which affect demographic changes in any country. At one hand it influences size, composition and distribution of population and on the other hand it influences the social, political and economic life of the people. The word migration denotes movement of population with the change of residence. International migrants account for a relatively small share of the world's total population (about 3.3% in 2015). Of the 244 million international migrants recorded in 2015, 58% stay in developed nations, with 85 million originating from a developing nation. This study is an attempt to understand the trend of migration at National and International level. This is a secondary data based study.

**Keywords:** Migration, Internal migration, International migration, Rural-urban migration

Migration can be classified in several ways. It is generally classified by political boundaries. Based on political limits and the boundaries crossed, such as districts, state borders and international boundaries, further identified as the place of origin and destination. A widely recognised distinction exists between internal and international migration. Migration occurring within a country from crossing political boundaries, either within a state or between states, whether urban to rural, urban to urban, rural to rural, or rural to urban is known as Internal migration. Migration occurring across country boundaries is known as International migration. Such migrants are known as immigrants (coming into a foreign country) and emigrants (leaving their own country). This also includes continent to continent migration.

According to Singh (1998) analysis of migration pattern is important to understand the changes taking places in the people's movement within the country. It is most volatile component of population growth and most sensitive to economic, political and cultural factors. Gupta (1961) analyses the relationship between the socio-economic status of family and emigration from rural to urban areas in his study of migration from the villages of Punjab. His study reveals that higher the status of particular family lower is the tendency among its members to emigrate. It shows that the outmigration is inversely related with the status of family. According to Thomas D.S. "persons in their late teens, twenties and early thirties are more migratory than other groups".

According to Census 2011 there are various reasons of migration in India. The following table shows it:

Table 1  
Reasons for migration of migrants by last residence with duration (0-9 years) India 2011

Reason for migration	Number of migrants			Percentage to migrants		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
Total migrants	98,301,342	32,896,986	65,404,356	100.00	100.00	100.00
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
Other	9,517,161	5,164,065	4,353,096	9.7	15.7	6.7

Source: Table D3, Census of India 2011. [Censusindia.gov.in/census\\_and\\_you/migrations.aspx](http://Censusindia.gov.in/census_and_you/migrations.aspx). migration

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According to UN report, Indian tops the world in the number of migrants sent abroad and more than half of the 16.59 million live in the Gulf region. The 2017 international migration report showed that during this century's period of rapid globalization, the number of Indian migrants doubled from 7.98 million in 2000 (m.economictimes.com: with 16 million, India tops world in number of migrants abroad, 19 Dec 2017 ). The numbers are not a count of people by national origin or ethnicity and therefore, do not include children of migrants born in the countries their parents went to. The United Arab Emirates has the largest number of Indian migrants, who number 3.31 million, up from 978,992 in 2000, followed by the US with 2.3 million , up from 1.04 million. In all the Gulf countries together, Indians totaled 8.9 million, of them 2.27 million were in Saudi Arabia, 1.2 million in Oman and 1.16 million in Kuwait. The number of migrants from other countries living in India is 5.2 million, a fall of 1.22 million from 2000. Most of the international migration takes place among developing countries with 60 percent of the migrants from Asia going to other Asian countries. In Europe, there are 1.3 million people from India, almost double the 665,105 in 2000, Canada has 602,144 people from India, an increase from 319,138 in 2000. Australia showed a huge jump of more than four times, from 90,719 people from India in 2000 to 408,880 (m.economicstime.com). In India, according to a recent economic survey, the interstate migration rate doubled between 2001 and 2011 compared to the previous decades, growing 4.5% annually. Annual interstate migration in the country averaged about 5-6 million migrants a year. Internal migration flows in India are driven by the states' important economic inequities. Bihar, a state with one of the highest outflows of domestic migrants, has a per-capita income roughly equivalent to Somalia's (approximately \$520) and a birth rate of 3.4 children per woman. On the other hand, Kerala, a destination for in-migrants, has a per-capita income four times that of Bihar's (approximately \$2,350) and a birth rate of 1.6 children per woman, on par with Denmark (Kumar, 2017).

In the hilly region of Uttarakhand migration is a very common phenomenon. As per Census 2011, of Uttarakhand's 16,793 villages, 1,053 have no inhabitants and another 405 have a population of less than 10. Village people of Uttarakhand are migrating in search of work leaving in their wake "Ghost villages". Migration from villages generally occurs due to the lack of development. The hill area of Uttarakhand provides very difficult living and working conditions for its people. The region comprises primitive economy. Subsistence agriculture practices dominate in occupation (70%) and livelihoods. Meanwhile, limited arable land (13%) high population growth (18.8% decadal; 2011), low output from cereals (production is limited to maximum six months), poverty and malnutrition (40% people live below poverty line; 2011) forced people to out-migrate from the region. Simultaneously geographical constraints, inadequate infrastructural facilities, industrial backwardness, high educational level and unemployment are the other driving forces of the out-migration from the region (Sati V.P. 2016). Migration of its inhabitants especially of youths from the hilly areas to the cities is increasing day by day. The population of hilly region of Uttarakhand has declined substantially by about 5% points from nearly 53% in 2001 to about 48% in 2011 (Mamgain R.P. and Reddy D.N. ). The magnitude of out-migration is so huge that there are several *ghost villages* left with very few old people (Umar, 2012). Uttarakhand is primarily a rural state, having 16,793 villages, with a considerable proportion of its population residing in the hilly rural area. It is clear from the Census of 2011 that out of 16,793 villages of Uttarakhand, 1053 have no inhabitants turning them into *ghost villages* and another 405 have a population of less than 10 (Venkatesh S, 2016). In Pauri Garhwal, the identities of many villages are saved by one or two people who still live there (Trivedi, 2012). Census of India 2011 reveals that about 60% educated youth of the Uttarakhand are recruited in the national army and 15% migrants are teachers. Jain (2010) describes that Uttarakhand has three types of migration such as seasonal, rural-urban and international. According to him, to work in the private sector industries mainly in the hotels and restaurants were the most common forms of migration from Uttarakhand.

Mostly declining opportunities in agriculture, situation of surplus labour arising from scarcity of cultivated land, inequitable land distribution, low agricultural productivity, high population density and the concentration of the rural economy almost exclusively on agriculture frequently lead to an increase in out migration. The increasing population pressure on land and the poor agriculture status has led to widespread migration in the hills of Uttarakhand. In a two day open discussion on extensive migration from the hills of Uttarakhand, former Almora MP Pradeep Tamta said agriculture had been the main source of livelihood in the villages for ages but the gradual disenchantment with it triggered the migration (Moudgil A, 2015). According

to Sahai et al. in the hilly areas, the agriculture land is scattered, therefore it becomes very difficult for the farmers to execute or manage any agriculture or any other process over it. Another factor observed was the shift in the joint family structure which has caused the landholdings to grow smaller in size through consecutive generations making it difficult to carry out any profitable agricultural activity. Uneconomic landholdings also make it difficult for growing families to sustain themselves, as according to government data as high as 72% are under the category of marginal holdings and 47% are below the size of 0.5 hectares. According to Sati VP (2016), the economic development of the Uttarakhand Himalaya is dependent on the adoption of new innovation in the agricultural field, as the production and productivity from the traditionally cultivated subsistence crops is insufficient to meet out the total food need of the people. Climate change is also a push factor of migration. Sati VP (2016) noticed that climate change has significant impact on declining agriculture and changing cropping pattern. According to him agriculture in Uttarakhand Himalaya is predominately rain-fed, depending largely on monsoon rainfall. Further it is characterized by small and fragmented holdings, lack of irrigation, shallow soil and lack of mechanization and technology. Significant decrease in agricultural productivity has been observed overtime that led to increase the rate of migration. Unusual heavily rainfall damages the existing crops, leading to food insecurity. Snowfall rate decreased however, seldom heavy snowfall occurs that damages crops. A study carried out by government owned water department shows that about 221 natural springs dried in the whole Uttarakhand Himalaya (2013). As a result, output from agricultural land decreased and as a result, people out-migrated to other areas. According to Mangain () due to abysmally low levels of agricultural productivity most of the people would like to discontinue farming provided they get some alternate source of income and that too of regular nature. This has been due to uncertainties in hill agriculture associated with climate change, very low irrigated land, scattered farms, rapid spread of wild grass destroying farm land, and growing menace of wild animals destroying crops.

According to Sati VP (2016), inadequate socio-economic conditions are one of the major driving forces or push factors of out-migration in the Uttarakhand Himalayas. According to him about 40.8% (2004-2005) people are living below poverty line which is quite high in comparison to the neighbouring state of Himanchal Pradesh where only 10.7% people are living below poverty line. Health facilities are very inadequate in the rural areas; it is therefore, death rate is higher (7) than the urban centres (5.5). Similarly birth rate is also higher (22) in the rural areas in comparison to the urban centres (17.3). He in his study further observed that water supply is too inadequate, mostly during the summer season. Out of 39,967 inhabitations, water supply is available only for 23,128 inhabitations. More than 50% of the villages are inaccessible due to poor transportation facilities. Energy potential is 30,000 MW but only 3,168 MW (16%) energy is harnessed.

Education is one of the most important characteristics of the migrants. There are various reasons behind this tendency. Rural areas, by and large, lack educational facilities, especially those of higher education and rural people have to migrate to the urban centres for this purpose. Many of them settle down in the cities for earning a livelihood after completing their education. According to Connell (1976, p 8-9) people move into towns with a view to pursuing education after finishing their schooling in the village. Education in itself stimulates outmigration as it raises the level of aspiration and of unsatisfied needs in the population of rural areas. Individuals having attained a high level of education in rural areas or smaller centres may have difficulty in finding position corresponding to their level of skill and thus are more prone to migrate. Besides, one may also expect that better educated are better informed about opportunities as they make greater use of formal and informal channels of information thus they are more prone to out-migrate (Khan Nazma, 1986, p 94). According to Kothari (1980, p 200), in India, the educated people tend to move into towns not only because they do not have jobs in rural areas commensurate with their education but also because they develop a distaste for traditional work in the village. Various studies have discussed that people who move into the city are usually better educated than those who stay behind. The higher propensity to move among educated has been discussed by Bogue (1959), Hamilton (1958), Ollson (1960), Shryock (1965), Larry (1973), Nabita (1975) and many others. There is a substantial lack of educational facilities, especially those of higher education which result in migration of people to the urban areas for this purpose. Many of them settle down in the urban areas for earning a livelihood after completing their education. According to Dubey Smita and Mallah Varsha (2015), one of the important reasons why many students migrate to developed nations is for higher education because Indian educational system lacks the flexibility which is the need of time. It offers rigid, stereotyped and traditional

courses with less or no scope of shifting or changes across the subjects, streams etc. People follow a fixed mindset in opting for subjects, courses or careers. This results in huge demand for some particular type of courses and professions. Rigid education system is the reason of migration in India. In Uttarakhand access to primary education has also improved significantly, with all hill districts having at least one primary school for every two villages. But similar growth is not visible in the number of high schools in hilly areas. This means that most villages have a *de facto* urban dependency if they want good education. Villages do not have a good school system; schools are too far away and it is very difficult to study there. Quality of education in such schools is pathetic also. The students do not pass their tenth grade examinations and ultimately move to other places either out of shame or in search of livelihood (Kasniyal B. D. 2015). Sati V.P. (2016) in his study observed that education is one of the driving forces of out-migration in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. According to him literacy rate in the Uttarakhand Himalaya is very high (about 80%), quite higher than the national average of 74%. Similarly, the level of education is high. As the whole region is lacking in providing employment to the educated youth thus, the brain drain from the rural areas is persistence. Generally, these educated youth do not work on the agricultural field, which may be the potential area for generating employment. A decreasing trend of agricultural workers has also been observed during the study. A study conducted by Mamgain R. P. reveals that migrants of Uttarakhand have comparatively better educational attainments as compared to their non-migrants counterparts. His study shows that nearly half (49.9%) among them have high school/higher secondary level education and another 36.4% are graduate and above.

People in Uttarakhand are abandoning their villages despite high economic growth, leaving behind few, who find it difficult to continue farming without community support. The hill areas do not provide conducive terrains for the establishment of small scale industries to generate employment and other sources of income, due to which the people here opt for agriculture and the other activities associated with it. Urbanization has been a major driver of migration. Rates of urbanization influence rural urban wage differences. An increase in the demand for labour in urban area can attract urban wages and increase migration. The pull factors of better job facilities, good salary, less income, medical and educational facilities are attracting the rural people to move to the cities (Kundu, 2012).

There are push and pull factors of migration. Push factors are those that compel a person, due to different reasons, to leave place of origin and to go to some other place for example, lack of work opportunities, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic condition, lack of opportunities, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities. On the other hand, pull factors indicate the factors which attract migrant to an area (area of destination), for example, employment and higher education opportunities, higher wages facilities, better working conditions. Most of the studies have revealed that economic factors play a very important role in people's decision to migrate from one country to the other. Lack of employment opportunities or differentials in employment opportunities and wages; the lure of a well paid job in a wealthy country is a powerful driver of international migration.

Political instability that leads to humanitarian crisis in many developing countries has forced displacement associated with frequently recurring and religious unrest, and ethnic issues have made migration inevitable. War, violence, persecution, and economic and social deprivation remain the major factors in pushing people out of their countries. The UNHCR report observes that almost 15 conflicts have occurred in Africa, Asia, Middle East, and Europe in the last five years. most conflicts – eight- have ignited in Africa, namely Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, North-Eastern Nigeria, democratic republic of Congo, South Sudan and Burundi; Middle East and South and Central Asia witnessed three each in Syria, Iraq and Yemen; Kyrgyzstan, and in several areas of Myanmar and Pakistan. The Syrian crisis has become the world's single-largest driver of displacement since early 2011. At the same time, persisting, instability and conflict in Afghanistan Somalia and other parts of the world are keeping millions of people displaced (UNHCR : Worldwide Displacement Hits all-time high as war and persecution increase. <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>).

The East Asia region contains both labour sending countries (source countries) and labour receiving countries (destination countries) and some countries such as Thailand both send and receive workers. The people of Asia and the Pacific are on the move. Migrants from countries across the region play a key role as development actors, helping drive GDP growth in their countries of destination, while supporting families and even

communities in their countries of origin. International migration is a major driver of social and economic change in the contemporary Asia Pacific region. The United Nations department of economic and social affairs (2013) estimated that there were 59.3 million International migrants in the countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific in 2013 more than the population of Myanmar. These migrants originate from a varied mix of countries, mainly Afghanistan, a least developed country; Bangladesh, a low income country; India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines, lower-middle income countries; and China, the Russian federation and Turkey, upper middle-income countries.

The recent trends in the inflow of the migrants and refugees into Europe reflect a combination of several factors such as political instability, social unrest, violence, emerging geo-strategic dynamics in west Asian region, quest for better political and socio-economic conditions, social security system, etc. global trends point out that the number of displaced people has been rising. The UNHCR annual global trends report (2015), world at war, noted that worldwide displacement was at the “highest level ever recorded”, the number of displaced people has reached around 60 million, which is the highest after World War II. According to Euro stat statistics (2014-15) Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are the top three countries from people were moving towards Europe. Over 60% of global migration still consists of people moving to neighbouring countries or to countries in the same region. In fact nine of the top 10 corridors globally including Mexico to the United State connect neighbouring countries. Up to 87% of the 160 million migrants residing in developed destinations are attracted to five regions- north America, western Europe, Oceania, gulf cooperation council (GCC) nations and developed parts of Asia (East and South-East). Between 2000 and 2015, Asia to Asia had the largest average annual change among the top regional migration corridors. Three-fifths of the growth in migrants in developed countries since 2000 has occurred in the top ten international migration destinations, with 47 million immigrants in the United States alone (McKinsey Global Institute, 2016). In 2015, Asia to Asia was the largest regional migration corridor, with 59 million migrants born in another Asian country, followed by 40 million migrants in the Europe –to-Europe corridor and 25 million migrants in the Latin America and the Caribbean-to-North America corridor (UN DESA, 2016).

In some Latin American countries access to land is so limited that nearly all poor young people view migration as their only livelihood option. The PPA in Ecuador tellingly states, “The voices of poor people in Ecuador are voices of people on the move, travelling to new places in hope of improving their circumstances”. The situation in parts of Cambodia is the same where there are reports of “a new and growing breed of land-less workers which has led to increased migration from rural areas to cities and other countries”(Sali and Astige, 2015).

According to the Gallup world poll data from 2013 to 2016, the desire to migrate has grown since the 2010-2012 period. Nearly 710 million people (14% of the Worlds adult population) would like to move to another country if they had the opportunity. At least three in ten adults in 31 countries and areas worldwide intend to move permanently to another country. These include nations in every region except North America, Asia and Oceania. The Syrian civil war, high rates of unemployment in countries like Italy and Albania, and the Ebola virus outbreak in Sierra Leone are some of the major contributors to the increased desire to migrate in these populations (Esipova, Ray and Pugliese, 2017). According to the poll, potential migrants aspire to move to the United States the most. Nearly 147 million adults, or 21% of the adult population worldwide, designated the United States as their desired future residence. germany, Canada, The United Kingdom, France, Australia and Saudi Arabia are each attractive to at least 25 million adults, and have been choice destinations for the past decade. Just 20 countries attract 65% of all potential migrants across the world (Esipova, Ray and Pugliese, 2017).

The UN department of Economic and Social affairs (UN DESA) on 18 December 2017 released the international migration report 2017 On the occasion of international migration day. As per the report, there are an estimated 258 million people living in a country other than their country of birth. This reflects an increase of 49 percent in the number of migrants since 2000 (m.jagranjosh.com: international migration report 2017: India tops world in number of migrants abroad). The report reveals that over 3 percent of the world's inhabitants today are international migrants, an increase from 2.8 percent in 2000. In 2017, around 74 percent of all international migrants were of working age or between 20 and 64 years of age. In 2017, 48.4 percent of international migrants were women. Female migrants outnumbered males in all regions except Africa and Asia.

The migration report 2015 indicates that Brazil, India, East Asia and South Africa are emerging as new migration destinations. Some developing countries have become both origin and destination locations. Approximately one in five international migrants is estimated to live in the World's top 20 "global cities" (cities that are advanced producers of services, have large economies, are international gateways as well as political cultural hubs of international significance). These are Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Hong Kong Sar, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Paris, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Vienna, and Washington dc (International Organization for migration, 2015, world migration report 2015). In 2017, high income countries hosted 64%, or nearly 165 million, of the total number of international migrants worldwide. Moreover, most of the growth in the global population of international migrants has been caused by movements towards high income countries, which host 64 million of the 85 million migrants added since 2000 (the international migration report 2017 highlights. <https://www.un.org>). In 2017, two thirds of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries, and half of all international migrants were residing in just 10 countries. The largest number of international migrants (49.8 million, or 19% of the global total) resides in the United States. Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian federation host the second, third and fourth largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 12 million each), followed by the United Kingdom (nearly 9 million) (the international migration report 2017 highlights).

There are various social impacts of migration. On one hand, families benefit materially from having a member who is an international migrant worker. The UN women regional office for Asia and the Pacific (2013) carried out an in depth study of the social benefits and costs of international migration in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Family well-being usually increased when a member migrated because remittances could be used for daily expenses, children's education, housing and paying debts. Ducanes (2015), reports that in 2006, 24 percent of the households in the Philippines received contributions (mainly remittances) from overseas. Households with migrants increased their expenditure on food, clothing, education, property and equipment, and increased their chances of moving out of poverty. On the other hand, it has its adverse effect also. Temporary circular migration increases the risk for family breakdown, fragmentation of social networks and psychosocial stress (Kahn, *et al.* 2003). The study of D' Emilio *et al.* (2007) reveals that ,at its best migration can be a rewarding experience that is made in the interest of the household welfare, but in most cases moving to another country and being separated from one's immediate family takes place at considerable emotional cost. The study further shows adolescents left behind are also commonly over represented in adapting risky behaviour, and absence of mothers has been found to be associated with the involvement of children with violence; 80% of children in conflict with the law in Jamaica had their mothers absent, while this was the case for only 30% of other children. The longer the separation between the migrating parents and their children, the more children lose parent's reference in the management of the household, their authority and their role as providers of love and material care. Parents are gradually replaced by other family members or the children take upon themselves the task of parenting. The feelings of rejection, abandonment, and loss follow the children left behind, and cannot be compensated by the material gifts and remittances sent from abroad. To some extent the recent technological advances in terms of e-mail and affordable telephone calls might allow the transnational families to form and foster social ties even at a distance (UNDP 2009).

Migration results in the intermixing of diverse cultures and leads to the evolution of composite culture. It breaks the narrow thoughts and widens the mental horizon of the people. Emigrant men often leave their wives to look after land, home or job. This enhances the status of women in the family and the village. In the absence of males, females also do more of agriculture work and take important decisions. In this situation also social change is likely to follow (Khan Najma, 1986). It is an essential component of economic development, social change and political organization (Jackson, J.A. 1969). According to Zachariah (1966), return migration of workers after retirement and regular to and fro movement between village and the city, while migrant work in the city provides many contacts between the migrants and the rural population. Every time a migrant goes to his village he takes back with him some urban ideas or customs.....the discipline of factory, the concept of job with fare wages, the advantage of trade union organisation, ideas of health and hygiene, the convene of piped water supply and of electricity, the usefulness of books and newspapers, radio and cinema, the cycle and bus, the need of education of children etc....rural population thus exposed to urban ways of life.

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