

## Cause of Rural-Urban Migration: A Study

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### Abstract

Since the immemorial time, migration is a universal phenomenon and its social and economic implications have been widely recognized (Manner 2003)<sup>1</sup>. It plays a significant role in molding the social, economic and other structural characteristics of population of a country or region (Khan 2010: White & Woods 1980)<sup>2</sup>. Migration occurs when various factors operate together (Jtosinski & Protherc 1975; Bhagat & Mohanty 2009)<sup>3</sup>, and the importance of factors responsible for migration varies from place to place according to a Locale's particular development milieu.

Key Words: Migration, rural, urban, causes

Since the immemorial time, migration is a universal phenomenon and its social and economic implications have been widely recognized (Manner 2003)<sup>1</sup>. It plays a significant role in molding the social, economic and other structural characteristics of population of a country or region (Khan 2010: White & Woods 1980)<sup>2</sup>. Migration occurs when various factors operate together (Jtosinski & Protherc 1975; Bhagat & Mohanty 2009)<sup>3</sup>, and the importance of factors responsible for migration varies from place to place according to a Locale's particular development milieu.

On the basis of settlement status of place of origin and destination, internal migration is classified into four types, namely, rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban', urban to rural (Bose 1974). But with the passage of time, the volume of rural to urban migration has increased due to broadening gap in the levels of socio-economic development between, rural

and urban areas, especially in the developing nations of the world, because throughout the history, migration has been intimately related to economic and social development- and it is often the levels of seen as the result of imbalances in development.

After independence India has undergone rapid urbanization the pace of urbanization is not only due to the natural increase in population growth, but it has been mainly caused by the heavy rural migrants in urban areas, particularly in the large sized cities and metropolises. The main causes of heavy influx of rural migrants in urban areas are either due to the repulsive forces operating in the rural areas in the form of high rates of unemployment, poverty, low wages, small size of land holdings, lack of infrastructure development, or due to the attractive forces working in urban areas in the form of availability of jobs in factories, shops, offices, buildings and public services, facilities of

vocational, technical and higher education, better medical services, entertainments, high wages, less "and "nature of work, expanding infrastructure facilities, civic amenities and facilities etc.

There is no doubt that rural urban migration stream affects the society at origin (Rao 1981), at destination and migrants themselves (Husain 2001 & Mangalam 1968)<sup>4</sup>. The rural urban migration appears to be accelerating in spite of rising levels of urban unemployment and growing numbers of urban workers. The dramatic migration of people from rural areas to the urban centers not only poses a number of socio- economic and environmental problems in urban areas. But it also exerts an adverse impact on the rural areas due to selectivity of migrants.

The governments in the developing countries of the world have framed various policies to contain the rural-urban migration flows but, even then, it has not been possible to slow down the volume of rural-urban migration up to a remarkable level. The failure of the policies to curb the volume of rural-urban migration stream has been due to the lack of comprehensive studies regarding the factors which force the rural potential migrants to leave their places of origin and the forces which attract them to settle down in urban areas.

Recent economic growth and faster industrial development along with the growth of urbanization is the major magnetic effect at work that draws people from rural to urban areas. The

scope of better employment opportunities, better standard of living and provisions of improved amenities of these cities also add to the cause. Besides, migration is the natural outcome of deprivation, inequality, poverty and unemployment especially in the rural areas. Various socio-economic dynamics and a range of causes unlock the way for rural to urban migration. This is in fact, a special kind of class struggle and inequality in terms of provisions made. Such an influx of population from rural to urban areas has resulted in various socio-economic problems at the source of origin as well as at the source of destination.

Migration is caused due to various reasons which may vary from country to country and it can vary from place to place, state to state within a country on the basis of socio-economic and cultural status of the demography. The factors which largely contribute to rural to urban migration are poverty and starvation, unemployment, low agricultural productivity, failure of crop, landlessness, poor education & medical care, lack of credit facilities mainly found in rural areas in one hand and better scope of employment, better gender equality, prospect for better life (education, health & drinking water etc), wage differentials, bright city lights causes attraction in the urban areas on other hand. These factors can be segregated as push and pull factors for better understanding of the nature of causes and consequences of the migration. The "Push-Pull Factors Model" broadly reveals the major

determinants and causes of migration and able to contribute in policy formulation and possible intervention in controlling the migration.

In India, rural to urban migration is caused due to push and pull factor taken together. But various research works carried out by scholar from time to time; pointed out that the cause of migration is not same for male to female and skilled to unskilled labour, educated to uneducated person and precisely it depends upon other characteristics of demography too.

Although combined effects of the model, considered as the causes of migration, but socioeconomic analysis of rural to urban migration reveals the different. For policy perspective and for generic analysis, why majority of rural migrants leaving their place of origin and their ancestral habitat, make the way open for the push factor as matter the most than the urban attractions. When push factor is the major cause, then for rural poor and unemployed person, migration is not a “choice rather a compulsion” and therefore linked to distress migration.

The main social factors, which account for 57.1 per cent of the migrant population, are migration with household, marriage and education. The corresponding figure has been recorded 82.2 percent for female and 33.0 percent for male migration in the country. The factors of less importance in volume are migration after birth and various miscellaneous factors.

Migration with household alone covers 29.1 percent of the total rural-urban migration, while it accounts for as

much as 36.6 percent of female and 22.0 percent of male rural-urban migration.

The migration for marriage is another important social factor of rural to urban migration in the country. It constitutes 20.7 percent of the total migration and 41.3 percent of the female migration. It is a type of obligatory migration in which a girl moves to her husband's place after marriage. It is, in general, highly female selective due to local marriage system prevalent in the most parts of India (Gosal & Krishan 1975)<sup>5</sup>, excluding 0.8 percent of male migrants who migrated for marriage.

Education, though qualitatively a very significant social factor, and the wide ranging impact of education is possibly the most important matter to be considered in inducing rural urban migration.

Nevertheless, it is not equally significant quantitatively in respect of rural to urban migration in India. It accounts for 10.2 percent for male and 4.3 percent of female rural to urban migration. This segment of migrants mainly comprises young boys and girls belonging to relatively affluent families. Village seldom have schools beyond primary standard while colleges and higher educational centers are obviously confined to urban areas, but for the villagers it is rather expensive to send their children to cities for higher education. Thus, it constitutes only 7.3 percent of the total rural-urban migration. Besides, migration after birth and other miscellaneous factors combinely constitutes 13.5 percent of the total rural urban migration in India.

The short distance or inter District migration is represented by persons born outside the place of enumeration but within the district of enumeration, medium distance or inter district migration is consisted by persons born outside of the district of enumeration but within the state of enumeration, and lastly the long-distance or interstate migration is recorded as persons born in states (within the boundaries of India) other than that of the state of enumeration. The socio economic causes of rural to urban migration may also change with the distance between place of origin and destination. Therefore, the percentage distribution of socio-economic causes of rural to urban migration in India based on the type of migration defining boundaries crossed in the act of migration.

An analysis of the Table 2 reveal that, excluding the long-distance migration of male, in all the distance based migration streams, rural-urban migration is more social than economic in nature and a rising trend in the proportional share of economic motivated migration has been recorded with increase in distance(Harris & Clausen 1967)<sup>6</sup>. Thus, in short and medium distance migrations, social factors like marriage and migration with household are the major reasons of migration, while long-distance migration that is more economic motivated has been mainly for better work or employment opportunities in urban areas of the economically developed states of India.

The further examination of data given in Table 2 depicts that in long-distance migration stream, the work/employment is the primary cause of rural to urban migration. It accounts for 31.8 per cent, 56.2 percent and 6.0 percent to the total, male and female migrants in the country.

Variation in economic development across regions is a primary motive for migration to greener pastures. This trend of rising unemployment is compounded by the existence of regional imbalances in development within the country, which have collectively accelerated the phenomenon of migration. All theories of migration concede that this occurs when the region of origin lacks the opportunities which the destination promises. It is inherently a combination of pull and push factors.

The rural poor are concentrated in eastern India, and in the rainfall-dependent parts of central and western India, which continue to have low agricultural productivity, while the bulk of the jobs are being created in western and southern India. Inter-state labour migration is an important feature of the Indian economy. Most of this movement has been from the most populous and poorest states. The population entering Bihar was 364,337 and that existing the state was more than three times, higher at 12,26,839. In contrast, the in-coming populations for Gujarat was double that of Bihar at 716,190 and the outgoing population 305,738, a quarter of the people leaving Bihar (Census 1991). Further, there exist intra-district movements.

There is substantial decline in employment elasticity (increase in employment/unit rise in GDP) in almost all the major productive sectors, except for transport and finance. In agriculture, the employment elasticity has dropped to near zero, the reason could be that growth in India has essentially been capital intensive. The

public sector is in the process of shedding excess labour for meeting the efficiency challenges of market competition.

Jobless growth and regional imbalances have collectively spurred migration and this is the larger malaise behind recent large scale violence in Maharashtra on ethnic lines.

Table 1 percent Distribution of Causes of Rural Urban Migration in India (Duration of Residence: 1 to 4 years)

Causes of Rural Urban Migration	Male	Female	Total
Work/ Employment	49.0	5.3	27.5
Business	3.3	0.4	1.9
Education	10.2	4.3	7.3
Marriage	0.8	41.3	20.7
Moved after Birth	4.5	4.2	4.4
Moved with Household	22.0	36.6	29.1
Others	10.2	7.9	9.1
Total	100	100	100

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 2: Percent Distribution of Rural to Urban Migration by causes and migration Defining Boundaries in India (Duration of Residence:1 to 4 years)

Type of migration	Causes of Rural to Urban Migration								
	M/F/T	Work/ Employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with Household	Others	Total
Short Distance (Intra)	M	23.4	2.3	10.6	2.9	13.0	24.3	23.5	100
	F	2.2	0.3	1.9	70.3	4.7	13.4	7.2	100

District	T	8.1	0.9	4.3	51.5	7.0	16.4	11.8	100
Medium Distanc e	M	38.7	2.9	10.1	1.5	7.9	25.2	13.7	100
	F	4.2	0.4	2.6	57.1	4.5	24.1	7.1	100
(Inter District)	T	17.3	1.3	5.5	35.9	5.8	24.5	9.7	100
Long Distanc e	M	56.2	3.0	5.5	0.7	3.5	21.5	9.6	100
	F	6.0	0.4	2.2	42.6	3.4	38.1	7.3	100
(Inter state)	T	31.8	1.7	3.9	21.1	3.5	29.6	8.4	100

### Conclusion:

India has a young rapidly growing population a potential demographic dividend. New McKinsey Global percent of net new jobs created by 2030, may produce around 70 percent of Indian GDP, and drive a near fourfold increase in per capital income across the nation. If Indian fixes its urban operating model, it has the potential to reap a demographic dividend from the increase of around

250 million expected in the next decade in the working-age population.

To remove poverty, there is very much need to implement effectively SJSRY (SWARYAN JAYANTI SHAHRI ROZGAR URBAN RENEWABLE MISSION). To make slum free India there is a mission named RAJIV Awas Yojana from June 2011 This mission is also to be implemented effectively. Govt. should fulfill the basic needs of slums.

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