

A Study on Women Migration in India

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Abstract

Women now move from rural to urban areas because they now prefer a hassle free life. They are now keen to have an independent life and want to stay within a nuclear family which is more customized and less monotonous. Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count increased to 28.53% according to 2001 census, and crossing 30% as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16%. According to a survey by UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. With an urbanization level of 31.16 percent in 2011, India is the least urbanized country among the top 10 economies of the world. While rural-rural migration continues to be the largest in terms of magnitude. Further, there are a large number of short term migrants and an increase in return migration rate is also observed. Rural to Urban migrations are caused by a variety of factors including economic, social and political factors.

Key words:Demographic, consequence, Enumeration

Introduction:

Migration in the Census of India is of two types – Migration by Birth place and Migration by place of last residence. When a person is enumerated in Census at a place, i.e., village or town, different from her/his place of birth, she/he would be considered a migrant by place of birth. A person would be considered a migrant by place of last residence, if she/he had last resided at a place other than her/his place of enumeration. Migration refers to the movement of persons from the place of origin to another destination with a permanent change in residence for a number of reasons like social, cultural, economic and non economic factors. Women now move from rural to urban areas because they now prefer a hassle free life. They are now keen to have an independent life and want to stay within a nuclear family which is more customized and less monotonous. It plays the important role in population growth, improving economic and the social condition of the people. The marginalization of women's concerns in the context of migration is related to the overall socio-economic status of women, the non-recognition and undervaluation of their work. Large magnitude of females' migration linked to marriage and associational reasons have curtailed any economic significance being attached to the gender dimensions of labour migration.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the causes and effect of women migrants in India
2. To analyse the consequences of women migration in India.

Statement of the problem:

Women are the most valuable assets of any nation. In India women status and role have witnessed rapid transformation in recent years. The concept of employment of women is widely with the advent of industrialization in developing and

developed countries. Women are increasingly migrating on their own, often to enhance economic opportunities by seeking jobs or education. Data indicate that the rate of female migration is growing faster than male migrants in many countries that receive high levels of migrants. This trend is commonly referred to as the “feminization of migration.” Several studies assessing the economic impact of women migration in India. The present study deals what are effects of women migrants in India.

Methodology of the study:

The study is based on secondary data only. The data collected from census of India. All the data were processed manually collected data were tabulated and analyzed using percentage analysis and pie diagram.

Review of literature:

Shaw’s study finds that rural Sri Lankan migrant men tend to be from the upper and middle classes, whereas female migrant women are often near or under the poverty line. In general, Sri Lankan women have less asset ownership and education than men, which further explains the poverty distinction (Shaw 2007). Almost all domestic workers from Sri Lanka migrated because of financial need (Afsar 2011). Shaw (2005a) finds evidence in Sri Lanka that migration for domestic work is largely understood and reported in the media as risky, with the potential for abuse or exploitation by employers. Thus, women that are not poor may be wary of migrating.

Migrant women are more likely to be temporary, unskilled, or semi-skilled compared with men migrants, and Ramamurthy (2003) finds that temporary

migration results in higher remittances flows, and unskilled and semi-skilled migrants remit more than high-skilled migrants.

Pattern of Women Migration in India:

The movement of population from one region to another is termed as migration. Migration is commonly of two types: temporary and permanent. Temporary migration encompasses annual, seasonal or even daily movements of population between two cities; it is also called 'commutation'. Migration can be divided into the following types on the basis of origin and destination:

Rural to rural $R \rightarrow R$

Rural to urban $R \rightarrow U$

Urban to urban $U \rightarrow U$

Urban to rural $U \rightarrow R$

In some cases, the population moves from villages to small towns and then to a bigger metropolitan city: this may be termed 'step-wise migration'. Migration owing to a number of attractions offered by a city is interpreted as migration due to 'push' factors; on the other hand, people move out of villages due to 'pull' factors— such as better opportunities of employment, education, recreation, health care facilities, business, etc. outside villages. Some 'push' factors are unemployment, poverty, social insecurity, political instability and ethnic conflicts. The pattern of internal migration may be divided into the following: intra-state movement in the case of movement of people within the state itself, and inter-state movement when the migrants cross the borders of a state and settle down in

another state. The bulk of intra-state migrations were not caused by economic factors. Since about three-fourths of all migrants were females, it becomes obvious that marriage was the prime reason for such migration.

Generally, about one-half of male intra-state migrants belong to rural-to-rural category. Most of these R→R migrants are from backward states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is obvious that migrants moved from their place of origin in search of better jobs in agricultural farms or other establishments in rural areas.

Out-migration mostly takes place from underdeveloped states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Migrants had a tendency to move into comparatively developed regions like West Bengal, Maharashtra, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chandigarh, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Assam and Madhya Pradesh also witnessed in-migration but on a lesser scale.

Uneven development between regions is believed to be the major cause of migration. It is unfortunate that most of the major metropolitan cities of India are currently witnessing heavy in- migration and consequent population growth due to work opportunities offered by these cities. Cities like Delhi, for example, are badly affected by huge influx of migrants.

Causes of women migration:

Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count

increased to 28.53% according to 2001 census, and crossing 30% as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16%. Rural to Urban migrations are caused by a variety of factors. Such as marriage, employment, education and lack of security.

1. Marriage:

Marriage is a very important social factor of migration. Every girl has to migrate to her in-law's place of residence after marriage. Thus, the entire female population of India has to migrate over short or long distance. Among the people 70 per cent female migrants shifted their residence moved due to marriage in 2011.

2. Employment:

People migrate in large number from rural to urban areas in search of employment. The agricultural base of rural areas does not provide employment to all the people living there. Even the small-scale and cottage industries of the villages fail to provide employment to the entire rural folk. Contrary to this, urban areas provide vast scope for employment in industries, trade, transport and services. About 2.4 per cent of female migrants migrated for employment in 2011.

3. Education:

Rural areas, by and large, lack educational facilities, especially those of higher education and rural people have to migrate to the urban centers for this purpose. Many of them settle down in the cities for earning a livelihood after completing their education. 1.1 per cent female migrated for education in 2011.

4. Lack of Security:

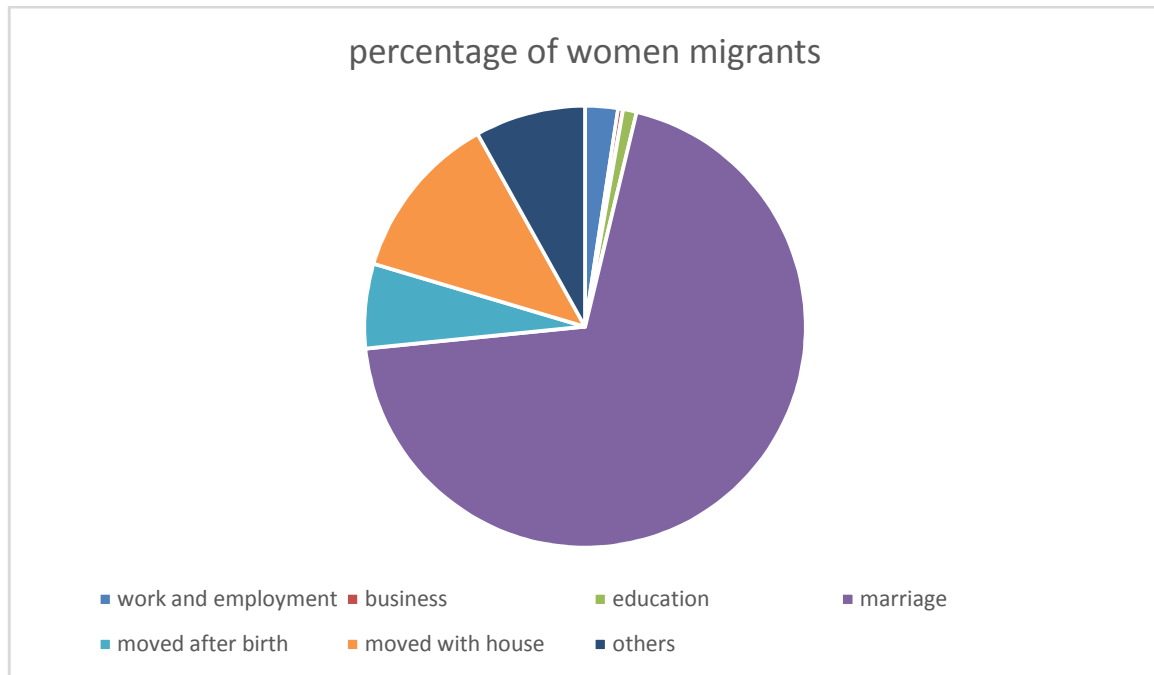
Political disturbances and interethnic conflicts drive people away from their homes. Large number of people has migrated out of Jammu and Kashmir and Assam during the last few years due to disturbed conditions there. People also migrate on a short-term basis in search of better opportunities for recreation, health care facilities, and legal advices or for availing service which the nearby towns provide. The following table explains reasons for migration in 2011

TABLE 1
REASONS FOR MIGRATION OF MIGRANTS BY LAST RESIDENCE
WITH DURATION (0-9 YEARS) INDIA 2011

Reason for migrations	Number of Migrants			Percentage to Migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total migrants	453,641,955	140,962,280	312,679,675	100.0	100.0	100.0
Work/employment	46,383,766	38,999,861	7,383,905	10.2	27.7	2.4
Business	4,345,018	3,219,565	1,125,453	0.96	2.3	0.36
Education	8,009,653	4,776,882	3,232,771	1.77	3.4	1.0
Marriage	223,882,710	6,017,923	217,864,787	49.4	4.3	69.7
Moved after birth	47,959,194	28,523,392	19,435,802	10.6	20.2	6.2
Moved with household	69,802,369	31,183,085	38,319,284	15.4	22.1	12.3
Others	53,259,245	27,941,572	25,317,673	11.6	19.8	8.1

Source: Table D3, Census of India 2011

There are various reasons for migration as per information collected in Census 2011 for migration by last residence. Most of the female migrants have cited 'Marriage' as the reason for migration, especially when the migration is within the state. 70 per cent of female migrants are moved due to marriage in 2011. For males, the major reasons for migration are 'work/employment' and 'moved with household'. This is depicted in pie diagram



Consequences of Migration

People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, cultural, political and demographic terms.

Economic Consequences

A major benefit for the source region is the remittance sent by migrants. Remittances from the international migrants are one of the major sources of foreign exchange. In 2002, India received US\$ 11 billion as remittances from international migrants.

Demographic Consequences

Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country. Rural urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population

growth of cities. Age and skill selective out migration from the rural area have adverse effect on the rural demographic structure. It may have profound effects on the size, structure and growth patterns of populations. Migration has effects on both populations of the patterns of populations. Migration has effects on both population of the places that people leave & on the populations of those in which they settle. These effects vary with different types of migration & length of migrants stay in places. The absence of large number of either men or women may have a limited impact on the sending society in short term but if they are absent for longer periods time their absence will have significant effects on population growth rates in the medium and longer terms.

Social Consequences

Migrants act as agents of social change. The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girl's education, etc. get diffused from urban to rural areas through them. Migration adversely affects the welfare of the source areas because of increasing rural to urban migration in spite of rising urban unemployment, increasing environmental problems, overgrowing of population and the shortage of urban amenities. The effects of migration on the individual migrants themselves who come from varied socio-economic backgrounds the effects on the resource base of the families of the migrants left behind the effects of the migration on the village community of the migrants

Environmental Consequences

Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas. This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies

Suggestions:

The most prominent and relevant recommendations by experts and organizations include the following

1. Ensure migrant women are granted full human rights and can access services and resources for basic rights. Migrants should receive the same protections, standards, and access to services as non-migrants. Countries should ensure that rights are safeguarded even for those most isolated. Migrants should be protected regardless of status. Families left behind should have access to resources in their own countries, particularly when spouses migrate, and in transit and destination countries.
2. Migrant women must have access to health services, regardless of legal status. Health workers should be trained to ensure that health systems are gender sensitive and culturally sensitive.
3. Provide access to financial institutions and better channels for sending and receiving remittances. Migrant women need increased access to formal financial institutions as well as services geared to the needs of women. Financial services, such as financial literacy training and support for enterprise creation, should be available for women. In addition, providing formal, easy, and safe channels for remittances would allow families to receive more remittances, which would raise household incomes and improve local economies.
4. Promote nondiscrimination in access to labor markets and job sectors, thereby increasing access and opportunities for women. Invest in skills development and education of women and female migrants. In addition, countries are encouraged to recognize the academic degrees and

qualifications of migrants to help ensure that migrants are not under employed and their skills and contributions are fully recognized.

Conclusion:

Migration affects the status of women directly or indirectly. It is a social a phenomena which is influenced by both underdevelopmentas well as development. Female migration in India is an area which needs furtherexploration and research to understand it better. Needless to say that the majority of thefemale migration in India is due to family reasons like marriage and family moved. But still a significant proportion of women are migrating for economic reasons like employment, business and education. With modernization, development and increasing autonomy ofwomen, it is expected that the volume and rate of female migration would increase in future mostly for economic reasons. Hence, there is need formigration policies which focuses on the empowerment and development of women in terms of education and income. Female education is the key for empowerment of womenin terms of making the decision to migrate as well as getting a better job at thedestination.

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