Nature of in-Migration to the top Three Megacities of India

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ABSTRACT *In India, urban population always remain concentrated in certain growth centers , among which Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the most important ones. These possess the top three ranks in terms of urban population size. The present paper examines the role of in-migration to the above mentioned megacities. A comparative analysis has been made among these megacities keeping in mind the reasons and source regions of migration . For a proper understanding necessary graphs have been produced, based on census data. From the study it is found that, Kolkata is lagging behind in comparison to Mumbai and Delhi, regarding urbanisation and urban migration related issues. Apart from that, these megacities are creating a polarization effect in terms of population size and infrastructural development compared to their source regions of in-migration.*

Introduction:

Urbanisation and migration go hand in hand and together they change the population geography of any region (Wahba, 2007). Growth rate of urban population in India is much higher than the overall population growth. This higher growth of urban population is significantly influenced by in-migration to the cities. That causes urban population explosion, which becomes unmanageable especially in the metro cities of the first tire in urban hierarchy. Consecutively this disrupts the demand-supply balance of urban infrastructure, thus leading to various social disorders. Each city possesses its unique pull factors that attract people from distant places, better work opportunity, high quality educational and health institutions are noteworthy among those pull factors. Depending on efficiency of those pull factors the influence zones of a city is demarcated. The current study is committed to explore such attributes of the three top ranking megacities of India, i.e. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata in that order.

Objectives:

Migration has a multi-dimensional impact on any city and this paper has couple of objectives to fulfill:

• to enquire the reasons of in-migration in the selected megacities.

• to identify the source regions of migration at national level.

Methodology:

To achieve the aforesaid goals, census data of different years have been used. As the current study is specifically confined to the three most populated mega cities of the country, data processing has been done concisely. Though population figures of the cities under study have been analysed up to the latest census year, i.e. 2011, but migration tables of 2001 census year had to be taken into consideration, as because of non availability of migration tables of 2011 till date. The D-3 tables of migration entitled 'city of Maharastra', 'city of Delhi' and 'city of West Bengal' have been used to accumulate the relevant in-migration data. From those tables only the in-migrants from source states for 'all duration of residence' has been taken into account. To make information more comparable for the selected megacities, they have been represented through suitable graphs and charts.

Population Growth in the megacities:

Population size has not only just expanded many times in the megacities of India during the last century, it has also experienced notable fluctuations for the megacities under study here. As far as the population size of the megacities is concerned, they have changed their ranks significantly during the study period. From 1901 to 1991, Kolkata has recorded the maximum population size among the cities of India,. During the British rule, Kolkata (erstwhile Calcutta) was the national capital of the country till 1911. Its port based economy and development of the Hugli industrial belt helped it to be a popular destination for so many migrants. Concentration of various labour intensive industries, like jute mills, paper mills, engineering workshops, textile industries etc. created the demand for skilled and unskilled labours in the surrounding regions of Kolkata. In 1901 population of Kolkata city was 1.51 million whereas population of Mumbai (erstwhile Bombay) was 0.81 million. Then Delhi was at the fourth position after Chennei (erstwhile Madras) with a population of only 0.21 million (Chakraborty, 1990). Just after the independence and partition of India, the scenario started to change. After 1911, New Delhi became the national capital of the country. In 1951 census, Kolkata reflected a population of 4.67 million and population of Mumbai and Delhi was 2.97 and 1.43 million respectively. Then Kolkata and its surrounding districts received a massive influx of Bangladeshi refugees, which also added to its original population size. No other

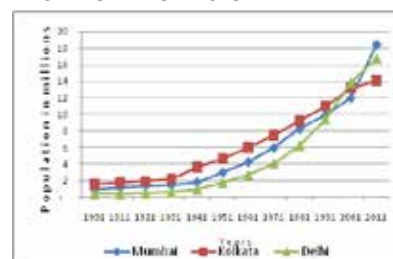## TREND OF URBAN POPULATION GROWTH IN SELECTED CITIES OF INDIA

Fig. 1 Data Sources: Census of India, various years

megacity of India has faced such a population pressure due to refugee influx. In recent years, population growth of Delhi gained a momentum. As per latest census, Kolkata holds third position with a total population of 14.11 million, whereas Mumbai and Delhi are holding a population size of 18.41 and 16.75 million respectively (Census of India, 2011). Figure no. 1 depicts the changing trend of population over last twelve census years among the megacities under study. #

**REASONS OF IN-MIGRATION
IN SELECTED CITIES OF INDIA, 2001**
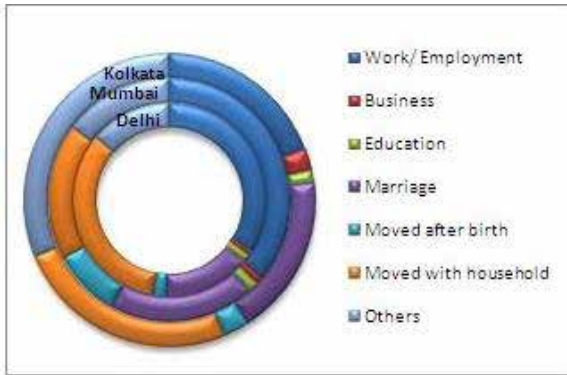
Fig. 2 Data Source: Census of India, 2001

Migration and the Megacities:

Urban population dynamics is controlled by three factors, viz., natural increase of population, migration and annexation of the adjoining parts to the city. Among them, in all the cities under study, natural increase is declining gradually. That may be because of the increased living cost of the city core. Annexation of new area is not a regular phenomenon but it happens occasionally. In fact the streams of 'migration' leads to rapid increase of urban population size. The in-migrants not only create the demand of various urban amenities in the destination city; on the same time, they also provide necessary labour, entrepreneurship and sometimes enough capital money to develop the resource and infrastructures in their destination place to meet those demands. So, in-migration also have some constructive effects on the destination cities.

Reasons of in-migration:

In Mumbai almost 43.7 percent of the total population is considered as migrants (MHDR, 2009). Almost 36 percent migrants came to this city in search of work or employment, as revealed from the figure no. 2. This is the highest figure among the cities under study. In case of Delhi and Kolkata these figures are 34 and 19 percent respectively. But Kolkata is still a better choice for the traders compared to other megacities. As per the census records, Among all in-migrants, in the megacities concerned, only two percent come to Kolkata for business and trading. The figures for the same reason in case of Mumbai and Delhi are only one percent each. Many students aspire for higher education in Mumbai and Delhi followed by Kolkata. In India marriage is a significant social factor responsible for migration. In all the megacities, 'marriage' plays a vital role for in-migrants. Here also Mumbai ranks first with 19 percent in-migrants . Kolkata and Delhi recorded 18 and 15 percent in-migrants respectively because of marriage. In Mumbai nine percent in-migrants moved after birth and this figures for Kolkata and Delhi are only three and two percent respectively. Taking 'moved with household' as a reason of migration, Delhi ranks first with 33 percent; then come Kolkata and Mum-

bai with 25 and 18 percent in-migrants respectively. There are some other reasons responsible for in-migration and in that category Kolkata leads with 31 percent in-migrants. Mumbai and Delhi exhibit almost same size of in-migrants in this category with 15 and 14 percent respectively. Collectively it may be stated that, among various reasons of migration, economic and social issues are the most important ones.

Source Regions of Migration:

Every megacity, as a place of destination has its specific source regions of migration. In case of national level net rural to urban migration, Delhi leads as a destination place among all urban centers of the country. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana are the dominant source regions for Delhi (IIHS, 2012). Apart from these, few states of north-eastern India like Mizoram, Manipur Nagaland etc., Western-Himalayan states and some southern territories like Maharashtra and Lakshadweep island act as important source regions of migration to Delhi.

Mumbai also has a wide influence zone over the country. Its dominant source regions include the union territory of Pondicherry and almost all the southern states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh Kerala and Goa inclusive of northern states like Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Source regions of migration to Kolkata is mainly confined in the eastern part of the country; among them the neighboring states of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Orissa are most dominant. Amongst the distant territories, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar islands are significant. It may be revealed from the in figure no. 3, that Delhi dominates the source regions of migration; then comes the place of Mumbai and Kolkata is the least dominant in this regard. .

**SOURCE REGIONS OF MIGRATION
TO SELECTED CITIES OF INDIA**
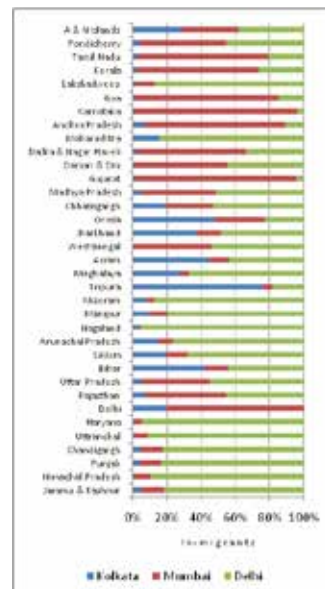
Fig. 3 Data Source: Census of India, 2001

Conclusion:

In 1951, there were only five Indian cities having the population of more than one million. In 2011, that number has reached to 53, while the number of megacities having more than five million population has reached eight. There are three megacities now having population of more

than ten million, which are under the preview of this paper. In all these megacities, 'in-migration' plays a significant role in urban population growth and that is a serious matter of concern for the city planners to cope with the hard and soft infrastructural demands of the huge population. Despite strong pull factors of these cities discussed so far, there is a serious imbalance between the population size and employment opportunities as well as availability of infrastructural facilities in the mega cities concerned. The distribution of source regions for each city is following the 'distant decay law' of Ravenstein, as all neighboring states are more dominant source regions to the cities (Ravenstein, 1889). So adequate plan should be taken up to reduce the polarization effect of the urban centers like Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. in terms of population size and available amenities. If such an effort is made through decentralization of offices and facilities only then migration flows from the rural to urban areas and from small town to big city will be reduced and a balanced growth will be achieved.

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