



## AN OVERVIEW OF TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDIA, 2011

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**ABSTRACT** This paper studies the trends and patterns of internal migration in India on the basis of census data. According to census data, internal migrant's proportion to total population has increased from 27.1 percent in 1971 to 30.1 percent in 2011. Internal migration in India is characterized by more short distance (intra-state) migration compare to long distance migration (interstate). The former pattern of migration is dominated by female while latter pattern is dominated by male. The developed state has highest number of in migrants and poor states are migrants losing states. The major reason behind migration among female is marriages and male migrate in search better economic opportunities.

**KEYWORDS :** Migration, Census 2011, Trend and Pattern.

**INTRODUCTION**

Analysis of mobility of population in a country is essential because movement of people is often regarded as an index of its economic development (Rele, 1969). Study of trends and patterns of migration is significant to understand the variation in the mobility of people within the country. In a heavily populous (ranked second in world) country like India right understanding of pattern of migration is necessary in order to assessment of future population redistribution. Migration also holds important reason in increasing of population in particular region at a time after birth rate and mortality rate. In India information collected on the mobility of people by Census and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The data collected by these surveys may not able to record some other movement of population such as temporary, seasonal and circulatory movement (Srivastava, Ravi and Sasikumar, 2003).

After independence of India many heavy industry and light industry were established in some pockets of country. Even the green revolution is concentrated in few region of country. All these industrial and agricultural development leads to inter-state and intra- state disparity in India. Again, this disparity has intensified the mobility among people in different stream. A larger portion of population has migrated from rural to urban areas.

Over the decades Indian Census recorded that migration play very important role in urbanization. This urbanization has been attributed to the "attraction of city lights" and that migration is important reason in the growth of urban population (Sridhar, Reddy, & Srinath, 2010). According to the Census data 2011, the total urban population of India is, 377.11 million which constitute 31.16 percent of total population. 2011 census registered 78.2 million migrants in urban areas whose place of origin is rural areas. In India female migration has not much economic importance as major reason behind their migration is exogamy marriage. It is male in India who migrated primarily for work and employment purpose and their movement have economic significance. The empirical study on migration found that mostly young adult men migrate in India (De Haan, 1999) ;(Deshingkar, Kumar, Chobey, & Kumar, 2006)(Paris, Singh, Luis, & Hossain, 2005). Here it becomes necessary to capture the volume and nature of internal mobility of population so that government can formulate development policy accordingly.

**Data Source and Methodology**

The present study is primarily based on secondary data, Census of India 2001 and 2011, Migration Tables, D1, D2, D3 series. Census defines migrants based on two criteria: place of birth (POB) and place of last residence (POLR). Based on these two criteria a person is said to be migrant if his/her place of birth or place of last residence is different from the place of enumeration. To study the trend and pattern of migration from India, proportion of migrants to total population, distribution of migrants by different streams of migration are used. To show the net migration rate from states migration rate have been calculated by following formula.

1. In-migration rate =  $\frac{\text{In - migrants during 2001-2011}}{\text{Total Population 2011} \times 100}$
2. Out migration rate =  $\frac{\text{Out - migrants during 2001-2011}}{\text{Total Population 2011} \times 100}$
3. Net migration rate = In migration rate – Out migration rate

**Internal Migration in India: Trends and Patterns**

Kingsley Davis in his work of 1951 termed people of Indian subcontinent especially rural folks less mobile in character. But Table 1 demonstrates that over the decennial population census this prejudice estimates by the Davis have weakened. In 1971 census 159.6 million populations were internal migrants which constitute about 29.1 percent to the total population of country on the basis of place of last residents. Though the absolute number of migrants increased in every census since 1971 and it becomes triple times in 2011 (449,917,418 people are internal migrants) but the proportion of migrants to total population remains about 30 percent except 1991 where it slip down to 27 percent, this may be attributed to sluggish economic growth due to 1990 economic crises. After 1990 India adopted new economic policy which generates employment opportunities in cities thus increase the pace of mobility of people. Table 1 show that the steep increase in volume of internal migrants between decades 2001-2011 and proportion of migrants to total population has also increased from 30 percent to 37 percent which recorded highest in any censual decades.

**Table 1: Internal Migrants in India on the basis of Place of Last Resident, India, 1971-2011 (in million)**

Census Year	Internal Migrants (in million)	Total Population	% of Internal Migrants to total Population
1971	159.6	548.1	29.1
1981	201.6	659.3	30.4
1991	225.6	814.3	27.1
2001	300.9 (309.4)	991.8 (1028.6)	30.3 (30)
2011	449.9	1210.1	37.1

Source: For 1971-1991, R. B. Bhagat, 2009; Census Of India for 2001 & 2011, Migration Table, D-2 series

Table 2 illustrates that migration in India is characterized by short duration as majority of migrants about 61 percent are intra- district migrants. As per census, 2011 female are dominated in every stream of migration, predominately in short duration migration as they constitute 70.1 percent and 69 percent of intra-district and inter district migrants respectively as compare to their male counterparts as they share 29.9 percent and 30 percent respectively of former and latter. This short duration on female mobility in India because of marriage as female have to leave their parental home and join their husband house after marriage. (Srivastava, Ravi and Sasikumar, 2003). But it is worthy to note that long distance interstate migration of rural to urban stream is dominated by male. As per 2011 census, in this stream of migration 19.6 million migrants were enumerated in urban areas that migrated from rural areas, out of them 10.7 million and 8.8 million were male and female migrants respectively.

**Table 2 :Size of Migrants by Migration Streams Census, 2011**

Migration Type	No. of total migrants (in million)	Percentage of total migrants	No. of male migrants (in million)	Percentage of male migrants	No. of female migrants(in million)	Percentage of female migrants
Intra -District	277,513,908	60.9	82,948,766	29.9	194,565,142	70.1
Inter-District	118,138,761	25.9	36,649,074	31.0	81,489,687	69.0
Inter-State	54,264,749	11.9	23,869,812	44.0	30,394,937	56.0
International Migrant	5,491,194	1.2	2,513,665	45.8	2,977,529	54.2
All Migrants	455,408,612	100.0	145,981,317	32.1	309,427,295	67.9
Total Population	1,210,193,422					

Source: Census Of India,2011, Migration Table, D series

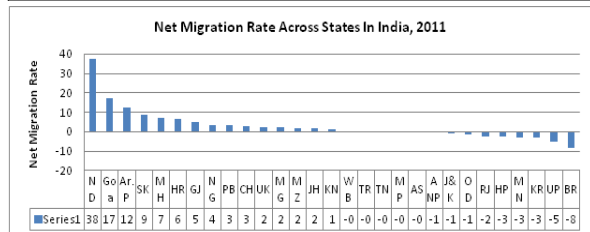
Table 3 shows that Maharashtra is most attracting destination for internal migrants in absolute term in India as it is home of 5.3 million migrants followed by Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana. These states are most industrialized, economically prosperous and developed states and pull factor is strong enough to attract migrants from all over the country. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh has recorded highest volume of out-migrants in absolute figure along with Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka. As of 2011 census, shows that people of poor states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan are migrating to developed and industrialized states (from Figure: 1) . Even a study conducted by (Jajatik. Parida, 2017) based on NSSO data 2007-2008 found that out migration rate are high in agricultural dependent and poor state like Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh ,Madhya Pradesh. Figure 1 demonstrate that in India Bihar is ranked first in losing migrants based on place of birth definition of census followed by

carried out with same above listed reasons for migration. The reason of 'moved after birth' was included in 2001 census when it was felt that a huge number of pregnant women in India went to either their maternal home or to another place with better health facility for their delivery. In such case women are not considered as migrants at these impermanent residence but the children born are considered as migrants when they go along with their parents to their place of permanent residence. As per the census definition of census technically, this is migration for the children born as the place of birth being different from the place of enumerations and it was convenient in segregate this from other categories. Table 4 gives a detail account of reason for migration in India by last residence with all duration. There is stark difference in reason of migration among male and female in India. Table 4 depicts that marriages emerges as the most important reason as 209.8 million (46.6%) migrants stated reason for migration in India. But this is confined to female migrant as 66.7 percent cited marriage for their reason of migration because women change their residence after marriages as compared to male (3.7 percent). In case of male, majority of them (24.1 percent) migrate in search of work/ employment while only 2.1 percent women adopted migration. Similar finding was found by (Skeldon, 1987); (Singh et al., 2011) where they cited that employment was the principal reason for male migration to urban areas, particularly for interstate migrants. This followed by moved with household another reason emerges for migration among male and female as 20 percent and 11.5 percent respectively. There are many empirical studies which try to figure out reason of migration at micro level. According to (Deshingkar, 2008) the surplus labor resulting from the shortage of cultivated land, the unequal distribution of land, low agricultural productivity, high population density and the concentration of the rural economy almost exclusively on agriculture has resulted in a continuous rise in migration, whereas found that debt was major reason for migration from Odisha

**Table 3: States having highest No. of In Migrants and Out Migrants based on Place of Birth**

State	No. of In Migrants (in millions)	State	No. of Out Migrants (in millions)
Maharashtra	5,303,068	Uttar Pradesh	6,658,335
NCT of Delhi	3,375,325	Bihar	4,154,666
Gujarat	2,323,377	Rajasthan	1,619,163
Karnataka	1,564,457	Maharashtra	1,138,753
Haryana	1,420,635	Karnataka	1,044,363

Source: Census Of India 2011, Migration Table, D1 series inter- state all duration (Place of Birth)



**Figure 1: Net Migration Rate in India; Source: Census, 2011**

Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh. In these states net migration rate is negative that means as out-migrants outnumbered in-migrants to the total population of these states. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar poor industrial base, low natural resource, less urbanization, poverty and immense population pressure on cultivable land reduce the carrying capacity of land push the people of these two states to adopt migration as livelihood strategy.

It is not only poor states losing their population as out-migrants but Kerala most developed state of India at front of socio-economic indicator but have shown negative net migration rate and losing its population as out-migrants, this may be attributed to the fact that sizeable portion of Kerala population headed towards Gulf countries in other word we can say that they prefer international migration.

**Reason for Migration in India, 2011**

The census of India started gathering information on reason for migration since 1980 on the basis of place of last residence. The data on reason of migration is collected under five broad categories namely, employment, education, family moved, marriages and others. Along with the above listed reason in 1991 census two more reason for migration was added 'Business' and 'Natural Calamities'. In 2001 census an additional reason 'moved with birth' was added and reason 'Natural Calamity' was dropped and did a slightly change in 'family move' with the term 'moved with household'. The census of 2011 was

**Table 4: Reason for Migration in India for All Duration of Residence in India, 2011**

Reason for Migration	No. of migrants (in millions)		Percentage to the total migrants			
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Work/Employment	40.8	34.5	6.3	9.1	24.1	2.1
Business	3.5	2.6	0.8	0.8	1.8	0.3
Education	5.4	3.2	2.1	1.2	2.3	0.7
Marriage	209.8	5.3	204.5	46.6	3.7	66.7
Move after birth	33.6	19.9	13.7	7.5	13.9	4.5
Moved with household	64.0	28.7	35.3	14.2	20.0	11.5
Others	92.6	49.0	43.5	20.6	34.2	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>143.4</b>	<b>306.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Source: Census Of India, 2011, Migration Table, D-3 series

**CONCLUSION**

In India the proportion of internal migrants to total population is increased from 29.1 percent in 1971 to 37.1 percent in 2011. Migration in India is characterized by short duration as majority of migrants are intra- district migrants. This short distance pattern of migration is dominated by women because of prevalence of traditional exogamy in India society. On the other hand, long distance interstate stream of migration especially rural-urban pattern of migration is dominated by male. According to 2011 census Maharashtra emerges as favorite destination for internal migrants followed by New Delhi and Gujarat, whereas Uttar Pradesh and Bihar emerges as the major migrants losing states. It can be clearly say that people are migrating from poor states to developed states in hope of finding better economic opportunities. The major reason behind migration among female is marriage while male migrate for work and employment purpose.

Another important reason behind migration among males and females is moved with household.

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