



Spatial Variation of Intra-District and Inter-District Pattern of Out-Migration in Sikkim, India

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ABSTRACT

Migration is a socio-economic phenomenon. There are various problems observed in the study area. Migration is the third component of population change, while two other important components of population change are of fertility and mortality. The area has no enough resource to enhance the industrial growth. Most of the parts of the state are covered by mountain region and there is a little space for agriculture. So in this area industrial activity is not suitable. In Sikkim, North district faced high rate of Out-migration Because of extreme climatic and physiographic factors. Among the four districts of the state East Sikkim district faced lowest out-migration, highest in Migration and highest net migration compare to other districts. Those people who live in rural areas more likely face a higher risk of poverty and lower incomes compared with urban areas. That's why, a large number of rural people of Sikkim are migrating from these areas for their sustenance.

KEYWORDS

Out-Migration, Intra-District Out-Migration, Inter-District Out-Migration, Loss and Gain Migration

Introduction

Migration is mainly occurred from those places which have lack of job opportunities, extreme climate, rugged terrain, under developed in agriculture etc. Sikkim is a small hilly state in North-East. Most of the part of this state is covered with mountains. Especially North Sikkim faced extreme climatic condition over the year. The problems of this area are associated with rugged terrain, road inaccessibility and interrupt growth of settlements. Oberai and Singh (1980) discussed that the main causes of out migration are employment or improvement of income and education. Nath and Choudhury (1995) said that male migration (age group 15-25) rate is greater from rural to urban areas due to educational and employment opportunities. Out-migration is greater in the poorly developed agricultural areas and particularly high amongst the landless farmers (Parganiha, et.al; 2009). In Sikkim East Sikkim recorded high rate of intra-district out-migration and low rate of inter-district out-migration. East Sikkim has great job opportunity in tourism sector, economic sector, informal sector as well as transport sectors than other districts of the state.

Objectives:

1. Here following objectives have been undertaken for the study:
2. To identify Inter and Intra-district out-migration in Sikkim and
3. To analyse the reasons for out-migration.

Choice of the study area:

For the purpose of the present study, Sikkim is taken as the study area. Sikkim is a small hilly state in north-east India. The state is bounded by Tibet in the north; Bhutan in the east; West Bengal in the south; and Nepal in the west. Sikkim lies between 87° 59' E to 88° 56' E longitude and 27° 5' N to 28° 9' N latitude. Sikkim has four districts in 2001. North Sikkim consists with two subdivisions i.e. Chungthang and Mangan. East district consists with three subdivisions i.e. Gangtok, Pakyong and Rongli; South and West districts are also has two subdivision. Most of the people of this state live in rural areas (75.03%, 2011 census).

LOCATION MAP

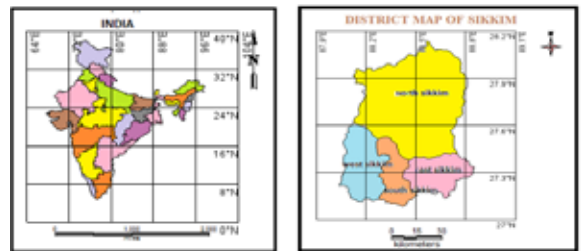


Fig 1: Showing Location of the Study area

Data base and Methodology:

For the Analysis of intra and inter district pattern of out-migration in Sikkim based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from different sources like census of India, Migration Table (D series, 2001). District wise information on migration data and the related aspects are collected from census of India. The study is based on both descriptive and analytical in nature. The district is taken as the basic unit of the study. Sikkim has four districts. This number is good for spatial analysis of migration load in Sikkim. For the analysis of variation of intra and inter district pattern of out-migration in Sikkim different data representation method like diagrams, bar graphs and maps showing spatial variation with choropleth technique has used with the help of GIS software.

Result and Discussion:

Intra-District out-migration patterns:

People born in the district but enumerated elsewhere in some other district of the state are the emigrants or out-migrants. Intra-district out-migration rate is defined as the proportion of total out-migrants in the given district to total population of this district during the specific period of time. Intra-district rural out-migrants are those persons who are migrating from rural area to other rural or urban areas within the district. Intra-District out migration is shifting of population from rural areas to the cities or other rural areas either willingly or forcefully for the betterment of their life style. Parganiha et.al; (2009) pointed that out-migration is greater in the poorly developed agricultural areas and particularly high among the landless farmers. Most of the rural male persons are migrating far from their village and most

of the female out migrants moved to other areas within the same district. Rural areas have a higher proportion of marginal jobs, which results in higher underemployment and also a higher proportion of rural workers employed in low-skill jobs relative to urban areas. Those people who live in rural areas more likely face a higher risk of poverty and lower incomes compared with urban areas. The intra-district out-migration patterns have been divided into three groups, like-

Table 1: District wise Intra-District Out-migration during the period of 1991-2001

Districts Name	Total Population	Intra-district out migrants	Per cent of Intra-District out-migrants to Total Population
North	34497	3109	9.01
West	114838	15216	13.25
South	115497	16271	14.08
East	200440	41414	20.66

Source: Census of India 2001, Sikkim and Migration Table D-11: persons born and enumerated in districts of the state.

Low Intra-District out-migration (Below 10%)

Low Intra-District out-migration rate (9.01%) is found only North District. In physiographic point of view North Sikkim, especially rural areas covered with snow and high altitude which are not suitable for settlement, agriculture, and industry or tourism activity. This district also has low level of urbanization, bad road network connection and unsuitable weather. People of North Sikkim are not interest to move within the district but they are highly interest to move inter district.

Moderate Intra-District out-migration (10.01%-20%):

Moderate Intra-District out-migration is observed in South Sikkim (14.09%) and West Sikkim (13.25%). These two districts as usual covered by mountain but not rough surface as North Sikkim. Namchi, Yuksom, Pelling, Gezing, Pabong, Manpurare are famous urban places, tourist destination place, market place which attract a large number people from rural areas of these districts.

High Intra-District out-migration (Above 20.01%):

High rate of Intra-District out-migration is found in East Sikkim. Gangtok is a capital city of Sikkim which situated in East Sikkim. East Sikkim has higher rate of urbanization and development. Last few decades East Sikkim has experienced rapid developmental activities than the other districts of Sikkim. East Sikkim has developed on transport and communication, hotel and restaurant, tourism, secondary and tertiary sectors, different informal activities etc. which attract people from the surrounding areas.

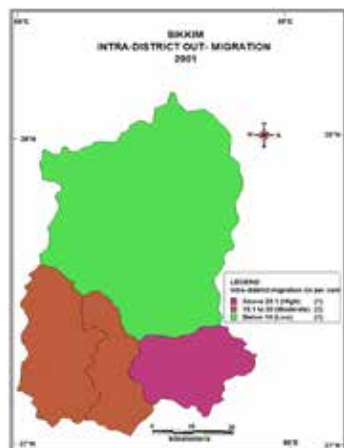


Fig 2: Showing Intra-District Out-migration in Sikkim, 2001

Inter-district out-migration rate is defined as the proportion of total out-migrants from the given district to total population of this district during the specific period of time. Most of the parts of the state are covered by mountain region and there is a little space for agriculture. Rural economy of Sikkim largely depends on traditional farming, agriculture, livestock etc. Peoples of Sikkim mainly engaged on cultivation, agricultural labourers, household industry and other workers. The study area are viewed various problems. The problems of this area are associated with rugged terrain, road inaccessibility, absence of work and interrupt growth of settlements. That is why a large number of people are migrating from one place to another place for their substance. The inter-district out-migration patterns have been classified into three groups, such as

Table 2: District wise Inter-District Out-migration during the period of 1991-2001

Districts Name	Total Population	Total Inter-District Out-Migrants	Per cent of Inter-District Out-Migrant to total Population
North	34497	3151	9.1341276
West	114838	9213	8.0226058
South	115497	9321	8.0703395
East	200440	8960	4.4701656

Source: Census of India 2001, Sikkim and Migration Table D-11: persons born and enumerated in districts of the state.

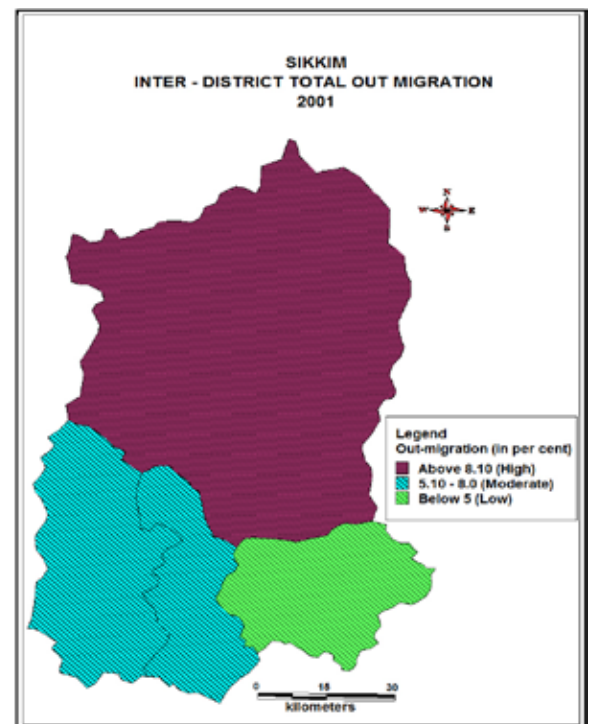


Fig 3: Showing Inter-District Out-migration in Sikkim, 2001

Low Inter-District out-migration (Below 5%):

East Sikkim faced low rate of out-migration (4.47%). This district has high level of urbanization, numerous small or medium scale industries and large scale tourism activity with low altitude, suitable weather well connectivity. So this district has a power to provide huge number of job for every people. That is why a small percentage of people of this district are moved from this district to other districts.

Moderate Inter-District out-migration (5.10%-8%):

Moderate Inter-District out-migration is observed in South

Sikkim (8.07%) and West Sikkim (8.02%). These two districts are not well developed on industry, informal activity, and transport, communication facility. Most of the people of these two districts are moved into East Sikkim because of great opportunity for searching job especially in Gangtok city.

High Inter-District out-migration (Above 8.10%):

Patnaik (1995) argued that demand for labour in urban industry is raising a net out-migration from the rural area. North Sikkim recorded high rate of inter-district out-migration Rate i.e. 9.13%. In physiographic point of view north Sikkim covered with snow and high altitude, optimum climate, narrow connectivity etc. which are not suitable for growing settlement, agriculture, industry etc. so highest percentage of out migration occurred from North Sikkim.

Gain and Loss Migration:

The number of persons who were born outside the district of enumeration are the in-migrants to the district. People born in the district but enumerated elsewhere in some other district of the state are the emigrants or out-migrants. The sum of in-migrants and out-migrants represents the gross migrants. Net migration or Loss and Gain migration is calculated from In-migrants - Out-migrants to total population (Census Atlas, West Bengal, 1971).

Table 3: District wise Loss and Gain migration during the period of 1991-2001

Districts Name	In-migration rate (in per cent)	Out-migration Rate (in per cent)	Loss and Gain migration (in per cent)
North	7.84	9.13	-1.29
West	3.85	8.02	-4.17
South	8.97	8.07	+0.90
East	7.32	4.47	+2.85

Source: Census of India 2001, Sikkim and Migration Table D-11: persons born and enumerated in districts of the state, D-2 Migrants classified by place of last residence, sex and duration of residence in place of enumeration and data has been computed.

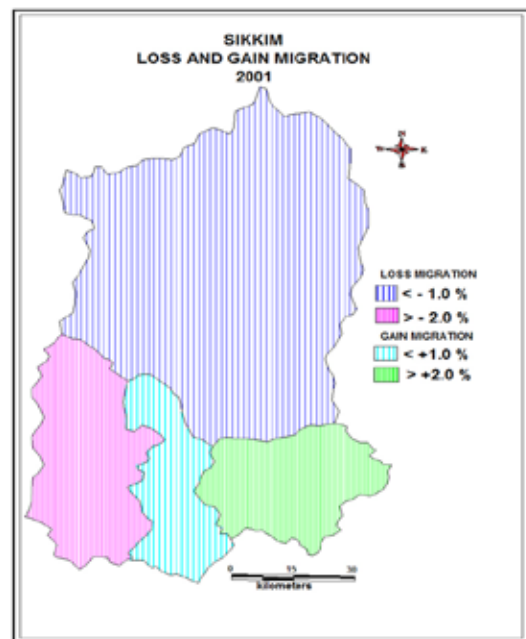


Fig 4: Showing Loss and Gain migration in Sikkim, 2001

In East Sikkim and South Sikkim, number of in-migrants is outnumbered to the out-migrants from these districts. East Sikkim gain (+2.85%) migration where in and out-mi-

grants is 7.32 per cent and 4.47 per cent. East Sikkim gain highest migration due to the employment opportunities in different field like hotel and resturent, tourism, travel and transport, business and different informal activities. South district also received gain migration i.e. 0.90 per cent. South district also developed rapidly from last few decades mainly based on tourism activity.

Highest per cent of Loss migration is found in West Sikkim i.e. (- 4.17%). Total in and out-migration are 3.85 per cent and 8.02 per cent. On the other hand North Sikkim recorded - 1.29 per cent Loss migration. this two districts shows high rate of out-migration but low rate of in migration because of lack of job opportunities in these two districts. These two districts are mainly practice agricultural work.

Conclusion:

Rate of intra-district out-migration depend on work opportunities for each districts. Those districts has good opportunities for creating job opportunities, experienced high rate of intra-district out-migration like East Sikkim District. People of East Sikkim District are Highly migrated with in the district because of high development of any level compare to other districts of sikkim state. But in case of inter-districts out-migration, those districts has high propensity of job opportunity gain more in migration form his boundary districts. In Sikkim East Sikkim shows low rate of inter-district out-migration and North District shows High rate of out migration. Among the four districts of Sikkim, only East Sikkim has experienced high level of development which creaat a great pull factors for others district. On the other hand North Sikkim shows high rate of out migration due to lack of job opportunities and for extrem mountain and climatic condition. For repid development of last few decades in East Sikkim, it create great attraction for rural work less people and day by day East Sikkim experienced high rate of gain migration.

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