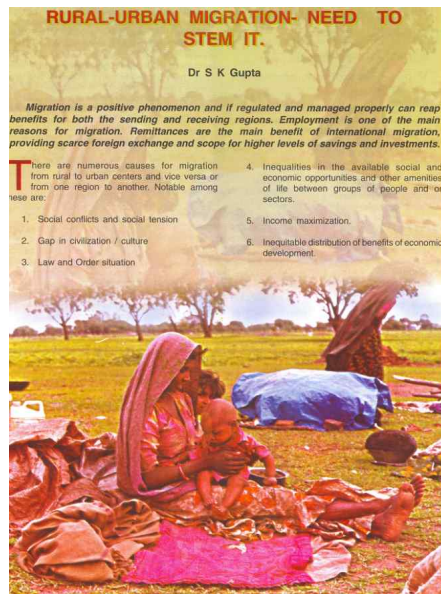


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7. Social mobility and social status aspirations.
8. Residential satisfaction.
9. Friend and family influences
10. Desire for attaining lifestyle, performance and enjoyment.
11. Development of some sort of complex.

Regional imbalances and migration

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-dependant 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 exiting 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 out-going population 305,738, a quarter of the people leaving Bihar (Census 1991). Further, there exist intra-district movements.

This increase in migration is essentially due to regional differences in the population pressure on land, inequality of infrastructure, industrial development, and modernization of agriculture. Particularly the developed areas have increased demand for labour during specific

seasonal activities, especially sowing & harvesting in the case of agricultural activities. As this demand often supersedes the availability of local labour, these developed regions offer a higher wage rate and/or greater number of days of employment. The agriculturally developed regions are invariably areas which have extensive canal irrigation and high yielding variety technology. The demands for labour also exists in seasonally based agro-industries e.g. rice/ol mill, sugar factories, canal construction, road construction, etc.

Jobless growth and migration

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.

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. The call from locals for protection of employment opportunities for the sons-of-the-soil is a long-standing ideology.

Rural-Urban Migration

Traditional rural-urban migration exists in India as villagers seek to improve opportunities and lifestyles. In 1991, 39 m people migrated in rural-urban patterns of which 54% were female. Seasonal urban migration is also evident throughout India, many migrants move into the city during periods of hardship and return to their native villages for events such as the harvest. The growing of this phenomenon has important implications for future generations who suffer from the same debilitating lack of opportunities and low productivity. For example, whole families migrate for six to eight months to work in the factories, resulting in their children being unable to enroll in schools.

Written by Administrator
Friday, 03 July 2009 12:54 -

Rural-to-rural migration

There is evidence especially from the drought-prone to the agro-climatically better-endowed districts, seems to have created overcrowding in destination. Some of the most drought-prone districts have relatively higher labour productivity vis-à-vis the agriculturally prosperous districts. Invariably, migrant labours are paid lower wages compared to locals. Circulatory migration

It is a new phenomenon. In the exploitative labour process, employees prefer to hire migrant labour, as they are considered to be cheaper and more docile than the locals. Labourers need to migrate in search of jobs, which they are denied in their native region. This perpetuates a vicious cycle of migration. Employment is one of the main reasons for migration. Remittances are the main benefit of international migration, providing scarce foreign exchange and scope for higher levels of savings and investments. The policy therefore is needed to reduce the cost of migration, i.e. to improve the bargaining power, improve information and conditions of work, etc.

Some Interesting Insights on Migration are :

- ◆ During the reporting period, 30% reported as migrants by place of birth.
- ◆ During previous decade (1991-2001), the number of migrants in India (excluding J&K) rose by 32.9%, the total number of migrants by place of last residence in India (excluding J&K) grew by 34.7%.
- ◆ High growth (53.6%) among inter-state migrants.
- ◆ Total migrants by last residence (0-9 yrs) accounted to 98.3 m.
- ◆ 43.8% moved due to marriage, 21.0% with their households, 14.7% migrated due to work, 6.7% moved after their birth, 3% for educational purposes, 1.2% for business and 9.7% for specified other reasons.
- ◆ About 42.4m migrants out of total 65.4m female migrants cited marriage as the reason

for migration. Among makes the most important reason for migration was 'Work/Employment', 12.3 m out of 32.8 m total male migrants migrated due to this reason.

- ◆ During the decade, out of the urban growth of 30.3%, 6.6% is accounted for by migration to urban areas.
- ◆ If one takes away those migrants who moved due to marriage, the total number of migrants falls from 98.3m to 55.2m. Total number among males and females were 32.2m and 22.9m respectively.
- ◆ Migration streams (during the last decade)
- ◆ Rural to rural migration within the country: 53.3m
- ◆ Rural to urban migration: 20.5m
- ◆ Urban to rural migration: 6.2m
- ◆ Urban to urban migration: 14.3m
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh (-2.6 m) and Bihar (-1.7 m) were the two states with largest number of net migrants migrating out of the state.
- ◆ The total number of interstate migrants was 42.3m and those who were born abroad account for 6.1m. About 97% of these migrants by last residence were from the eight neighboring countries (including Afghanistan).

(Source Census 2001)

Implications of migration and measures

The concept of migration in India has been mostly in terms of rural to urban zone and its consequences have been perceived more from the urban end. In addition unrestricted expansion of cities has resulted in high levels of pollution due to lack of public conveniences and unlimited number of vehicles. Safety of life is also minimal for this very reason.

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