

INTERNAL GENDER MIGRATION: A MOVE FOR SEEKING BETTER LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

Migration has been part and parcel of human life throughout the history and it is an important factor in redistribution of the population over time and space. Across the world and country people are on move, seeking for a better life, future and opportunities for self/family and some move as due to some natural calamity. A study by UN in 2016 found that India had the largest “diaspora” in the world, which is around 16 million followed by other countries. Globally almost half of all international migrants are women. Around 50 per cent women migrant of the entire migrant, increasingly migrate for a new job, opportunities, independently as a breadwinner for the families and some migrate as the dependent. Apart from this, there is also a growing demand for labour and mostly focused on domestic work, services, hospitality, and sex across the country and globe. Indeed, labour migration help and benefit women through economic and socio-cultural empowerment, but still they are surrounded and exposed to a variety of abuse and risks arising from their mobility due to their dual vulnerability as migrants and women. In all migration streams (Urban to rural, rural to urban, Urban to urban) the men migrant contribution per cent was more than their women counterparts, except in rural to rural migration stream where migration rate of women migrant was found to be distinct (70.00 %). Migration rate of women migrant in both rural (47.7 %) and urban area (45.6 %) was found to be higher than migration rate of men migrant (rural 5.4 %, urban 25.9 %). The migration, as caused by several reasons, in employment related reason migration rate of urban men migrant, was spotted more compared to rural men migrant but in security-related reasons women migrants were found dominant compared to their counterparts. Migration rate of women migrant increased in the age group of 20-24 years and 25-29 years. And among the Northeastern states, Sikkim was found to have the highest per cent of women migrant in both rural (41.1 %) and urban areas (72.9 %) per 1000 person. Migration indeed brings better opportunities to the migrant, but positive and negative impacts of migration are two sides of the same coin. It facilitates growth in the economy, at the same time, involves social isolation and poor access to basic amenities. It creates a shortage of worker, lower business in rural areas. The present study is based on reviews and Secondary data extracted from NSSO. This paper attempted to give a brief overview of internal migration among Gender and some recommendation based on a study that the responsible authority should plan for providing incentives to reduce undesired migration, rural development programmes which aimed at increasing rural production, efficiency, and incomes.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Gender, Rural, Urban, Migration Stream

INTRODUCTION

Migration has been part and parcel of human life throughout the history and it is an important factor in redistribution of the population over time and space. Across the world and country people are on move, seeking for a better life, future and opportunities for self/family and some move as due to some natural calamity. Some of the major cities of India have noticed an increase of population up to 75 per cent due to migration (Chhikara and Kodan, 2012). A Recent study by UN (2016) has found that in 2015, India had the largest “diaspora” in the world which is around 16 million followed by other countries. Major aspects of migration are gender roles and relationships. Hitherto, men migrants were considered to be more and as remitters, but in 2007-08, agriculture accounted for 34.3% of the female migrant workforce, industry for 30.8%, and services for 34.8% (Mazumder *et al.* 2013) and women migrants were found to remit more of their income back home than male migrants (Martin, 2003). Globally almost half of all international migrants are women (OCED, 2017). Around 50 per cent women migrant of the entire migrant, increasingly migrate for a new job, opportunities, independently as a breadwinner for the families and some migrate as dependent. Apart from this there is also a growing demand for labour and mostly focused on domestic work, services, hospitality, and sex across the country and globe. Indeed, labour migration help and benefit women through economic and socio-cultural empowerment, but still they are surrounded and exposed to variety of abuse and risks arising from their mobility due to their dual vulnerability as migrants and women.

Migrant Growth Rate in the Country

People internally migrate for several reasons. In the country from 2001 to 2011 there was an increase in growth per cent by 42 %. Among the states, Meghalaya (108 %) and Tamil Nadu (98 %) have shown the highest increase in migrant population from 2001 to 2011 against growth of state population followed by Manipur (97%), Kerala (77%), J&K (55%), Assam (52%), Karnataka (51%), and Andhra Pradesh (42%) (Sheikh, 2016).

TYPE OF MIGRATIONS AND STREAMS OF MIGRATION

Types of Migration

NSSO has listed some of the types of migration they are:

Return Migration: A phenomenon in which the migrants return back to their earlier usual place of residence is termed as return migration.

Short-term Migrants: Short-term migrants necessarily require migrating or changing in their usual place of residence (UPR). However, there is another category of persons who do not change their UPR but undertake short-term movements

Migration Stream

Generally, there are four migration streams, rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural, and urban-urban in India. Based on the data by NSSO it was found that (table 1) in 2007-08 rural to rural (61.7 %) migration was accounting more followed by rural to urban (19.5 %), urban to urban (13.1) and urban to rural (5.7 %). An almost same scenario was observed in 1999-2000, a rate of migration stream rural to rural accounts more followed by other migration streams. However, migration stream among the gender in differs. In almost all the internal migration streams, the rate of migration of men migrant was found to be dominant and distinct than women migrants, except rural to rural migration stream during

1999-2000 and 2007-2008. In rural to rural migration stream, women migrant's shares were spotted to be distinct which was 70.00 percent (2007-2008) and 70.3 per cent (1999-2000). In rural to urban migration stream men migrant share 39 per cent of total men internal migrant which was most dominant one. Whereas men migrants share was found to be decreased by 5 per cent (rural to rural) and 2 per cent (urban to rural) and increase in migration rate by 5 per cent (rural to urban and urban to urban) in 2007-2008 from those of 1999-2000.

Table 1: Distribution (Per 1000) of Internal Migrants over the Four Types of Rural-Urban Migration Streams as Per NSS 55th Round and NSS 64th Round

Category of Migrant	Migration Stream				
	Rural to Rural	Urban to Rural	Rural to Urban	Urban to Urban	All
NSS 55 th round (1999-2000)					
Men	323 (32.3)	107 (10.7)	344 (34.4)	226 (22.6)	1000
Women	703 (70.3)	52 (5.2)	144 (14.4)	101 (10.1)	1000
Person	618 (61.8)	64 (6.4)	188 (18.8)	129 (12.9)	1000
NSS 64 th Round (2007-2008)					
Men	272 (27.2)	89 (8.9)	390 (39.0)	248 (24.8)	1000
Women	700 (70.00)	49 (4.9)	148 (14.8)	103 (10.3)	1000
Person	617 (61.7)	57 (5.7)	195 (19.5)	131 (13.1)	1000

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th Round, Migration in India 2007-2008

The Tables in the Parenthesis Indicates percentage Calculated by Author

Gender Migration in India

Today in this most challenging era migrant women were considered as the independent, strategist and family supporter and also women account for almost half of migrant population globally. A Person being it women and men, they migrate in search of a better place for a better life singly or along with their family. In internal migration, most of the migration is observed from rural areas to urban areas. Gender, migration from rural to urban areas might be due to "pull" and "push" factor, as Urban areas provide with vast and enormous scope for employment in factories or industries, tourism, trade and other services. This all the facilities attract and act as a magnet for migrant population and pull people from rural areas and such facilities in urban areas also offer them some promise for better living. However, in rural areas peoples are deprived of basic amenities, other facilities and do not find the means of livelihood in their home villages. Unemployment, poor education facilities, and climate change are also factors which pushes the rural population to migrate in the urban areas for better opportunities and life.

According to data by NSSO, it was observed that (Table 2) migration rate of person per 1000 migrants in urban areas has found to be increased to 59.2% from 58.6%. In both, the round women were observed to have less migration rate compared to men. However, there was an increase in migration rate for men by 1 per cent in 2007-2008, and there was no significant increase in migration rate in case women migrant in NSS 55th round from those of 64th round.

Table 2: Number of Persons Migrated from Rural Areas to Urban Areas per 1000 Migrants in Urban Areas as Per NSS 55th Round and NSS 64th Round All India

Category of Migrant	NSS 55 th Round (1999-2000)	64 th Round (2007-08)
Men	592 (59.2)	603 (60.3)
Women	581 (58.1)	585 (58.5)
Person	586 (58.6)	592 (59.2)

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th round, Migration in India 2007-2008

The Tables in the parenthesis indicates percentage calculated by author

Internal Gender Migration

According to data presented in table 3, it captured that migration rate of men (5.4 % rural area and 25.9% urban area) migrant was much lower compared to women(47.7% rural area and 45.6 % urban area) where migration rate of men was only 5.4 per cent in rural areas and 25.9 per cent in urban areas. Around 28.5 per cent of person was migrants with significant rural, urban and men-women differentials. It was also spotted that the migration rate in rural areas was far lower than urban area which was 26.1 per cent and 35.4 per cent respectively.

Table 3: Migration Rate (Per 1000 Person) (2007-2008)

Category Of Persons	Rural	Urban	Rural + Urban
Men	54 (5.4)	259 (25.9)	109 (10.9)
Women	477 (47.7)	456 (45.6)	472 (47.2)
Men+ Women	261 (26.1)	354 (35.4)	285 (28.5)

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th ROUND, Migration in India 2007-2008

The figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage calculated by author

Around 73.7 per cent of the population resides in rural areas, but it also spotted (table 4) that rural areas contribute 67.3 per cent of the migrant and urban area, 32.7 per cent to the total migrant and around 26.3 per cent of person of the country. It was also observed in both the cases that rural women and urban women outnumbered their men counterparts. Even though rural women shared only 36.0 per cent in population of the country, but they were also the ones contributing more to the total migrant which is 60.2 per cent, while urban women contributes only 12.7 per cent 20.3 % were urban women migrant against 13% share to the population of the country. Rural men and urban men contribute 37.7 per cent and 13.7 per cent to the population of the country, however only 7.2 per cent is shared by rural men and 12.4 per cent by urban men to the total migrant.

Table 4: Distribution (Per 1000) of Migrants and “All” Persons for Each Category of Persons

Category of Persons	Distribution of Migrant (Per 1000)	Distribution of all Persons (Per 1000)
Rural men	72 (7.2 %)	377 (37.7)
Rural women	602 (60.2)	360 (36.0)
Rural men + women	673 (67.3)	737 (73.7)
Urban men	124 (12.4)	137 (13.7)
Urban women	203 (20.3)	127 (12.7)
urban men + women	327 (32.7)	263 (26.3)
All	1000	1000

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th ROUND, Migration in India 2007-2008

The Tables in the parenthesis indicates percentage calculated by author

Migration Status in Northeast India

Rural Areas

Migration rate among the state in a rural area is found to be highest in Sikkim (30.00%). Among the eight Northeastern states except Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya, women migration rate outnumbered their men counterparts. Women, migration rate is found to be highest in Sikkim (41.4 %) followed by Assam (22.7%), Tripura (16.3%), Mizoram (11.4%) and Nagaland (9.2%) (Table 5)

Urban Areas

Migration rate of women migrant is found to be distinct and more compared to men counterparts in Sikkim followed by Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Sikkim has the highest

migration rate in urban areas among the other states in the northeast (Table 5)

Overall

Migration rate among Northeastern states was found to be highest in Sikkim. Women migrants contribute 44.8% and men 23.3 % to the total migration rate of the state. Women (44.8%) migration rate was also spotted more than the migration rate of men migrants (23.3%) (Table 5)

Table 5: Migration Rate (Per 1000 Person) for Each State

States	Rural			Urban			Rural+ Urban (Overall)		
	Men	Women	Men + Women	Men	Women	Men + Women	Men	Women	Men + Women
Arunachal Pradesh	11 (1.1)	5 (0.5)	8 (0.8)	38 (3.8)	27 (2.7)	33 (3.3)	17 (1.7)	9 (0.9)	13 (1.3)
Assam	26 (2.6)	227 (22.7)	120 (12.0)	223 (22.3)	327 (32.7)	270 (27.0)	45 (4.5)	236 (23.6)	134 (13.4)
Manipur	6(0.6)	5 (0.5)	6 (0.6)	10 (1.0)	26 (2.6)	18 (1.8)	7 (0.7)	10 (1.0)	9 (0.9)
Meghalaya	38 (3.8)	29 (2.9)	33 (3.3)	42 (4.2)	47 (4.7)	44 (4.4)	38 (3.8)	32 (3.2)	35 (3.5)
Mizoram	107 (10.7)	114 (11.4)	110 (11.0)	189 (18.9)	223 (22.3)	206 (20.6)	143 (14.3)	164 (16.4)	153 (15.3)
Nagaland	62 (6.2)	92 (9.2)	76 (7.6)	320 (32.0)	329 (32.9)	325 (32.5)	121 (12.1)	148 (14.8)	134 (13.4)
Sikkim	195 (19.5)	414 (41.4)	300 (30.0)	536 (53.6)	729 (72.9)	627 (62.7)	233 (23.3)	448 (44.8)	336 (33.6)
Tripura	57 (5.7)	163 (16.3)	110 (11.0)	112 (11.2)	201 (20.1)	156 (15.6)	66 (6.6)	169 (16.9)	117 (11.7)

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th ROUND, Migration in India 2007-2008

The Tables in the parenthesis indicates percentage calculated by author

Causes of Migration

When present places are provided with better opportunities, prone to natural calamity, until and unless the place has seen a scarce of several resources (be it natural resource or human resource) and social incompatibility, the person of that place hardly migrate to new places. However, there are several reasons behind the causes of migration.

Table 6 shows that in the employment related reason for migration (In search of Employment; In search of better employment; Business; To take up employment/better employment ; Transfer of service/contract and Proximity to place of work) men migrants outnumbered the female migrant in both rural, urban areas, total contribution to the country (rural + urban) and which was 28.6 per cent men and women 0.7 per cent in rural area; 55.7 per cent men and only 2.7 per cent in urban area; while the total contribution to country was men 45.6 per cent and women 1.1 per cent.

In the case of study related reason for migration, men (10.7 %) were spotted more than women (0.5 %) and they contribute to the migrant population of rural area by 1.6 per cent. While in urban area also women (2.2 %) were found to be less migrant per cent compared to their men's counterpart (6.8 %); whereas both men and women found to contribute 4.0 per cent to an urban population. However, men contribute 8.2 per cent and women only 1.0 per cent where the per cent contribution of men was found to be much higher compared to women; both men and women contribute only 2.4 per cent to country's population.

Forced migration is another reason behind most of the migration, be it due to a natural disaster; Social/Political Problem and displacement of development Project. It was revealed that in all area rural (Men 4.2 %, Women 0.3 %), urban

(Men 1.3 %, women 0.7 %) and overall (rural and urban where men 2.4 % and women, 0.4 % with a 0.8 % contribution to the country) men were the one contributing more per cent compared to women. In some cases like Displacement of development, women haven't contributed a single per cent.

In case of security related reason Acquisition of own house/flat (men 4.2 %, women 0.3 % in rural; urban men 3.4 % and women 0.9 %; overall men 3.7 %, women 0.4 %)); housing Problem (Rural men 3.9%, rural women 0.3 %; urban men 1.6 %, women 0.6 5; overall men 2.4 %, women 0.4 %) and Health care (rural men 1.1 %, rural women 0.1 %; urban men 0.4 %, urban women 0.2 %; overall men 0.7, women 0.1 men were spotted higher in contributing in rural, urban and overall (rural and urban i.e. to country's population) than women. For the reason Migration of parent/ earning member of the family, rural men (22.1 %) were found to be more than rural women (4.4 %), but urban women (29.4%) were found to be more than urban men (25.2 %).

However, in case of Postretirement women contribution was not found, but reason related to Marriage, women migrant contribution was found to be much more higher than men in rural (men 9.4%, women 91.2 %, 82 % contributed to country), urban (men 1.4 %, women 60.8 % and contributed 38.3 % to country) and overall (men 4.4 %, women 83% and 68.1 % contribution to country)

Table 6: Distribution (Per 1000) Migrants by Reason for Migration during 2007-2008 All India

Sl. No.	Reason for Migration	Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban		
		M	W	P	M	W	P	M	W	P
A.	Employment									
1.	In search of Employment	46 (4.6)	1(0.1)	6 (0.6)	151 (15.1)	6 (0.6)	61 (6.1)	112 (11.2)	3 (0.3)	24 (2.4)
2.	In search of better employment	96 (9.6)	2 (0.2)	12 (1.2)	165 (16.5)	6 (0.6)	66 (6.6)	139 (13.9)	3 (0.3)	30 (3.0)
3.	Business	17(1.7)	0(0.0)	2 (0.2)	30 (3.0)	1 (0.1)	12 (1.2)	25 (2.5)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.5)
4.	To take up employment/better employment	81(8.1)	2 (0.2)	10 (1.0)	133 (13.3)	9 (0.9)	56 (5.6)	114 (11.4)	3 (0.3)	25 (2.5)
5.	Transfer of service/contract	36 (3.6)	1 (0.1)	4 (0.4)	68 (6.8)	3 (0.3)	28 (2.8)	56 (5.6)	1 (0.1)	12 (1.2)
6.	Proximity to place of work	10 (1.0)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	10 (1.0)	2 (0.2)	5 (0.5)	10 (1.0)	1 (0.1)	3 (0.3)
	Sub-total	286 (28.6)	7 (0.7)	36 (3.6)	557 (55.7)	27 (2.7)	228 (22.8)	456 (45.6)	11 (1.1)	99 (9.9)
B.	Study	107 (10.7)	5 (0.5)	16 (1.6)	68 (6.8)	22 (2.2)	40 (4.0)	82 (8.2)	10 (1.0)	24 (2.4)
C.	Forced Migration									
1.	Natural disaster	12 (1.2)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	2 (0.2)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	6 (0.6)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)
2.	Social/Political Problem	24 (2.4)	2 (0.2)	5 (0.5)	7 (0.7)	3 (0.3)	4 (0.4)	13 (1.3)	2 (0.2)	5 (0.5)
3.	Displacement of development Project	6 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)	4 (0.4)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	5 (0.5)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)
	Sub-total	42 (4.2)	3 (0.3)	8 (0.8)	13 (1.3)	5 (0.5)	7 (0.7)	24 (2.4)	4 (0.4)	8 (0.8)
D	Security									
1.	Acquisition of own house/flat	42 (4.2)	3 (0.3)	7 (0.7)	34 (3.4)	9 (0.9)	18 (1.8)	37 (3.7)	4 (0.4)	11 (1.1)
2.	Housing Problem	39 (3.9)	3 (0.3)	7 (0.7)	16 (1.6)	6 (0.6)	10 (1.0)	24 (2.4)	4 (0.4)	8 (0.8)
3.	Health care	11 (1.1)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	4 (0.4)	2 (0.2)	2 (0.2)	7 (0.7)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)
4.	Post Retirement	26 (2.6)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.3)	7 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.3)	14 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.3)
5.	Marriage	94 (9.4)	912 (91.2)	825 (82.5)	14 (1.4)	608 (60.8)	383 (38.3)	44 (4.4)	836 (83.6)	681 (68.1)
6.	Migration of parent/ earning member of the family	221 (22.1)	44 (4.4)	63 (6.3)	252 (25.2)	294 (29.4)	278 (27.8)	241 (24.1)	107 (10.7)	134 (13.4)
7.	Other	122 (12.2)	17 (1.7)	28 (2.8)	34 (3.4)	22 (2.2)	26 (2.6)	66 (6.6)	18 (1.8)	27 (2.7)
	Sub-total	555 (55.5)	980 (98.0)	935 (93.5)	361 (36.1)	941 (94.1)	720 (72.0)	433 (43.3)	970 (97.0)	866 (86.6)
	All	1000								

Source: NSSO, NSS 64th ROUND, Migration in India 2007-2008

The Tables in the parenthesis indicates percentage calculated by author

Note: M=Men, W=Women, P= Person (Men+Women)

Youth and Migration

Youth are defined as those aged 15 to 29 in the national youth policy (2014). Youth were considered to be a most important section of the society. They were energetic, enthusiastic, vibrant, and with the guts to do anything and everything. They were believed to most valuable resource for fostering the economic, cultural and political development of a nation as they show their strong passion, motivation and willpower. They also help to determine country's ability and potential growth with the size of their population (CSO, 2017). As per India's Census 2011, Youth (15-24 years) in India

constitutes one-fifth (19.1%) of India's total population. Migration brings livelihood opportunities for youth throughout the country (Rajan, 2013). Internal migration among the youth (15-32 years) was mostly for education (NSSO, 2010, Heckert, 2015). Increasing demand for education has increased the number of young people, particularly among the poor who migrate to attend school (Boyden 2013). Migration for education and skill among the youth in the early phase of step-wise migration (King and Skeldon 2010). In most of the developing countries, the primary internal migration pattern among the youth is from rural to urban areas (McKenzie 2008; Yaqub 2009).

Table 7 highlights that rural men (11.5 %) and urban men (6.9 %) of 15-19 years outnumber their women counterpart, rural women (6.7 %) and urban women (5.6 %) of the same age, respectively.

Women migrant per cent of women 20-24 years and 25-29 years were found to be more compared to their counterparts in both the rural and urban areas. For the age group 20-24 years, rural men contribute 19.1 % women 21.1 %; urban men 18.8 % and urban women (20.1). While for the age group 25-29 years, rural men contribute 17.6 % and rural women 22.2 %; urban men 19.0 % and urban women 23.7 %. The increase in women migrant per cent in both rural and urban of age group 20-24 years and 25-29 years might be due to the fact that women get married in that particular age and had to migrate to join her new family, as developing country like India follows patriarchal society.

Table 7: Distribution (Per 1000) of Out-Migrants by Present Age of the Out-Migrant All-India

Age of the Out-Migrant	Rural Men	Rural Women	Urban Men	Urban Women
	Per 1000 Distribution of Out-Migrants			
0-4	16 (1.6)	9 (0.9)	15 (1.5)	4 (0.4)
5-9	28 (2.8)	13 (1.3)	21 (2.1)	9 (0.9)
10-14	38 (3.8)	19 (1.9)	28 (2.8)	13 (1.3)
15-19	115 (11.5)	67 (6.7)	69 (6.9)	56 (5.6)
20-24	191 (19.1)	211 (21.1)	188 (18.8)	201 (20.1)
25-29	176 (17.6)	222 (22.2)	190 (19.0)	237 (23.7)
30-34	133 (13.3)	178 (17.8)	141 (14.1)	187 (18.7)
35-39	111 (11.1)	126 (12.6)	115 (11.5)	137 (13.7)
40-44	79 (7.9)	77 (7.7)	92 (9.2)	77 (7.7)
45-49	56 (5.6)	39 (3.9)	69 (6.9)	46 (4.6)
50-54	29 (2.9)	22 (2.2)	37 (3.7)	18 (1.8)
55-59	17 (1.7)	8 (0.8)	21 (2.1)	8 (0.8)
60 & above	10 (1.0)	9 (0.9)	14 (1.4)	6 (0.6)
All ages	1000	1000	1000	1000

Note: Only the shaded portion are considered for discussion by the author

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on present study it can be recommended that there should be a plan for providing incentives to reduce undesired migration, through improved infrastructure, rural development programmes which aimed at increasing rural production, efficiency and incomes. Before jumping into any solution there is also immense need to understand the gender disaggregated problem and needs prevailing in a rural area and other backward states of the country.

CONCLUSIONS

The present paper was reviewed study and it can be concluded based on the study that in all the migration stream the men migrant contribution per cent was more than their women counterparts, except in rural to rural migration stream where migration rate of women migrant was found to be distinct. The migration rate of women migrant in both rural and urban areas was found to be higher than migration rate of men migrant. Migration as ,caused by several reason, in

employment related reason migration rate of urban men migrant, was spotted more compared to rural men migrant but in security related reason women migrants was found dominant compared to their counterparts. Migration rate of women migrant was observed to have increased in the age group of 20-24 years and 25-29 years. And among the Northeastern states, Sikkim was found to have the highest per cent of women migrant in both rural and urban areas.

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