

MIGRATION

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. An example of "semi permanent residence" would be the seasonal movements of migrant farm laborers. People can either choose to move ("voluntary migration") or be forced to move ("involuntary migration").

Migrations have occurred throughout human history, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current location in the world.

Migration occurs at a variety of **scales**: **intercontinental** (between continents), **intercontinental** (between countries on a given continent), and **interregional** (within countries). One of the most significant migration patterns has been **rural to urban migration**—the movement of people from the countryside to cities in search of opportunities.

Types of Migration

Internal Migration: Moving to a new home within a state, country, or continent.

External Migration: Moving to a new home in a different state, country, or continent.

Emigration: Leaving one country to move to another (e.g., the Pilgrims emigrated *from* England).

Immigration: Moving into a new country (e.g., the Pilgrims immigrated *to* America).

Population Transfer: When a government forces a large group of people out of a region, usually based on ethnicity or religion. This is also known as an **involuntary** or **forced migration**.

Impelled Migration (also called "reluctant" or "imposed" migration): Individuals are not forced out of their country, but leave because of unfavorable situations such as warfare, political problems, or religious persecution.

Step Migration: A series of shorter, less extreme migrations from a person's place of origin to final destination—such as moving from a farm, to a village, to a town, and finally to a city.

Chain Migration: A series of migrations within a family or defined group of people. A chain migration often begins with one family member who sends money to bring other family members to the new location. Chain migration results in **migration fields**—the clustering of people from a specific region into certain neighborhoods or small towns.

Return Migration: The voluntary movements of immigrants back to their place of origin. This is also known as **circular migration**.

Seasonal Migration: The process of moving for a period of time in response to labor or climate conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working in cities off-season; "snowbirds" moving to the southern and southwestern United States during winter).

Migration Stream: A group migration from a particular country, region, or city to a certain destination.

In Migration, out migration and net-migration

Within a country when an individual migrates from an area of origin and enters into some area of destination by crossing its boundaries, he or she is in-migrant to the area of destination and out-migrant from the area of origin.

Total in-migrant to an area minus total out-migrants from that area during a fixed period is known as net-migration. If net-migration is positive it shows net in-migration and a negative value of net-migration will show net out-migration.

Who Migrate

Emigrant: A person who is leaving a country to reside in another.

Immigrant: A person who is entering a country from another to take up new residence.

Refugee: A person who is residing outside the country of his or her origin due to fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP): A person who is forced to leave his or her home region because of unfavorable conditions (political, social, environmental, etc.) but does not cross any boundaries.

Laws of Migration

Geographer E.G. Ravenstein developed a series of migration 'laws' in the 1880s that form the basis for modern migration theory. In simple language, these principles state:

- Most migrants travel only a short distance.
- Migrants traveling long distances usually settle in urban areas.

- Most migration occurs in steps.
- Most migration is rural to urban.
- Each migration flow produces a movement in the opposite direction ("counterflow").
- Most migrants are adults.
- Most international migrants are young males, while more internal migrants are female.

Push Factors

- i) Decline in the per capita share in resources such as agricultural land and stagnating agriculture, change in technology, exhaustion of mine, timber or other resources and closure of certain industries in some of the regions.
- ii) Reduction in employment due to mechanization.
- iii) Social, political or religious discrimination.
- iv) High fertility and control over mortality resulting in high population growth not matching with the resources.
- v) Natural calamities such as cyclone, drought, earthquake and epidemic etc.

Pull Factors

1. Availability of cheap land, labour and other resources, higher wages, employment and better transport.
2. Opportunities for education, better standards of life, marriage freedom in faith, religion and political both and company of one's own people. Better climatic conditions and safety and security.
3. Low pressure of population, better health and recreational facilities for retiring population.

Impact of migration

Although it is hard to differentiate between causes and consequences of migration, the studies suggest following important consequences of migration at places of origin:

- i) Families of the farmers have been able to supplement their income through remittances. Additional income has been used for education and improvement of

agriculture. Through out-migration agricultural families escape the problem of fragmentation of land also.

- ii) There are, however, negative consequences also. As migrants are generally the most enterprising young members of the family, the places of origin of migration are deprived from the benefits of their leadership and innovations. As in the out-migrating areas predominantly old people and females are left behind, this creates the shortage of labour as well.
- iii) The sex ratio goes more in favour of female, demographic dependence increases due to out-migration of young population. An important demographic consequence of migration is its impact on reducing fertility (Sharma, 1992 – p.51-57). At places of destination also there are some very serious consequences of migration, such as:
 - a. In developing countries generally effective in-migration is towards the cities or more specifically towards the metropolitan areas. This migration to a large extent is the migration of very poor unskilled agricultural workers living under distress conditions. Economic base of these cities is not strong enough to absorb a majority of them and a competition between local people and migrant starts which create frictions and in some cases migrants are looked down and slogans like "sons of the soil are raised".
 - b. Large volume of marginally employed migrants does not have enough paying capacity and hence start living in shanty houses. Local civic bodies are therefore, short of funds and are not in a position to provide amenities and pressure on existing civic amenities increases drastically. Continuous flows of migration to large cities create unequal distribution of urban population and alter size distribution of urban centres. Proportion of urban population in large cities increase and urban system becomes more and more primate (i.e. population gap between successive ranking towns keep on increasing). Huge metropolitan centres emerge with rising slum, unemployment, poor sanitation, shortage of drinking water, housing, transport, education, health care facilities and increasing crimes and law and order problems.

- c. Migration to big cities is from all the corners of the country with different social and cultural backgrounds. When such people meet in cities and start living together a new cosmopolitan culture develops, cities are, therefore, known as melting pot of cultures. Such cultures are more liberal impersonal, self centred and more materialistic.

