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Study of Changing Trends and Patterns of Internal Migration and Factors Affecting It

Anushka Gupta¹ and Mehak Miglani²

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¹ *B.A. Hons. Economics, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India*

² *B.A. Hons. Economics, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India*

Abstract

Migration has been an inherent part of human existence and in today's world, it is shaped by several factors related to economic, political, religious, life risk, and various ethnic and socio-cultural issues. (Debnath and Roy, 2011). The paper aims to understand the changing patterns of internal migration in the pre and post-reform period, the factors affecting internal migration, and to highlight the gaps in existing policies. The present study is a descriptive study based on secondary data from the Census of India and NSSO. This study shows that with liberalization, privatization, and globalization, migrants are attracted to urban areas which increase rural to urban and urban to urban migration. Inter-state migration to urban areas shows prominent growth reflecting the migration of people from lower socio-economic classes. Urban migration has been constantly increasing in the lower economic class which indicates migration is dominated by poorer sections. Given the current growth of urbanization, increasing regional disparities, it is likely that migration to urban areas will be more prominent in the future due to the changing nature of the economy. Hence, there is a need to look into the changing pattern of migration which is critical to explore the emerging issues, identify the challenges and accordingly analyze the policy gaps. At the policy level, the major focus should be to link migration policies with employment and social services, in order to enhance the well-being of the migrants.

Keywords: *Migration, internal migration, socio-economic factors, economic reforms.*

1.0 Introduction

Migration is one of the most peculiar features of human beings. In post-independence India, there were two noticeable migration streams. The biggest migration that India ever faced was a result of the partition of the country in 1947, which led to about 14 million people being displaced between India and Pakistan. The second movement was voluntary and driven by the rapid growth of industries and trade in the port cities of the country. These newly emerged port centres, along with Delhi, reshaped regional economies and triggered interregional migration flows in India (Bhagat and Keshri, 2018).

Migration is one of the causes of social change and one of the three basic components of demographic change, the other two being birth and death (EPGP, n.d.). It has been a major source of human survival, adaptation, and growth across centuries and millennia. In olden times,

humans generally migrated due to changing climate and landscape, inadequate food supply for the levels of population, to escape hunger and poverty, etc. Migration in today's world is shaped by several factors related to economic, political, religious, life risk, and various ethnic and socio-cultural issues. Migration generally leads to higher income, savings, and remittances and has a positive impact on human development and leads to poverty reduction, but migrants face hardships in availing basic necessities of life like housing, education, health facilities, and adequate food and nutrition (Malhotra and Devi, 2016).

According to NSS (National sample survey), a migrant is a person whose place of enumeration is different from their last Usual Place of Residence (UPR). The last usual place of residence is the place where the person stayed continuously for at least six months immediately before moving to the place (village or town) of enumeration. For a large country like India, the study of the movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society better. Internal migration is an important instrument of filling demand and supply gaps providing dynamism in the labour market. The Indian economy presents an interesting case of internal migration owing to the strong heterogeneity across the country in social, cultural, and economic terms (Malhotra and Devi, 2016).

This paper analyses the relationship between inter-state migration and economic indicators. The paper provides a review of the theoretical literature on migration in which a brief introduction to the different migration theories has been provided. The objective of the paper is to provide a perspective on current trends and patterns of internal migration in India. The New Economic Policy which was launched in the year 1991 under the leadership of P.V. Narasimha Rao integrated the Indian economy with the world economy. Its main objective was to drive the Indian economy into the arena of globalization. LPG and subsequent restructuring of the Indian economy have majorly impacted the pattern of internal migration. Thus, this paper highlights the changes in population mobility in the pre-reform era using the data drawn from 1981 and post-reform era using the data of the 2011 census and NSSO. The outbreak of COVID-19 in different parts of the world is a major concern for all countries. India is also struggling to control the virus outbreak. This research paper sheds light on the migration crisis caused due to the pandemic and how it reacted to and impacted the various aspects of India.

2.0 Literature Review

Inter-state migration has been studied extensively within the literature, with abundant specialization in understanding the determinants of migration and therefore the influence of migration as an equilibrating mechanism during a dynamical economy. Internal migration is recognized to be a very important mechanism through which the spatial distribution of individuals changes over time. Excluding a group of social, economic, political, and environmental factors, the migration of the population in any region is determined, to a large extent, by the perception and behaviour of the people involved. One among the few studies on migration and fiscal variables in India has been done by Cashin and Sahay. In their study on twenty Indian States during the period 1961–1991, they found migration to have negligible impact on the convergence of per-capita income across states as important social, economic, and cultural barriers resulted in net migration from poor to rich states, responding weakly to cross-state income differentials. Skeldon (1986) finds that migration in India is primarily rural to urban and long-term in nature. Kundu (1986) found that the migration rate has diminished over time in both rural and urban areas. The study points out that the decline in migration rate is responsible for increasing inter-state disparities in terms of per capita output or labour productivity (Malhotra & Devi, 2016). Similarly, Kundu and Gupta's (1996) study found that the percentage share of inter-state migrants has been decreasing over the 1961- 1981 period in all the developed states except Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana. Kundu (2003) also found that there's a negligible decline in the role of rural migration in the growth of urban population because of anti-migration prejudice in some states and therefore the absence of inclusive urbanization policies being pursued.

Rele, J.R (1969) study finds that the rate of internal migration in India is low. Females sometimes migrate inside the district on account of marriage. Among the males, a significant reason for migration is unemployment. Mitra and Murayama found that in poor and economically underdeveloped states, there's an outsized population that's mobile and finding an adequate living. Even within the developed states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the male population is kind of mobile. Bhagat and Mohanty (2009) found a rise in the contribution of migration towards the urban population throughout the 1990s as compared with the 1880s. Bhagat (2009) found higher growth of interstate migration as compared with intra-state

migration throughout the 1990s (Malhotra & Devi, 2017). There's a strong relationship between per capita income and inter-state migration; both in-migration and outmigration. Bihar, UP, MP, West Bengal, and Punjab are the most important states contributing to the in-migration of workers (Turrey, 2016). The movement of those folks was concerned with both pull and push factors. As per the consequences, the study concludes that migration has turned out to be advantageous for these in-migrants. It has contributed to their incomes, daily consumptions, school enrolments of children, better employment opportunities in urban centres attracted a large proportion of employees from the rural to urban areas. Rural liability is a very important push factor. Roy and Debnath (2011) found that per capita income and level of infrastructure show a positive and important relationship with net migration rate and negative relation with unemployment and cost of living (Malhotra & Devi, 2017).

3.0 Methodology

The present study has been undertaken to assess the factors of internal migration and its impact in India. It will also look at changing trends and patterns of internal migration. The present study is based on secondary data sources. It is mainly drawn from the publications of books, monthly journals, articles, magazines, and official reports published by the central and state governments. Since the study is concerned with internal migration in India, therefore, the data is mainly drawn from two main sources, the decennial population Census and the quinquennial migration surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The Census of India also provides data on migration, collecting information mainly on the migration causes, age and sex of the migrant, reasons, and duration of migration, place of destination and origin, and the industry and occupation of the migrants (Turrey, 2016). At the time of the study, Census data on migration of the year 2021 was not available, hence the last decade Census data of 2011 is being analyzed. A multiple linear regression model has also been explained to study the relationship between the in-migration and factors determining it, where in-migration is a dependent variable and all factors are independent variables. Some graphs and tables have been obtained to study the changing trends of internal migration between pre and post-reform periods, i.e., in 1981 and 2011.

4.0 Theories and Determinants of Migration

4.1.0 Theories of Migration

4.1.1 Ravenstein's 11 laws of migration

The first-ever attempt to spell out the 'laws of migration' was made by Ernst Georg Ravenstein as early as 1885. Ravenstein's 11 "laws" are the basis for contemporary geographic migration studies (Only IAS Exam, 2009). The laws can be organized into three groups:

- The reason why migrants move
- The distance they typically move
- Their characteristics

4.1.2 Gravity Model of Migration

The gravity model of migration was developed by William J. Reilly in 1931 based on the Newton gravitational force. It predicts the movement of people, goods, services, knowledge, technology, and capital between two places. The gravity model, based on Newton's law of gravitation, states that the volume of migration between any two interacting centres is the function of not only the distance between them but also their population size (Only IAS Exam, 2009).

4.1.3 Stouffer's Theory of Mobility

As per Stouffer's law, the number of migrants moving from a source location to a destination location is directly proportional to the opportunities available at the destination location and inversely proportional to the number of intervening opportunities available between source and destination (Only IAS Exam, 2009).

4.1.4 Lee's Theory of Migration

Everett Spurgeon Lee, who was the Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia is known for his theory of migration, i.e., Push and Pull Theory, or Lee's Theory. As per Lee, numerous factors act to drive away from the people from the area, or hold the people in the area, or attract the people to it. In this respect, there are significant differences between the factors associated with the area of origin and those associated with the area of destination. Migration may take place after both these are properly weighed (Barman R and Lumpkin T).

- **Push factors:-** Push factors are conditions that can force people to leave their homes and are related to the country from where a person migrates. Push factors include unemployment, poor living standard, political instability, harsh climate, natural disaster, epidemic, and social and economic backwardness.
- **Pull factors:-** Pull factors are the conditions that attract people to a certain location. It includes better job opportunities, better living conditions, peace and stability, security of life and property, infrastructure, etc.

4.2.0 Determinants of Migration

The different factors that determine migration flows can be classified into four main categories:

4.2.1 Gravity variables

The standard gravity variables are population size and distance. These two variables form the basic gravity model introduced earlier. When the population size is not included as a regressor, it is used to standardize the dependent variable (i.e., net or gross migration) (gameguru21, 2017). Empirical evidence of the positive effect of population size on internal migration is relevant and consistent with the gravity model. Distance is considered a fundamental explanatory variable which proxies the migration costs, moreover, the availability of information about the destination places decreases with distance. (Etzo, 2008)

4.2.2 Economic Variables

According to Ravenstein, the economic activity level is one of the peculiar determinants affecting internal migration. All the major studies have tried to investigate the impact of some economic variables on internal migration. Higher the economic prosperity, more are the opportunities for people living in that area. Moreover, advanced centres attract mostly young people, who are widely recognized to be highly mobile. The most representative (and common) economic variable is the per capita income. The empirical literature provides strong and robust evidence of the impact of per capita income on internal migration.

4.2.3 Labour Market Variables

The unemployment rate is another explanatory variable that is often used in migration analysis. Salvatore estimated the impact of unemployment rates, of the origin and destination regions, on interregional migration. The rate of unemployment is an important variable that is supposed to hurt the in-migration rate.

4.2.4 Environmental Variables

The reason why people decide to move from one region to another may be related not only to economic factors. The last group of variables that can affect internal migration flows is quite broad and is related to the quality of life. In this sense, these kinds of variables reflect all those factors that can affect the quality of life. All these factors concern public safety, social services, environmental quality, political, and many other aspects (gameguru21, 2017). Crime Rate (CR) is one of the major variables that can affect interstate migration. It is generally used as a proxy of life risk. Accordingly, it is expected that the relative in-migration should be a decreasing function of the Crime Rate. Infrastructure is another such important variable that is expected to have a positive impact on inter-state migration, i.e., a state having good infrastructure is expected to attract a large number of migrants.

Econometric models are one such method that is used to study the relationship between migration and socio-economic indicators. An econometric model specifies the statistical relationships that are believed to hold between the various economic quantities about a particular economic phenomenon (HIGASHIKURA et al., n.d.). As per the above-mentioned theory, the following model can be used to trace out the impact of the socio-economic factor on relative migration:

$$MIG = \beta_1 + \beta_2 PCI - \beta_3 CR + \beta_4 INFR - \beta_5 UR - \beta_6 CL + U_i$$

Where, MIG is relative in-migration, which is a dependent variable while independent variables include:

- Per Capita Income (PCI)
- Crime Rate (CR)
- Infrastructure (INFR)
- Unemployment Rate (UR)
- Cost of Living (CL)

And U_i is the disturbance term that includes all other factors that could not be specified in the model.

5.0 The Changing Patterns of Internal Migration (Pre and Post Reform Period)

With liberalization, privatization and globalization, there has been a significant change in trends and patterns of internal migration. A detailed analysis is as follows:-

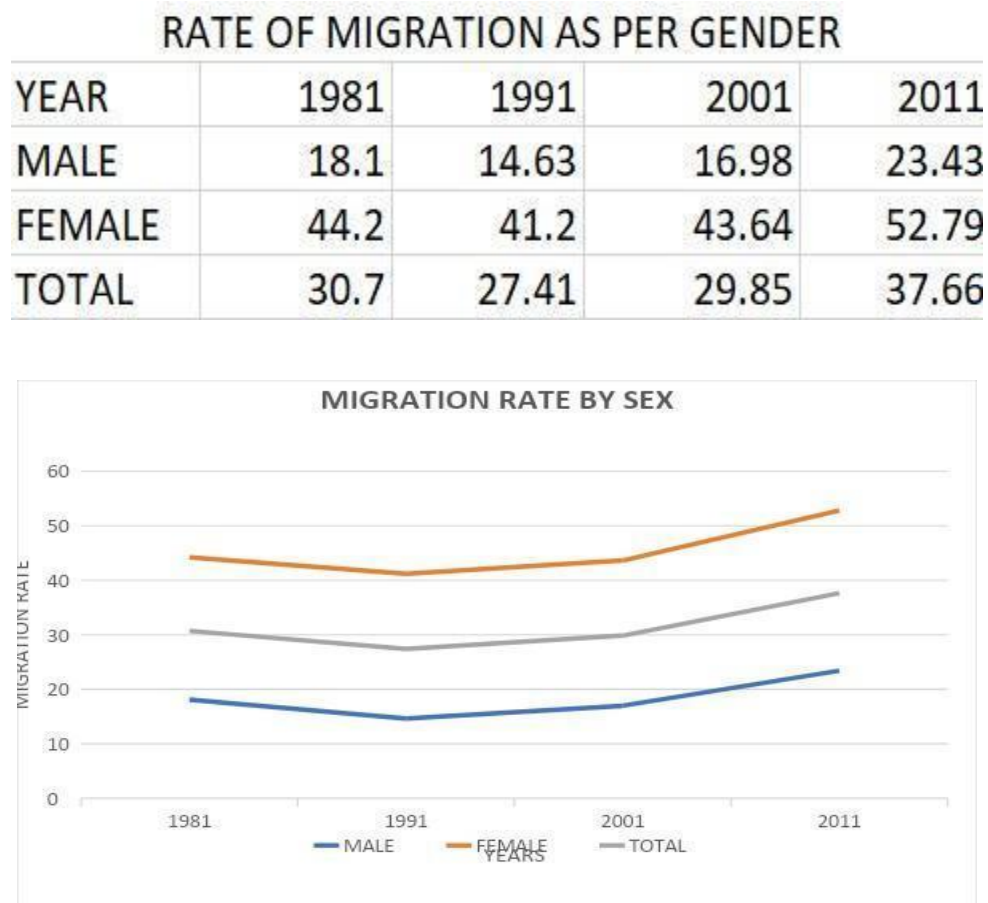


Figure 1:- Migration Rate by Sex (Source: NSSO 1981-2011)

The migration statistics up to the early 1990s (from Census) show a declining trend, i.e., there has been a marginal decline in population mobility between 1981-91 for the overall population. However, a steady increase in internal migration has been witnessed after 1991, i.e., in the post-reform era (after the introduction of LPG- Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization). It has increased from 27.41% in 1991 to 29.85% in 2001. This increment is

attributed to the process of economic liberalization which implies the greater movement of capital and natural resources and growing mobility of the population. LPG reforms and subsequent restructuring of the Indian economy after economic reforms have led to more internal migration across sub-regions. Although traditionally migration had been an exclusively male phenomenon. But from the above figure, it is evident that the rate of migration of females has been consistently high for the past four decades, while the rate of migration of males remained much lower. Men generally migrate for economic reasons while females migrate principally for family reasons.

MIGRATION BY DISTANCE

TYPE OF MIGRATION	1981	2011
INTRADISTRICT	59.35%	57.95%
INTERDISTRICT	25.01%	25.92%
INTERSTATE	11.80%	11.91%
INTERNATIONAL	3.84%	1.20%

Figure 2:- Rate of Migration by Distance (Source: NSSO 1981 and 2011)

Overwhelming evidence shows that there is the dominance of short-distance migration. However, it appears this trend is also slowly changing in the country. The table brings several changes in the patterns of migration over the period. It is visible that intra-district migration has sharply reduced from 59.35% to 57.95%, but there's a slight rise in inter-district and interstate migration. Thus, it strongly states that migration does not depend on the distance between the source and destination location, rather it is mainly driven by the economic opportunities available in the destination location. As per the above table, the latest migration trend is quite contrary to Ravenstien's Law of migration which says that most migration is over short

distances. It is also found that international migration has seen a remarkable fall of 2.64%. The constant rise in opportunities in India results in a decline in international migration as was mentioned earlier in Stouffer law.

The other way of examining the trends in migration is stream-wise as it throws some light on the changing aspects of these types of migration (Mahapatro, 2012). The data presented in Figure shows that almost half of the migration flow is rural to rural in both periods, i.e., 1981 and 2011. Around 1/5th of migrants constituted rural to urban followed by urban to urban and urban to rural in 1981. However, rural to urban flow shows an upward trend. Urban to urban flow also shows a marginal increase between the two periods. A comparison of data over the period shows that though rural to rural flow overwhelmed the other streams of migration, the proportion has declined from 65.4% in 1981 to 47.4% in 2011. Rural to rural migration is generally seasonal. It was mainly driven by the differences in agricultural productivity of different rural areas, but due to advancement in farming techniques, villagers could fulfil their survival needs in their native areas and creation of employment in villages through MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005) reduces rural to rural flow by mitigating distress/seasonal migration.

It is expected that with the generation of employment opportunities in urban areas, migration from rural areas continuously increases. Studies show that the increasing rural to urban migration in recent years is largely endorsed for economic reasons as they are mostly motivated by the availability of urban employment in the expanding informal sector.

The increasing R-U (Rural-Urban) migration is a serious issue since it leads to many problems such as urban congestion, social disorders, and crimes which are likely to create unrest in urban areas. As per the theory given by Everett Spurgeon Lee, besides pull factors of urban areas, push factors of rural areas such as poverty, unemployment, lack of infrastructure also influences rural to urban migration. Overall, it can be said that neither push nor pull factors are influencing migration flow rather both groups of factors influence migration simultaneously (Narayan & Singh, 2016).

INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY STREAMS

YEAR	R-R	U-R	R-U	U-U
1981	65.4	6	17.5	11.1
2011	47.4	7.9	22.1	22.6

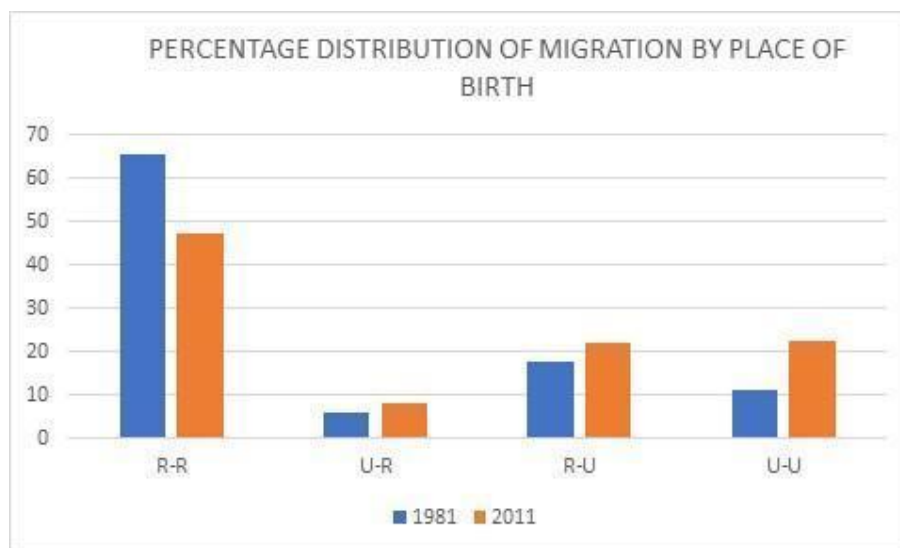


Figure 3:- Migration by Stream (Source: NSSO 1981 and 2011)

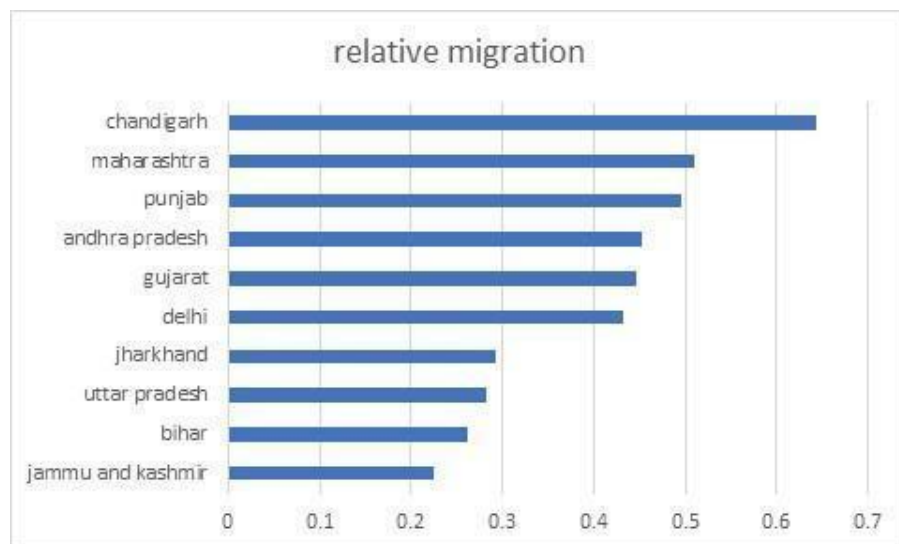


Figure 4:- Relative Migration (Source: NSSO 2011 and Census 2011)

States	Relative Migration
Jammu and Kashmir	0.223893981
Bihar	0.262462928
Uttar Pradesh	0.282852316
Jharkhand	0.293018027
Delhi	0.431230983
Gujarat	0.445456606
Andhra Pradesh	0.453084539
Punjab	0.495794795
Maharashtra	0.510592316
Chandigarh	0.643023611

The volume of interstate relative in-migration is presented in the above graph. It has been observed that developed states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, and Punjab have higher in-migration rate, which indicates an inflow of people to these states.

This could be explained with the help of the push and pull theory of migration as stated earlier. The in-migration rate is high in developed states because of pull factors, which are the conditions that attract people to a destination location. It clearly shows that these developed states have better job opportunities, better living conditions, peace and stability, security of life and property, infrastructure, etc. On the contrary, states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, and north-eastern states supply large numbers of migrants. The low in-migration rate in these underdeveloped states is because of the push factors, which are the conditions that can force people to leave their homes due to unemployment, poor living standards, political instability, harsh climate, natural disaster, epidemic, and social and economic backwardness.

Jammu and Kashmir showed the lowest in-migration rate. This may be due to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which gives special status and thus has a separate set of laws for its residents, which includes citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights as compared to the residents. As a result of this provision, Indian citizens from other states could not purchase land or property in Jammu and Kashmir. Thus, a major change has been observed in the migration pattern after the New Economic Policy of 1991.

6.0 The COVID-19 Migration Crisis

The current irruption of Covid-19 has completely paralysed the whole world. However, the shock is not equal to everyone. For a few individuals, it is solely a health emergency; for others, it is a threat to their livelihoods. It has badly impacted the lower economic section of society, particularly the migrant employees. Indian migrant employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have faced multiple hardships due to which they had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages, and uncertainty concerning their future. Following this, several of them starved for days due to which most of them began walking back home, with no means of transport due to lockdown. (Wikipedia, 2021). In India, 92% of the employees are engaged within the unorganized sector (Tiwary et al, 2020), and workers of this sector are poor, and their state of affairs is like they're on the epicentre of the volcano. The number of jobless people is way higher within the construction sector compared to the financial sector. (Kishore and Jha 2020).

As per estimation by Kundu, there are sixty-five million interstate migrants in India, and out of this figure, around 33% are daily wage-based workers. The total estimated figure is 12–18 million, including casual workers, workers of the informal sector, street vendors, and other vulnerable communities (Sing and Magazine 2020). The precise volume of returning migrants is unknown due to the lack of official records at the pan-India level. However, it's clear that the pandemic has pushed lakhs of migrant employees to the darkness of unemployment; they were left with the sole possibility of turning back to their native places, which too didn't result in any happy ending.

The World Bank reports that the COVID-19 had impacted the livelihood of forty million migrants. It has caused unemployment, and the protocols of social distancing created a more complex situation for migrant labourers (PTI 2020). According to an estimate by SWAN (2020), about 12 crores of migrant employees suffered from livelihood crises due to lockdown. (Edwin 2020)

The interesting part is the “reverse” direction of the migration. With no means of employment, several of them started returning to their native villages. This COVID-19-triggered reverse migration was the second-largest mass migration. Reverse migration is uncommon in terms of the standard rural-to-urban migration trend of the country, which has been expedited for the last 3 decades.

6.1.0 Impacts

6.1.1 Demographic Impacts

Migration may have profound effects on the size, structure, and growth patterns of populations. Migration has effects on both population of the places that people leave & on the populations of those in which they settle, while it has a positive impact on the sending state as the population density is reduced and the birth rate decreases, on the other hand, it leads to overpopulation as receiving states have become much involuted, i.e., they have grown merely in population, not in prosperity, due to which acute problems have arisen such as extreme housing scarcities, and frequent breakdown of essential municipal services such as water supply, electricity, sewerage, transport (Sinha, 2014). These effects vary with different types of migration & the length of migrants' stay in places. The absence of a large number of either men or women may have a limited impact on the sending society in the short term but if they are absent for long periods, their absence will have significant effects on population growth rates in the medium and longer terms. Thus, population density is reduced and the birth rate decreases. (Dineshappa and K.N, 2014)

6.1.2 Social Impacts

Migration may have important effects on cultures & societies. Migration also has effects on the cultures of both the places that migrants leave and those in which they re-settle. These

effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migrants & the lengths of time involved. It leads to improvement of the social life of people as they learn about a new culture, customs, and languages. (Dineshappa and K.N, 2014)

6.1.3 Political Impacts

Migration can have an impact on politics in both the places, which people leave and those to which they move. Governments will have to make policies to attract migrants, persuade migrants to return or limit migration to ensure that they have access to the skills that they need. These political effects vary with different types of migration. (Dineshappa and K.N, 2014)

6.1.4 Economic Impacts

Migration can have a significant effect on the economy of the state that people leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migration, and the length of time involved. The main benefits are reduction of unemployment, getting better job opportunities, and better education facilities for children. Also, the migration of skilled workers leads to the greater economic growth of the region. When people migrate, their assets are small due to which they have to face a lot of deprivations. As most of the migrants are poor, landless, illiterate, and lack basic skills, they fail to get jobs in the capital-intensive production system of urban India (Sinha, 2014). These unskilled migrants are absorbed by the unorganized sectors which are characterized by low productivity, tremendous competition, poor pay, and insecurity. (Dineshappa and K.N, 2014)

7.0 Policy Recommendations

This pandemic has tested the ability of a nation to effectively protect its population, reduce human loss, save the economy, and rapidly recover. There is a need to reform existing policies in order to cater to reverse migration.

- Due to reverse migration faced by states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, with the right moves, these states can leverage the covid crisis into an opportunity. Since the pool of skilled and experienced workers are now easily available in these states. Thus, the government should focus on developing and providing support to potential investors in order to generate employment opportunities for returning migrants.

- Government should make available loans and credit schemes to the rural poor at a much lower rate of interest, to expand their farm business and buy new crops. The rural banking services and rural microfinance institutions in the rural areas have to be established to improve farmers' savings and enhance their endowment and introduce them to the financial sector (Ali, 2012).
- Attention should be given to accelerating the growth and development processes of rural India. There should have been effective implementation and regular monitoring of schemes and programmes launched by the Government of India for better work/employment and poverty alleviation particularly, in rural areas of the country like Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA, 2006), National Rural Health Mission (NHRM, 2005), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP, 1980), Community development Programme (CDP, 1952), Intensive Agriculture Development Programme (IADP, 1960-61), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP, 1973), Marginal Farmer and Agriculture Labour Agency (MFALA, 1973-74), Twenty Point Programme (TPP, 1975), Training Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM, 1979), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP, 1983), Prime Minister Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP, 1995), Midday Meal Scheme (1995), etc (Ali, 2012).
- Higher educational institutions should be developed in rural areas to check the outflow of students from rural areas to urban areas as several students migrate to urban centres for high and good quality of education. There should be a sincere administrative commitment of the Government of India towards the Right to Education Act at the modern lines and simultaneously promotion of vocational education in rural areas that can curve the rural migrants for education in urban areas (Ali, 2012).
- Rural workers and their families face several health challenges due to inadequate health care facilities which force them to migrate to urban areas. Thus there is a need to improve the existing health services and extend all types of health facilities in the interior and backward areas of the country on modern lines which may restrain the rural migrants who are coming to the urban centres for health & medical services (Ali, 2012).

- Building self-reliant and sustainable villages that offer a decent standard of living will go a long way in positively impacting both the rural and urban diaspora. If properly planned and executed, such small villages can be a roadmap for rural development in India (Biswas et al., 2017).

It has been argued that although India has one of the most comprehensive systems of pro-poor programs in the developing world, the millions of poor migrant labourers cannot access these for the entire time that they are away due to proof-of-residence requirements. Even though several laws exist to protect the rights of migrant workers, especially in India these are widely disregarded by employers and intermediaries because of a lack of political will to implement them and ignorance among illiterate migrants of their rights as workers. There is a need for widespread awareness creation among the general public, policymakers, and migrants themselves. Another major area of concern is to focus on female migration because the pattern of female migration changes from marriage to employment and education reasons. A substantial gap remains in the research and policy arena related to migration and gender; hence, more research is also needed to understand migration through a gender lens. Internal migration in India has been considerably increased, still, a great deal remains to be done subject to its dynamism (Mahapatro, 2012).

8.0 Conclusion

Migration has been an inherent and characteristic part. This paper has investigated the impact of a variety of economic and non-economic factors such as per capita income, unemployment, crime, infrastructure, and cost of living on net migration. It has also explained the econometrics model, which is commonly used to study the relationships between migration and socio-economic indicators. Secondly, the changing pattern of internal migration for the pre and post-reform period has been studied.

As per the study, a steady increase was found in the interstate migration rate after the introduction of LPG both in males and females. It was also observed that distance no longer plays an important role as there has been a rise in interstate migration but not in intradistrict migration. A significant change has been observed in the pattern of migration. The upward trend has been found for rural to urban migration and a downward trend for rural-to-rural migration

from pre-reform to post-reform period.

The volume of interstate in-migration was found to be highest in Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Delhi and lowest in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. This could be attributed due to the push and pull factor theory of migration. In the face of rising urban challenges, India needs a new path of development that will ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural people while reducing rural-urban migration and thus creating a positive impact on cities (Biswas et al., 2017). The COVID-19 crisis has posed unprecedented economic challenges for governments across the world with certain sectors becoming more and more vulnerable to this pandemic. The plight of migrant labourers in India during lockdown has shown the failure of migrant policies. The pandemic has worsened the condition of migrants as it has put severe challenges to poverty eradication programmes (Ranjan, 2021).

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