A Study of Migration Differentials in Eastern UP

Raj Kumar Yadav* **and Upendra Kumar**
Department of Statistics, Udai Pratap Autonomous College, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India
arkphd86@gmail.com

Abstract

Migration affects the population size and age structure of both the origin and destination places and simultaneously the social, economic and demographic characteristics of these two places are duly influenced. Apart from causes and consequences, the studies on migration differentials have considerable implications concerning the strength and nature of the socio economic and demographic impact. This paper aims to study the migration differentials according to different background characteristics in the study area. Primary data has been used for this study collected by a survey planned for this study. It is found that dissimilar background characteristics have different important impact on migration.

Keywords: Migration differentials, Migration rate, Background characteristics.

Introduction

In India many important steps has been taken towards the development of the nation since the independence. The concreted and coordinated efforts made by the national and state governments have brought important changes in the social and economic scenario of the country. Increase in agricultural production, rising industrialisation and improved education system has played a vital role in changing the stagnant situation of the country. There are, in fact, many areas of economic and social development in which achievements gained by India are remarkable. However, overall success in reducing poverty and inequality has been quite limited. Eastern Uttar Pradesh is one of the parts of the country, where the goals of development are lagging behind in comparison to the other parts of the country.

In the process of regional and economic development that is; for urbanization and industrialization, migration has long been recognized as an important tool for redistribution of population either by performing it in a well defined manner or allowed to have its own course through spontaneous movement. Migration affects the population size and age structure of both the origin and destination places and simultaneously the social, economic and demographic characteristics of these two places are duly influenced. The distinguishing feature of migration, unlike other two components of demography, is that its direction and volume are entirely the resultants of human actions and reactions. One may have some knowledge about the place of origin and destination to describe and explain migration as a function of structural parameters such as distance, direction of migration flows, size and inter connectiveness of both the places of origin and destination, etc.[1,2].

The main factors in classifying migration are intensions of individual migrants and the distance moved by them. The spectrum of human mobility is to move from a nation to a foreign-country, to move from a state to a developed state, to move to a nearby city as a daily commuter depending on the time and space covered. Usually migration studies are of two types. First is Macro study and the second is micro study. Discussing migration movements between areas i.e., at large scale is called macro studies and the micro studies deals with the analysis of migration of individuals. Micro studies explain aggregate migration flows or the migration rate by identifying factors which make some specified areas attractive to migrants and those which cause others to experience out-migration. While macro studies provide the theoretical and empirical foundations on which the basic form of the macro function and the choice of the explanatory variables are based. These studies are concerned with motives of individuals and with measuring and explaining migration selectivity, i.e. the propensities to migrate of different subgroups of the population[3]. The micro level study of migrants data have numerous implications for regional planning, housing policy, and sociological models and has recently played a influential role to the growth of the theory of migration[4-6].

Migration retains the distinction of being the most complex to study out of three dynamic mechanism of population change. Internal migration in the country is usually rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban. But in India, similar to most of the developing countries, rural to urban migration is predominant. The study of migration is generally influenced by a mixture of push-pull factor. People migrate to different places because of attraction and opportunity of better livelihood conditions. The poor and rural residents consider migration as a copying strategy of livelihood. In other way, a huge number of populations migrate to urban places from rural area for better opportunity of education, availability of employment and investment opportunities. A majority of migration studies have

studied the differentials and determinants of migration focusing mainly on migration's causes and consequences[7-11].

Apart from causes and consequences, migration differential studies have important implications concerning the nature and potency of the social, economic and demographic impact which migration has on places of origin and destination. Though the occurrence of rural to urban migration in any developing countries is superior, a diverse selectivity with regard to age, sex, different caste, marital status, level of education, availability of occupation etc occurs and the propensity of migration differs considerably among these different social and economic groups[10,12-14]. It is an established fact that tendency of migration differs considerably among various social and economic groups in the society. People from some section are more prone to migrate than those of others and hence the overall effect of migration is likely to be different for various groups of the society.

Apart from individual characteristics like age, sex, education and marital status, the economic status of family such as land ownership, income and assets of family is also a important factor in migration decision. Previous studies have shown that the poor and socio-economically deprived person has a greater chance to migrate in search of job and better living conditions. In past many population scientists have tried to formulate some uniform migration pattern over the time and countries. It was found that only one factor i.e. age has more or less same effect on migration pattern in developing as well as developed countries[15-17]. Thus the study of migration differential with respect to other important factors has its own importance.

Migrants from rural area mainly consist of landless agricultural labours and small landholders. They move to urban area or more developed rural area with a hope to improve their socio-economic conditions. It has been observed that rural migrants, whether they are permanent or seasonal migrants, remain attached to their families and relatives at native places. They maintain their link through regular visits to their origin place as well as by sending remittances to their families. Many studies have been done on migration from rural areas and their impact on socio-economic conditions has been examined.

Objective: Keeping in mind that India being a vast country with a complex structure, where disparities in economic development survive not only among the states but even within the state and there is a lack of decentralization of economic opportunities, any regional study of the nature of migration and its impact on the rural areas has its own importance. This paper aims to study the migration differentials according to different background characteristics in the study area.

Methodology

Many studies have been conducted on various facets of migration from rural Eastern Uttar Pradesh by the researchers of BHU, Varanasi and IIPS, Mumbai, utilizing data collected in various demographic surveys, which were mainly concerned with the study of migration differentials and impact of migration on rural society. Many mathematical and stochastic models have also been formulated or improved by these researchers[18-22].

While calculating the propensity of rural out migration from a specified group, researchers have considered the migration rate defined as

$$\text{Migration rate} = \frac{\text{Number of migrants at survey point belonging to the specified group}}{\text{Total number of person of that group at the time of survey}} \times 100$$

This formula is little bit different from the conventional formula defined in previous literature because all the migrants at survey point (survey time) are included in the numerator in the above formula.

For this study, a survey entitled "Migration and its Impact in Rural Varanasi" has been conducted during September - October 2015 in four villages of two blocks of Varanasi district by the Department of Statistics, U. P. Autonomous College, Varanasi. The main aim of this survey was to study the impact of migration on other components of demographic change. The two blocks, Cholapur and Arajiline, were selected randomly and further from these two blocks, two villages from each block were selected randomly. 649 household heads were interviewed personally from these four villages. The information on household structure, household facilities, migration details, marriage details, fertility and status of female was obtained from each household. The migration record included questions on the present age and age at migration, sex, education, occupation, place of migration, push-pull factors, number of visits in last five years, remittances sent in last two years for each migrated persons of the household.

Analysis

It is an established fact that there are many socio-economic factors affecting the propensity of migration. In this paper a comparative study of migration differential has been done taking into consideration six characteristics viz. blockwise, village wise, caste/category, religion, education and economic status of a household.

There are eight blocks in Varanasi district. Chalapur block is situated in northeast side of Varanasi city and east of Gazipur district. Arajiline is situated in western part of the Varanasi city. According to the census 2011, Varanasi district has a population of 3,682,194, with population density of 2,399 persons per square kilometre (6,210/sq mi). A large number of people of rural area has shifted to urban part of the city or migrated to other parts of the country.

Table-1 portrays the migration rate in 2015 in two blocks of the district. It is clear from the table that migration rate is almost same for both the blocks. The important fact in this study is that the rates have been calculated based on the total quantity of migrants as percentage of whole population from a block at the survey time and the time of migration has not been taken into consideration.

One of the main reasons of high migration rate may be that the city area is very near to these blocks and Varanasi is also well connected by other parts of country, so the transportation facility is easily available.

Migration rate according to villages has been given in Table-2. Village Murli has the maximum migration rate and Chittapur has the least migration rate. Population of village Murli mainly consists of labours and landless people. This may be one of possible reason of highest migration rate in this village. In the villages of Chittapur, living standard of people is comparatively better than other surveyed population, so in this area migration rate is lower than other parts of the district.

Table-3 shows the migration rate according to category. We have divided the castes in different categories according to their socio-economic condition. Keeping in view the total number of households, the castes have been grouped in three categories on the basis of the homogeneity in the pattern of living and importance of the caste in the area. Since the caste system also prevails in Muslim society, we have divided them in same manner depending upon their socio-economic condition. The caste groups are divided as - (i) General : Brahmin, Kshatriya, Bhumihar, Kayastha (ii) OBC : Yadava, Koiri, Gareria, Kurmi, Thathera, Sonar, Baniya, Barai, Kohar, Lohar, Bind, Rajbhar, nai, Mali. (iii) SC/ST : Chamar, Khatik, Dhobi, mushar, Pasi.

Results show that migration rate is highest for SC/ST category followed by General in both the blocks. Since most of the SC/ST households are either landless or their land holding is very small. So they depend on other type of labour in neighbouring city for livelihood. This may be the main cause of high migration rate in this category. In upper caste most of the people have minimum level of education and so they migrate in search of job or education.

In the study area all most all population belongs to only two religions i.e. Hindu and Muslim. Table-4 shows the migration rate in the study area according to religion in two blocks of Varanasi district. Results show that migration rate is high in Hindus in comparison to Muslims. In the study area it was found that most of the Muslims are engaged in paternal business or are daily commuters who visit nearby markets for employment.

Education is one of the most important factor in migration decision taking. Educated people have a greater chance to get a suitable job at the destination place in comparison to uneducated or less educated. To see the effect of education on migration rate, households are divided into different groups taking into consideration of their education level. Table-5 portrays the results of migration rate according to educational status of the respondents. It is clear from the table that highly educated persons have a high migration rate in comparison to other education group. The results seem to be natural and in accordance with the findings reported in other parts of the country.

Table-1
Migration Rates (in percentage) in two blocks

Block	Migration Rate
Cholapur	21.93
Arajiline	21.36
Total	21.66

Table-2
Migration Rates (in percentage) in villages

Villages	Migration Rate
Murli	23.00
Tekari	20.94
Mahavan	22.60
Chittapur	20.71
Total	21.66

Table-3
Migration Rates (in percentage) in two blocks according to caste/category

Blocks	Caste/Category	Migration Rate
Cholapur	General	26.98
	OBC	21.70
	SC/ST	27.27
	Total	21.93
Arajiline	General	20.22
	OBC	20.05
	SC/ST	25.32
	Total	21.36

Economic status of the household plays an key role in the migration decision process. In this study the economic status is based on income of the household and household facilities. Table-6 gives the migration rate taking into consideration the economic conditions of the households. Depending upon the income and other facilities in the house, households were classified in five different economic status groups.

Results reveal that migration rate has a direct positive association with the economic condition of the household. Migration rate increases with economic states in both the blocks.

Table-4
Migration Rates (in percentage) in two blocks according to Religion

Blocks	Religion	Migration Rate
Cholapur	Hindu	21.92
	Muslim	20.34
	Total	**21.93**
Araziline	Hindu	21.38
	Muslim	19.05
	Total	**21.36**

Table-5
Migration Rates (in percentage) in two blocks according to Education

Blocks	Education	Migration Rate
Cholapur	Illetrate	21.34
	Primary/Middle	20.82
	High School/ Intermediate	22.42
	Graduation and above	27.13
	Total	**21.93**
Araziline	Illetrate	22.13
	Primary/Middle	19.52
	High School/ Intermediate	19.53
	Graduation and above	24.46
	Total	**21.36**

Table-6
Migration Rates (in percentage) in two blocks according to Economic Status

Block	Economic Status	Migration Rate
Cholapur	Low	19.74
	Lower-Middle	21.28
	Middle	23.50
	High	26.83
	Very High	26.98
	Total	**21.93**
Araziline	Low	20.45
	Lower-Middle	20.26
	Middle	21.05
	High	22.22
	Very High	22.71
	Total	**21.36**

Conclusion

This study has explained the situation of migration differential among different categories of the society. Results show that different background characteristics have significant effect on migration status of people. The author believe that this study will help the programme and policy makers in dealing the migration and related characteristics like urbanisation, health facilities etc.

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