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DETERMINANTS OF MIGRATION IN PUNJAB, INDIA: A CASE STUDY OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT**DR. HARINDER SINGH GILL****HEAD****DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES & COMPUTER APPLICATION****AMRITSAR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY****AMRITSAR****JATINDER BIR SINGH****SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER****INSTITUTE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH****JAIPUR****SHIVANI SINGH****SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER****INSTITUTE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH****JAIPUR****ABSTRACT**

Internal migration refers to a move from one area to another within a country. Rural to Urban migration is a consequence of wide economic opportunities in the urban areas. Historically, it has played a significant role in the urbanization of several countries and continues to be significant in scale, even though migration rates have slowed down in some countries. This paper is an attempt to understand underlying factors for rural-to-urban migration in district Amritsar, Punjab, India. According to Census 2011, population of Amritsar is 2,490,891 with decadal growth rate of 15.48 percent. Literacy rate of the district is 77.2 percent. The study focuses on application of push and pulls factors to understand rural to urban migration. Forces that push people to move out of their place of residence are known as push factors and forces that attracts particular group to settle are called as pull factor. The study concludes that, migration occurs at a prime productive age and the leading push factors are 'low paying jobs' and 'poor economic opportunities' as the two main reasons. The other prominent factors were found to be economic insecurity and poor educational facilities. Consistent in line with the push factors, better economic opportunities, good education facilities, availability of health facilities were the top three pull factors. Good transportation facility along with sanitation facilities (35%) and Information Communication Technological facilities were other main pull factors.

KEYWORDS

Migration, Push, Pull, Urbanization.

INTRODUCTION

Migration is the crossing of the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a certain minimum period of time. Internal migration refers to a move from one area (a province, district or municipality) to another within a country. International migration is a territorial relocation of people between nation-states. The dominant forms of migration can be distinguished according to the motives (economic, family reunion, refugees) or legal status (irregular migration, controlled emigration/immigration, free emigration/immigration) of those concerned. The different type of migrants / migration includes temporary labour migrants, highly skilled and business migrants, irregular migrants, forced migration, family members, return migrants. Migration is an important factor in the erosion of traditional boundaries between languages, cultures, ethnic group, and nation-states. Even those who do not migrate are affected by movements of people in or out of their communities, and by the resulting changes¹. Migration is a phenomenon observed all over the world and India, one of the fastest growing countries in the world with rapid economic growth. Indian urban population rose from a small figure of 25.6 million in 1901 to 309 million in 2001 that is thirty percent of the total population. Percent decadal growth of population in rural and urban areas in the decade ending 2001 was 17.9 and 31.2 percent in the urban population of the country during the preceding decade (Census of India, 2001).

Census of India 2001 reveals that during the last 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% during 1991-2001. It also states that high growth (53.6%) among interstate migrants was also observed and the total migrants by last residence (0-9 years) accounted to 98.3 million. A cursory look at the reason for migrations presents that 43.8% moved due to marriage, 21.0% moved 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% specified other reasons. It further states that rural to urban migration was 20.5 million. The table given below reveals statistics of intra-state migrants in India.

TABLE 1: INTRA-STATE MIGRANTS IN INDIA (CENSUS, 2001)

Intra-state Migrants in India	Persons (in %)	Male (in %)	Female (in %)
Rural to Rural	60.5	41.6	68.6
Rural to Urban	17.6	27.1	13.6
Urban to Rural	6.5	8.6	5.6
Urban to Urban	12.3	18.3	9.7
Unclassified	3.1	4.4	2.6

Source: http://www.ionindia.in/migration_in_india.html

Rural to Urban migration is a consequence of wide economic opportunities in the urban areas. Historically, it has played a significant role in the urbanization process of several countries and continues to be significant in scale, even though migration rates have slowed down in some countries (Lall, Selod and Shalizi, 2006). This paper is an attempt to understand the rural-to-urban migration flows at the district level and find out the various reasons of immigration for rural to urban area.

¹<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/social-transformations/international-migration/glossary/migrant/>

The district of Amritsar was selected as it is currently witnessing rapid urban growth. According to Census 2011, population of Amritsar is 2,490,891 with decadal growth rate of 15.48 percent. Literacy rate of the district is 77.2 percent². Government of India and Government of Punjab have unveiled a Rs. 3,150 Crore plan to modernize Amritsar. Money from the plan would fund construction of roads, water and sewage management, and a mass Rapid transit system. Amritsar has witnessed a spurt in high-end residential property and multiplex development, courtesy the government's decision to set up a special economic zone there. Leading property developers from north India have lined up a series of townships containing villas, luxury apartments, service apartments, and penthouses. About a dozen malls are also in various phases of completion. Amritsar also acts as an education hub for the region. There are many educational institutions ranging from engineering to arts. Also many institutes such as Institute of Banking Services (IBS) cater to the city as well as surrounding areas. New localities are coming up in and around the town developed by private developers and developments by government agencies like Punjab Urban Development Authority-PUDA and Amritsar Development Authority (ADA)³. All these opportunities provide a perfect ground for attracting rural to urban migration in the district.

The study focuses on application of push and pull factors in the current study. Forces that push people to move out of their place of residence are known as push factors and forces that attracts particular group to settle are called as pull factor (Gurusharan Singh Kainth, 2009). Study of migration is necessary for understanding the population dynamics as it's the most volatile component sensitive to political, social and economic factors (Singh, 1998). The study becomes more relevant in the context of comments of Director General of IOM, Brunson McKinley who said that "Migration will be one of the major policy concerns of the twenty-first century. In our shrinking world, more and more people will look to migration – temporary or permanent – as a path to employment, education, freedom or other opportunities. Governments will need to develop sound migration policies and practices. Properly managed migration can contribute to prosperity, development and mutual understanding among people"⁴.

EVIDENCE FROM LITERATURE

The evidence from literature is presented in the order of studies undertaken at international level pertaining to migration. Thereafter, some Indian studies are being discussed with special focus on rural to urban migration.

Many studies of migration have been trying to explore the principle of migration and the earliest study on this was published by Ravenstein, "The Law of Migration" in 1885 (Greenwood & Hunt, 2003). In a study, the author argues that "rural population is more migratory than urban population" resulting into the development of law: "the process of dispersion is inverse to that of absorption" (Ravenstein, 1885). According to economic theory of migration, the geographic difference in the demand and supply of labor is the major causal factor for rural to urban migration (Lewis, 1954). Similarly, Harris and Todaro model in 1970, has established the fact that improved wages and better economic opportunities are the driving force for rural migrants, however Williamson in 1988, extending the former model, argued the presence of other elements like social, political, geographical, etc as well, that determines the choice of migration. Whereas, Haan and Rogely 2002 emphasized that migration is not always the result of crisis, it can also be livelihood strategy during economic, political, social and physical adversity. Thus, a multidisciplinary approach has been explored to learn the trend of migration (Oberai & Bilsborrow, 1984). Migration been the third component of population change, determined by the requirements of the migrant, defines the dynamic of the society and participates in decision making of any population based policy (R.B Bhagat, 2005, Gurusharan Singh Kainth-2009). Bilsborrow (1998) has distinguished various types of migration and migrant that involves long-term migration, permanent migration, seasonal migration, temporary migration, circular migration etc which could be internal or international. International migration has been greatly debated upon globally, but internal migration has far greater significance due to the involvement of large population displacement affecting the dynamics of society (Priya Deshingkar, 2004). Internal migration means movement within the boundaries of nation (Dang, 2005) and the magnitude of the internal movement depends on the likelihood of lower risk and lesser cost of moving and enhanced rate of migrants returning (Banerjee and Kanbur, 1981).

In India, internal migration has not gained priority in Indian researcher's point of view (Bhagat, 2009). But studies are undertaken to learn the paradigm change in the cause of migration. In early seventies, political influence was a major causal agent of migration, which along with time has changed in the last three decades. In 2000, the economic reason has become the major underlying factor of any movement though, social, religious, political and geographical determinants also plays impetus role in the process now (R.B. Bhagat, 2006, Sven Grim, 2004, Gurusharn Singh Kainth, 2009). Time and again migration of Bangladeshi refugees in India is among the best example of political and religious factors forcing to migration (Pranati Datta, 2004). But migration not necessarily has to be forceful it can be voluntary as well (Priya Deshingkar, 2009). These factor either forces or motivators, are categorized into two broad categories -pull factors or push factors for the migrants. Push factors for Indian's internal migration had been poor productivity, unemployment, wage variances, castiesm, communal differences, decreasing land-man ratio, natural calamities etc. Whereas, pull factors are like better economic opportunities, better connectivity, improved standard of living, better amenities, etc (Gursharan Singh Kainth, 2009, Priya Deshingkar, 2007).

In India, internal migration is the dominant source of migration, which involves rural to urban intrastate mobility as well. Around 98 million people were mobile during the decade 1991-2001. Out of which, female (65 million) found to be more migrant than male (33 million) and around 83% were intrastate migrants showing enhanced rate of mobility among Indian population (Census, 2001 and NSSO, 2001). The reasons for female migration had predominantly been marriage whereas for male had been search of employment (R.B Bhagat, 2005). It's been found that poverty and migration are interrelated, as poverty may cause migration (as seen from rural to urban) or vice versa (as seen in cities) (Deshingkar & Akter, 2007). India has the largest population of poor in the world i.e. 38 million. Poverty level is not uniform across India as a result 75% of poor people resides in rural areas (Census, 2001). Rural poverty is largely the outcome of unemployment and low agricultural productivity (IFAD, 2001) Rural to Urban migration has shown significant increase whereas urban to urban migration seems to be declining (UNDP, 2009).

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study has been carried out with the help of collection of both primary and secondary data. Secondary data and information was collected from various internet sources. Primary data was collection through a cross sectional survey composing of interviews conducted using a structured questionnaire. The main focus was on demographic characteristics, particulars of households, reasons for migration and result of migration on income and satisfaction level. A sample of one hundred was covered under the study. With the help of structured interview schedules, relevant information was gathered from migrant respondents. The migrant was defined as a person who had migrated from a rural area of district Amritsar to urban Amritsar for any reason in the last five years. Fieldwork was carried out during the period January to February, 2011. Data was entered and analysed using SPSS software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Mean age of the respondents was found to be 40.8 years while median age was 40.0 years. It means that the migrants prefer to migrate at prime productive years of their life. Ninety five percent of the respondents were male. Around 84 percent of the total respondents were literate. Prior to migration, almost one-third (31 percent) of the respondents had annual income below Rs. 10,000/- while only 15 percent each had annual income in the range of Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- and above Rs. 40,000/-.

² <http://www.census2011.co.in/district.php>

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amritsar#Demographics>

⁴ http://www.iomindia.in/migration_in_india.html

TABLE 2: BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Characteristics	Percent (N=100)
Age	
Mean age (years)	40.8
Median age (years)	40.0
Sex	
Male	95.1
Female	4.9
Literacy	
Literate	83.6
Illiterate	16.4
Annual Income (Indian Rupees)	
Below Rs. 10,000	31.1
Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 30,000	39.3
Rs. 30,000 - Rs. 40,000	14.8
Above Rs. 40,000	14.8

An analysis of push factors reveals 'Low paying jobs' and 'Poor economic opportunities' as the top two underlying factors for migrating from rural area to urban. Nearly two third (66%) of the respondents stated *low paying jobs* as the first factor followed by 38 percent reporting *poor economic opportunities* in rural areas. The third prominent factor marked out was '*economic insecurity*' which was reported by thirty percent while another twenty five percent stated the factor to be *poor economic opportunities*. As a fourth leading factor, *poor educational facilities* were reported by 26 percent of the respondents followed by 20 and 16 percent of the respondents reporting '*economic insecurity*' and '*social insecurity*' respectively. *Caste Discrimination* was stated only as the last seventh as a factor by around 61 percent of the respondents.

TABLE 3: PUSH FACTORS BY RANKING

Factors	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Caste discrimination	100	0.0	0.0	4.9	9.8	11.5	13.1	60.6	100
Social political discrimination	100	0.0	4.9	4.9	13.1	16.4	47.5	13.1	100
Low paying jobs	100	65.6	9.8	6.6	8.2	6.6	1.6	1.6	100
Poor educational facilities	100	9.8	29.5	21.3	26.2	6.6	1.6	4.9	100
Poor economic opportunities	100	19.6	37.7	24.6	6.6	4.9	4.9	1.6	100
Social insecurity	100	4.9	8.2	6.6	16.4	37.7	14.8	11.5	100
Economic insecurity	100	4.9	11.5	29.5	19.6	14.8	14.8	4.9	100

An analysis of pull factors was done to know factors attracting migrants to urban areas. Consistent in line with the push factors, *better economic opportunities* was reported by 71 percent of the respondents as the first pull factor. *Good education facilities* in urban areas was reported as second pull factor by around one-thirds (31%) of the respondents. Around thirty percent stated availability of *health facilities* as the third prominent factor. Once again, *good educational facilities* were reported as an important pull factor by 18 percent followed by 15 and 13 percent reporting the factors to be *mechanization* and *availability of health facilities* respectively. *Good transportation facility* in urban areas was reported by 21 percent of respondents as fifth important factor along with 20 percent stating *health facilities* as another factor. The sixth and seventh prominent factors were found to be *availability of sanitation facilities* (35%) and *Information Communication Technological facilities* (27%) respectively.

TABLE 4: PULL FACTORS BY RANKING

Factors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Health facilities	6.6	26.2	29.5	13.1	19.6	4.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Recreational facilities	1.6	4.9	13.1	11.5	13.1	26.2	16.4	13.1	100
Good Education Facilities	19.6	31.1	16.4	18.0	3.3	3.3	6.6	0.0	100
Mechanization	1.6	8.2	13.1	14.8	14.8	13.1	14.8	19.6	100
Better Economic Opportunities	70.5	13.1	4.9	3.3	1.6	3.3	3.3	0.0	100
Sanitation facilities	1.6	1.6	6.6	8.2	14.8	14.8	34.5	18.0	100
Transportation facility	1.6	16.4	11.5	11.5	21.3	19.6	8.2	3.3	100
Information Communication Technological facilities	1.6	0.0	3.3	8.2	13.1	14.8	14.8	43.3	100

Post-migration to the urban areas respondents were enquired about increase in income and satisfaction level. Eighty eight percent of the respondents reported an increase in income while 90 percent expressed their satisfaction as a result of migrating.

TABLE 5: INCREASE IN INCOME AND SATISFACTION POST MIGRATION

Factors	Percent
Has your income increased?	
Yes	88.0
No	12.0
Are you satisfied after migration?	
Yes	90.2
No	9.8

The phenomenal increase in population in the cities is one of the main reasons for poverty in the urban areas of India. A major portion of this additional population is due to the large scale migration of rural families from villages to cities. This migration is mainly attributed to poor employment opportunities in villages.

CONCLUSION

With this we conclude that, migration occurs at prime productive age leading to greater opportunities for migrants in urban area and in fact plays a decisive role in adjustment, growth, sustainability and satisfaction level. Most of the rural to urban migrants are poor, illiterate and male family members who migrate to urban areas looking for better and sustained economic opportunities. The study concludes that, migration occurs at prime productive age and the leading push factors are 'low paying jobs' and 'poor economic opportunities' as the two main reasons. The other prominent factors were found to be economic security and poor educational facilities. Consistent in line with the push factors, better economic opportunities, good education facilities, availability of health facilities were the top three factors. Good transportation facility along with sanitation facilities and Information Communication Technological facilities were other factors. Post-migration, four-fifths of the migrants reported an increase in income while the majority was satisfied with their decision of migrating to urban.

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