

# Age Composition and Migration: A Comparative Study of Census and Field Survey



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## Abstract

Migration has become very important area for research in social sciences. There is a close association between migration, society and development. In recent decades various social scientist are trying to focus the regional imbalance and the underlying cause of migration for it. However, whatever the policies is made still the staggering fact is that the nation is unable to curb rural migration resulting in agriculture is at setback. The migration plays a significant role both for sending and receiving destinations. Though increased mobility is an indicator of growth and development it also leads to an imbalanced development of a region due to high influx of migration. In this migration process most of the time the adults are more migratory, selective and employment based leaving behind the infirm, elderly and weak people. Thus, this study makes an attempt to know the role of age in migration process by comparing Census data and field survey data.

**Keywords:** Urban Out-Migration, Age and Transformation.

## Introduction

Migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the other two being fertility and mortality which influences size, composition and distribution of population. While fertility and mortality are influenced by biological factor migration is a social factor and most of the time involves human intention. With the advent of Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation accompanied by massive changes in education pattern and increase in economic conditions, shift from ascribed status to achieved status, rapid transformation of Indian economy, transport and communication facilities, shift of workforce from agriculture to industry and other tertiary activities accelerated mobility among Indian people in recent times from low developed areas to developed areas. Balanced movement of people from one region to another is an indispensable component for development of any region or country. Interaction of various factors in the course of development can not only accentuate the pace of mobility but would lead to emergence of new migration patterns. There can be contrasting reasons for this current increase in the migration rate. On the one hand increasing unemployment, poverty, population pressure, environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources etc limits the livelihood options and may force people to migrate. But at the same time urbanization, better employment and educational opportunities, improvement in educational level, changing occupational pattern, development of transport and communication are the new impetus facilitating spatial mobility. Yet there are only limited studies that have focus on the changing pattern of migration especially after the reform period. Hence, it calls for a further critical investigation in to the trends and patterns of migration in recent years in India. (Sandhya Rani Mahopatra) The study of migration of people is important to understand the transitory phase of development of a country by knowing the trends of rural to urban migration over a period of time. There is a close association between the trends of migration and the development phase of the country.

## Meaning of Migration

Migration is a averred as a fact of life wherein even in those economics where mobility is well nigh absent, yet half the population i.e. the females would migrate after marriage. However according to Srivastava, O.S (1983) "migration can't be referred to as a short trip for pleasure or business nor does it mean shifting of residence from one locality to another but it is a permanent or at least for a considerable period of time departure from a place which is which is just not nearby".

Helen. I. Safa (1975) writes, "Migration is normally viewed as an economic phenomenon. Though non-economic factors obviously have some bearing, most studies concur that migrants leave their area of origin primarily because of lack of employment opportunities and in the hope of finding better opportunities elsewhere".

William Peterson defines (1969) "Migration as movement motivated by the individual willingness to risk the unknown of a new home and breaking from a familiar social universe for the sake of adventure, achievement of ideals or to escape a social system from which he has been alienated".

UN has defined migration as "migration is a form movement of one geographical unit to another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or the place of departure to a place of destination or a place of arrival. Such migration is called the permanent migration and should be distinguished from other forms of movement which do not involve a permanent change of residence" (UN, 1956).

According to the Census of India the Census of India, a person is considered as a migrant by 'place of birth', if the place in which he or she is enumerated during the census is other than his place of birth. Similarly, a person is considered as a migrant by 'place of last residence' if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of last residence

Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi-permanent residence. Along with fertility and mortality, migration is a component of the population change. The term "in migration" and "out migration" are used for movement between areas within a country (internal migration). The parallel terms "immigration" and "emigration" are used to refer to moves between countries (international migration).

#### **The Concept of Out-Migration Towns**

According to M.K. Premi (1980) "a town will have net in-migration of population from other areas during a particular period if its natural population growth rate (birth rate-death rate) in the same period is less than the census growth rate, on the other hand if the natural increase rate of the concerned place is more than the census growth rate there will be net out-migration of population to other areas. Thus if we avail the data of natural growth rate of individual towns, we can compare the same with the causes of growth rate and decide whether the place is in-migration or out-migration. Unfortunately in India due to the non-availability of complete vital statistics of individual towns have lead us to an utter chaos. Moreover in our census reports we find the existence of out-migrating districts in a more fleeting way and this creates a frivolous to our study. However in Karnataka out-migrants to and from small towns is absent in the census reports.

#### **The Importance of The Study of Out-Migration Towns**

As we know that in Karnataka most of the places are witnessing major out-migration which is

proving to be a serious problem. Many people migrate to the greater cities because of the allurements. Most of the countries have to face this stage in the process of urbanization. One cannot deny the fact that the process of urbanization has been ascending at the cost of small towns and as a result there is ebb of population growth rate. Due to these facts, the study of small towns, which are facing a lot of out-migration, becomes vital.

#### **Review of Literature**

Rajkumar Yadav and Upendra Kumar (2017) study the trends in rural-out migration at the household level through some probabilistic models and also to do some modification in the exiting estimation procedure. This study is pertinent in nature as the study indicates that the present model is a reasonable approximation to describe the distribution of households for the rural out migrants and at least at the micro-level. Both the data set shows that the model used describes the phenomenon satisfactorily well. The exact variance and covariance of the estimator for the model have also been computed.

Masoud Bashar Tullah (2015) in his Determinants of Rural Out-Migration: A Case Study of Siwan, Bihar studies the major characteristics of migrants. The paper focuses on the socio-economic background of the migrants and tries to identify the causes of rural out-migration by reviewing the pattern and magnitude of rural out-migration. The forgoing discussion shows that majority of the migrants belonged to the age group of 20-39 years, the migration from rural area is fairly distributed across all castes and communities, males outnumbered females who were engaged in casual labour and partially educated migrated relatively more when compared to illiterates and highly educated. The reasons for outmigration is identified as employment as the primary cause followed by educational reasons.

Vinayakam and Sekar S P (2013) give a special focus on Chennai city as how it is attracting the migrants from all sections of the society. This study derives that rural to urban migration is a function of push and pull factors that is in rural areas increasing of population did not have job facilities, reasonable income, basic amenities. The pull factors of better job facilities, good salary, and more income, medical and educational facilities are attracting the rural people to move to the cities like Chennai city. The push factors of no job facilities, low salary, less income, drought, less medical and educational facilities are the push factors of the rural people from rural to urban migration.

Nandan Kumar and R.B Bhagat (2012) concentrate their study on the causes and consequences of out-migration in Bihar. In this study, the volume, trend, pattern and causes of outmigration has been explored. The amount of remittance is also assessed and its role to support the household has been examined. The main source of data for the present study is Census of India, 2001 and NSSO 64th Round, 2007. They illustrate that the heavy flow of out-migrants from Bihar has always been a part of scholar's interest, as it became a metaphor of out-

migration led by under-development and poverty. The author blames the political conditions as the major cause for outmigration followed by the lack of economic opportunities.. The prime reason of such heavy out-flow is related to employment. People are migrating not only in the absence of employment at their native place but also to secure a better earning also. It seems that the out-migration for employment is taking place not only in poor and socially backward households but the members of relatively affluent households are also migrating either in the same proportion or even higher. Around one fifth household has received remittances sent by the migrants of the household. The remittances comprise almost half to one third of the household expenditure, irrespective of economic status of the households. It is mostly spent on food and other items of consumer expenditure, health care and education of the family members.

#### **Identification of The Problem and Objectives of the Study**

Generally speaking the concept of urban out-migration has been unexplored since as the rural migration is taking a major junk of the studies The reasons for this are the blindfold speculations of our traditional features of immobile population who are influenced by the predominance of age, sex, strong family attachments, caste bias, diversity in every nook and corner of the would etc, which have affected the

#### **Data Analysis and interpretation**

##### **Migrants by Place of Birth and Age in India**

Sl.No	Age groups	Percentage Within the state	Percentage Outside the state Within India	Percentage Abroad
1	0-4	3.5	3.2	0.6
2	5-9	4.3	4.2	0.9
3	10-14	5.0	4.8	1.8
4	15-24	17.4	18.5	7.0
5	25-34	23.2	24.7	10.8
6	35-39	35.6	36.1	41.7
7	60 above	10.9	8.4	37.1
8	Age not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2
9	All Ages	100	100	100

Source: Census of India 2001

The above table highlights about the relationship between age and migration. Census of India 2001 gives information on migrants by age groups. It is found that majority of the migrants belonged to the age group of 35-59 years who migrated from within the state with 35.6 %, outside the state within the country and 41.7 % abroad. Out of the total migrants numbering about 258 million in India who migrated within the state, 17.4% were in the age group 15-24 years, 23.2% in 25-34 years and 35.6% in 35 – 59 years. Among migrants by place of birth from outside the state of enumeration in India, 36.1% were in the age group 35-59 years and 24.7% n the age group 25-34 years. This high proportion in the older and economically active age groups perhaps reflect their migration for work in a new state. In case of those migrants who came from outside the country, higher proportion has been returned among those

movement of the people. Thus the major objective of the study is to understand a relationship between age and migration and to compare it with the results of census survey.

#### **Data Sources and Methodology**

National Census and Sample Surveys are the principal sources of information on internal migration. The most important source of data on internal migration in most of the countries is its national census. In India, census provides data on migrants based on place of birth (POB), place of last residence (POLR), duration of residence in the place of enumeration and the place of residence on a specified date before the Census. To understand the impact of age on migration both secondary and primary sources are used for the study. To support the study of urban migration, migration tables of various census years and field survey are used and to provide the evidences. The main objective of the paper is to analyse the role of age in urban out migration and the main hypothesis for the study is most of the out-migrants belongs to "Stripling Age". The research is conducted in the 2 Class-IV towns of Dharwad district namely Alnawar and Kundgol and the data is collected through structured interview schedule. Based on Multi-stage random sampling method the sample size is limited to 158 size.

migrants who are 35-59 years (41.7%) and 60 + years age groups (37.1%) and includes those who migrated at the time of partition. Generally below 24 age group are considered as youngsters and in a country like India it takes a toll to convince the family members in migration process. By the time a person completes education, fulfils the family obligation responsibilities he will be thirty plus years. Henceforth, majority of the migration process is done in the middle age followed by 25-34 age group.

#### **Age at First Migration**

The age at the time of first migration plays a prominent role in the entire migration system. Generally it is found that people who migrate after 24 years of their age go out for the sake of employment and who migrates before 24 years of their age, do so for other purposes like education, training etc.

Table No- 1.2  
Age At First Migration

S. No.	Age at First Migration	Males		Females		Total	
		F	Per cent	F	Per cent	F	Per cent
1	0-14	07	6.93	05	8.77	12	7.59
2	15-19	23	22.78	37	64.91	60	37.98
3	20-24	43	42.57	13	22.81	56	35.44
4	25-29	27	26.73	02	3.51	29	18.35
5	30-34	01	0.99	00	0.00	01	0.63
6	35-39	00	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00
7	40 above	00	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

Chi sq test was conducted for the above data to test the significance of age at the time of migration. Chi square actual value is 217.837, DF is 4 and the tabled value of Chi-sq is 13.277 that is highly significant at 01 levels. The Null Hypothesis "Striplings are more migratory than the other age groups" is rejected. Migration and age are independent factors and migration can occur at any age irrespective of age and sex.

Majority of the male migrants are found in the category of 20-24 years with 42.57 per cent followed by 25-29 years with 26.73 per cent. Usually this is suitable period for higher qualifications and also to settle economically 15-19 years age group is (22.78 per cent) and this is a period for taking basic education like degree. Thus maximum percentage of migrants was found between the age group of 15-29. Least percentage is found after 30<sup>+</sup> with 0.99 per cent as by this time people would have not only have completed their education but also would be economically and socially well settled.

Majority of the females are found moving at the age of 15-19 years with 64.91 per cent and 20-24 years with 22.81 per cent, which is an enhanced period of marriage, which is a major cause for migration of female migrants. However in recent decades we find females marrying late because of either educational or economical purposes, but after 30<sup>+</sup> we find that none of the female migrants has moved.

In general majority of the migrants have moved between 15-30 years with 91.77 per cent for the simple reason that in this age group a person not only completes his education but also finds a good job. However none of the migrants is found moving after 35 years of age.

There is variation between census reports and survey reports. While the above census report is concerned with overall migration process the primary study is limited to urban out-migration. 35 plus age group is a transformation from adulthood to middle age with increased responsibilities and work pressure can be the major reason for heightened migration in census reports.

#### Conclusion

Finally, it can be specified that human migration is a natural and universal phenomenon,

which has existed through-out the history of human civilization. Thus we can ultimately say migration is a process where by men move from one place to another which give him a better standard living than the previous one. Though age plays an important role in migration when it comes to urban out migration there is a stretch wherein any age people tend to migrate

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