

An Analysis of Human Migration

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ABSTRACT

Human Migration involves the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location. The movement often occurs over long distance and from country to another country, but internal migration, within a single country is also possible, indeed, this is the dominant form of Human Migration globally. It is one of the most important aspect of social sciences. This study maintains a close relationship with mankind from its earliest stage. Certainly the mobility of population has attracted the attention of scholars of different disciplines like Geography, Sociology, Demography, Economics and other related subjects. As such it can no longer be regarded as the subject-matter of a single discipline and its analysis needs a multi disciplinary approach to find out any fruitful result.¹

Introduction

Since various aspects of migration have been studied by scholars of different disciplines, their approaches concerning definitions, typology, and migration motivating factors, consequences of migration and implication of migration have been analyzed distinctly.

Several scholars have defined migration distinctly. Eisenstadt² looks at migration as the physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another. This transition usually involved adjoining another. This definition unfortunately considered the notions of that individual or group making plan or a physical transition back again to the former or donor society. Nor does it consider the possibility of making a physical transition from one society to another while maintaining social relationship or participation.

Mangalam³ went further in his definition writing that migration is a relatively permanent moving away of collectively called migrants from the geographical location to another preceded by decision making on the part of the migrants on the basis of hierarchically ordered set of values or valued ends resulting in changes in the interactional systems of the migrants. His definition provides the concept relatively permanent”, perhaps to distinguish migration from holiday, trips, trips to the sea shore, from sailor’s occupation or from daily movement between sitting room to kitchen or to working places. This complicates the problem of finding a definition of migration applicable to this study. The difficulties consist of determining how permanent “relatively permanent” must be Mangalum’s definition presuppose to a permanent or one way type rather that

return or cyclical type of migrations. It is also difficult to agree with Lee⁴ that migrated workers are not migrants merely because they migrate frequently. Ravenstein⁵ emphasizes that most of the migrants move only a short distance females in internal migration, while males in international migration. The natives of town are less migratory than those of rural parts of the country. Each main current migration produces a compensating counter current and the major causes of migration are economic etc. Bogue's the push and pull attributes of places of origin and destination are also significant.⁶

Kosinski⁷ based his classification of types of migration on Peterson's⁸ typology. Kosinski's multinational scheme of types of migration is one of the recent additions to existing typologies of migration. It covers all types of migration space (rural-urban, urban-rural etc.) time (temporary permanent) distance (long, short) number (individual, mass) causes (conservative, innovative) etc.

Besides above noted contribution of scholars regarding definitions, theories topologies etc., There are quite a 'large number' of published works of Indian and foreign scholars concerning migration.

Weinberg⁹ defines human-migration as the change of place permanently or temporarily, for an appreciable duration. Safa¹⁰ laid emphasis on economic aspects of population movement. According to her view migration normally takes place due to economic reason. People leave the place of their native land because of lack of employment opportunities and the hope of getting employment elsewhere. Zachariah¹¹ holds the view of Safa and categorically states that economic factor is the most motivating factor for rural-urban migration. Sovani and Saxena¹² opine that both the rich and the poor are equally prone to migration. The rich migrate with a view to leading better comfortable life while the poor are compelled to move out to their place of destination out of economic compulsion to eke out their living. Arora has divided migration factors in two categories: push and pull factors. Both are mutually dependent. Push at place of origin may not be so regarded; if there is no pull at the place of destination. Push factor consists of considerable population pressure on land; unemployment; extreme poverty and the recurrence of droughts and floods etc. On the other hand pull factor comprises better socio-economic conditions existing at the place of destination. Gosal¹³ is of the view that improvement of transportation and communication facilities as well as diffusion of education encourage the mobility of population. Ravenstein¹⁴ published his paper in 1885 or 89 entitled "The law of Migration". The law of Migration published in the book has been challenged by some scholars. Kant¹⁵ emphasised the causes and consequences of population mobility. Ravenstein's paper has provided the basis for fundamental idea underline the gravity model of Kant. Stouffer's¹⁶ model of intervening opportunities, however, contradict the conclusion of gravity Model. It denies that there is any relationship between population mobility and distance. Further the number of persons migrating over a fixed distance is directly proportionate to the number of opportunities at the places of destination and indirectly proportionate to the intervening opportunities.¹⁷ Various tests have been made based on Zipt and Kants model and Stouffer's model or on a variant of these models.

Among the well reputed and latest definitions of Human-migration, the definitions of Zelinsky, Baker, Hagerstrand, and Rose etc. are worth mentioning. Zelinsky¹⁸ led emphasis on the change on the place of residence and distinguished between migration and mobility or circulation. Baker¹⁹ has defined migration is

the act of moving from one spatial unit to another. Hagerstrand²⁰ in his study of Swedish migrating fields has emphasized migration as changing the centre of gravity of an individual's mobility pattern. Rose²¹ also provided a comprehensive definition of migration. According to his view migration does not only add to or subtract from the total population of the world, but it exerts effects on the total population which establishes the relationship between migration and the growth of population. Fortes²² in his discussion of movement of people in Ghana, distinguishes mobility from migration. He is of the view in the case of movement mobility restricts within the boundary while in the case of migration one crosses the border.

Studies in India:

Social scientists of India and other scholars of developed countries have focused light on pattern of migration in India. Among scholars the credit goes to Davis²³ who discussed the study of migration pattern in India. He considerably studied migration under the heads like (a) Immigration; (b) Emigration and (c) Internal migration. In fact he paid more heed to volume and types of internal migration.

Dayal emphasised the growth of population and rural-urban migration in India. Gosal²⁴ opines that movement of transportation facilities and diffusion of modern education have considerably encouraged the mobility of Indian population small internal migration in the country. More detailed study concerning internal migration in India during 1901-31 has been analyzed by Zachariah²⁵. The work of Bose²⁶ is also praiseworthy. He has presented the overall pictures of inter-state and intra-state movements as well as recognized four types of migration streams according to rural-urban composition.

Mitra²⁷ has analyzed the different aspects of migration pattern in India based on 1961 census date. His work also deals with relationship between the volume of migration and level of development. Kumar²⁸ has emphasized inter district migration in Bihar during 1951-61 Bhuyan²⁹ has discussed the types of immigration in Assam valley. Roy³⁰ has analyzed the migration pattern in U.P and provided a general idea about the rural-urban migration. The work of George³¹ is worth-mentioning here. He has analyzed migration scheme between rural and urban areas within Assam and West Bengal states and emphasized the magnitude of internal migration later on he has suggested the significance of inter-provincial mobility. Mehrotra³² has studied the salient features of internal migration of India based on census data during 1961-71. In his work a detailed account of the characteristics of the migrants falling under the category of birth place concept has been taken into consideration. Mahto³³ has analyzed population mobility and economic development in Eastern India in detail. Sovani & Savvena³⁴ analyzed migration streams in detail. They emphasized rural-urban migration in India, its causes and effects. Both are of the view that the rich and the poor are equally prone to migration. The rich migrate in order to lead better and comfortable life, while the poor migrate due to economic hardship. Gupta³⁵ holds the same view and states that persons belonging to the upper stratum of society have a higher level of education and better economic conditions and therefore a higher propensity to migrate from rural to urban areas. Ganguli³⁶ opines that economic, political and cultural factors cause migration. During recent years he has noticed that transportation, communication facilities, diffusion of knowledge and economic

development have generated migration process to as greater extent. Hemsalavathy³⁷ has emphasized migration-differential in the metropolitan city in India. He is of the view that skilled and technician workers and literate persons are more migratory as compared to unskilled and non- technical persons. Vaidyanathan³⁸ has studied the factors of migration in detail. He is of the view that economic factor is the vital factor in influencing the migrant. He further observed that migration tends to flow towards the areas of greater economic opportunities and away from the areas of lesser economic opportunities. The works of Upreti³⁹, Desai⁴⁰, Mandal⁴¹, Sinha⁴², are worth mentioning. Upreti has studied social organization of a migrant group of Kumaon region.

He has analyzed the migration motivating factors, socio-economic structure and social adjustment of migration in new environment. Desai in her migration study of Ahmedabad city has explained main reasons for coming out of the valley city areas.

Mandal in his study of population migrating in North Bihar has emphasized on special diffusion of clan groups with special reference to Maithili Karn Kayastha and Samaswar Karmi.

Sinha has tried to analyze some theoretical aspects of migration study from the point of view of interdisciplinary approach.

Sinha⁶³ has very vividly described the internal ward-migration of population in Muzaffarpur city. Chandra⁶⁴ has studied the migration of population in Paschim Champaran.

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