



A Theoretical Aspect Study on Human Migration in India

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Abstract

Migration as the physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another. This transition normally involves abandoning one social setting and entering another, and different one. Migration as an inflow or outflow of population from a definite region to another region for a permanent or semi-permanent settlements. A person who moves out from one village to another village or town is termed as migrant provided the movement is not short term due to casual leave, visiting etc. A human migration therefore implies the movement of people with the goal of long-term relocation. Thus, commuting, vacations, casual leave, visiting are not included in migration. Migrant as an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. This implies those who moved for shorter periods as tourists and business persons would not be called as migrants. This conceptual paper will focus on the different theories of migration and its impacts to the nation. The study is based on secondary sources of data from books, various academic journals and published factsheets to understand the migration theories in the globe.

Keywords: Migration, Residence, Economic, Development & Population

INTRODUCTION

Migration is not a very recent phenomenon. It has been the part of the human history from the very beginning. There has been the movement of the people from one continent to another, from one nation to another and also from one region to other within the same country. Thus, the movement of the individuals from one place to other within (domestically) or outside (internationally) of a country is called migration. It can be defined as a process of moving, either across, an international border, or within a State. Encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants. Human Migration is derived from the Latin word migrates which is the movement by the individuals from one area to another, sometimes over long distances or in large groups. Thus, migration is movement of individuals from one place to another for a substantial time period for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence.

Migration could be voluntary or involuntary. If, people choose to move themselves; it is called voluntary migration. But, if people forced to move, it is called as involuntary migration. The process of migration continues overtime. The



movements of the people into a territory are called immigrants, while at the departure point, they are called emigrants. Migration occurs at a variety of scales namely

- ✓ Inter-continental (between the continents)
- ✓ Intra-continental (between the countries on a given continent)
- ✓ Inter-regional (within the countries).

One of the most significant patterns has been rural to urban migration- the movement of people from the country side to cities in search of opportunities. This type of migration is caused by rapid industrialization and the urbanization in search of employment by the rural poor in the Under developed countries in the World.

OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ To study the Theories of Migration
- ✓ To understand Human Migration in India
- ✓ To Understand theoretical relation with Migration

MIGRATION TYPES

✓ **Internal Migration:**

It is the migration within one country. Internal migration refers to the situation in which the mobility takes place within the domestic territory of a given country. It refers to a change of residence within national boundaries. This implies moving to a new home within a State, Country, or Continent.

✓ **External Migration:**

This implies moving to a new home in a different State, Country, or Continent. This refers to the movement of people across the State, Country or the Continent.

✓ **Emigration and Immigration:**

The concept of Immigration and Emigration is actually used in the context of international migration. It is the movement from one country to another. International migration refers to the movement of people across the national boundaries. It refers to the change of residence over national boundaries. An international migrant is one who moves to a different country. Emigration refers to the movement of the population from one country to another country permanently i.e.; leaving one country to move to another (e.g., the Pilgrims emigrated from England). Immigration means moving into a new country (e.g. the pilgrims immigrated from England). Another way, if people of England would move to USA, then for America, it is immigration, whereas for England it is Emigration.

- International migration is further classified as legal, illegal migrants and refugees. Legal immigrants are those who moved with the legal permission of the receiver nation, illegal immigrants are those who moved without the legal permission and refugees are those who crossed international boundaries to escape persecution.

✓ **Forced Migration:**

Forced migration is also called as involuntary migration. In this respect, a large group of people are compelled to quit the region. It is a negative form of migration and the factors responsible for it are conflicts, violation of human rights, persecution, exploitation, development, ethnicity or religion. The largest and most devastating forced migration in human history was the Africa slave trade, which carried 12 to 30 million Africans from their homes and transferred them to various parts of North America, Latin America and the Middle East. These Africans were taken against their will and forced to relocate.

✓ **Impelled Migration:**

It is also called reluctant migration. In this connection, peoples are not forced to move out of their region. Individuals' leave their region because of unfavorable situations at their current locations such as warfare, political problems, or religious persecution. The large wave of Cubans who legally and illegally immigrated to the United States following the 1959 Cuba Revolution is considered a form of reluctant migration.

✓ **Voluntary Migration:**

It is a type of migration in which people choose to move, based on whatever push and pull factors. It is based on one's free will and initiatives. The factors responsible for this type of migration are the desire to live in a better home and employment opportunities.



✓ **Step Migration:**

A series of shorter, less extreme migrations from a person's place of origin to final destination- such as moving from a farm to a village, to a town, and finally to a city.

✓ **Chain Migration:**

It is a series of migrations within a family or definite group of people. A chain migration starts with one member of the family who sends money to invite others members of the family to the new place.

✓ **Return Migration:**

It refers to the return of the people to their own native place. It is the voluntary movements of immigrants back to their place of origin.

✓ **Seasonal Migration:**

This type of migration occurs due to the lack of livelihood opportunities after the harvest of the monsoon crop. It is the process of moving for a period of time in response to labor or climatic conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working in cities off-season, "snowbirds" moving to the Southern and South-western United States during winter.

Factors Influence Migration:

People migrate from one place to another place on account of various reasons. They consider the advantages as well as the drawbacks of staying versus moving. They are also affected by factors such as distance, modes of transportation, travel time and travel expenses, terrain, and cultural barriers. The theories of migration developed by Ravenstein, Lee, Lewis and M. P. Todaro have explained the factors which are responsible for the process of migration. The important factors which are responsible for migration are:

- ✓ Lack of employment at home
- ✓ Low income
- ✓ Amenities available in the city
- ✓ Insufficient quantities of land
- ✓ Information about alternative destination
- ✓ Presence of relatives in alternative destination

The factors governing the decision to migrate can be classified into two types such as Push factors and Pull factors concept. Push factors drive the people away from a place while pull factors draw the people to a new location.

(a)Push Factors:

Push factors are those factors which compel the people to move from one place to another place. In such case, the people move out by pressure. They move due to lack of employment at the place of residence, shortage of food, low level of income, insufficient quantities of land, low quality of land, unequal distribution of land, war, flood, famine, earthquake, communal riots etc.

(b)Pull Factors:

Pull factors are those factors which attract the population from their place of residence to the other areas. In such cases the migrants are attracted in order to get various visible benefits at the point of destination. The main reasons for moving into a place include availability of better employment opportunities, development of trade and commerce, better health and educational facilities, suitable climate, developed means of transportation and communication, better food supply, modern amenities of life, freedom, safety and security of life and property of human beings etc.

In India, with respect to migration, the studies have found that acute poverty, search of the employment and the pressure of family are the important push factors responsible for out- migration. Likewise, better employment prospects, prior migrants and better educational facilities are the crucial pull factors behind the out migration. In reality, poverty is still considered to be the important push factor for illiterates and moderately educated migrants for rural India.

(c)Place Utility:

Out migration is also affected by the place utility. The desirability of a place based on its social, economic or environmental situation, often used to compare the value of living in different locations.



(d)Intervening Opportunities:

Opportunities also influence the movements of the migrants in a region. Thus, the opportunities or facilities which are available nearby are more attractive and usually considered by the migrants than the same or slightly better opportunities at distant places. So, migrants will decide to settle in a place which is closer to their native place if other factors are remaining the same.

(e)Distance Decay:

Generally, people will prefer to settle in a (closer) place which are nearby because they have perfect knowledge about that place than in a (farther) place about which they have little knowledge or information. The main cause is that when distance from a particular place increase, the knowledge and understanding about that place decreases.

THEORIES OF MIGRATION

Migration theories stated by Ravestein, Lee, Lewis and M. P. Todaro are explained below.

Neo-Classical Economics Theory

The wage gap between the sending and receiving country is responsible for international labor migration. This international labor migration will be eliminated by reducing the wage gap. These are influenced by the labor market and controlled by the government through market regulation in both the sending and receiving countries. Migrants calculate the benefits and costs of migration when they migrate. They move to a country where expected net returns are higher than the country of origin. To obtain expected destination earnings, migrants calculate the net return by taking the observed earnings in each future period and multiplying them by the probability of finding a job in the destination country. International flows of workers are affected by policies that affect expected earnings in sending and receiving countries. Thus, the important factor responsible for labor migration is the difference between two geographical locations. The demand and supply of labor is affected due to wage difference in different sectors. It can be said that wages are relatively higher in areas where labor is scarce but capital is abundant. Similarly, wages are relatively low in areas where there is a surplus of labor and a shortage of capital. Typically, workers move from low-wage areas to high-wage areas. This theory is best used to describe international migration, as it is not limited by international immigration laws and similar government regulations.

Dual Labor Market Theory

The important factor responsible for the international migration of the worker is a structural demand within the developed countries for both high skilled and low skilled laborers. Dual Labor Market theory states that in the developed economies of the world, the crucial factor responsible for international migration of workers is the pull factors in the receiving countries rather than the push factors in the sending countries. It is demand-driven and started from the recruitment by the employers in the advanced societies. As the demand for the workers are done through the recruitment process by the employer in the receiving countries, the differences in international wages are neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for the international flow of the workers. In this connection, this international migration of workers could only be influenced through the changes in economic organization by the government. In this theory there are two segments of market i.e. primary market and secondary market. Primary market requires high skilled labor while secondary market is very labor-intensive but requires low- skilled workers. This theory assumes that movement of labor from under-developed countries to higher developed countries is a result of a pull which is created by need for migrant labor in the developed countries in their secondary market. The developed countries require the migrant workers from the under developed countries in order to fill the lowest rung of the labor market because the native laborers do not want to do these jobs as they are less mobile

World System Theory

World systems theory implies that the penetration of capitalist economic relations into non-capitalist societies creates a mobile population that can easily decide to migrate. World systems theory looks at migration from a global perspective. This suggests that interaction between different societies can be an important factor in social change within a society. Trade with one country, which causes economic decline in another country, may create incentives to immigrate to a country with a more vibrant economy. This theory states that developed countries generally import Labour - intensive goods from Under Developed countries. The increase in demand for labor intensive goods by developed countries has increased the employment of unskilled workers in less developed countries and at the same time it has been able to



reduce the outflow of migrant workers. Exports of capital-intensive goods from rich countries to poor countries also equalize income and employment conditions, which also slows migration. In either direction, this theory can be used to explain migration between countries that are geographically far apart.

Historical Theories

Ravenstein's Law of Migration includes:

- Most of the migrants are adults
- Most of the migrants migrate only a short distance in any one migration
- The rural inhabitants are more migrating than the urban inhabitants
- The cities and towns are developed by migration rather than natural growth of population
- The migrants who migrate the long distances usually select the big centers of trade and commerce
- Women are more migrating than men to migrate within the country of their birth but less likely than men to leave the country of their birth
- The crucial factor responsible for migration is economic
- The direction of migration of migration is large from agricultural sectors to manufacturing sectors.

According to him, movement of the people from one place to another was affected by a "Push-Pull" process. Thus, an unfavorable conditions like oppressive laws, heavy taxation etc in one place compel the people to go out while suitable and favorable conditions in an external location pull the workers out of the native place. Ravenstein's laws stated that an important factor responsible for migration was better economic opportunities at the destination. He pointed out that the volume of migration decreases with the increase in distance. He also explained that migration occurs in stages instead of one long move. Population movements are bilateral, because it affected two parties or participants reciprocally; and migration differentials (e.g. gender, social class, age) influence a person's mobility.

Everett Lee had reformulated the Ravenstein's theory of migration. He had given due emphasis to internal (push) factors in his doctrine. He had pointed out the role of intervening obstacles in the process of migration. In this context, he had argued that variables such as distance, physical obstacles, political obstacles, and dependents (parasites) could obstruct the process of migration. Lee believed that the process of migration is selective because differentials such as age, gender, and social class could influence how persons respond to push- pull factors, and how these conditions also shape their capacity to overcome the intervening obstacles. Similarly, the process of migration is also affected by the personal factors. These factors include person's education, information of a potential receiver population, family attachment, mobility etc. These factors could facilitate or hinder the process of migration.

Todaro Theory

The basic proposition of this theory is that the decision to migrate depends on several labor market opportunities which are available to them both in rural as well as urban sectors. In this respect, they select only one that maximizes their expected gains out of migration. The theory assumes that before moving into the urban centers, the members of the labor force (both actual and potential) compare their expected incomes for a given time horizon in the urban sector (the difference between returns and cost of migration) with prevailing average incomes. They take the decision to migrate if the former exceeds the latter. Todaro's model does not advocate simply the rural-urban wage differentials as the basis of migration as claimed in all the migration theories. According to Todaro, the migrant is much rational and calculate in his decision to shift to a particular city. So, apart from wage differences, the probability of getting a job in the urban area is also crucial factor before the migrant. Migration, thus, is determined more by rural-urban differences in expected earnings rather than actual earnings. Todaro's model is considered as the most popular in the literature of migration.

The Todaro's migration model has four basic characteristics:

- ✓ Migration is instigated by rational economic considerations of relative benefits and costs.
- ✓ The decision to migrate depends on expected rather than actual urban-rural real wage differentials. The expected differentials are determined by the interaction of two variables i.e.; the actual urban-rural wage differential and the probability of successfully obtaining employment in the urban sector.



- ✓ The probability of obtaining an urban job is directly related to the urban employment rate and thus inversely related to the urban unemployment rate.
- ✓ Migration rates in excess of urban job opportunity growth rates are not only possible but also rational and even likely in the face of wide urban-rural expected income differentials. High rates of urban unemployment are therefore inevitable outcomes of the serious imbalance of economic opportunities between urban and rural areas in most under-developed countries.

Social Capital Theory

This theory presents the international migration of workers through the networks. Thus, through the network connections, people could go to the country without any difficulties. In this connection, it is not possible to tackle the international flows of workers as the migrants' networks are created outside the country. It takes place whatsoever the policies are implemented to control migration.

CONCLUSION

Migration may be caused due to social, political, economic cause but it fulfils the gap of inequality. Its acts as a bridge between rich and poor nations in the globe. It is challenge for the developing economy to catalyze the rural migrants to urban age. Immigrants have a negative impact on unemployment. Immigrants create more jobs than they fill, especially due to increased demand. In addition to acquiring jobs, immigrants also create jobs through demand for goods and services at their destination. In the long run, the labor market adjusts and unemployment decreases. In the short run, migrant flows appear to depend on the wage level of the host country. Variation in wage rates in the host country has a positive effect on migration flows in the short run. Immigration appears to depend on the level of short-term wages in the host country. The presence of immigrants in the host country appears to have a positive effect on migration flows. Thus, it is concluded that the relationship between immigration and unemployment is negative in the long run while it is positive in the short run. The futuristic approach of a nation towards healthcare, Education, Employment cutdown the forceful migration from developing country to developed nation.

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