

Economics of migration and its aftermath in Jammu & Kashmir

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Abstract

Objectives: To bring out the factor, issues and challenges responsible for migration of people to the state of Jammu & Kashmir and the consequences and aftermath of the migration of people from all over the country to both urban and rural centers.

Methodology/Statistical Analysis: The study has taken National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data for deriving the logical results/findings. For data analysis simple statistical tools like compound growth rates, averages, percentages and prediction analysis has been carried out for deriving meaningful results.

Findings: From the analysis of the data, it has been found that people migrate for searching improved livelihood and decent standard of living. Many regions in the country are underdeveloped/poor and that is the reason they couldn't fulfill the requirements of people and support the population demand, these people therefore, to have access to new things and opportunities migrate to different places. The study further points out that the process of migration is important to understand movement of public to different regions due to change in various socio-economic, socio-cultural and other dimensions of social domain. The study is of the opinion that agriculture the dominant activity and source of earning for both migrant and non-migrant families, expenditure of migrant households on consumption in all respects was more than their production expenditure furthermore, migration of people, their income, expenditure and net savings are positively correlated.

Application/Improvement: The study will be of enormous help for the policy planners to curb the process of migration up to a great extent. The study has laid down policy suggestions which will be of great applicability in the current situation for prohibiting the migration of people to urban centers or even to rural areas.

Keywords: In-migration, Communication, Employment, labour shortage, Rural-urban divide.

1. Introduction

Wide-ranging impacts of migrants like economic, social, cultural etc. have different implications on different families. Migration is associated with longer working hours, miserable working conditions, isolation and very limited access to various needs for living. Migration is a process in which movement of people took place from one place to a different one, (UN 1993). The migration could be of various forms, it can be temporary or permanent in nature, depending upon the conditions favourable [1]. Migration is common phenomenon in present era. Due to Liberalisation Privatisation & Globalisation (LPG), the migration has become a continuous process throughout globe. In many countries, industrialization and economic development is associated with high urbanization. Migration in search of decent living is a key feature of human civilization. Due to migrant earnings income, expenditure patterns and investment got affected but there are some positive impact on incomes and investment also and the impact on asset and income inequality is mixed. Many factors are responsible for migration of people from one place of their choice to another. If we take migration on demographic lines, large population is basis that leads to migration the other two factors are fertility and mortality. Migration has all-round impact on social, political and economic aspects of people.

During 2011 census, India's population crossed 1.21 billion, with approximately, 83.3% village dwellers and 37.7% in urban areas with a difference of 18.1, 9.0 and 9.1% respectively. Out of this the total work force, 73.3% reside in rural India and the rest 26.7% reside in urban areas (Census 2011). During the last three decades, people due to advancement in social and economic well being have large impact on their migration [2].

2. Growth of population

India the second populated country in the world, next to China and is approaching to cross the line of China in next one or two decades. Indian population was 1027 million [3] & its population increased to 1210.2 million (census 2011). As per the area, India stands at the seventh place in the world with only 2.42 % land but feeds almost 17.2 % world population. The Indian population from 1901-11 to 2001-2011 (growth rate) increased from 0.56 % 1.64 %, which is further expected to increase to 1.74 % in 2021. Similarly, for male the average annual exponential growth was 0.61 in 1901-1911 increased overtime to 1.76% and 1.84 in 2021 and for female here is an increase from 0.53 to 1.81% in growth rate, which has gone up to 1.93% during the reference period.

Table 1. Population of J&K by Residence

Census Years	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural population
1901-1911	2.14	0.16	1.98
1911-1921	2.30	0.27	2.02
1921-1931	2.43	0.27	2.16
1931-1941	2.68	0.32	2.36
1941-1951	2.95	0.39	2.57
1951-1961	3.26	0.46	2.80
1961-1971	3.56	0.60	2.97
1971-1981	4.62	0.86	3.76
1981-1991	5.99	1.27	4.73
1991-2001	8.07	1.89	6.18
2001-2011	10.15	2.52	7.63
2011-2021	12.55	3.44	9.11
2021-2031	14.59	4.18	10.42
2031-2041	17.06	5.10	11.96

3. Population extent in J&K

The population in the J&K has increased over the years from 2.1 million in the year 1901 to 12.5 million in the year 2011, whereas the number of people residing in towns and cities of Jammu & Kashmir has increased from 0.2 million in 1901 to 3.4 million in 2011 (Table 1).

Table 2. Growth of population in India (1901-1911 to 2001-2011)

Year	Average Annual Exponential Growth Rate Percent		
	Female	Male	Total
1901-1911	0.53	0.61	0.56
1911-1921	-0.08	0.01	-0.03
1921-1931	1.01	1.06	1.04
1931-1941	1.30	1.36	1.33
1941-1951	1.27	1.25	1.25
1951-1961	1.93	1.99	1.96
1961-1971	2.15	2.27	2.22
1971-1981	2.23	2.18	2.20
1981-1991	2.10	2.17	2.14
1991-2001	1.99	1.92	1.95
2001-2011	1.81	1.76	1.64
2011-2021	1.93	1.84	1.74

Average Annual Exponential

4. Migration and Extent

Present day's migration is an issue for debate and discussion everywhere. Every individual is in search of decent living standard and desires to migrate to highly developed part of the country or city. They opine they will get more avenues and opportunities in their life. In this way, their needs got full-filled. Probably, people settled at developed cities to get all luxuries and comforts.

There are differences about the extent of migration in J&K, beyond what can be expected from normal variations in data and methodology. It is pertinent to address these carefully and institutionally, studies on migration have shown that urbanisation is the factor that results in movement of people from villages to towns or cities.

The less development and less avenues available force the people for migration. Over the years labour migration to the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, Mumbai etc. from economically poorer states like Bihar, Assam, Orissa, and parts of Utter Pradesh are widely been quoted as an example. This factor is the dominant and alone necessitates the need for periodic data on migration. The information presented in Table 2 and 3, revealed that 44.99 % of family members had migrated to different places and the highest were children (47.4%), followed by males persons (45.4%) and females (40.5%) [4].

Table 3. Extent of migration

Migration	Percentage migrated
Males	45.4
Females	40.5
Children	47.4
Total No. of members migrated	44.5

Source: Census, 2011, Average period of migration =14.33 years

5. Factors leading to migration

There are various factors responsible for migration like; Socio-economic, and psychological.

1. Economic factors

Generally, the village people migrate in search of better economic status and well-being. Low paid wages at the home town pulls the people (94.3 %) to migrate, furthermore, most of the people in villages are not able to achieve skilled labour and relevant jobs in the area and many at times they fetch less remuneration wages, which results in migration of people. In addition to this, rain-fed (60%), small holding size (52.5%), landless (50.4%), indebted (39%), timely crop failure (30.4%) and educated unemployment (23%) were other economic reasons which led to migration.

2. Social factors

Social factors like poverty, political instability, turmoil, etc. play a dominant role in migrating people to urban centers. From the Table 3, poverty (85.7%) was root cause behind shifting of people. Unfriendly relations with neighbours or relatives (6.8%) and political pressure (4.4%) were the social binding factors causing long-term migration of the people.

3. Psychological factors

Due to internet and social media, the rural youth is getting attracted towards urban life. This has changed the psychology of the people and intern leads to migration. In the present case, psychology induced higher desire (77.2%) and demonstration effect (59.1%). Same trends were true for short and long term migrations [5].

6. Migration Extent in J& K

During the last one or two decades the flow of labours to Jammu and Kashmir is over whelming. In census 2011, the shifting of people is shown by their residence and their caste. Table 4 presents a brief description of migration in Jammu and Kashmir. There are different categories of migrants listed in the census 2011.

Table 4. Percentage of migrants by duration of residence in the state of Jammu & Kashmir

Residence & Duration	Total	Male	Female
SC migrants within the State	176131	39193	136938
Rural	142998	22173	120825
Urban	10369	3286	7083
Elsewhere in district of enumeration	133285	19733	113552
Rural	8810	2678	6132
Urban	12410	3836	8574
Other districts of the state	12410	3836	8574
Rural	9713	2440	7273
Urban	1559	608	951
SC migrants within the State (Less than 1 year)	2768	1003	1765
Rural	2192	667	1525
Urban	396	239	157
Elsewhere in district of enumeration	2382	799	1583
Rural	1920	547	1373
Urban	294	164	130
SC migrants within the State(1-4 years)	26910	7431	26910
Rural	23645	5797	23645
Urban	1867	715	1867
Elsewhere in district of enumeration	24645	6634	18011
Rural	21840	5234	16606
Urban	1490	536	954
Other districts of the State	2265	797	1468
Rural	1805	563	1242
Urban	377	179	198
SC migrants within the State(5-9 years)	21256	3327	17929
Rural	19387	2839	16548
Urban	1540	415	1125
Elsewhere in district of enumeration	19324	2797	16527
Rural	17724	2398	15326
Urban	1295	337	958
Other districts of the State	1932	530	1402
Rural	1663	441	1222
Urban	245	78	167
SC migrants within the State(10 or above years)	98435	11635	86800
Rural	91905	10365	81540
Urban	4909	1000	3909
Elsewhere in district of enumeration	92207	10386	81821
Rural	86486	9339	77147
Urban	4199	801	3398
Other districts of the State	6228	1249	4979
Rural	5419	1026	4393
Urban	710	199	511

Source: PSA Census of India, 2011

7. Reasons for Migration to Jammu and Kashmir

Due to introduction of concept of liberal economy various changes have taken place in India and around the globe leading to growth of the world economy all over. Not only this it had many social and demographic implications. Rural dwellers have started moving towards urban areas due to lack of basic amenities available to them.

Information and communication technologies boosted and revolutionized the work pattern and have opened ways for new type of jobs in urban set up and large number of young professionals have displaced from one place to another for joining business and technical schools and institutions to acquire new skill and education. These reasons can be classified as social, political, economic, or environmental: economic migration is one where a person moves for finding new job, political migration is the movement due to government failure or political crises in one's own country or locality to escape war like situations; migration due to natural disasters such as floods, earthquake credits to environmental migration and social migration is movement of people for decent living standard or a place close to one's family, friends or relatives.

As per primary census abstract of 2011 data, different migrated persons have different opinion related to their migration to Jammu and Kashmir State. The reasons are enumerated in Table 5. Usually people move for employment from villages to towns. The agricultural activity in rural domain has not remained a remunerative one and is not capable of providing lucrative jobs to the local youth. Along with agriculture medium, small-scale and cottage industries in rural sector is not in a position to provide employment to the entire rural folk. As against this, the urban sector has a vast scope for employment under different sectors like industry, trade, transport and services. Total scheduled caste persons of J&K who migrate for work or employment purpose are 21502; out of this 18328 are male and 3174 are female. Total numbers of migrants to different villages of J&K for employment purposes are 10728 among them 8592 are male migrants and 2136 are female migrants. In the same manner the total numbers of persons migrating to urban J&K are 10774 with 9736 males and 1038 females. When a person moves for the establishment of business unit in another area or place, the person is said to have migrated on account of the business. In census accounts there is a clear distinction between a business unit and a job. A job is an activity for which a person gets wages or salary in cash or kind. Similarly, a business activity is described as an economic activity, which involves lot of risk. In J&K number of scheduled caste persons who migrate for establishment of business unit consists of 2396 persons, out of which 1168 and 1228 are male and female respectively. Similarly, persons migrating to rural Jammu and Kashmir are 1564 with 496 male's and 1068 female and total number of persons who migrate to urban J&K are 832 having 672 males and 160 females. Rural areas, by and large, lack every facility especially quality education at higher education level and in this backdrop rural people migrate to urban centers for acquiring quality education with the result many of them settled down there in cities for earning livelihood after completion of their education. Any person who has moved to join a school or a college, come under the category of Education. However, census has made a clear distinction between the two groups, one who moved voluntarily for education and one who moved along with earning family member. The total numbers of scheduled caste migrants who migrate to J&K in 2011 are 2290 with 1472 males and 818 females. The migrants in rural J&K in 2011 was 984, comparing 632 male and 352 female migrants and total number of migrants in urban J&K in 2011 was 1306 with a male number of 840 and 466 female numbers. Marriage is considered to be the major and dominant cause of migration in India and the world all over. Almost women are married in a young age, between 16 and 20, and mostly rural women are illiterate or have less than a primary school education. The distances of a married girl from her place of marriage are always large, mostly they are sent to a new village, new brides are often subject to violence, and are forced to create a new life in a strange place rarely of their own choice. The number of scheduled caste migrants in J&K during 2011 was 447246 out of this 9394 was males and 437852 was female migrants. During the same period the scheduled caste migrants who migrated to rural J&K were 397304 with 8446 male and 388852 female migrants and the figures of scheduled caste migrants in urban J&K during the same period was 49942 out of this 948 was male's migrants and 48994 female migrants. Census of India has included the "movement after the birth" a reason of migration in the Census 2001. Place of birth is one evident reason mentioned in the census accounts. But proportion of such persons is very low. The number of scheduled caste migrants in J&K during 2011 census was 4074 with 2422 male and 1652 female migrants. Likewise, number of migrants in rural J&K was 3406 with 1975 male and 1428 female migrants and a total of 668 migrants in urban J&K comprising of 467 male migrants and 224 female migrants. Movement along with households to J&K is having a significant impact on the overall migration status of the state. During 1990's hundreds of families migrated from Kashmir to other parts of the state due to various reasons.

The total number of scheduled castes in J&K during the census counts of 2011 are 64200 with a male number of 2422 and female migrants 1652 of migrants migrated to rural J&K was 44660 with 44660 male and 22436 female migrants and number of schedule caste migrants in urban J&K were 19540 having 8360 male and 11174 female migrants. In addition to above mentioned reasons for migration, there are certain other reasons which are being enumerated by the census. The total number of scheduled caste migrants in J&K during the reference period was 109292 with 61804 male and 47488 female migrants.

In rural J&K the total number of migrant's were 84642 with a share of 47310 male and a share of 37332 female and total migrants in urban J&K was 24650 comprising of 14494 male and 10156 female migrants. Reasons behind internal migration in India differ very significantly. Job placement for males and marriage relation for females are the main reasons for migration. The second important reason for migration is moving along with family members in case of both males and females.

Table5. Reasons for migration in Jammu and Kashmir

Particulars	Work/Employment as a reasons for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	21502	18328	3174
Rural	10728	8592	2136
Urban	10774	9736	1038
	Business as reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	2396	1168	1228
Rural	1564	496	1068
Urban	832	672	160
	Education as reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	2290	1472	818
Rural	984	632	352
Urban	1306	840	466
	Marriage as a reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	447246	9394	437852
Rural	397304	8446	388852
Urban	49942	948	48994
	Movement after birth as a reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	4074	2422	1652
Rural	3406	1975	1428
Urban	668	467	224
	Movement along with Household as a reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	64200	30590	33610
Rural	44660	22224	22436
Urban	19540	8360	11174
	"Others" as a reason for Migration		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total Scheduled Caste migrants within the State	109292	61804	47488
Rural	84642	47310	37332
Urban	24650	14494	10156

Source: PSA Census of India, 2011

8. Causes of migration

Migration is influenced both by the developmental pattern (NCRL, 1991), and the social structure [6]. The uneven development along with inter-regional disparity, disparity between different socio-economic classes and the development policy adopted since independence has accelerated the process of seasonal migration (Rural Labour Commission). Given the variety in the nature of migration in state, being a state with different geography & landscape, the causes are also inevitable to vary.

In mountainous states like Jammu and Kashmir, many factors like interference of foreigners, the settlement pattern, displacement, dislocation and deforestation, also have played a significant role. Mostly the studies on migration literature do make a demarcation between 'pull factors' and 'push factors', but in practicality they do not operate in isolation. Movement of people takes place only when workers in source areas lack definite options for employment/livelihood, and by migration they thought of improvement in circumstances which they were living.

The progress can be seen in terms of better employment or higher wages/incomes. The landless poor people, mostly lower stratum of society, indigenous groups, economically backward and poor regions, migrate for subsistence and livelihood constitute a substantial proportion of seasonal labour flow (Study Group on Migrant Labour, 1990). For a household or an individual, factors like age, education level, wealth, land owned, productivity and job opportunities plays a significant role in migration from one place to another [7-9].

9. Impact of migration on natural resources

The natural growth in human population and due to migration is constantly growing in the state. The human population is continuously growing but the natural resources are getting reduced due to ever increasing population growth. The population in the state is 1.25 crores and the official record of migrant labour in the Kashmir region only is 3-5 lakh. Due to this increase in the human population, there has been increased pressure on the natural resources that we rely on for survival. Natural resources include a variety of substances and energy sources that we take from the environment and use. They can be divided into renewable and non-renewable resources. The over growing population has a tremendous pressure on the land resources, farm produce, employment in the skilled and unskilled and semi-skilled sectors. The in-migration of labour force has its impact on the natural resources like air, water, soil etc. of the state. The migrated people have its negative impacts on the health and hygiene of the state as well.

10. Consequences of migration

10.1. Economic impacts of migration

1. Positive impacts

Many a times migrated workers take up less desirable, menial jobs which in habitants would not take but are of high social value in this context the host place can acquire skilled labour force at cheap market rates. In this way the gap in deficit regions could be filled by migrant labour. Not only is this but the cost of retirement transferred to the original place of its origin.

2. Negative impacts

The children of migrant labours need to be educated; they should know the original culture and language of the host state/country. Most of the times there is overdependence in some industries on migrant labour, leading to a lack of jobs for people native to the host state/country. Much of the money earned by migrants is not spent in the host state/country and is instead spent back to the state/country of origin. Migrant labours always increase the pressure on resources and services such as health care systems.

10.2. Social impacts

1. Positive impacts

Due to migration the creation of a multiethnic society increases understanding and tolerance of other cultures. The process brings new or rejuvenated services e.g. Kabab shops and Turkish Baths in Kashmir. People from other states/countries will encourage the dissemination of new ideas and learning of new languages, helping people to develop skills for working in different areas of the world/country.

2. Negative impacts

Normally, the male are most prone to migration there is dominance of males, especially in societies where women already have a low status. Living in a different atmosphere will affect the cultural identity of the migrants and their identity gets lost, especially in second generation children.

10.3. Other implications of migrations

1. Negative impacts

1. Leads to increase in wage rate and enhances cost of cultivation
2. Social values and social ties got affected
3. Leads to cultural degradation and degeneration of moral values.

2. Positives impact

1. Increase income
2. Quality of work
3. Development of urban sectors
4. Farmers labour shortage combating strategies
5. The hiring of labourers from other regions
6. Excessive use of family labour
7. Adoption of labour saving technologies
8. Growing of less labour intensive crops
9. Leaving land fallow

11. Conclusion

Outmigration is at faster pace in the country and same is the case with Jammu and Kashmir. Mostly, the youngsters are migrating in search of quality education, decent job opportunities, and for decent living standard. Male outmigration has made agriculture as female dominated pursuit. Feminization of agriculture has emerged as one the notable consequences of male outmigration. As per the above mentioned data and analysis, the migrants belong to lower sections of the society. The study revealed that it is to Delhi and Punjab from Bihar and to Maharashtra and Delhi from UP. Unemployment, under employment and new and modern avenues available in the urban centers has emerged as the most important reasons for out-migrating. The other factors which are having negative impact on migration are per capita availability of land, income from other remittances and caste of the individual. From the positive side the migrants enjoy a decent life in urban centers, enjoying the health and hygiene. Migration of male folk has increased the responsibilities of the female folk and has made them powerful in taking household decisions related to agriculture, purchase of grocery, education of their children etc.

12. Policy suggestions

Farmers can be imparted modern teaching and skills pertaining to agriculture for increasing their productivity in the farm, and it will intern check the out migration. MGNREGA works should be paid equal to the normal agricultural workers. Modern scientific education will impart skill to the rural people and intern will boost the rural economy by increasing agricultural produce and productivity. New scientific tools and implements will glamour to agriculture sector by mechanizing its activity and location specific demand. Extension network to far flung areas should be extended and strengthened.

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