

Cause and Effect of Rural to Urban Migration in Delhi

Sayak Ray¹, J. Balamurugan²

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Abstract

These days migration of immigrants to big metropolitan cities has become a common phenomenon. This happens due to them having the hope that this causes them to have a better lifestyle and will help them be more successful. People in rural areas have the idea that to be successful, moving to an urban city is the key and while this may be some what true it also comes with its own struggles and difficulties due to mass competition and work load. This study has been done to find out the cause and impact that rural migration has on an urban area specifically Delhi.

Keywords: Migration; Rural; Urban; Delhi; Employment; Economy; Housing.

INTRODUCTION

Background

People migrating from rural areas to urban cities has been common through out the world since a long time. It can be seen that almost a third of the Indian population resides outside their home towns, this migration is directly linked to the

growth of the economy as it provides cheap labour. These trends need to be studied as they can tell us a lot about the growth trends in both urban and rural areas.¹ Delhi is one of the most popular places for people to migrate to as it has one of India's highest per capita incomes and is our countries capital so has a lot of job opportunities and is therefore ideal to research for our paper.

Significance of the Study

India though is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, it is still a rural country as 68.4% of the Indian population resides in rural areas. Therefore, it is essential that rural areas be developed as without it India will reach a stagnant point where even though the urban areas are developed more than half the country will still remain undeveloped. This is why it is important to study the migration as it can tell us why migrants seek to move to urban areas and what problems rural areas have so, we can solve them and make the rural areas more developed.

Author's Affiliation: ¹Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Languages, ²B.Tech Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Computer Science and Engineering, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore 632014, Tamil Nadu, India.

Corresponding Author: J. Balamurugan, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore 632014, Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: balasocio@gmail.com

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The people in rural communities who move to urban cities though have high hopes and expect to have a better lifestyle, are often disappointed as there is a lot of competition especially as they come to cities as unskilled or uneducated, they only make the minimum wage and are exploited as the competition for every single job is so high. They end up having to live in unhygienic areas where even the basic living necessities like drinking water etc are not available and have to work for a wage so low that their families can barely pay their basic monthly expenses.²

All said and done it is to be noted that over migration is also not a good thing as one of our countries greatest parts of economy is agriculture and that shouldn't be neglected. Over Migration can also cause problems like pollution. Migration has both pros and cons and as it provides cheap and skilled labour and reduces the costs of products of the urban city but it also takes away skilled labour from rural areas who need it which greatly impacts their development. This paper tries to study migration and its effects in a detailed manner and present the results found.

Literature Review

*Sunil Kumar and Tushar Kanti Das*³ This study had the goal to find out the socioeconomic aspect of rural to urban migration to Delhi. It found out that migration is a highly male selective process as most migrants tend to come alone leaving their families behind. Working migrants tend to be more educated as it is seen as a factor to get higher paying jobs. It was seen that Delhi has much to gain from migration as it gains a lot of hard working skilled workers who are eager to get jobs and desperate to earn more money and that this also enhances their cultures by bringing in people from all over the country.

*Simran*⁴ In this the link between rural development and rural to urban migration is studied. It was seen that rural development can both encourage and discourage migration. But at this moment it is still done on a high scale as rural areas still don't have many resources that urban cities have. The standard for living index was found to have been increasing generally for migrants.

*Jessica Diehl, Kate Oviatt, Amanda Chandra and Harpreet Kaur*⁵ Here the basics needs like food security of migrant workers were studied. It was seen that most of the workers like farmers were under constant pressure and risked eviction but continued to stay as they in their opinion the benefits outweighed the risks. Even though

during monsoon flooding the government tried to help them by providing tents and foods, the over whelming population of migrants meant that this provided minimal help to them but they still wanted to stay as it meant providing money for their families back home.

*Yadlapalli Kusuma, Rita Kumari, Chandrakant Pandav and Sanjeev Gupta*⁶ This study tells us about the medical conditions like immunization of migrants especially their children. It was seen that most migrants are not fully immunized and are at risk of not only falling ill if coming to urban areas but also may spread diseases that are local to their villages and therefore could get people who have not been exposed and immunised to these diseases to fall sick. Due to this investing in proper affordable healthcare is a must.

*Haroon Sajjad and Puroa Jain*⁷ The goal of this paper was to study the socioeconomic vulnerabilities that urban migrants have. The socio-economic status of most migrants is seen as low income having jobs that don't require much skill in the unorganized sector with insufficient education. They tend to live in the poorest areas in unhygienic conditions with even basic necessities like drinking water not available. Unless their conditions are improved it is very difficult for them to rise above poverty.

*N Neetha*⁸ This paper tells us about the female perspective of migration to urban areas. Generally, women tend to stay back at home in the case of India while the male goes to the urban city to earn. Though these days this is changing as the intensity of female labour migration is increasing rapidly. They are not considered the passive movers who stay behind and follow the bread earners anymore. This is changing the work dynamic in places like Delhi where woman labourers initially didn't exist in a large scale.

*T. Kurosaki, Y. Sawada, A. Banerji and S.N. Mishra*⁹ Here poverty especially of urban migrants is studied along with the conditions of their families back home. It can be seen 40% of the migrant families are landless or have very small plots of land and this is one of the reasons that they come to urban areas as they have no proper source of income back in their villages. But it can be seen that even after coming to the city though their conditions have improved a bit, no drastic change can be seen in their livelihood and they still have to live in poverty.

*Sangita Kumari*¹⁰ This paper studies the determinants and factors of migration. It can be seen that obviously the primary reason for migration is the dream for a better lifestyle for people living in rural areas. Though it can be seen that most

migrants get stuck in a minimum wage paying jobs due to pressure and lack of education. There is a slight change in their lifestyles but overall, they remain under constant pressure and earn minimum wage which is barely enough to sustain and feed an entire family.

*Harpreet Singh*¹¹ This study gives a detailed analysis over the benefits of rural urban migration. It says that rural urban migration can be viewed as a challenge as it can help in the development of slum areas. It can create various diverse economic opportunities in the city. Migration can be seen as the response to inequality in the distribution of resources. It also has some disadvantages as it can be seen that there is a shift from agriculture, which is an integral part of the economy, to urban jobs.

*Prabir Bhattacharya*¹² This paper tries to establish a relationship between rural urban migration to a few of the economic changes happening in our country. It shows that migration has had a boom in informal manufacturing which has created lots of jobs and also lowered the prices of goods in the country. The informal sector has developed a lot and is now a bigger part of our economy than before due to migration which offer cheap but skilled labour. But this has led to the exploitation of the migrants who come to urban areas due to competition.

*Arjan De Haan*¹³ This paper studies the role that families have in the process of rural to urban migration. It can be seen that this loop of migration can be explained due to the rural family strategies. Marriage opportunities or already established kinships act like the central force drawing the labourers back to their home towns and communities. It also shows that labour migration is determined by the economic and the cultural considerations which decide the socio-economic behaviour of both men and women.

*Robert E. Lucas, Jr.*¹⁴ The goal of the paper is to learn about rural urban migration and urbanization. The process of rural urban migration can be seen

as the change of labour from traditional land intensive technology to the human capital intensive technology which has an extremely high growth potential. The study looks into the role of towns and cities as places where migrants can learn the skills needed by modern machines and technologies.

METHODOLOGY

In this paper the researcher has gone through various research papers and articles about rural urban migration to collect information and data for a detailed analysis on the causes and effects that this migration has on both the people and the economy. The collected data is used to provide a detailed analysis on the quality of life of migrants and their families, the challenges they have to face, the problems they have, the problems mass migration may cause, how the economy of the city is affected by migration, the benefits and disadvantages of migration from rural to urban cities and finally the main challenges and solutions that this migration has. A detailed report on all of these topics has been made and presented using this research paper.

RESULT

Data Analysis

The population in Delhi has grown at a significant rate during the last years. The population in NCR has gone from 111 lakhs to 371 lakhs in the span of 40 years from 1961 to 2001. This data is taken from the 2001 census. Currently NCR population is 460 lakhs. Clearly migration along with natural population growth is causing this huge boom in population. At the same time in Delhi the population has risen from 40.66 lakhs to 138.5 lakhs in 2001. During the same period migrant population has increased from 8.67 lakhs to 22.22 lakhs.

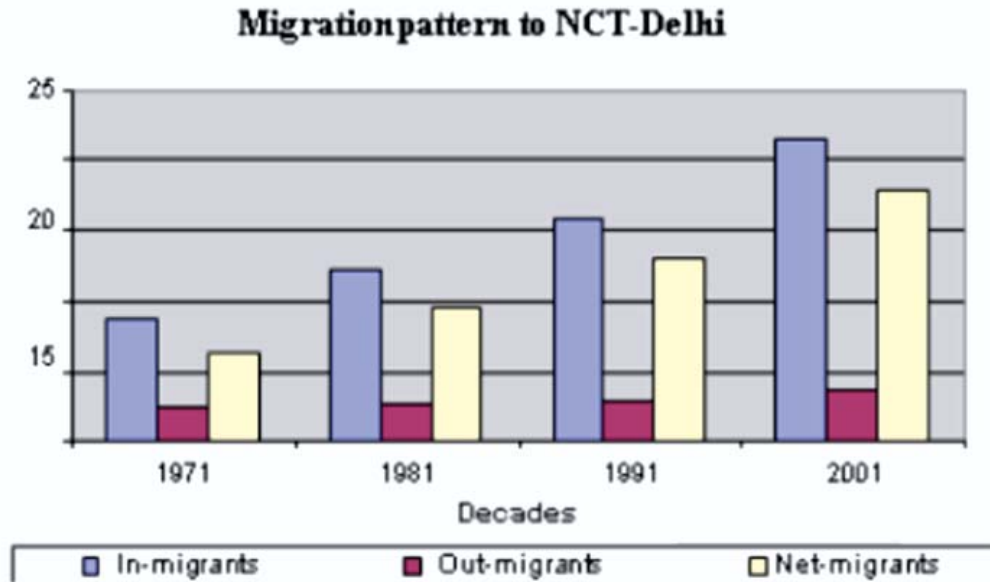
Table 1: Increase in Population and migration to Delhi (1961-2001)

Year of study	1971	1981	1991	2001
Population (in lakhs)	40.66	62.2	94.2	138.5
Growth Rate in the decade (%)	52.91	53	51.45	47.03
Population Increase (in lakh)	14.07	21.54	32	44.3
<i>Migration Components (in lakh)</i>				
Migrants arriving	8.76	12.3	15.87	22.22
Migrants Leaving	2.42	2.78	2.82	4.58*
Overall migrants in city	6.34	9.52	13.05	17.64

Statistics and Interpretations:

Source: Taken from the Indian Census – Years: 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001.

The Table 1 can be seen that the rate of migration to Delhi NCR has been increasing consistently as time goes on. In the decadal comparison between 1961-71 and 1991-2001 the addition to the population has



Taken from the Indian Census – Years: 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001.

Fig. 1: Migration pattern to NCT-Delhi

increased from 14.07 lakhs to 44.30 lakhs respectively. So, no matter what time period the net and migrant population in Delhi NCR is increasing continuously.

Though the fig. 1 find surprisingly the rate of growth of migrant population has decreased significantly from 50.16% in 1971-1981 to a much lower percentage of 35.17% in the decade 1991-2001. But the natural population’s growth rate has in turn increased from 55.50% in the years 1971-1981 to as high as 57.65% in the years 1981-1991 but then it decreased to 39.82% in the years 1991-2001.

Table 2: Migration pattern in Delhi

Years	Population Increase	Total Migration (in lakhs)	Migrant Growth Rate in the decade	Population (Natural growth)	Population (Natural growth) Growth Rate in the decade	Migration Ratio: Population (Natural Increase)	Percentage of Migrants growth in population	Percentage of natural growth compared to total growth of population
1961-71	14.07	6.34	-	7.73	-	0.82	45.06	54.94
1971-81	21.54	9.52	50.16	12.02	55.50	0.79	44.20	55.80
1981-91	32	13.05	37.08	18.95	57.65	0.69	40.78	59.21
1991-2001	44.30	17.64	35.17	26.66	40.69	0.66	39.82	60.18

Source: Taken from the Indian Census - Years 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001.

The table 2 shows that the overall migrant population though is always increasing, but the rate of increase in the population has slowed down significantly over the years. So overall the migration to Delhi is still happening but it is definitely slowing down at a significant rate as their rural areas have become more developed which leads to more employment and better quality of life and hence gives the people of the area a reason to stay there instead of moving to Delhi NCR. This has both positive and negative implications for Delhi as a declining growth rate means less population and more even distribution of resources but it also means that the number skilled and cheap labour that is boosting Delhi’s economy is also slowly decreasing

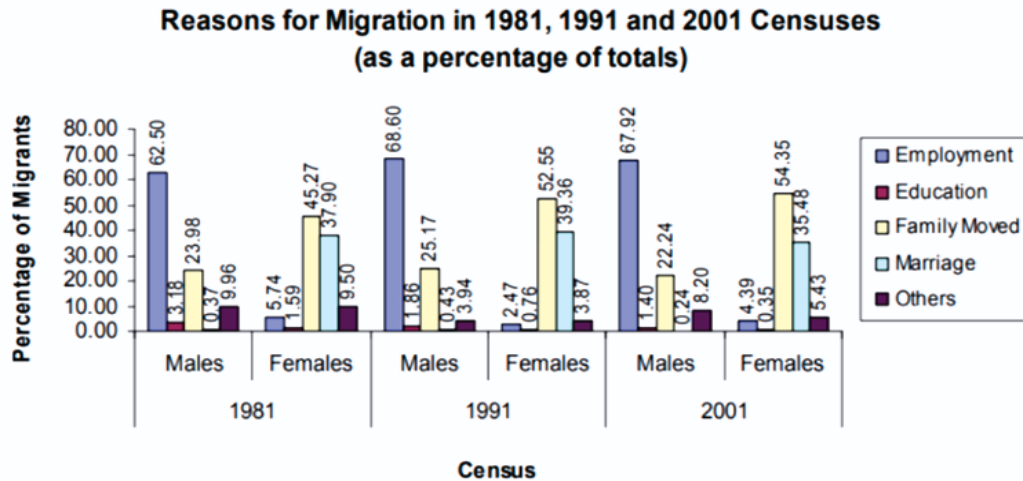


Fig. 2: Reasons for Migration

which means increased cost of products etc.

Taken from the Indian Census – Years 1981,1991,2001. The fig. 2 shows that the reason for migration. It clearly found that, the most of the migrants are from rural areas looking for a better quality of life and are majorly from the state of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

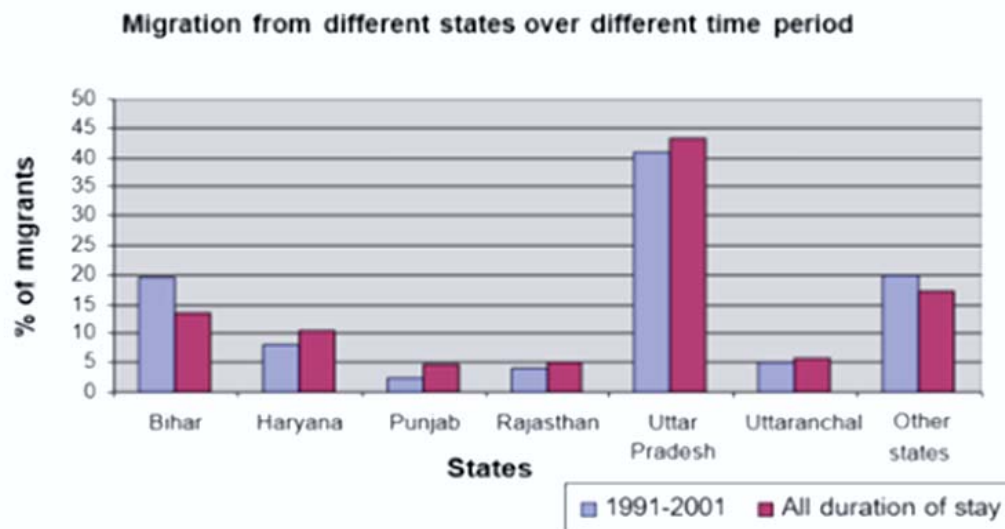


Fig. 3: Migration from different states to Delhi

Taken from the Indian Census - Years 1991-2001.

The Fig. 3 shows the migration from different states to Delhi over different period of time. It can also be seen that the migrant population has been increasing every year but the growth rate for it has decreased in the last decade as compared to previous years.

Findings

Overall, it can be seen that the majority of migrants (67.92%) come to Delhi for job and employment opportunities. While the female migrants are in Delhi generally due to marriage and due to their families relocating.

Looking at the census it can be seen that most

migrants come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who combined contribute to 64.35% of the total migrant population of Delhi. Uttar Pradesh in itself contributes 45.16% of this population. Other states include Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab who each have a significant amount of migrant population in Delhi. It can also be seen that most of the districts in these states that migrants come from are typically

rural.¹⁵

It is also seen that most migrants move to Delhi for employment reasons this contributes to 67.92% of the migrant population for males. For females the primary reason for migration is because their family has relocated to Delhi and Marriage. A low percentage, 1.45% of males also list Education as their reason for migration whereas this is 0.35% for females. So, employment and family relocating are the primary reasons to migrate to Delhi according to the 2001 census.³

Impact

This information shows that migration has definitely impacted Delhi in both good and bad ways. It has provided Delhi with cheap and skilled labour and helped bring down the cost of products while not impacting the quality. But on the other hand, it also has caused over population and is slowly causing the depletion of resources in Delhi which means worse living conditions for both the migrants and the residents.

Role

Role of migration is huge as shown above it clearly not only impacts Delhi but also states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar etc. from where the majority of the migrant population is coming from. It plays a huge role in the economic development in all of these states while also causing problems like over population in Delhi and skilled labour leaving states like Uttar Pradesh etc. who require it for their own economic development.

Present Situation:

It can be seen that migrant population is still growing but the growth rate has definitely decreased over the years. So even though more migrants are coming to Delhi every year it does seem to be slowing down showing positive results as it means people are happy in their own home towns and don't feel the need to uproot their lives and move some where else to get better jobs and facilities.

Summary

In the above report we can see the topic migration to Delhi from many angles and the reasons motivating people living in rural areas to change their lives by moving to urban areas like Delhi. Lack of development and infrastructure causes less opportunities for people to pursue so they come to

Delhi in the hope that they can pursue their dreams and get good paying jobs to help and support their families back home. This though may seem like a source of a variety of problems in Delhi it can be seen that urban areas without them wouldn't have the cheap and skilled labour that is very clearly helping to boost Delhi's economy but is also doing so by increasing the competition between these labourers for minimum wage paying jobs and also decreasing their already low wages as they simply don't have any other choice as not agreeing with these terms would lead to their replacement from other migrants willing to work under these conditions. As seen above over population is one of the biggest problems as the migrants moving here tend to not have proper places to live or proper living conditions as they are coming and adding to the population of a city which is already vastly over populated and is starting to be depleted of resources required for people's proper living conditions.

In all it can be seen that migration is a necessity for a city like Delhi and also for the people living in rural areas but at the same time is causing problems like over population and depleting necessary resources which urban cities these days already seem to be having a lack of.

DISCUSSION

Migration up to a certain point is beneficial, but migration in excess can harm both the city and the migrants due to excessive competition and population, which depletes the city's resources. The primary objective of this paper is to discuss potential solutions to this problem and to help the reader comprehend the difficulties migrants face and why it is essential to implement these solutions. First, we must consider why migrants feel compelled to abandon their home towns and move to a new city, where costs and competition for jobs are typically much higher. To resolve this, we must initiate rural area development. Only developing infrastructure in urban areas would result in the same over population problem, which would deplete resources and increase costs. Ultimately, we must begin to consider the millions of migrants currently residing in our country and assist them so they have access to the bare necessities of existence.

CONCLUSION

We can see that from above that migration comes with a lot of advantages and at the same time brings

with it a lot of problems. In all we need to think that why would people living in rural areas feel the need to move and go to live in urban areas to fulfil their dreams and get employment. Along with making urban areas more migrant friendly we should also focus on making rural areas more developed so people don't feel the compulsion to move to urban cities to earn more money or get better jobs.

The government has to focus on two aspects to improve migrant lifestyle one is to actually provide better resources and living conditions for migrants who are currently living in the city as they have to under go a lot of pressure while here and have very unsafe living conditions with even basic necessities like clean water and electricity not available. Job security for migrants should be increased as they shouldn't have to live in constant fear that even a little negotiating in job conditions will lead them to be fired for the next person. Other than this rather than only making Delhi a better place for migrants to come work in the government should focus on making rural areas more developed and create job opportunities and good living conditions there also so that the migrants don't feel the necessity to leave their families in search for better pay and job opportunities and instead have a choice of staying back and working in the place they live in and getting compensated well for it.

While the solutions above sound good there are limitations to what the government can do now as due to over population of migrants it is extremely difficult to provide basic living necessities like maintaining proper water quality or provide ample land to everyone at an affordable cost as there are more people than resources. Also, it is extremely difficult to develop rural areas as it takes a lot of funding and effort and it is a slow process which cannot happen overnight. So, these solutions have to be applied for migrants and are absolutely necessary but unfortunately are also costly and time consuming.

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