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CHANGES IN PATTERNS OF MIGRATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH SINCE 1991

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2017)

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Migration as a phenomenon has existed since the earliest civilizations. Research in migration got impetus with Laws of Migration propounded by Ravenstein in 1889. Many studies analyzing patterns of migration in various parts of the country have been carried out by various scholars from different universities and research organizations in India. But studies pertaining to patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh, where migration has been a recent phenomenon, are conspicuously absent. Keeping in mind the increasing significance of volume and effects of migration in the state, this research work is an endeavor to study the changes in patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh since 1991, the year when migration scenario changed abruptly in the mountainous state with unprecedented expansion of manufacturing industry in its lower parts; tourism industry at certain feasible and remunerative spots; horticulture and development of hydropower stations in the upper parts of the state.

Out migration has conventionally been a characteristic feature of migrational profile of Himachal Pradesh. Mountainous topography of the state is not favourable for development of industry and infrastructure. Subsistence agriculture is practiced which leaves minimum scope for absorption of even local labour.

However, under the Economic Policy of the State industrial zones were set up in Himachal Pradesh in 1990s. Subsequent rise in employability, leading to elevated demand of manpower, attracted job seekers from states with lower employability. Resultant to all this is the increase in mobility of population in Himachal Pradesh.

Objectives

Main objectives of the study were to (i) understand the changes in patterns of in and out migration since 1991 (ii) bring out the patterns of in and out migration by sex and rural-urban nature of place of residence (iii) bring out the reasons for in and out migration (iv) study the impacts of migration on sex ratio, literacy and occupational structure of the state.

Database and Methodology

This study incorporates data drawn substantially from Migration Tables of India and Himachal Pradesh released by the Census of India 1991 and 2001; which have further been supplemented with data generated through a comprehensive field survey carried out in the Baddi tehsil of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh. For the collection of primary data, a semi-structured interview

schedule was prepared to collect all the relevant information from migrant workers. To demonstrate the spatial patterns of migration, various maps have been prepared in GIS environment. Flow maps have been prepared to show the volume and direction of migration. Pie diagrams depicting male-female and rural-urban composition of migrants have been used extensively.

Organization of Material

This study comprises of five chapters in addition to introduction and summary of conclusions. Introductory part of the thesis presents conceptual framework, review of literature, study area, objectives of the study, research questions and methodology adopted to answer the research questions. It also provides an overview of migration in India at the state and district level. First chapter of the study deals with Patterns of Inter-State Migration in Himachal Pradesh. Important attributes like volume of migration, composition of migrants, duration of residence and reasons of migration in Himachal Pradesh have been discussed in this chapter. Second chapter brings out rural-urban flows of migration. Third chapter deals with the changes in patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh since 1991. This chapter provides an answer to the basic question of how push and pull factors operating in various areas of the state have changed in response to the contemporary processes of development, urbanization and industrialization. In chapter four, selected socio-economic attributes of migrants namely sex-ratio, literacy and occupational structure have been discussed. Fifth chapter is a micro level case study conducted in tehsil Baddi of district Solan providing an insight into the demographic, socio-economic and migrational profile of migrants. This chapter is based exclusively on primary data collected by means of a field

survey.

Results and Discussions

Net migration (difference between in-migration and out-migration) in Himachal Pradesh was negative for the period under study. A decrease in net migration has been observed during 1991-2001. Though there was an increase in number of both in-migrants and out-migrants; a decrease in net migration has been seen because of higher proportionate increase in number of in-migrants in comparison to the corresponding increase in number of out-migrants.

Spatial distribution of migrants in Himachal Pradesh from other states of the country follows contours of relief, which in turn determine the level of development and accessibility. In-migrants were concentrated mainly in semi-hilly border districts namely Solan, Kangra, Una and Sirmour.

Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Bihar were the states of origin reported by a substantial proportion of migrants in Himachal Pradesh. Migration from neighbouring states viz. Punjab and Haryana was primarily marriage migration of females, besides some male migrants who were gainful migrants. On the other hand, migration from distant states, like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, was characterized by dominance of males making a move for economic gains.

Out-migration from Himachal Pradesh was directed mainly towards Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh and Haryana. Male migrants from Himachal Pradesh moved in large number to Delhi and Chandigarh, while females migrated mainly to neighbouring states, like Punjab and Haryana. This shows that male migration spread over longer distances in comparison to their female counterparts. Male migrants also moved to farther destinations as well, wherever there were better employment opportunities.

Female migration, on the other hand, was primarily a result of matrimonial alliances taking place within the same socio-cultural region spreading over a few square kilometres.

Reasons for migration vary among males and females, because of different socio-economic roles played by the two genders. Male migration was governed largely by economic factors, while female migration was led by familial/social factors. Males whether in-migrants or out-migrants, were gainful migrants who moved in response to better sources of livelihood. Females, on the other hand, were primarily marriage migrants who moved to their respective spouses' places post marriage. 'Family Moved' was another important reason of female migration.

Rural-to-rural migration was the most prevalent among all the four streams of migration. Females outnumbered their male counterparts in this stream of migration. This was because a large part of rural-to-rural migration comprises of female marriage migrants. Urban-to-urban migration was another stream in which females were reported in higher numbers in comparison to males. Rural-to-urban and urban-to-rural streams of migration were male dominated. Migrants of all the four streams were concentrated in semi-hilly areas close to districts located in plain areas of the state. A considerable proportion of urban migrants reported in district Shimla, which is hilly and interior in location, owing to its administrative importance as the capital city and being the only Class I city of Himachal Pradesh. Largest number of migrants in all the four streams was reported from the neighbouring state of Punjab. Number of women coming from Punjab was exceptionally higher than their male counterparts whereas males were reported in larger proportion from distant states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

As far as streams of out migration from

Himachal Pradesh are concerned, rural-to-urban out migration was the pre-dominant. Reasons for out migration from Himachal Pradesh varied between males and females. Males cited economic reasons as the primary cause for their movement, while females on the other hand, reported to have made a move mainly on familial/social grounds.

Sex ratio of in-migrants was more than that of the native population of the state during both the census years under study. An excess of females over males was reported among in-migrants of Himachal Pradesh. Rural-urban differential in sex ratio of in-migrants was apparent.

Patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh have changed unprecedentedly during 1991-2001. As far as in-migration is concerned, unpredictable change in volume of in-migrants was reported in districts where either the developmental activities have started of late or industrial growth took place abruptly. Recent exploration of the remote districts namely Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahul & Spiti induced some migration where magnitude of migration used to be almost nil. Magnitude of migration is still quite low in absolute numbers, but change that has been seen over the past census years is incredible. Districts experiencing rapid industrial development were obvious to attract remarkable number of migrants because of unparalleled rise in employability.

With the change in patterns of in-migration, there was a corresponding change in patterns of out-migration. Apart from increase in volume of out-migration, destinations now spread to farther states/union territories. Migrants from Himachal Pradesh have been reported to almost all the states/union territories of the country. Migrants were reported to places as far as Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu away from the mainland of India. Increase in-migration over longer distances is

attributable to enhanced knowledge about more places and opportunities therein; and increased affordability to travel to far off places.

A case study was conducted to study different attributes of migration and migrants at micro level. For the purpose of case study, tehsil Baddi was selected as the study area where in-migration for economic reasons is supposed to be the highest. An attempt was made to study demographic, social and migrational profile of migrant workers in tehsil Baddi of Himachal Pradesh on the basis of primary survey. As far as demographic attributes of migrant workers are concerned it was found that migrant labour market was dominated by young unmarried males of productive age group. Literacy level among migrant population was seventy per cent, but educational level of migrants was quite low with none of the migrants having attained any higher/vocational/professional qualification. Most of the migrants came from socially backward sections namely scheduled castes and other backward classes. Females were associational migrants moving with their husbands/families. Economically backward states namely Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were the main source of migrant workers. Migrants in tehsil Baddi did not intend to settle here

permanently. They intended to return to their native places once they had passed their productive years. Most of the migrant workers migrate under financial compulsion. Manufacturing and construction labour market were the two main sectors employing migrants. Migrants whose families were staying back home remitted a part or whole of their savings which was spent on household consumption items, education of children, construction of pucca houses, marriages etc. Migrants who had brought their families along with them did not send any remittances back home.

This study strengthens the push-pull model of migration and validates the laws of migration given by Lee in 1966 regarding the streams of migration. The study has revealed that out-migrants follow well defined routes and move to highly specified destinations whereas in-migration to Himachal Pradesh is generating a counter stream of out-migrants. Besides, push-pull factors, place of destination is also influenced by social networks of potential migrants. This was applicable to both in and out migrants in Himachal Pradesh. This validates Social Network Theories of migration.