

UNIT

5

Migration



Learning Objectives

- To understand the concept of migration
- To learn about the extent of migration in India and Tamil Nadu
- To analyse the factors underlying migration



Introduction

Concept of Migration

In any settlement-village or town- change in population occurs due to birth, death and migration. Of these three components of population change, birth and death is clearly identifiable events while migration poses the maximum amount of problem with regards to its definition and measurement. As almost everyone keeps moving most of the time, it is not easy to define which of these moves have to be classified as migratory moves.

In the Census of India, migration is enumerated on two bases

- Place of birth:** If the place of birth is different from the place of enumeration (known as life-time migrant).
- Place of residence:** If the place of last residence is different from the place of enumeration (known as migrant, by place of last residence).

5.1 Extent of migration in India and Tamil Nadu

In India, the Census of 2011 enumerated a total population of 121 crores, of which 45 crore people were reported as migrants, according to the definition of the place of last residence. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu out of 7.2 crore people, 3.13 crore people were counted as migrants, in 2011. That is, the percentage of migrants was 37 percent in the country, while it was at a much higher rate in Tamil Nadu at 43 percent.

Generally, one tends to associate migration with urban areas. However, we find that in India as well as Tamil Nadu, the extent of migration is much higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. In 2011, 37 percent of the population are counted as migrants in rural areas while the corresponding percentage in urban India is 27 percent. In Tamil Nadu, migrants account for 41 percent in rural areas



and 35 percent in urban areas, in 2011. That is, the mobility of population in rural areas is greater than that in urban areas.

Further, one usually associates mobility with males rather than females. However, an examination of data clearly indicates that a larger proportion of females are reported to be migrants compared to males. In the country as a whole, 53 percent are female migrants while 23 percent are male migrants, in 2011. In Tamil Nadu, the picture is very similar, with more than half the females (52%) reporting their status as migrants, by place of last residence, and 35 percent are male migrants.

Now, why is there such a large percentage of migration among women? 70 percent in India and 51 percent in Tamil Nadu report marriage as the reason for migration of females in 2011. That is, marriage and the movement associated with marriage appear to be a major factor responsible for women's mobility in India and Tamil Nadu. Movement related to work and employment appears to be the driving force for migration, among men. Of all the male migrants in India, 28 percent report 'work' as the major reason for their migration, in 2011. The corresponding percentage in Tamil Nadu is 26 percent.

To sum up, in Tamil Nadu, two out of every five persons is reported to be a migrant in the year 2011. Incidence of migrants is higher in rural areas and larger among women. Tamil Nadu has a history of migration and people have moved for various reasons such as trade, business, employment etc, to various countries. During the colonial period, labourers had moved to other colonies seeking work and wages. In the more recent period workers from Tamil Nadu have been moving to countries in the Gulf, United States of America and Australia. In 2015, an independent research study was conducted to understand the level, nature and pattern of migration in Tamil Nadu. This study has

made some interesting findings, as discussed below:

- Of the total migrants in Tamil Nadu, 65 percent have migrated or moved abroad while 35 percent have moved within the country.
- Chennai district has recorded the maximum number of emigrants followed by Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Tiruchirapalli districts.
- Cuddalore, Karur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Namakkal, Salem, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts record low number of emigrants.

This study also provides information about the sex and destination of migrants from Tamil Nadu.

- Of the total migrants who go to foreign countries, nearly 20% have chosen to go to Singapore, while 18% to the United Arab Emirates, 16% to Saudi Arabia, 13 % to the United States of America; and Malaysia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Australia and England are also referred as important destinations for migrants from Tamil Nadu in the year 2015.
- Of the international migrants, 15 percent are women, while 85 percent are men.

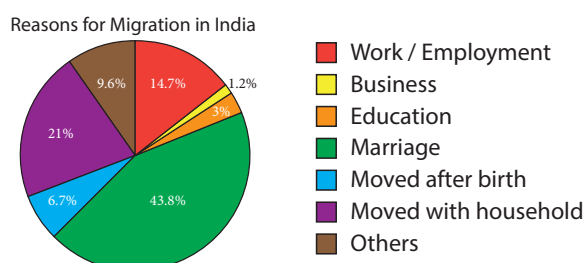
On the question of educational qualifications of migrants from Tamil Nadu, the study reveals that in 2015 about 7 % were illiterates; 30 % have completed Class X; 10 % have completed Class XII; 15 % had undergone vocational training; 11 % were graduates; 12% were professionally qualified and 11 % had Post Graduate degrees.

The study clearly reveals various occupations undertaken by the migrants: highly skilled professions on one hand and low skilled occupations on the other, along with a large number of semi-skilled occupations.

5.2 Factors underlying migration

The extent and nature of migration in any society is basically determined by the nature of the development process experienced by that society. That is, the type and scale of development achieved by the agricultural and industrial sectors in an economy would determine the migratory patterns.

In India and Tamil Nadu, though the agricultural and industrial sectors have grown over the years, inequalities still exist in asset and income distribution. Endemic poverty continues to be a major problem.



The growth processes have also created spatial inequalities, by leading to enclaves of growth. The migration patterns observed in a developing society such as ours correspond to these inequalities (economic, social, spatial etc) created by the development processes.

Therefore, any migrant stream would consist of heterogeneous sub-streams. For example, if we consider the rural-urban migrant stream, it would comprise of rural rich and the rural poor, each with its own reasons and motivation for migration, the mode of migration,



- The largest migration corridor in the world in 2010 was Mexico – U.S.A.
- The Arctic tern has the longest migration distance of any bird in the world.

the outcome or consequence of migration etc. Poorer sections of the population migrate as a survival strategy, in response to distressing conditions in rural areas. Migrants from better-off sections migrate to improve their living standards.

Further, spatially, there would be a tendency for migrants to converge on enclaves of growth-either in urban areas or in rural areas.

The pattern of migration is very complex, comprising of a number of streams:

- rural to rural; rural to urban; urban to rural; urban to urban
- short, medium and long distance migration streams
- long-term stable migration and short-term circulatory type of movements

Each of these streams would consist of different types of migrants, (from different social classes) each with its own reason for migration. The extent and nature of these migrant streams would essentially depend on.

- pressures and aspirations experienced by people at the origin of migration
- constraints imposed on mobility at the origin of migration
- opportunities at the destination and availability of information regarding these opportunities and
- the cost of migration



Migration for survival

5.3 Migration Policies

Policies to address the problem of migration in developing countries like India essentially aim at the following:

- To reduce the volume of migration: As a large part of migration is a reflection of poverty and insecurity faced by large sections of the rural people, the focus of intervention has to be in rural areas. Rural development policies to reduce poverty and insecurity would be essential to reduce the rate of migration.
- To redirect the migrant streams: Redirection of migrant streams, away from big metropolitan cities is a desirable policy option. This policy can help in reducing spatial inequalities by suitable strategies, such as developing a more dispersed pattern of urbanisation.

Recap

- Change in population occurs due to births, deaths and migration.
- The mobility of population in rural areas is greater than that of the urban areas.
- Marriage is the major factor responsible for women's mobility in India and in Tamil Nadu.
- Occupation is the major factor responsible for male migrants in India.
- The extent and nature of migration in any society is basically determined by the nature of the development process experienced by that society.
- The poorer sections of the people migrate for survival, but migrants from better-off sections migrate to improve their living standards.



Exercise



I. Choose the correct answer

1. According to the 2011 census, the total population of India was _____.
a) 121 crore b) 221 crore
c) 102 crore d) 100 crore
2. _____ has recorded the maximum number of emigrants.
a) Ramanathapuram b) Coimbatore
c) Chennai d) Vellore
3. During 2015, _____ of illiterates were migrants from Tamil Nadu.
a) 7% b) 175% c) 23% d) 9%
4. The poorer sections of the population migrate _____.
a) as a survival strategy
b) to improve their living standards
c) as a service
d) to get experience

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. Migration is enumerated on _____ and _____ bases.
2. The mobility of population in rural areas is _____ than urban areas.
3. In rural India, as per census 2011, _____ percent of the population are counted as migrants.
4. _____ is the major reason for female migration.
5. Any migrant stream would consist of _____ sub streams.

III. Match the following.

1. Migration policy - Work
2. Female migrants - low incidence of immigration
3. Chennai - maximum number of emigration
4. Better off migrants - marriage
5. Salem - to reduce the volume of migration
6. Male migrants - to improve the living standards

IV. Give short Answers.

1. Enlist the reasons for migration.
2. What are the major factors responsible for female migrants in India?
3. Name four districts in Tamil Nadu which record low number of immigration.
4. What are the factors responsible for the poorer sections and better-off sections to migrate?
5. List the four destinations and the percentage of migrants from Tamil Nadu.
6. What does the study reveal about the occupation undertaken by migrants?

V. Answer in detail.

1. State the aims of migration policies.
2. Discuss the patterns of migration.
3. Elucidate about some of the interesting findings on migration in Tamil Nadu.
4. Analyse the educational qualification of migrants from Tamil Nadu in 2015.

VI. Write the correct statement

1. In recent times workers from Tamil Nadu are moving to Africa.
2. In Tamil Nadu, the extent of migration is much higher in urban areas compared to rural areas.
3. Any migrant stream would consist of homogenous sub-streams.
4. Two out of every 10 persons is reported to be a migrant.

VII. Project & Activity

1. Prepare statistical data by interacting with your class mates and school mates and find out how many families have migrated.
2. Prepare an album of pictures on Rural to Rural, Rural to Urban, Urban to Rural and Urban to Urban migration.

VIII. Life Skills

1. Collect data on various languages spoken in your class and represent through a pie chart.



REFERENCE BOOKS

1. Rajan S. Irudaya et. al. 2016. 'Non-Resident Tamils and Remittances: Results from Tamil Nadu Migration Survey 2015'. Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.



INTERNET RESOURCES

1. www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/2011-DO5-OO-prov.xls 1.

A-Z GLOSSARY

Catchment areas	The area from which rainfall flows into a river, lake or reservoir.
Census	To count the number of people living in a country
Colonial Period	A period in a country's history when it was administered by a colonial power
Commercial	buying and selling on a large scale
Conserve	protect
Cultivator	peasant



Deferred	Put off to a later time; postpone
Depletion	Exhaustion; using up.
Embodied	Within
Entrepreneur	A person who sets up a business
Fallow	Uncultivated
Heterogeneous	Consisting of things that are very different from each other
Inequality	It is the difference in social status, wealth or opportunity between people or groups
Micro credit	Lending small amounts of money at low interest to new businesses
Migration	Process of moving from one place to another
Migrants	A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions
Monetary	Relating to money or currency
Occupation	Job or profession
Perennial	Flowing throughout the year
Perspective	Outlook
Pledged	Give as security on a loan
Population	The total number of persons inhabiting a country, city, district (or) area.
Primary sector	Raw materials
Productivity	Ability to produce
Replenish	Restore
Reserve	Retain for future use
Rural	Area located outside a city or town
Secondary	sector Manufacturing
Semi-Skilled	Having only a small amount of training
Skilled	Having the ability needed to do a job well
Standard	Something used as a measure
Subsistence	Self sufficient
Sustainability	Avoidance of depletion
Tertiary sector	Services
Thrive	Flourish or grow vigorously
Transaction	Buying or selling something
Urban	Relating to city or town
Yield	Produce or product

