Determinants of Rural Outmigration in India

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Abstract

Migration, the process of changing places from one geographical area to another, is more complex demographic phenomena of population change than fertility and mortality. The process is part and parcel of the human civilization. The present study, Bhandara district in Maharashtra, India is not exception to this phenomenon. The main objective of the study is to look into the determinants and patterns of migration in the district of Bhandara. From the different economic, social and demographic backgrounds, male and female both are migrating for marriage, education and employment. Female are migrating because of marriage and male migrating because of employment. The patterns of migration show that rural to rural to rural migration is more than the urban. It is dominated because of the marriage migration. Male migrants are migrating towards the urban places because of unemployment. Ever married, highly educated, low standard of living persons are migrating more irrespective of their caste, religion and type of family.

Keywords: Outmigration; Patterns of Migration; Determinants of Migration; SLI; Castes.

Introduction

Demographic change takes place in any area at any time because of the components fertility, mortality and migration. Among these the component 'migration' is multidimensional and is increasingly drawing the attention of students and researchers, especially in developing countries, where it is more visible. Though it is mixer of an extremely varied and complex phenomenon such as economic, social, cultural, demographic and political processes operating at local, regional, national, and international levels, it is becoming more challenging to address. Ravenstein (1885) was the first to provide a theoretical basis to human migration and Todaro's (1969) found rural-urban wage differentials and the probability of getting work at the destination responsible factor for rural outmigration. Most of the empirical research agrees that migration takes place for economic reasons. This is also true for India as Greenwood's study (1971), found that migration was related positively and significantly to wage at the destination point and negatively and significantly to the wage at the point of origin. Simultaneously, social and cultural factors along with economic reasons enter into the decision making process of migration.

India lives in villages. After sixty eight years of independence, one-third of the population is still living in the rural area and the same amount of rural population is engaged in primary sector like agriculture, fishing and forests activities. Increasing agricultural

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density, resulting from increasing population, leads to more intense cultivation of land rather than land abandonment and migration to urban areas. According to Kumar (1973), migration to non-agricultural areas is more due to "pull" factors than "push" factors. Higher levels of poverty and population growth constitute increased pressure on natural resources since such resources often cannot be excluded from use by all groups.

It is easy to say poverty could be the root cause of outmigration but, under different conditions, the poor will be among the last to move in the certain parts of the world looking at the migration in African and Asia and Pacific countries (Skeldon, 2003). The underdeveloped country like India is not exception to the ongoing worldwide phenomena of rural to urban migration. It is well established that aspiration, need for higher education, lack of health facilities, lack of infrastructure, unemployment forcing people to leave place of origin. Though marriage migration is ignored in the process of migration as a cultural practice, it constitute great chunk of the migrants. It affects both places i.e. place of origin and place of destination. The woman who migrates because of marriage to the house of husband changes the demography of the place of destination by both giving births and participates in the unpaid work of household enterprises.

In India migration has become an important development issue. Indian rural poor are migrating to urban areas for a high wage and in search of employment. While the basic issue of survival prompts poverty stricken people to move from their place of origin the non-poor (middle and upper classes) move to fulfil their aspirations and for better prospects. Propensity to migrate differs significantly among various socio-economic groups. Out migration is an important factor for major social and economic change in the rural area. The category of temporary migrants (those who migrate to urban areas, for work, leaving their families behind at their permanent residence) is largely made up of rural dwellers. Typically rural people migrate to nearby urban centres with increasing job opportunities as well as distant metropolitan cities as "...literate or illiterate migrants can get employment in urban areas..." (Sarkar, 1978).

Review of Literature

Narain (1972) in a study of rural out-migration in Maharashtra revealed that among Hindus, Brahmins (who belong to upper castes in our study) are more mobile as compared to other castes. She also found that Neo-Buddhists (originally usually belonging to scheduled castes) had high outmigration rate. Singh et al (1984) estimated the differential migration rate in different socio-economic groups of a rural society. The 'Rural Development and Population Growth—A Sample Survey 1978' findings revealed that the household belonging to upper castes, higher educational status with larger land holdings and distance from the city have greater propensity to migrate urban areas. Thus it is seen that the upper strata of the rural society is more mobile. These findings are consistent with the results of other studies on rural-urban migration in India. Dandekar (1986) did a study of Sugao village in Maharashtra and found that the out migrants were young married and unmarried males who could not get the employment and mostly educated left their villages.

The study done by Rawat (1993) confined two villages of Bironkhal block of Poury Garhwal district. Here too, people migrated mainly because of poor economic condition prevailing in the area. While migrating the migrants in most cases have followed the co-villagers, friends and relatives who had earlier migrated to those places. The study further highlights the importance of remittances, which the migrants had sent to their family members. The migrant's family members were able to educate their children in village

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schools, repair the houses, and repaid the borrowed loans. According to the author migration has positively contributed in improving the living standard of the migrants and their families. Barik (1994) studied the hundred migrants who migrated from Orissa to Surat, city of Gujrat and found that the migrants were landless labours and marginal farmers. Joshi and Verma (2004) studied the sample of 1498 households in Chhattisgarh they found the illiterate, landless labours and marginal farmers left their origin in search of livelihood to urban centres. They also found that most of the migrants migrated to nearest state of Maharashtra especially to Nagpur city.

Study Area

Bhandara district with its headquarters at Bhandara was formed in 1821. Bhandara district was again divided and new Gondia district was formed on 1st May 1999. Thus Bhandara & Gondia districts have come into existence. Bhandara district is encircled by Balaghat district (M.P.) in north, Gondia in east, Chandrapur, in South, and Nagpur in the West. It extends between 20^038^1 and 21^038^1 north latitude and 79^027^1 and 80^042^1 east longitude.

The district is well known for the *lakes* and *ponds* in Maharashtra (ZP-SEABD, 2006-07 and Census, 1991). According to the survey 2001, there were 116,025 rural HH below poverty level which was 52.20 percent of the total rural households. 21.83 percent SCs, 9.83 percent STs and 68.34 percent others rural households were below poverty levels. Almost 55 percent of landowners are marginal land owners (GOM Report, 1999). In the district 84.53 percent population is living in the rural area while Lakhani tehsil is fully rural. Sex ratio is quite high in the tehsil as compared to the district and the state. There is 26.23 percent belonging to the SCs and STs Category population in Lakhani tehsil. Per square Kilo meter population in the district is 306.

Objectives

The major objective of the paper is to address determinants of migration in the study area with respect to socio-economic profile of the households but the specific objectives are as of :

- To study the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the sampled households
- To analyse the patterns of migration from study area
- To highlight the determinants of migration from the study area

Data & Methods

For sound sampling design, a good sampling frame is quite essential. The multistage sampling technique was employed for the collection of primary data. Considering the time and resources available with researcher, it has been pre-decided to collect data from about 600 hundred households from ten villages in *Bhandara* district.

For the present study primary data have been collected through semi-structured questionnaire during May-June 2007. It was decided to collect household information from the any member of the household whose age is above 18 years and would be able give household information. Whenever head of the household was present, he/ she was interviewed. For the present study migrant was defined as any member of the sample household migrated out just before the date of survey during the last five years, the person

was considered as an out-migrant. To find out the determinants of outmigration from the multivariate analysis has been carried on.

Findings

Household Characteristics

Table 1 shows percent distribution of the households by background characteristics like caste, religion, and type of family, standard of living index (SLI[2]), household size and person living per room. The caste composition of the study area shows that OBCs[3] and general communities' households are around 57 percent and SCs[4]/STs[5]/NTs[6] are 43 percent in the area. When we see the households as per the religion, Hindus are 75.5 percent and Buddhists are 24.5 percent.

Table 1: Percent Distribution of Households by Background Characteristics, 2007

Background Characteristics	Percentage	N
Caste		
SC	29.3	176
ST/NT	13.7	82
OBC/General	57.0	342
Religion		
Hindu	75.5	453
Buddhist	24.5	147
Type of family		
Nuclear	61.3	368
Joint	38.7	232
SLI		
Low	34.2	205
Medium	32.7	196
High	33.2	199
HH size		
1-3	21.5	129
4	27.0	162
5	27.7	166
6+	23.8	143
No. of persons living per room		
1	10.8	65
2	27.3	164
3	46.5	279
4+	15.3	92

N = 600
Source: Primary data collected by the author during May-June 2007

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2 SLI is the standard of living index created by using variables consumer durables, type of house, number of rooms in the house, availability of toilet facility, drinking water facility and availability of electricity etc.

3 OBCs are other backward castes in India.

4 SCs are the castes included in the scheduled of the Constitution of India.

5 STs are the tribes included in the scheduled of the Constitution of India.

6 NTs are the nomadic tribes who are specially treated by the Government of Maharashtra for their upliftment.

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According to the type of family the 61.3 and 38.7 percent of the households are with nuclear and joint families respectively. Standard of living index which is constructed to understand the economic condition of the household shows that 34.2, 32.7 and 33.2 percent of the households are belonging to the low, medium and high category. It is also seen that 21.5 percent of the household's size is 1 to 3 members, 27 percent have the 4 members and 27.7 percent have 5 members. It is also seen that 23.8 percent have six or more members. To see the congestion i.e. persons living per room shows that only 10.8 percent of the households, one person is living. It is also seen the 46.5 percent households, three persons are living in the single room and 27.3 percent of the households, two persons are living in the single room.

Respondents Background Characteristics

Table 2 shows the Percent distribution of respondents by background Characteristics like age, sex, marital status, level of education of the respondent. It also shows caste, religion, type of family and standard of living and the number of persons living per room in the household of the respondent. Respondent from the age group 30-44 are from 32.5 percent of households. Around 26 percent of the respondents are from the age group of 15-29, and 16.7 percent are from the age group 60 and above.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Background Characteristics, 2007

Background variables		Percentage	N
Age	15-29	26.5	159
	30-44	32.5	195
	45-59	24.3	146
	60 & above	16.7	100
Sex	Male	62.0	372
	Female	38.0	228
Marital Status	Ever married	83.0	498
	Never married	17.0	102
Education	Illiterate	23.8	143
	Primary	29.2	175
	Secondary	24.2	145
	Higher Secondary	15.8	95
	Voc/Col/Uni	7.0	42
Caste	SC	29.3	176
	ST/NT	13.7	82
	OBC/General	57.0	342
Religion	Hindu	75.7	454
	Buddhist	24.3	146
Family type	Nuclear	61.3	368
	Joint	38.7	232
SLI	Low	34.2	205
	Medium	32.7	196
	High	33.2	199
No. of persons living per room	1	10.8	65
	2	27.3	164
	3	46.5	279
	4 & above	15.3	92

N = 600
Source: Primary data collected by the author during May-June 2007

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According to the sex of the respondent, 62.0 percent of the respondents are males and rests of the respondent are females. Ever married respondent are 83.0 percent and rest of the respondent are never married. By the level of education 23.8 percent of the respondents were illiterate. Primary, secondary and higher educated respondents were 29.2, 24.2 and 7 percent respectively.

By the caste SCs, STs/NTs and OBCs/Others are 29.3, 13.7 and 57.0 percent respectively. Hindus are 75.7 percent and rests are Buddhists. According to the type of family 61.3 are from nuclear families and rests of the other are from joint families. Standard of living index shows that 34.2, 32.7, 33.2 percent are from low, medium and high status households. The number of persons living per room depicted that in 10.8 percent of the households one person lived. Two persons lived per room households are 27.3. Three and four persons above lived per room in households are 46.5 and 15.3 percent respectively.

Pattern of Migration/ Type of Present Place of Residence

Table 3 shows percentage distribution of rural out migrants by type of present place of residence. It shows migrants are residing in cities, villages or in the towns. The given table depicts that more than sixty percent of the migrants are staying in the villages and around 11.0 percent of the migrant are residing in towns. More than quarters of the migrants are residing in the cities. They might have migrated because of employment.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Out Migrants by Type of Present Place of Residence, 2007

Type of Place	Percentage	Frequency
City (Rural-Urban)	27.0	37
Town (Rural–Urban)	10.9	15
Village (Rural –Rural)	62.0	85
Total	100.0	137

Source: Primary data collected by the author during May-June 2007

Determinants of out Migration

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of out migrants by reasons. More than one third of the migrants migrated because of the employment. More than half of the migrant migrated for the reason of marriage. There are also other reasons for migration like, joining relatives, health care, family crises and education and their percentage is around eleven only. Since the reference period for the migration is five years and seasonal migrants are not taken into account the number of migrants 137 only.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Out Migrants by Reasons of Outmigration

Reasons for out migration	Percentage	N
Employment	35.8	49
Marriage	53.3	73
Others*	10.9	15
Total	100.0	137

Note: Others included reasons like joining relatives, health care, family crises and education.
Source: Primary data collected by the author during May-June 2007

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Distribution of Out Migrants by Background Characteristics

Table 5 shows percentage distribution of out migrants by background characteristics. For the analysis of out migration it is important to look into the characteristics of the out migrants. Age, sex, marital status, educational level, caste, religion, standard of living, type of family, land holding are the background characteristics which are taken into consideration. From the table it is clear that in the age group 20-24 out migrant are 18.23 percent. It may be due to the marriage of the girls in the households. Suddenly out migrants in the age group of 30 and above have gone down it may be because of the fall in the marriage related migration.

Table 5: Percentage of Out Migrants by Background Characteristics, 2007

Background Characteristics		Percentage	N
Age group	<20	1.56	962
	20-24	18.23	362
	25-29	11.28	257
	30 and above	2.03	1333
Sex	Male	3.41	1467
	Female	6.01	1447
Marital status	Ever married	6.01	1697
	Never married	2.88	1217
Educational level	Illiterate	3.48	460
	Primary	1.68	835
	Secondary	6.32	1139
	University/College/Vocational	17.07	205
Caste	SC	6.44	807
	ST/NT	4.81	395
	OBC/General	3.86	1712
Religon	Hindu	4.02	2238
	Buddhist	6.95	676
SLI	Low	4.92	874
	Medium	5.18	965
	High	4.09	1075
Type of family	Nuclear	5.96	1578
	Joint	3.22	1336
Land Holding (in acre)	4 and above	3.58	531
	2.00-3.99	4.25	918
	0.1-1.99	5.88	612
	Landless	5.04	853
Total		**4.70**	**2914**

Source: Primary data collected by the author during May-June 2007

According to the marital status of the migrants, ever married are migrating more as compared to other marital status categories. Due to the family responsibility married persons are migrating for the purpose of employment. When we see the educational levels of migrants, it is clear that those who are higher educated their percentage is more. Scheduled

caste persons are migrating more as compared to the other caste groups. Buddhists migrants were 6.95 percent which is higher than Hindus. Medium SLI migrants are more as compared to the low and high SLI migrants. From nuclear family, migrants are more than the joint families. Marginal land holders and landless migrants are more than those who have more than four acres of land.

Determinants of Out Migration: Results from Logistic Regression Analysis

Table 6 shows the results of logistic regression analysis. Age, sex, marital status, educational level, caste, religion, standard of living, type of family and land holding are the background variables or independent variables. Migration is taken as a dependent variable. When we control all other variables, migration in the age group of 20-24 years is three times more than the age group <20 years and it is statistically significant at one percent of significant level. It may be due to the marriage.

Table 6: Odds Ratio Exp (B) Showing the Effect of Background Variables on Out Migration): Results of Logistic Regression Analysis

Background Variables		Exp (B)
Age Group	<20[®]	1.000
	20-24	3.393***
	25-29	1.326
	30+	0.157***
Sex	Male[®]	1.000
	Female	1.011
Marital Status	Ever married[®]	1.000
	Never married	0.133***
Educational Level	Illiterate[®]	1.000
	Primary	0.321**
	Secondary	.815
	University/College/Vocational	2.837**
Caste	SC[®]	1.000
	ST/NT	1.208
	OBC/General	0.983
Religion	Hindu[®]	1.000
	Buddhist	1.726
SLI	Low[®]	1.000
	Medium	0.872
	High	0.614*
Type of family	Nuclear[®]	1.000
	Joint	0.306***
Land Holding (in acre)	4 and above[®]	1.000
	2.00-3.99	0.873
	0.1-1.99	1.065
	Landless	0.894
Constant		**0.286**

Note: *, **, *** shows 10%, 5% and 1% level of significant respectively.
  1 = Out migrants, 0= Not out migrants. ®: Reference Category.

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On the other hand, in the age group >30 years, migration has gone down may be because marriage migration nearly stops. It is also statistically significant at one percent of significance level. When we see the sex of the migrant it is clear that female are migrating more as compare to the males. But it is not statistically significant. When we see the marital status of the migrants by controlling all other variables, it is seen that ever married persons are likely to migrate more as compared to its counterparts. Never married are less likely to out migrate which is statistically significant at one percent of significance level. Caste and religion are not playing much role to determine out migration but according to the standard of living high SLI persons are less likely to out migrate. Higher educated persons are more likely to out migrate. Higher educated persons with university or vocational education were two times more likely to out migrate as compared to less educated persons. Land holding do not determine out migration.

Conclusion

Migration is always been more interesting than any other phenomenon in demography. The study area goes through that phenomenon because of marriage, unemployment education. Irrespective of the caste and religion people are migrating for the fulfillment of their aspiration. It is interesting that highly educated and youth in the age group 20-24 persons migrate more to acquire jobs according to their educational qualification. On the other hand poor are more prone to migrate from the place of origin.

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