

Migration and Workforce Participation in the Himalayan States

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Abstract:

Whether migration is a cause or a consequence of development has been widely debated in academic circles. On the other hand, workforce participation has been widely accepted as an important indicator of the development of a state or a region.

The present paper uses data from the Census of India 2001 and tries to study the association between migration and workforce participation in the four Himalayan states, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Initial analysis focuses on the characteristics of migrants in these states; age, sex, reason for migration and duration of stay in the place of enumeration has been studied. Further, a comparison of work force participation between the states as well as between migrants and non migrants has been done.

Results indicate that in-migrating states of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh have higher work participation than out-migrating states of Uttarakhand and Sikkim. Though much of the non-working females are not seeking work, it is found that among the recent migrants, more of female seek work as compared to recent male migrants.

Key words: *migration, work force participation, Himalayan states*

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Introduction

Since time immemorial migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihood has been a key feature of human history. While some regions and sectors fall behind in their capacity to support populations, other move ahead and people migrate to access these emerging opportunities. Migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. Industrialization widens the gap between rural and urban areas, including a shift of the workforce towards industrializing areas. In most countries, it has been observed that industrialization and economic development has been accompanied by large-scale movements of people from villages to towns, from towns to other towns and from one country to another country.

There is extensive debate on the factors that causes populations to shift from those that emphasize individual rationality and household behavior to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development.

From the demographic point of view, migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the other being fertility and mortality. But whereas both fertility and mortality operate within the biological framework, migration does not. It influences size, composition and distribution of population. More importantly, migration influences the social, political and economic life of the people at the origin as well as at the destination.

Indian constitution provides basic freedom to move to any part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choice. Thus, migrants are not required to register either at the place of origin or at the place of destination. A number of economic, social, cultural and political factors play an important role in the decision to move.

Analysis of migration is important to understand the people's movement within the country as a response to changes in economic, political and cultural factors (Singh, 1998).

In India, permanent shifts of population and workforce co-exist with the circulatory movement of populations between lagging areas and developed regions and between rural and urban areas, mostly being absorbed in the unorganized sector of the economy.

Internal migration is now recognized as an important factor in influencing social and economic development, especially in developing countries. Indian censuses record that in 2001, 309 million persons were migrants based on place of last residence, which constitute about 30% of the total population of the country. This is nearly double the number of internal migrants as recorded in the census of 1971 (159 million).

Migration is defined as a move from one migration defining area to another, usually crossing administrative boundaries made during a given migration interval and involving a change of residence (UN 1993). The change in residence can take place either permanent or semi-permanent or temporary basis (Premi, 1990).

A recent survey shows that census is the largest source of information on internal migration at the cross-country level. A study shows that 138 countries collected information on internal migration in their censuses compared to 35 through registers and 22 from surveys (Bell, 2003).

The paper uses data from Census 2001 to study the migration pattern in the four Himalayan states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. The paper attempts to gain insights on the association of workforce participation with migration status in the four Himalayan states. The initial part focuses on the migration pattern in these states, with emphasis on age and sex of the migrants, the duration and the reasons for migration. The later part of the paper discusses the workforce participation in these states amongst the different status group, i.e, total population, total migrants, intercensal migrants and non migrants.

Results

In 2001, the four Himalayan states contribute about 2.5 % of the country's population. Table 1 gives the percentage of migrants to total population. The country's figures are also given for easy comparison. It is observed that migrants contribute a large share in the population of the respective states. Migrants constitute about 18 percent of the population in Jammu and Kashmir, 35 percent in Sikkim, 36 percent in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

<Table 1>

Further analysis has been based mainly on the intercensal migrants (0-9years) as it is felt that studying of association of workforce participation and migration pattern would be better indicated by recent migrants.

<Table 2>

Table 2 shows the percentage of intercensal migrants to total migrants by sex. The table indicates that the share of recent migrants among total migrants in Jammu and Kashmir is around 26 percent, which is much lower than the corresponding share in the other states as well as the national figure (31 percent). This indicates that the flow of recent migrants have been larger in Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand as compared to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is seen from the table that the percentage of intercensal male migrants to total male migrants is larger than the percentage of female intercensal migrants to total female migrants in all states.

<Figure 1>

Figure 1 shows the age distribution of the intercensal migrants in the four states. It is seen from the figure that the intercensal migrants in the four states follow a similar pattern of age distribution. More than three-fourth of the migrants are in working age group (15-59 years) in all the four states. However, unlike the other states, the age distribution of intercensal migrants in Sikkim peaks at the age group 0-14 years with around 22 percent of the migrants in the state belonging to this age group. It is also observed from the figure that the state of Himachal Pradesh has higher proportion of youth migrants as compared to the other three states.

Streams of Migration

<Table 3>

Table 3 gives the percentage distribution of streams of intercensal migration in the four Himalayan states. Intradistrict migration contributes the largest proportion to total migrants in all the states. However, around 61% of the total migrants in Jammu and Kashmir are intradistrict migrants as compared to 42 % in the state of Sikkim. The share of interstate migrants in the states except Jammu and Kashmir is higher than the share of interdistrict migrants to total migrants. This suggests that in the intercensal period of 1991-01, there has been a considerable flow of interstate migrants to the three states of Sikkim (28%), Uttarakhand (33%) and Himachal Pradesh (23%). Regarding international migration, it is noted that the proportion of international migrants in Sikkim is quite high. There is a vast difference in the proportion of international migrants amongst the states, with the figures ranging from 0.6% in Jammu and Kashmir to about 10 % in Sikkim.

<Table 4>

Table 4 provides sex ratio of the intercensal migrants by the streams of migration. Sex ratio has been calculated as the number of female migrants per 100 male migrants. As in other studies of migration in India (Zachariah 1964, Nair et al 1985, Singh 1998), female migrants dominate over male migrants in the short distance migration. But sex ratio of migrants in the state of Sikkim depicts a different picture. It is observed that the sex differential by streams of migration is quite low in Sikkim as compared to the other states. Among the interdistrict migrants, sex ratio is favourable to female migrants only in the state of Sikkim (105 female per 100 male migrants). It is also interesting to note that the sex ratio of international migrants in the intercensal period for the state of Sikkim (80 female per 100 male migrants) is very high as compared to other states. This suggests that the state of Sikkim offer better opportunities for female migrants than the other states.

Reasons of Migration

<Table 5>

Table 5 provides the percentage distribution of reasons for intercensal migration in the four Himalayan states by sex. It is observed from the table that employment among males and marriage among females are the main reasons for migration. However, a vast difference is noted when the four states are considered.

Around 17 percent of intercensal migrants in Jammu and Kashmir have migrated for work as compared to 24 percent of migrants in Himachal Pradesh and 33 percent in Sikkim. It is interesting to note here that Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in-migrating states. States having higher percentage of work related migrants has correspondingly higher percentage of male and female migrating for work or business. Though male migration in these states has been mainly work related, there are vast differences among the states. Around 54 percent of the migrants in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim have moved for work related reasons as compared to 38 percent in Jammu and Kashmir and 46 percent in Uttarakhand. About 3 percent of female migrants in Uttarakhand have stated work as the reason for their move as compared to around 12 percent of intercensal migrants in Sikkim.

Workforce Participation

The collection of data on economic activity has traditionally been a part of the population census of India. Census 2001 has recorded 313 million 'Main Workers', 89.2 million 'Marginal Workers' and 626.4 million 'Non-Workers' at the national level. The four Himalayan states recorded 7 million 'Main Workers', 3 million 'Marginal Workers' and 15 million 'Non-Workers' in 2001. Considering the working age (15-59) population, Census 2001 recorded 281 million 'Main Workers', 75 million 'Marginal Workers' and 227 million 'Non-Workers' in the national level and 6 million 'Main Workers', 2 million 'Marginal Workers' and 5 million 'Non-Workers' in the four Himalayan states.

<Table 6>

Table 6 provides the percentage distribution of workforce participation among working age (15-59) by migration status. The table allows a comparison of workforce participation among the states. The national figure is also provided for easy comparison. The percentage seeking work includes marginal workers as well as non-workers seeking work. About 40 percent of the population in Jammu and Kashmir is recorded as main workers as compared to 44 percent in Uttarakhand, 48 percent in Himachal Pradesh and 60 percent in Sikkim. It is observed that a significantly higher percentage of non-migrants are recorded as main workers as compared to migrants in all the states excepting the state of Sikkim. State wise comparison of the percentage of workforce participation shows that the in-migrating states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim have higher percentage of main workers as compared to the out-migrating states of Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.

The percentage of seeking work shows that higher percentage of non-migrant population sought work as compared to the migrant population in all these states. Among the migrants, higher percentage of recent migrants sought work in comparison to the total migrants.

<Table 7>

Table 7 gives the sex ratio for work participation among the working age (15-19) by migration status. A quick glance at the table indicates that sex differential is quite large in workforce participation in the national level as well as in the four Himalayan states. There is a clear dominance of males in the main workers category. It is observed that the sex ratio is very small, ranging from 20 females per 100 males in Jammu and Kashmir to 54 female per 100 male in Sikkim. But it is quite the opposite when marginal workers and non-workers categories are taken into consideration. In these categories, female outnumber the male to a very large extent. This indicates that males are more likely to be employed in better and more productive jobs as compared to females. A look at the sex ratio of those seeking work indicates that there is a clear differences between the states. Females seeking work outnumber males seeking work in the two states of Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir. However, among recent migrants, females seeking work outnumber male migrants in all the states except the state of Uttarakhand. This seems to suggest that recent female migrants seek work more as compared to females belonging to other categories. There is large difference between the sex ratio of non-working or marginal-workers and female seeking work suggesting that a large proportion of non working females are still not seeking work.

From table 6 and table 7 it is seen that the state of Sikkim with higher workforce participation has larger representation of female main workers as compared to the other states. The percentage of main workers increases along with the increases in the sex ratio suggesting that the inclusion of female population in workforce increased the share of the total percentage of main workers.

Conclusion and Discussion

Though all these four states have similar topographical feature, the migration pattern has been diverse in these states. The contribution of intercensal migrants to total migrants has been greater for the in-migrating states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The flow of international migrants in the intercensal period 1991-01 has been exceptionally high in the state of Sikkim where nearly 10 percent of the total migrants have been international migrants. The age of the migrants in the four Himalayan states reinstates the finding that migrants mainly belong to the working age group. Analysis of the reasons for migration showed that work related migrants have contributed higher percentage of migrants to the in-migrating states.

Results indicate that in-migrating states of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh has higher work participation than the out-migrating states of Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. It is also found that there is higher female work participation in Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. Results showed a positive relationship between female work participation and the overall work participation. It is found that large proportion of non working females is not seeking work. The study also showed that among recent migrants seeking work, females outnumbered male migrants. A concerted effort to provide productive employment would not just uplift those seeking better work but also bring about faster growth and development of the states.

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Figure 1 Intercensal migrants by age group (in %)

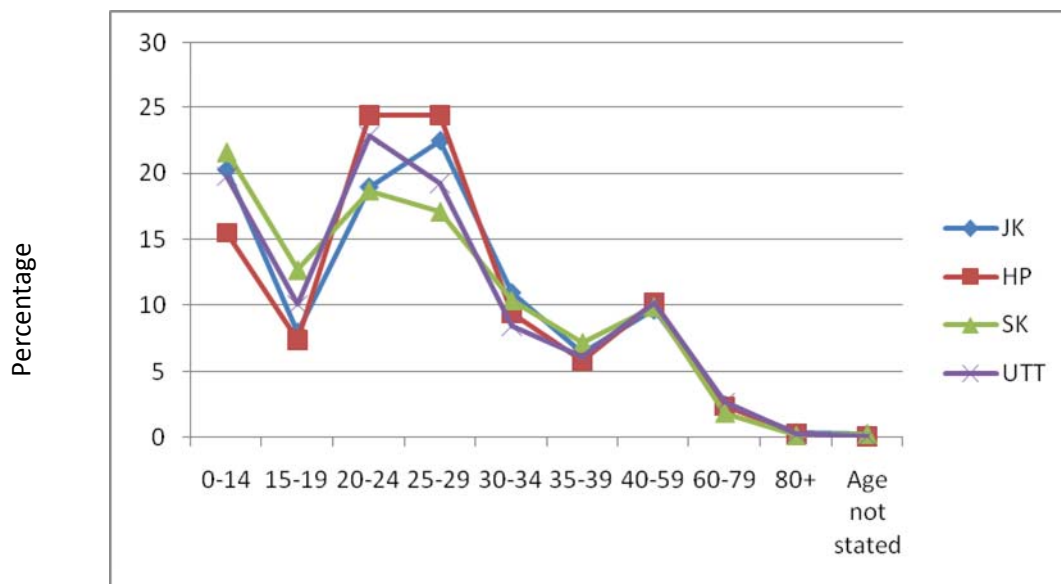


Table 1: Percentage of migrants to total population 2001

States/country	Total Population (in millions)	Total Migrants (in millions)	% of migrants to total population
India	1,028.6	314.5	30.6
JK	10.1	1.8	17.8
HP	6.1	2.2	36.1
SK	0.54	0.19	34.6
UTT	8.5	3.1	36.2

Table 2: Percentage of migrants with duration 0-9 years to total migrants

States/ Country	Migrants 0-9 yrs	Males	Females
India	31.3	35.2	29.6
JK	25.7	26.3	25.3
HP	37.8	56.1	31.3
SK	34.5	41.3	31.2
UTT	42.6	44.2	41.1

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the streams of migration 0-9 years

Streams of migration	India	JK	HP	SK	UTT
Intra-district	55.0	60.7	55.8	42.1	44.7
Inter-district	27.1	20.0	18.1	20.0	19.3
Interstate	17.1	18.7	22.7	28.3	33.3
International	0.8	0.6	3.4	9.6	2.7

Table 4: Sex ratio in different streams of migration (0-9 years)

Streams of migration	India	JK	HP	SK	UTT
Intra-district	142	146	178	126	176
Inter-district	86	61	66	105	76
Interstate	49	58	48	74	66
International	49	31	30	80	28

Sex ratio = female/100 male

Table 5: Percentage distribution of reasons for migration by sex for duration 0-9 years

States		Work	Education	Marriage	Family	Others
India	Total	15.8	3.0	44.1	27.6	9.6
	Male	40.5	6.2	2.1	35.6	15.6
	Female	3.4	1.3	65.0	23.6	6.6
JK	Total	16.9	2.8	37.8	28.7	13.7
	Male	38.1	5.2	2.8	31.9	22.0
	Female	3.9	1.4	59.3	26.8	8.7
HP	Total	23.5	4.0	41.3	21.8	9.4
	Male	53.7	6.5	0.9	22.8	16.1
	Female	4.4	2.4	66.9	21.2	5.1
SK	Total	33.0	4.9	22.4	26.1	13.5
	Male	54.6	6.1	1.0	23.0	15.3
	Female	11.9	3.8	43.5	29.2	11.7
UTT	Total	19.9	4.3	35.4	31.5	8.9
	Male	45.7	7.9	0.6	32.3	13.5
	Female	3.2	2.0	58.0	30.9	5.9

*Work: Migrants giving work/employment and business as the reason for migration**Family: Migrants moved after birth and moved with household as the reason*

Table 6: Distribution of workers/Non-workers in working age group (15-59) among migrants and non-migrants (in %)

State/Migration Status	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers	Seeking work
India	48.1	13.0	38.9	10.9
Migrants 0-9 years	36.9	14.6	48.5	10.5
All migrants	38.7	15.9	45.4	8.9
Non migrants	54.7	10.9	34.4	12.3
Jammu & Kashmir	40.1	16.3	43.6	14.2
Migrants 0-9 years	34.5	17.1	48.5	12.3
All migrants	33.5	17.8	48.7	11.8
Non migrants	42.0	15.9	42.1	15.0
Himachal Pradesh	48.7	23.1	28.3	10.7
Migrants 0-9 years	48.5	23.2	28.3	10.5
All migrants	45.5	27.8	26.7	7.3
Non migrants	51.5	18.9	29.6	13.7
Uttarakhand	44.2	14.4	41.4	11.2
Migrants 0-9 years	41.3	13.8	44.9	9.7
All migrants	43.2	15.6	41.2	7.9
Non migrants	45.2	13.3	41.5	14.4
Sikkim	60.1	11.5	28.5	7.1
Migrants 0-9 years	61.0	10.4	28.6	7.5
All migrants	61.7	10.8	27.5	6.7
Non migrants	58.8	12.0	29.2	7.4

**Table 7: Sex ratio of workforce in working age group (15-59)
among migrants and non-migrants**

State/Migration Status	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers	Seeking work
India	33	176	311	98
Migrants 0-9 years	29	293	345	138
All migrants	33	284	323	98
Non migrants	29	123	339	120
Jammu & Kashmir	20	188	269	109
Migrants 0-9 years	21	289	327	154
All migrants	22	245	292	99
Non migrants	18	179	269	116
Himachal Pradesh	49	216	182	73
Migrants 0-9 years	41	449	255	163
All migrants	47	417	193	83
Non migrants	36	153	244	103
Uttarakhand	43	133	220	54
Migrants 0-9 years	41	174	237	68
All migrants	46	197	232	50
Non migrants	25	91	262	75
Sikkim	54	226	251	159
Migrants 0-9 years	50	294	348	224
All migrants	53	284	327	169
Non migrants	53	208	224	160

Sex ratio = female/100 male