

Reason for Migration in the Malwa Region

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Abstract - To find out the reasons for migration in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh a study was conducted. The data was collected through a self-design questionnaire, from migrants, of Malwa region. Three districts of the Malwa region - Ratlam, Mandsaur, and Neemuch were selected. From each of the three districts around 85 respondents were selected, thus, a sample of 250 respondents was collected. For the maximum number of respondents, the reason for migration was a lack of job opportunities at the place from where they have migrated or in search of better jobs elsewhere. The top five reasons for migration were migration due to lack of job opportunities, in search for better jobs, availability of better services and facilities at the migrated place, better business opportunities at the migrated place, and migration due to poverty, i.e., migrants were unable to meet their basic need at the place they were living before migration. The reasons given for migration were later classified into push and pull factors and a test was applied to know which factor is more significant for migration. The test result showed that pull factors were more significant for migration as compared to push factors. This result indicates that better job opportunities, better business opportunities, availability of better services, better facilities of education, good climatic conditions, etc. attracted migrants towards the migrated place as compared to conditions due to which people were compelled to migrate.

Keywords: Migration, Push Factor, Pull Factor, MGNREGA, Malwa Region.

Introduction - Migration is the definition of moving to another nation, state, or neighborhood in quest of better prospects for settlement (byjus.com). The movement of people from one place to another to relocate, either permanently or temporarily, is known as human migration. External migration is the movement of people across large distances and between countries, whereas internal migration, or moving within a single nation, is the most common type of human migration worldwide (Wikipedia.com).

Migration is major symptom of social, economic, political and demographic changes in modern times. In the recent years, due to globalization and expansion of transportation and communication, migration has become a part of globalize process of industrialization and urbanization as well as development. Migration is movement of people from one place to another within the country or outside the country. It has been contributing to economic and social development of people away from home. The direction of migratory movements has always been affected by the specific needs of time and it is major component of population change of any area, besides mortality and fertility. Madhya Pradesh is among the fastest growing states in the country. The state has an agrarian economy. According to a study done by Gupta and Sharma (1994), in Madhya Pradesh in-migration from rural areas was high (84.43) as

compared to urban regions (15.17). They found profound effects of urbanization, industrialization, and higher education facilities on in-migration. The locations with high rates of both expected and actual in-migration were the Malwa Plateau and the Chhattisgarh Basin."

A study done by Deshingkar P. et al. (2008) in six Madhya Pradesh villages revealed that, in contrast to popular belief, seasonal and circular migration has become more cumulative for the poor over the past five years as new opportunities in cities have decreased job uncertainty, wages have increased, and reliance on contractors has decreased. Furthermore, as traditional barriers associated with manual labour break down migration has attracted an increasing number of women and people from upper castes. More benefits have come from migration for people with strong social networks or skill sets. Others who depend on contractors or experience prejudice have not gained as much.

The present study was conducted in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh to find out the reasons of migration.

Review of Literature

Manglam (1968) pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the case of migration has been concerned with four basic questions who migrate, why do they migrate, what are the patterns of flow and direction of migration, and what are the consequences of migration. These questions may be

studied from two different points of view: migration streams and migration differentials. Migration streams help us to understand the volume and direction of migration from one place to another place. In contrast, migration differentials help us to understand the differences among migrant subgroups according to different characteristics of rural society. (Long. 1973).

Population mobility in India has been low compared to other developed countries, in this regard Mehta, B.C. (1978)" pointed out in his study that population migration in India is much smaller compared to Western countries. Based on Census data of that period on place of birth, Kingsley Davis (1991) concluded that the Indian population is relatively immobile. He attributed this low mobility to the predominance of agriculture along with the caste system, joint family, and diversity in culture and language.

The migration scenario is different in various groups e.g. scheduled tribes (STS), scheduled caste (SCs) and backward classes. In this regard, Bhattacharya (2000) finds that Indian States with a relatively high proportion of scheduled tribes (STS) in the population have higher rural-to-rural migration rates, whereas scheduled caste (SCs) populations have the opposite effect on migration.

Kothari (2002) presents a useful analysis of how poor people's migration choices are impaired by various factors like poverty, and inequitable access to different capital resources and institutions. These include economic assets, human capital, social capital, cultural capital, geography, and political capital.

Jha (2005) in his study found out increasing movement of young women towards urban centers in search of jobs. He also found that the living conditions of women migrants are unhygienic, remuneration is not good and these women are vulnerable to exploitation by antisocial agents

Shanti, K., (2006) examined the female migration in India and the interstate variations in its magnitude. The study reveals that female migration for employment in the age group 15-60, has increased steeply in all the states.

According to Chandrasekhar and Ghosh (2007), Seasonal migration takes place primarily for employment and other livelihood purposes. Study done by Mosse and Gupta (2005) shows that seasonal labour migration has become an irreversible part of the livelihoods of rural tribal communities in western India.

Kesari, Kunal and Bhagat, R.B. (2012) revealed the regional pattern of temporary and seasonal labour migration in India. The phenomenon of seasonal migration is more prevalent in rural areas of the country's northern and eastern states.

Study done by Kareemulla et al. (2009) in Andhra Pradesh observed that MGNREGA scheme brought down the migration levels from about 27 percent to 7 percent in the sample villages due to the availability of work and concluded that MGNREGA has reduced migration by providing work nearby native place

Verma (2011) in their found that delay in payment of MGNREGA wage was a key reason for the lack of enthusiasm among the tribal farmers in Narmada district of Gujarat.

According to the study conducted by council for social development (2011) shows that MGNREGA has provided a unique legal space for the rural people, especially the landless laborers, SCS, STs, and small and marginal farmers, and the socio-economic condition of the rural people has been improved.

Objectives: The main objective of the paper was to know about the main reasons of migration in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.

Hypothesis: Pull factors are more significant for migration as compared to push factors.

Research Methodology

Sampling Units: The sampling units for the present study were migrants from Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Respondents from both in-migration (Migrated from elsewhere in to the region), or out-migration (migrated outside the region) were selected to collect information.

Area of Study: The area of the study was Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh state. From Malwa region three districts were chosen namely Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Ratlam. From each district, 5 tehsils were selected.

Sample Size: The sample size of the study was 250 respondents/migrants from the sampled region. In the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, three districts were selected. From each of the three districts, 5 tehsils were selected. From 5 tehsils 250 respondents were selected (approximately 83 respondents from each district).

Sampling Method: The sampling method for the present work was the convenience sampling method.

Source of Data: The source of data for this work was primary data, which was collected through a self-designed questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of mainly two parts. The first part asked about the personal information of respondents like age, gender, occupation, education, income etc. The second part asked about the reasons for migration out of which they have migrated. The second part consists of a list of the reasons of migration in which 19 items were given, and respondents were asked to rate these reasons on a five-point Likert scale from "To a very great extent" to "to a very lesser extent or negligible". It means, it was asked from respondents that, to what extent they consider a particular reason as a reason for their migration.

Reliability of the questionnaire: The reliability of the questionnaire was also tested by calculating Cronbach's alpha value and it came out to be 0.83 which is considered as good reliability.

Data Analysis and Interpretation : After collection and scrutiny of collected data, analysis of data was done. The results of the analysis are given below. First demographic distribution of respondents is given, and later analysis of reasons for migration is given.

Table 1 given below shows the distribution of respondents according to different demographic variables. The age-wise distribution shows that the maximum respondents were from the age group up to 40 years (51.2%). According to gender 76.8% were males. The majority of respondents were low educated. Only 22.8% of respondents were graduates or post graduates and higher education. 15.6% were illiterate or just literates. 20.4% were educated up to primary level. Thus, the education level of migrants was low overall. Maximum respondents (41.2%) were laborers. 9.6% were in agriculture. 23.2% of respondents were in service sector (4.4% in government sector, and 18.8% in private sector). 3.2% of respondents were in business, and 19.6% were self-employed.

Table 1: Demographic distribution of respondents

Variable	Options	N	%
Age (years)	Up to 40 years	128	51.20
	40 - 60 years	79	31.60
	Above 60 years	43	17.20
Gender	Male	192	76.80
	Female	58	23.20
Education	Illiterate or just literate	39	15.60
	Primary level	51	20.40
	Middle Level	31	12.40
	Secondary	44	17.60
	Senior Secondary	28	11.20
	Graduate	18	7.20
	Post Graduate and / or above	39	15.60
Present Occupation	Agriculture	24	9.60
	Labor	103	41.20
	Service (Govt. Sector)	11	4.40
	Service Private Sector	47	18.80
	Business	8	3.20
	Self-Employed	49	19.60
Monthly Income	Housewife	8	3.20
	Up to 10,000	90	36.00
	10,000 - 20,000	97	38.80
	20,000 - 30,000	24	9.60
	Above 30,000	39	15.60

The average monthly income of respondents was Rs. 18262 and the median monthly income was Rs.15000. 36% of respondents' monthly income was up to Rs.10,000 or below it. 15.60% of respondent's current monthly income was above Rs. 35000. Thus, it can be said that the monthly income of respondents was not high.

Reasons of Migration

Table 2 give above shows the top ten reasons for migration in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, out of 19 reasons to rate. The first two top reasons for migration were related to job opportunities at the place from which people have migrated. The respondents reported that the main reason for migration was the lack of job opportunities at the place they were living before migration. Some of the respondents said that better job opportunities were available at the

migrated place therefore that place has pulled them towards the migrated place.

Table 2: Reasons for Migration

Reason of Migration	Mean	SD	Rank
1.Lack of Job opportunities at my native place of living	3.90	1.13	1
2.Lack of basic facilities of living like safe drinking water, sanitation, proper hygiene conditions of living	3.12	1.00	10
3.Lack of Modern facilities and services, market, etc.	3.30	0.97	6
4.Migrated because of poverty. I was unable to meet the basic needs of me and my family.	3.41	1.22	5
5.Better services and facilities attracted me to the migrated place.	3.66	0.99	3
6.Better job opportunities were available at the migrated place.	3.75	1.01	2
7.Due to better safety	3.16	1.05	8
8.Better business opportunities were available at the migrated place.	3.44	1.13	4
9.Migrated to provide better . education to my children	3.15	1.07	9
10.Migrated to improve my standard of living.	3.28	1.16	7

The third reason for migration was the availability of better services at the migrated place. People also migrate because basic facilities are not available at the place, they are living therefore the place they think has better facilities pulls them towards it.

The fourth reason for migration was the availability of better business opportunities at the migrated place. Lack of business opportunities like non-availability of infrastructure or lack of customers for the products or services a person wants to offer also push a person to shift to another place.

The fifth main reason for migration was poverty. Respondents who migrated due to this reason said that they migrated because they were unable to meet the basic needs of their lives at the place they were living earlier and poverty pushed them to migrate to another place.

Hence, it can be observed that the top five reasons for which people migrated were that the migrants were unable to fulfill their basic needs of life by proper earning either through jobs, businesses, or poverty.

The reason for migration on the sixth rank was the lack of modern facilities, services, and markets. The reason on the seventh rank was migration to improve the standard of living. The reasons for migration at eighth, ninth, and tenth ranks were – migration for better safety, to provide better education to children, and migration due to lack of basic facilities like safe drinking water, sanitation, and proper hygiene respectively.

On average 67% of migrants, migrated due to reasons ranked from 1 to 5, whereas 44.28% of respondents mi-

grated due to reasons ranked 6 to 10. Therefore, it can be inferred that majorly people migrated in search of jobs and to make their living. All other things come later.

Less significant reasons for migration were – migration due to business requirements, good climatic conditions at the migrated place, migration due to avail better healthcare facilities, migration to get autonomy from a joint family, and migration due to transfer. Only 29% of respondents said that they have migrated due to these reasons.

Other very less significant reasons due to which people migrate were lack of safety at the place of living, migration due to natural calamities like flood, famine, etc., and migration due to marriage. On average 12% of people have migrated due to these reasons.

Comparing pull and push factors for migration: After descriptive analysis of reasons for migration, to assess which factor, pull or push factor is more significant for migration reasons of migration a hypothesis “There is a non-significant difference in the pull factor and push factors as a reason for migration” was framed. To test this hypothesis the reasons for migration were categorized into pull factors of migration and push factors of migration, and later test was applied to determine which factor is significant for migration in the Malwa region. The test results are given below.

Table 3: Test Result

Factor	N	Mean	SD	t-Val	df	p-val	Result
Push Factor	250	2.70	0.55	-10.14	249	0.000	***
Pull Factor	250	3.15	0.50				

The test results given in the table above show a statistically highly significant difference in the push factor and pull factor of migration ($t = -10.14$, $p < 0.001$). The scores for the pull factor were significantly higher than the scores for the push factor.

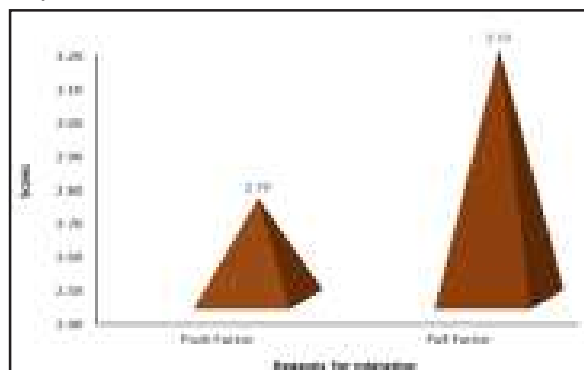


Fig. 1: Reasons of Migration

A higher score for the pull factor than the push factor indicates that better job opportunities, better business opportunities, availability of better services, better facilities of education, good climatic conditions, etc. attracted migrants towards the migrated place as compared to conditions due to which people are compelled to migrate

like, lack of basic facilities, lack of job opportunities, lack of medical facilities, natural calamities, transfers in jobs, etc. pushed people to migrate. Hence, the null hypothesis “There is a non-significant difference in the pull factor and push factors as a reason for migration” is rejected.

Conclusion: To find out the reasons for migration in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh a study was conducted. This study was based on primary data, which was collected through a self-design questionnaire. For this study, the sampling units were migrants, who were either migrated from somewhere else or have migrated to some other place. Three districts of the Malwa region namely Ratlam, Mandsaur, and Neemuch were selected. From each of the three districts around 85 respondents were selected. Thus, a sample of 250 respondents was collected. The demographic profile of respondents revealed that little more than 50% of respondents were of the age 40 years or below it. The education level of a large number of respondents was very low. More than 60% of respondents were educated up to the secondary level or below it, and they were either doing agriculture or were laborers. For the maximum number of respondents, the reason for migration was a lack of job opportunities at the place from where they have migrated or in search of better jobs elsewhere.

The top five reasons for migration were migration due to lack of job opportunities, in search for better jobs, availability of better services and facilities at the migrated place, better business opportunities at the migrated place, and migration due to poverty, i.e., migrants were unable to meet their basic need at the place they were living before migration. The reasons given for migration were later classified into push and pull factors and a test was applied to know which factor is more significant for migration. The test result showed that pull factors were more significant for migration as compared to push factors. This result indicates that better job opportunities, better business opportunities, availability of better services, better facilities of education, good climatic conditions, etc. attracted migrants towards the migrated place as compared to conditions due to which people were compelled to migrate.

Hence, it is suggested that if good job opportunities were made available locally by opening industries or by creating any type of small-scale industries people would not migrate in search of jobs elsewhere. MGNREGA was a good step in this direction.

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