Migration in India

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Migration in India:

What is Migration?

- Migration is a natural process that often happens depending on the socio-economic, demographic, cultural, political and environmental factors related to the migrant people.
- It is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space content and space relationships of areas.
- The main reason for migration is employment or business related migration. The male migration constitutes the highest level of migration in India due to employment purpose.
• The female usually migrates as accompanists of males, but with the recent survey single females are also slowly increasingly moving out in search of jobs.

**Background:**

• Migration process has been one of most dynamic human activities from the very beginning of human life.
• When most of people civilized, they continued to move from one region to another in search of fertile land for developing cultivation.

**Causes for Migration:**

Migrations are caused by a variety of factors including economic, social and political reasons.

**Urbanization:**

• Urbanization has been a major driver of internal migration.
• The pull factors of better job facilities, good salary, and more income, medical and educational facilities are attracting the rural people to move to the cities.
• The push factors of no job facilities, low salary, less income, drought, less medical and education compel people towards cities.

**Employment:**

• People migrate in large number from rural to urban areas in search for employment. Urban areas provide vast scope for employment in industries, trade-transport and services.

**Education:**

• Rural people migrate to the urban center for better education, because lack of higher education facilities in rural areas.
Lack of Security:

- Interethnic conflicts, political disturbance drive people away from home.
- Exodus of Kashmiri Hindu Pandit and Assam migration are well known example of interethnic conflicts.

‘Pull’ and ‘Push’ factors:

- Two principle factors- push and pull are responsible for migration.
- Urban centers provide vast scope for employment in industries and services. They offer modern lifestyle. This was act as ‘magnets’ for the migrants population and attract people from countryside.
- This is known as “pull factors”.
- People migrate due to ‘push factors’ such as unemployment, hunger and starvation. They do not find any means of livelihood in their villages; they are ‘pushed’ out to the nearby or distant town.
- The appalling living conditions like slums, lack of safe water, absence of sanitation, overcrowding with the attendant increase in crime, insecurity for women, sexual abuse and exposure to frequent epidemics and AIDS are the immediate outcome of this population shift.

Other factors:

- Many of the social, economic and political factors also lead to migration. Political instability, red-tapeism, poverty, economic depression, political chaos, rising crime, crises and conflicts, corruption, family reasons, economic depression, low educational standards and inadequate infrastructure are some of the factors which create insecurity amongst the population that makes them leave their place of origin and migrate to better place.
- The host country, on the other hand, offers rich opportunities, political stability and freedom, a developed economy and better living conditions.
that attract talent. At the individual level, family influences, personal preferences, career ambitions and other motivating factors can be considered.

**Effect:**

Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas, people migrate from and migrate to.

Economic Effect:

- A major benefit for the source region is the remittance sent by migrants. Remittances from the international migrants are one of the major sources of foreign exchange.
- The amount of remittances sent by the internal migrants is very meagre as compared to international migrants, but it plays an important role in the growth of economy of the source area.
- Estimated at 30 million with a presence in 189 countries, the Indian Diaspora produces an annual economic income of about $ 400 billion, almost 30 percent of India’s GDP.

Demographic Effect:

- Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country.
- Rural urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population growth of cities. Age and skill selective out migration from the rural area have adverse effect on the rural demographic structure.

Social Effect:

- The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girl’s education, etc. get diffused from urban to rural areas through them.
Migration leads to intermixing of people from diverse cultures.
It has positive contribution such as evolution of composite culture and breaking through the narrow considerations and widens up the mental horizon of the people at large.
It creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals. Continued feeling of dejection may motivate people to fall in the trap of anti-social activities like crime and drug abuse.

Environmental Effect:

Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas.
This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies.
Due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

Other Effect:

Human capital flight is an Economics term equivalent to the Sociology term, brain drain, which refers to the emigration of intelligent, well-educated individuals to somewhere for better pay or conditions, causing the place they came from to lose those skilled people, or “brains”.
Brain drain occurs when scientists, engineers, doctors, IT- professionals and other intellectuals migrate to another country for higher studies, to undertake research activities, to get better job and work experiences which they are not getting from their country of origin. India is a very prominent source for supply of professionals.
The educated crowd instead of serving their own country prefers to work for the developed nations for the sake of better pay and standard of living or any other reason.