

Patterns of Interstate Out-migration in Himachal Pradesh, 1991-2001

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Abstract: *Migration is not a simple phenomenon. There are spatial and temporal variations in patterns of migration in response to physical, economic, socio-cultural and political factors. Himachal Pradesh has twelve districts in total; each having a physiography and culture distinct from the other. Due to these physiographic and socio-cultural variations, patterns of out-migration also differ between different districts of the state. These variations in spatial patterns of out-migration from various districts of Himachal Pradesh have been studied in this research paper.*

Keywords: out-migration, interstate, patterns

Introduction: Interstate migration in a state is migration between that state and other states/ UTs of the same country. Thus, it indicates a change in residence of a person from one state to the other in same country. It does not alter the total population numbers of the country but reorders the population density and population distribution patterns within the country and in that state as well.

Himachal Pradesh has been an area of out-migration. It is an isolated and comparatively less accessible state because of mountainous and rugged topography. Physiography of a place determines its economic potential. Mountains prevent the development of big towns. Agriculture is handicapped by factors like hilly terrain, extremity of climate, small and scattered landholdings, stony soil, limited means of irrigation and limited cultivable area. Expansion of cultivable land is out of

question because of sustainability issues. Industrial potential of the state is one of the least in the country. As a result, job opportunities are comparatively less as compared to the plains. All these factors have been pushing the natives of Himachal Pradesh, particularly rural males, to out migrate to other states/ union territories of the country to pursue employment. Migration to other parts of the country has been more dominant than emigration.

But there has been a change in patterns of out-migration from Himachal Pradesh since 1991 with the industrial development in the state gaining momentum in response to monetary and fiscal benefits provided by the central government. Added to this was the factor of resort to horticulture to overcome the limitations of availability of cultivable land and extremity of climate. These developments have generated ample employment opportunities in Himachal Pradesh itself. It is interesting to study the changes in patterns of out-migration from Himachal Pradesh in response to changed economic scenario in the state. An analysis of interstate out-migration in Himachal Pradesh has been taken up in the present study.

Materials and Methods: Census of India is the most dependable source of data on any population attribute in India including migration. In this context, census data for census years 1991 and 2001 have been analyzed to underline the patterns of

interstate out-migration from Himachal Pradesh. Data on out-migration has not been provided straightway for any of the census years under consideration. It has been compiled by taking relevant entries from migration tables of other states and union territories where in-migrants from Himachal Pradesh were enumerated. This analysis is based on data on Place of Last Residence.

For the purpose of this study, an interstate out-migrant from Himachal Pradesh is a person whose place of last residence was in Himachal Pradesh and he/she has migrated to any other state/ union territory of India.

Results and Discussions: According to the census figures of 1991 on place of last residence, 0.34 million people of Himachal Pradesh were enumerated as migrants in other states/ union territories of India (Table 1).

Migrants from Himachal Pradesh were reported in each and every state/ union territory of India with a lowest of one migrant in union territory Lakshadweep (D2 Migration Tables of all states and UTs of India, Census of India 1991).

Highest proportion (38.14) of people migrated to the neighbouring state Punjab. Delhi was a distant second where 16.47 percent out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh were reported. Number of migrants from Himachal Pradesh reported in Delhi was half of what was reported in Punjab.

Volume of people who migrated to Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh was 11.75 percent, 9.68 percent and 8.18 percent respectively.

Table 1

Himachal Pradesh: Volume of Out-migration 1991

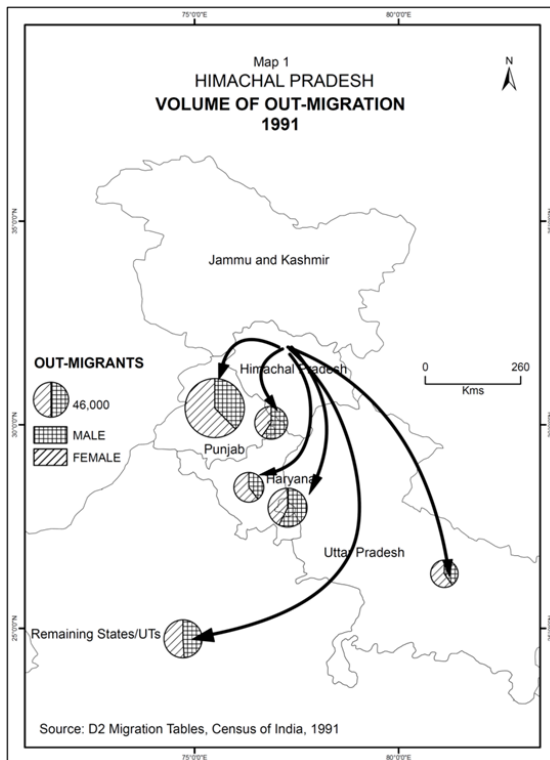
Destination	Person	Male	Female
India	344,176	157,120	187,056
Punjab	38.14	31.42	43.79
Delhi	16.47	20.70	12.93
Chandigarh	11.75	15.32	8.75
Haryana	9.68	8.42	10.74
Uttar Pradesh	8.18	7.21	8.99
Remaining States/ UTs	15.78	16.94	14.80
Rural			
India	220,521	94,600	125,921
Punjab	41.59	32.92	48.10
Delhi	14.29	19.93	10.05
Haryana	9.42	7.84	10.62
Uttar Pradesh	8.66	7.46	9.56
Chandigarh	8.60	12.45	5.70
Remaining States/ UTs	17.44	19.40	15.96
Urban			
India	120,560	61,013	59,547
Punjab	32.07	29.09	35.12
Delhi	20.83	22.32	19.29
Chandigarh	17.80	20.12	15.42
Haryana	9.98	9.16	10.82
Uttar Pradesh	7.10	6.57	7.64
Remaining States/ UTs	12.23	12.73	11.71

Source: Computed from:-

D2 Migration Tables of all states and UTs of India, Census of India 1991, Data available on CD.

These figures suggest that around eighty five percent interstate out migrants from Himachal Pradesh were reported in Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Remaining states and union territories (which were twenty one and six in number respectively when the census of 1991 was conducted) attracted merely fifteen percent out migrants from Himachal Pradesh. This is clearly a distance decay effect.

Number of migrants decreases with increase in distance from source region.



Map 1 depicts out flow of *Himachali* migrants to other states/ union territories of India. Almost sixty four percent migrants were enumerated in rural areas of India (Table 1).

In 2001, number of out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh increased to 0.43 million and nearly thirty two percent of these migrants were enumerated in urban areas of India, indicating the increasing inclination of *Himachali* out migrants towards urban centres.

Out migration from Himachal Pradesh was mainly directed towards neighbouring states and union territories, which received around eighty five percent interstate out migrants from Himachal Pradesh (Table 1).

These were places in Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Out of a hundred persons migrating from Himachal Pradesh to different places in India, 38 went to Punjab, 16 to Delhi, 12 to Chandigarh, 9 to Haryana and 8 to Uttar Pradesh. Remaining fifteen were scattered unevenly in other states and union territories of India (Tables 1 and 2). Above states/ union territories collectively were home to eighty five percent interstate out migrants from Himachal Pradesh. This points out towards prevalence of short distance migration from the state.

Rural-urban distribution of out migrants from Himachal Pradesh revealed some disparities. As identified earlier, sixty four percent out migrants went to rural areas of India. Largest number of migrants went to rural areas of neighbouring state Punjab (41.59 percent), another 14.29 percent to rural areas of National Capital Territory Delhi, 9.42 percent to neighbouring state Haryana and 8.66 percent to Uttar Pradesh. Remaining 15.78 percent were enumerated in remaining states and union territories.

In 2001, recipient states were same as that of 1991 but with a different proportion of migrants (Table 2).

Number of out migrants was a little more than 0.43 million. More than eighty percent out migrants migrated to neighbouring states Punjab (37.30 percent), Delhi (18.08 percent), Chandigarh (12.49 percent), Haryana (11.43 percent) and Uttaranchal (4.43 percent). Even amongst these, Punjab seemed to be the favourite destination of out migrants from Himachal Pradesh receiving an overwhelmingly high proportion of migrants (37.30 percent). Only 16.28 percent

migrants migrated to remaining twenty four states and six union territories of India.

Table 2
Himachal Pradesh: Volume of Out-migration
2001

Destination	Person	Male	Female
India	426,040	196,263	229,777
Punjab	37.30	30.74	42.90
Delhi	18.08	21.94	14.78
Chandigarh	12.49	15.84	9.63
Haryana	11.43	9.93	12.72
Uttaranchal	4.43	3.91	4.87
Remaining States/ UTs	16.28	17.65	15.11
Rural			
India	136,379	41,835	94,544
Punjab	51.81	37.97	57.94
Haryana	14.68	13.90	15.03
Uttaranchal	8.92	10.57	8.19
Uttar Pradesh	5.28	3.68	5.99
Chandigarh	3.72	7.92	1.86
Remaining States/ UTs	15.59	25.97	10.99
Urban			
India	299,504	158,912	140,592
Punjab	29.46	27.97	31.15
Delhi	24.70	26.01	23.22
Chandigarh	16.07	17.48	14.48
Haryana	9.58	8.60	10.68
Maharashtra	4.14	4.58	3.64
Remaining States/ UTs	16.05	15.35	16.84

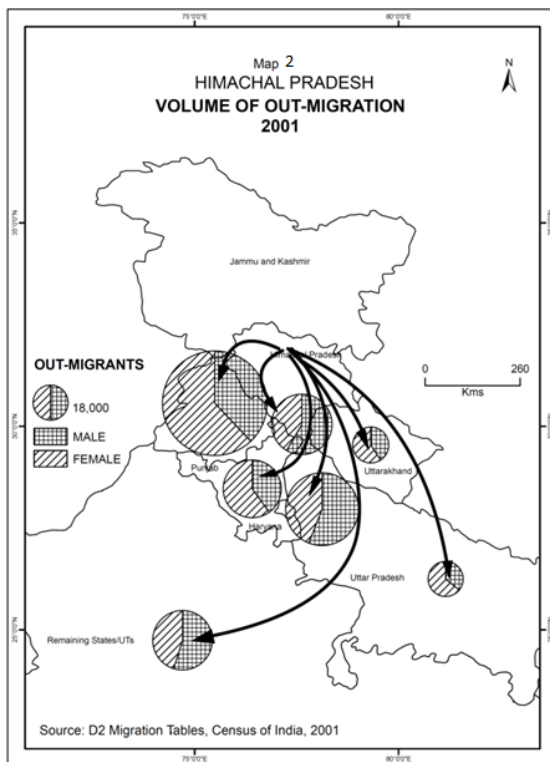
Source: Computed from:-

D2 Migration Tables of all states and UTs of India, Census of India 2001, Data available on CD.

In 2001, the preference of destination had not changed much. It was quite similar to that of 1991. Considerable volume of migrants went to Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (place of Uttar Pradesh was taken by Uttaranchal/ Uttarakhand during the census of 2001 as Uttaranchal/ Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on November 1, 2000) during both the census years. The only change was in the number of migrants and resultant change in proportion. These states and union territories have well defined stream of in-migration from Himachal Pradesh and migrants tended to follow these streams.

This was in accordance with the hypothesis forwarded by Lee in 1966 regarding the streams of migration. According to him “*migration tends to take place largely within well defined streams*”. It is a common observation that migrants proceed along well defined routes and to highly specified destinations. Therefore out migrants from Himachal Pradesh followed the pre defined routes of migration.

Underlying reasons for this kind of pattern of out-migration from the state are explicable in terms of physical, social and economic factors. Highest number of migrants to neighbouring state Punjab can be explained both in terms of physical proximity and cultural similarity between the areas lying on either side of the state border.



A substantial volume of migrants to the National Capital Territory Delhi and Union Territory Chandigarh can be explained in terms of employment potential of the two places. Haryana again is a neighbouring state where a considerable number of migrants from Himachal Pradesh was reported owing to physical proximity and similarity of culture between the border districts of the two states. Volume of migration to remaining states and union territories of the country was disproportionate to the geographical area under them. It was rather determined by distance. This shows that migration from Himachal Pradesh was primarily short distance. Volume of out migrants in farther states was lower in comparison to the nearby states (D2 Migration Tables of all states and UTs of India, Census of India 1991).

Tables 1 and 2 are evidences to preference of *Himachalis* to short distance out migration oriented towards neighbouring states and

union territories. Volume of out migration decreased with increase in distance from the state. This is in conformity with the laws of migration given by Ravenstein in 1885. Out migration from Himachal Pradesh is directed towards those states/ union territories from where there is large scale in-migration. Thus, in migration to Himachal Pradesh is generating a counter stream of out-migrants to source region of in-migrants. This, too, conforms to hypothesis regarding streams of migration envisaged by Lee (1966) which states “for every major migration stream, a counter stream develops”. Once migration takes place to a particular destination, people become aware of opportunities available at the place of origin. This is likely to generate counter streams of migration. Thus, counter streams of migration are being generated from Himachal Pradesh to the places from where in-migrants were reported.

Hence, as far as out migration from Himachal Pradesh is concerned, though *Himachalis* were reported in each and every state and union territory of the country, they were concentrated mainly in the neighbouring states and union territories. With the increase in distance from Himachal Pradesh number of migrants decreased. This proves the applicability of geographical law of distance decay. More of the migrants were reported in rural areas. Number of female migrants exceeded their male counterparts. In short, migration from Himachal Pradesh was female dominated and was directed towards rural areas of neighbouring states.

Conclusions: Out migration from Himachal Pradesh was directed mainly towards Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh and Haryana. Male migrants from Himachal Pradesh were

reported in large numbers in Delhi & Chandigarh; and females were reported mainly in the neighbouring states Punjab & Haryana. Exceptionally high volume of female migrants was reported in rural areas of other states/ union territories of the country. Significant proportion of male migrants from Himachal Pradesh was reported in highly urbanized destinations namely Delhi and Chandigarh. This was because of difference in motives behind movement of the two genders. Male migration was driven primarily by economic factors whereas females migrated because of familial/social reasons.

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