

Duration of Residence of Migrants in Himachal Pradesh, 1991-2001

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Abstract: Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon. There are many aspects related to the study of migration. To mention a few of the aspects of migration, one can name patterns of migration, volume of migration, composition of migrants, duration of residence of migrants, reasons of migration etc. However, all these aspects have to be studied in correlation with each other to fully understand the process of migration. This research paper is an attempt to look into the duration of residence of migrants in Himachal Pradesh during 1991-2001.

Keywords

Migration, Migrants, Himachal Pradesh, Duration of Residence

1. Introduction

Study of duration of residence of migrants is important because it tells when and where did the migrants arrive/left the state and what were the patterns of their arrival/departure. It reveals the time period for which a migrant has been staying at the place of enumeration. On the basis of duration of stay, migrants were classified into six categories during both the census years under investigation i.e. 1991 and 2001.

These categories were duration of:

- (i) Less than one year
- (ii) 1-4 years
- (iii) 5-9 years
- (iv) 10-19 years
- (v) 20+ years
- (vi) Period Not Stated (Census of 2001 named this sixth category as Duration Not Stated which is literally same as Period Not Stated)

2. Duration of Residence of In-migrants, 1991

In-migrants to Himachal Pradesh from other states and union territories of India revealed quite interesting patterns with period of stay at the place of enumeration (Table 1).

Smallest number of migrants (7.18 percent) came to Himachal Pradesh during one year preceding the census. Largest number of migrants (20.20 percent) in Himachal Pradesh was reported more than twenty years ago before the census of 1991 was conducted i.e. prior to 1971. This was because as a result of enactment of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 hilly areas of bifurcated Punjab were added to Himachal Pradesh. As a result of change in administrative identity, a number of people reported their place of last residence in Punjab.

There was somewhat equitable distribution of in-migrants during the period 5-9 years, 10-19 years and 20+ years. Around fifty percent in-migrants settled down in state during nine years preceding the census year. Some ten percent did not know their time of arrival.

Distribution of male in-migrants revealed still more interesting patterns. About 8.96 percent male in-migrants reported that they came to Himachal Pradesh during one year prior to the census and 30.90 percent, the highest, came during 1-4 years preceding the census of 1991. Almost 15.75 percent male in-migrants arrived during 5-9 years and 15.88 percent during 10-19 years durations of residence. About 14.11 percent male in-migrants came some two decades before 1991.

Largest (26.14 percent) number of female in-migrants came to Himachal Pradesh more than twenty years before the census of 1991 i.e. before 1971. This was because after reorganization of Punjab in 1966, hilly areas were added to Himachal Pradesh. A large number of people, thus, consider themselves to be migrants from Punjab even though there was no geographical change in place of their residence.

These people quote their duration of residence in Himachal Pradesh from the time of implementation of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966. Around twenty percent female in-migrants came during the decade preceding 1991 i.e. during 1981-91. Whether females arrived one year prior to the census or some twenty years ago, main reason for their migration was marriage (D3 Migration Tables of Himachal Pradesh, Census of India 1991, Data available on CD).

Table 1
Himachal Pradesh: In-migrants classified by Duration of Residence
1991

Total						
Duration	Person	Percent	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
All Durations	236,830	100.00	116,853	100.00	119,977	100.00
Less than 1 year	17,004	7.18	10,468	8.96	6,536	5.45
1-4 years	64,865	27.39	36,113	30.90	28,752	23.96
5-9 years	38,276	16.16	18,402	15.75	19,874	16.56
10-19 years	43,436	18.34	18,552	15.88	24,884	20.74
20 + years	47,851	20.20	16,491	14.11	31,360	26.14
Period not stated	25,398	10.72	16,827	14.40	8,571	7.14
Rural						
All Durations	158,869	100.00	78,764	100.00	80,105	100.00
Less than 1 year	12,388	7.80	8,093	10.27	4,295	5.36
1-4 years	41,434	26.08	24,133	30.64	17,301	21.60
5-9 years	24,861	15.65	12,008	15.25	12,853	16.05
10-19 years	28,312	17.82	11,748	14.92	16,564	20.68
20 + years	32,326	20.35	9,255	11.75	23,071	28.80
Period not stated	19,548	12.30	13,527	17.17	6,021	7.52
Urban						
All Durations	77,961	100.00	38,089	100.00	39,872	100.00
Less than 1 year	4,616	5.92	2,375	6.24	2,241	5.62
1-4 years	23,431	30.05	11,980	31.45	11,451	28.72
5-9 years	13,415	17.21	6,394	16.79	7,021	17.61
10-19 years	15,124	19.40	6,804	17.86	8,320	20.87
20 + years	15,525	19.91	7,236	19.00	8,289	20.79
Period not stated	5,850	7.50	3,300	8.66	2,550	6.40

Source: Computed from:- Census of India, 1991

Number of female in-migrants was marginally higher than males. During less than 1 year and 1-4 years durations of residence, number of male in-migrants was higher than females. In remaining three durations of residence i.e. 5-9 years, 10-19 years and 20+ years, volume of female in-migrants was more than male in-migrants. Rural in-migrants were more than double as compared to urban in-migrants in case of both males and females (Table 1).

District wise distribution of in-migrants reveals that in ten out of a total of twelve districts, highest number of in-migrants arrived during 1-4 years prior to enumeration. These districts were Chamba (35.71 percent), Kangra (26.73 percent), Hamirpur (24.82 percent), Mandi (24.61 percent), Kullu (35.16 percent), Lahul & Spiti (33.81 percent), Shimla (28.83 percent), Solan (32.05 percent), Sirmaur (27.46 percent) and Kinnaur (40.72 percent).

Hence all the four mountainous districts, having substantial proportion of tribal population and marked by rugged topography, viz. Chamba, Kullu,

Lahul & Spiti and Kinnaur received the maximum number of in-migrants during 1-4 years preceding the census of 1991.

Districts Una (27.25 percent) and Bilaspur (24.10 percent) received the highest number of in-migrants more than twenty years before the census of 1991.

No in-migrants were reported in majority of the districts (all districts except Kangra and Una) during the year preceding the census i.e. in 1990-91. In districts Kangra and Una, percent share during less than one year duration of residence was less than fifteen.

Patterns of rural-urban distribution of in-migrants during various durations of residence were no different except districts Una and Bilaspur. In these two districts, highest number of in-migrants was received more than twenty years ago but urban in-migrants exhibited a different pattern as largest numbers (24.56 percent and 30.57 percent respectively) were reported during 1-4 years prior to the census (Table 2).

Table 2

	Total	Percent	Rural	Percent	Urban	Percent
Chamba						
All Durations	14,563	100.00	8,656	100.00	5,907	100.00

**Himachal Pradesh: Duration of In-migration in Various Districts
1991**

Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	5,200	35.71	2,957	34.16	2,243	37.97
5-9 years	2,752	18.90	1,597	18.45	1,155	19.55
10-19 years	1,765	12.12	974	11.25	791	13.39
20 + years	1,695	11.64	864	9.98	831	14.07
Period not stated	3,151	21.64	2,264	26.16	887	15.02
Kangra						
All Durations	56,655	100.00	47,044	100.00	9,611	100.00
Less than 1 year	9,226	16.28	7,204	15.31	2,022	21.04
1-4 years	15,142	26.73	11,886	25.27	3,256	33.88
5-9 years	8,844	15.61	7,398	15.73	1,446	15.05
10-19 years	10,825	19.11	9,359	19.89	1,466	15.25
20 + years	11,269	19.89	9,940	21.13	1,329	13.83
Period not stated	1,349	2.38	1,257	2.67	92	0.96
Hamirpur						
All Durations	13,378	100.00	11,212	100.00	2,166	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	3,320	24.82	2,555	22.79	765	35.32
5-9 years	2,172	16.24	1,828	16.30	344	15.88
10-19 years	2,891	21.61	2,486	22.17	405	18.70
20 + years	2,140	16.00	1,907	17.01	233	10.76
Period not stated	2,855	21.34	2,436	21.73	419	19.34
Una						
All Durations	33,326	100.00	26,681	100.00	6,645	100.00
Less than 1 year	4,708	14.13	3,987	14.94	721	10.85
1-4 years	6,393	19.18	4,761	17.84	1,632	24.56
5-9 years	5,222	15.67	3,882	14.55	1,340	20.17
10-19 years	6,955	20.87	5,409	20.27	1,546	23.27
20 + years	9,082	27.25	7,748	29.04	1,334	20.08
Period not stated	966	2.90	894	3.35	72	1.08
Bilaspur						
All Durations	7,372	100.00	6,031	100.00	1,341	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	1,676	22.73	1,266	20.99	410	30.57
5-9 years	1,302	17.66	1,089	18.06	213	15.88
10-19 years	1,412	19.15	1,168	19.37	244	18.20
20 + years	1,777	24.10	1,501	24.89	276	20.58
Period not stated	1,205	16.35	1,007	16.70	198	14.77
Mandi						
All Durations	12,181	100.00	5,853	100.00	6,328	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	2,998	24.61	1,402	23.95	1,596	25.22
5-9 years	2,049	16.82	938	16.03	1,111	17.56
10-19 years	2,520	20.69	1,141	19.49	1,379	21.79
20 + years	2,452	20.13	882	15.07	1,570	24.81
Period not stated	2,162	17.75	1,490	25.46	672	10.62

Continued..

Kullu						
All Durations	4,207	100.00	1,920	100.00	2,287	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	1,479	35.16	724	37.71	755	33.01

5-9 years	759	18.04	345	17.97	414	18.10
10-19 years	743	17.66	295	15.36	448	19.59
20 + years	770	18.30	288	15.00	482	21.08
Period not stated	456	10.84	268	13.96	188	8.22
Lahul & Spiti						
All Durations	423	100.00	423	100.00	0.00	0.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	143	33.81	143	33.81	0.00	0.00
5-9 years	49	11.58	49	11.58	0.00	0.00
10-19 years	23	5.44	23	5.44	0.00	0.00
20 + years	26	6.15	26	6.15	0.00	0.00
Period not stated	182	43.03	182	43.03	0.00	0.00
Shimla						
All Durations	26,603	100.00	5,826	100.00	20,777	100.00
Less than 1 year	3,070	11.54	1,197	20.55	1,873	9.01
1-4 years	7,669	28.83	1,816	31.17	5,853	28.17
5-9 years	4,150	15.60	807	13.85	3,343	16.09
10-19 years	5,299	19.92	854	14.66	4,445	21.39
20 + years	5,759	21.65	953	16.36	4,806	23.13
Period not stated	656	2.47	199	3.42	457	2.20
Solan						
All Durations	40,616	100.00	26,934	100.00	13,682	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	13,019	32.05	8,545	31.73	4,474	32.70
5-9 years	6,549	16.12	4,059	15.07	2,490	18.20
10-19 years	5,930	14.60	3,357	12.46	2,573	18.81
20 + years	6,800	16.74	4,408	16.37	2,392	17.48
Period not stated	8,318	20.48	6,565	24.37	1,753	12.81
Sirmaur						
All Durations	25,458	100.00	16,241	100.00	9,217	100.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	6,992	27.46	4,545	27.98	2,447	26.55
5-9 years	4,138	16.25	2,579	15.88	1,559	16.91
10-19 years	4,889	19.20	3,062	18.85	1,827	19.82
20 + years	6,002	23.58	3,730	22.97	2,272	24.65
Period not stated	3,437	13.50	2,325	14.32	1,112	12.06
Kinnaur						
All Durations	2,048	100.00	2,048	100.00	0.00	0.00
Less than 1 year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-4 years	834	40.72	834	40.72	0.00	0.00
5-9 years	290	14.16	290	14.16	0.00	0.00
10-19 years	184	8.98	184	8.98	0.00	0.00
20 + years	79	3.86	79	3.86	0.00	0.00
Period not stated	661	32.28	661	32.28	0.00	0.00

Source: Computed from:-

D2 Migration Tables of Himachal Pradesh, Census of India 1991, Data available on CD.

3. Duration of Residence of In-migrants, 2001

largest numbers being reported during 1-4 years preceding the census of 2001.

During the census of 2001, highest number of in-migrants was received during 1-4 years duration of residence. Total and male in-migrants in both rural and urban areas displayed the same pattern i.e. the

Table 3

**Himachal Pradesh: In-migrants classified by Duration of Residence
2001**

Total						
Duration	Person	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
All Durations	350,834	100.00	165,326	100.00	185,508	100.00
Less than 1 year	37,197	10.60	24,043	14.54	13,154	7.09
1-4 years	97,376	27.76	57,022	34.49	40,354	21.75
5-9 years	53,650	15.29	26,228	15.86	27,422	14.78
10-19 years	64,942	18.51	25,225	15.26	39,717	21.41
20 + years	77,653	22.13	20,670	12.50	56,983	30.72
Duration not stated	20,016	5.71	12,138	7.34	7,878	4.25
Rural						
All Durations	229,504	100.00	98,622	100.00	130,882	100.00
Less than 1 year	26,715	11.64	17,938	18.19	8,777	6.71
1-4 years	58,154	25.34	32,627	33.08	25,527	19.50
5-9 years	32,907	14.34	14,242	14.44	18,665	14.26
10-19 years	42,428	18.49	14,326	14.53	28,102	21.47
20 + years	55,053	23.99	10,521	10.67	44,532	34.02
Duration not stated	14,247	6.21	8,968	9.09	5,279	4.03
Urban						
All Durations	121,330	100.00	66,704	100.00	54,626	100.00
Less than 1 year	10,482	8.64	6,105	9.15	4,377	8.01
1-4 years	39,222	32.33	24,395	36.57	14,827	27.14
5-9 years	20,743	17.10	11,986	17.97	8,757	16.03
10-19 years	22,514	18.56	10,899	16.34	11,615	21.26
20 + years	22,600	18.63	10,149	15.21	12,451	22.79
Duration not stated	5,769	4.75	3,170	4.75	2,599	4.76

Source: Computed from:-Census of India 2001, Data available on CD.

Largest proportion of females reported that they had arrived the state more than twenty years before the census of 2001 was conducted (Table 3). In less than one year and 1-4 years number of males was higher than that of females. Whereas in 5-9 years, 10-19 years and 20+ years females outnumbered males. In 20+ years, number of females was 2.75 times as that of males.

More of males migrated to Himachal Pradesh during ten years preceding the census of 2001. Whereas number of female in migrants was higher prior to that i.e. before the year 1991 (Table 3).

In less than one year and 1-4 years, males were reported in higher numbers. This shows increasing mobility of males over time. In India, females constitute a substantial proportion of migrants. Migration of females is associated mainly with marriage. Every year a large number of females, make a move from their parents place to spouse's. But recently, as discussed in preceding paragraph, proportion of male migrants is on increase. In fact, in durations of residence less than one year and 1-4 years, more males were reported. This shows that process of migration is undergoing a change. This change is in response to new economic policy which seeks to develop industry even in a hill state like Himachal Pradesh (Uttarakhand is another example of a hill state where industrial

development took place as a result of new economic policy).

Establishment of industry has opened up avenues of employment not only for residents of respective states but also for people, particularly males, from other states. So there has been an increase in employment driven migration in which males are more dominant. Study of attribute of duration of residence in various districts of Himachal Pradesh brings out that in all the districts except Lahul & Spiti, Una and Bilaspur, number of in-migrants was highest during 1-4 years preceding the census of 2001. In Lahul & Spiti this number was highest during one year preceding the census of 2001 whereas in districts Una and Bilaspur highest number of in-migrants reported that they had arrived the state more than twenty years before the census of 2001 was conducted.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Thus it is evident that a large number of people had migrated to Himachal Pradesh before 1971. This was in response to reorganization of Punjab in 1966.

Rural migration has always been higher than urban migration. This is attributable to stage of development of the country as a whole of which Himachal Pradesh is a part. India is a developing



country and a substantial proportion of migration is rural-to-rural migration. This is more so expected in Himachal Pradesh where level of urbanization is quite low (Himachal Pradesh Development Report, Planning Commission, 2009, p.341).

Mobility of males has been increasing over time. Census figures reveal that male migration increased during past couple of years. More than four years ago before the census of 2001, female in-migrants were reported in higher numbers in comparison to their male counterparts. But during the four years prior to the census, male in-migrants were reported in higher numbers. This shows increasing employment avenues in state. Male migration is economically motivated in contrast to female migration, which in Indian context is socially motivated. Increasing number of males over time shows increase in number of employment opportunities which attract young job seekers particularly males from other states. Increase in number of male migrants was true for both rural and urban areas.

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