

Who Migrated More: Males or Females? An Analysis of Sex Composition of Out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh: 1991-2001

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Abstract:

A study of composition of migrants is as important as other attributes of migration. In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the sex composition of out-migrants from a hill state taking the state of Himachal Pradesh as the case study. Census data for the census years 1991 and 2001 has been taken up for analysis. Sex composition of migrants has been studied in detail. It has been found that females outnumbered their male counterparts. Migration of females was primarily because of marriage. Males, on the other hand, reported employment as the prime reason of migration. Proportion of females decreased with increase in distance from the state border.

Keywords

Migration, Migrants, Male, Female, Composition

1. Introduction

There can be various ways to study the composition of out-migrants. Most common that are undertaken for study by researchers are sex composition, rural-urban composition, age composition and literate-illiterate composition. In this study, sex composition has been taken into account to discuss the composition of out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh.

2. Sex- Composition of Out-migrants, 1991

Table 1 reveals male-female composition of out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh during the census of 1991. Out of a total of 0.34 million out-migrants, 0.16 million were males and 0.19 million females. Share of males and females was 45.65 and 54.35 percent respectively.

Proportion of female out migrants was highest in the neighbouring state Punjab where a highest of 0.13 million out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh were enumerated. Proportion of female migrants in Punjab was 62.39 percent and remaining 37.61 percent were males. Punjab was followed by another neighbouring state Haryana. Proportion of females in Haryana was 60.32 percent. In Uttar Pradesh, this proportion was 59.75 percent. At the time of census of 1991, Uttar Pradesh included present day Uttaranchal/ Uttarakhand as well. Uttaranchal/ Uttarakhand was bifurcated out of Uttar Pradesh on November 01, 2000. Hence, Uttar Pradesh was a

neighbour of Himachal Pradesh at the time of Census of 1991.

Table 1
Himachal Pradesh: Male- Female Composition of Out-migrants 1991

Source: Computed from:-Census of India 1991

Higher proportion of female out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh to neighbouring states Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh was a result of matrimonial ties. Matrimonial alliances between the border districts of two different states are quite common. Border districts of any state are cultural and social transition zones. So a socio-cultural

Migrated To	Person	Male	Female
India	344,176	45.65	54.35
Punjab	131,272	37.61	62.39
Delhi	56,701	57.35	42.65
Chandigarh	40,438	59.51	40.49
Haryana	33,318	39.68	60.32
Uttar Pradesh	28,150	40.25	59.75
Remaining States/UTs	54,297	49.02	50.98

similarity is found despite different administrative identities. This results into marriages taking place across state borders. In India, females shift to their respective spouses' place post marriage as a part of social practice. This is the reason for higher volume of female out-migration to the neighbouring states.

In Chandigarh and Delhi, more of male migrants were enumerated. Proportion of male out-migrants in Union Territory Chandigarh was 59.51 percent and in National Capital Territory Delhi, it was 57.35 percent. Reasons for more of males migrating to Chandigarh and Delhi can be explained in terms of motive behind migration. Migration to Chandigarh and Delhi was mainly economic unlike in case of migration to Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which was primarily social. Migration to Chandigarh and Delhi was mainly for employment.

In case of a developing country like India, women's participation in financial activities is a recent phenomenon. A meager proportion of women used to work way back in 1990s. Females moved from one place to another mainly because of social reasons like marriage or moving with household. Work/ employment was not often a reason for women migration. So more of males were enumerated in Chandigarh and Delhi, places which

had and still have vast employment potential. Proportion of two genders in remaining states and union territories of the country was almost equal with males having a share of 49.02 percent and females 50.98 percent.

Table 2 shows the distribution of out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh in various states and union territories of the country.

Table 2
Himachal Pradesh: Male- Female Distribution of Out-migrants 1991

Migrated To	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

Source: Computed from:-Census of India 1991

Out of a total of 0.34 million out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh, a highest of 38.14 percent were enumerated in neighbouring state Punjab. Punjab was followed by Delhi (16.47 percent) and Chandigarh (11.75 percent) respectively. Thus, sixty six percent out-migrants from the state were enumerated collectively in Punjab, Delhi and Chandigarh. Eighty five percent were enumerated in five states/ union territories namely, Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Remaining twenty one states and six union territories (Indian Union comprised of twenty five states and seven union territories at the time of census of 1991) received only fifteen percent out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh.

3. Sex Composition of Out-migrants, 2001

An analysis of gender-wise distribution of out migrants from Himachal Pradesh reveals that neighbouring state Punjab was the most favoured destination by both male and female out migrants. Significant variations were observed in the proportion of males and females in Punjab (Table 3). More than eighty percent interstate out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh were enumerated in nearby states/ union territories viz. Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, both in case of males and females. This shows that migration from the state was predominantly short distance.

During the census of 2001, a total of 0.43 million interstate out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh were reported in other states/ union territories of India (Table 3). Out of this, respective share of males and females was

46.06 percent and 53.94 percent, which in absolute numbers was 0.02 million and 0.23 million respectively.

Table 3
Himachal Pradesh: Male- Female Composition of Out-migrants 2001

Destination	Person	Male	Female
India	435,883	46.06	53.94
Punjab	158,898	37.96	62.04
Delhi	77,015	55.91	44.09
Chandigarh	53,211	58.42	41.58
Haryana	48,708	40.01	59.99
Uttaranchal	18,855	40.68	59.32
Remaining States/ UTs	79,196	49.40	50.60

Source: Computed from:- Census of India 2001

Out of a total of 0.02 million male out-migrants, largest chunk of migrants went to Punjab (30.00 percent). Punjab was followed by Delhi (21.45 percent), Chandigarh (15.49 percent), Haryana (9.70 percent) and Uttaranchal (3.82 percent) respectively. Figures in Table 3 reveal that around half of the total male out-migrants were enumerated in the neighbouring state Punjab and the National Capital Territory Delhi. Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh and Haryana collectively hosted three-fourth male out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh. Remaining twenty six states and five union territories reported one-fourth of the total male out-migrants from the state.

As far as female out migration from Himachal Pradesh is concerned, a little less than seventy percent (68.79 percent) were concentrated in neighbouring states Punjab (41.92 percent), Haryana (12.43 percent) and National Capital Territory Delhi (14.44 percent). Union Territory Chandigarh reported 9.41 percent female interstate out-migrants from Himachal Pradesh. Remaining twenty six states and five union territories hosted 21.80 percent female out migrants.

A comparative analysis of male and female out-migrants from the Study Area brings forth some interesting facts. In case of migration to neighbouring states namely Punjab, Haryana and Uttaranchal, females outnumbered males, while number of males was higher when the destinations were Delhi and Chandigarh (Table 3). Answer to such kind of pattern lies in both economic and social factors. In a developing country like India, migration of females is driven primarily by social reasons. As a part of social practice, a bride is supposed to move to her groom's place of residence post marriage. Social and cultural similarity, in addition to the physical proximity, is the basis for matrimonial alliances. Himachal Pradesh shares administrative boundary with Punjab and Haryana. Border districts on both the sides of the state border have cultural similarity. As a result, matrimonial ties are common with the neighbouring states Punjab and

Haryana resulting into migration of females to these states.

Table 4
Himachal Pradesh: Male- Female Distribution of Out-migrants 2001

Destination	Person	Male	Female
India	435,883	200,747	235,136
Punjab	36.45	30.05	41.92
Delhi	17.67	21.45	14.44
Chandigarh	12.21	15.49	9.41
Haryana	11.17	9.70	12.43
Uttaranchal	4.33	3.82	4.76
Remaining States/UTs	18.17	19.49	17.04

Source: Computed from:- Census of India 2001

More of males were reported in Delhi and Chandigarh. Reasons for higher number of male out migrants to highly urbanized National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh were economic. These two destinations offer a number of employment opportunities and attract a number of job seekers. A substantial proportion of these job seekers are males. Migrants from Himachal Pradesh to these developed destinations during the census years 1991 and 2001 were engaged mainly in clerical and associated jobs in government offices apart from working in private sector. No doubt participation of females in economic activities has increased manifold during the past decade but males are still considered to be the sole bread winners in large majority of families in traditional Indian society. Movement of females for economic reasons is restricted because of social stigmas and apprehensions of parents regarding security issues.

4. 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. 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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