

Migration from Rural Settlements of a Hilly State to Rural Settlements in Plains: Evidences from Himalayan Hill State Himachal Pradesh

Archana Sharma
Department of Geography, PGGC-11, Chandigarh, India
archanasharma1886@gmail.com

Abstract:

Rural-to-rural migration is the most widespread form of migration in context of a developing country like India. This piece of research is an effort to look into the patterns of rural-to-rural migration from villages of Himachal Pradesh to villages of other states of the country. Apart from underlining the patterns of rural-to-rural out-migration from Himachal Pradesh, this study also probes into the reasons of the same. It has been found that rural-to-rural migration, in case of present study, is a short distance migration with more involvement of females. However, higher mobility of females was because of marriage migration.

Keywords

Rural-to-rural, Migration, Marriage, Work, Employment

1. Introduction

Rural-to-rural out migration from Himachal Pradesh is quite an old form of migration. In the initial days of civilization, people must have been moving outwards from the mountainous state to nearby plains in Punjab and Haryana in search of agricultural land and pastures. Transhumance practised by Gaddi tribe of Bharmaur region in district Chamba is an instance of movement of people from upper reaches to lower parts in search of grazing lands and endurable weather. Although with

the advent of technology and dissemination of information about remunerative horticultural practices of late, hill slopes have been brought under cultivation; yet want of easy life in plains, bigger farms and better infrastructure even in rural areas of plains thrust people of Himachal Pradesh to migrate to other states/ union territories of the country.

2. Patterns of Rural-to-Rural Out-migration

Table 1 shows the pattern of rural-to-rural out migration from Himachal Pradesh to various states/ union territories of country.

This stream of migration was dominated by females with exceptionally large volume migrating to the neighbouring state Punjab. However, Punjab was the most favoured destination by males as well; but proportion of males enumerated in Punjab was not as high as their female counterparts. Reason for extraordinarily high proportion of female migrants to the neighbouring state Punjab was obviously marriage.

Parts of districts Solan, Kangra and Una are culturally similar to the neighbouring areas of Punjab. So a high volume of female marriage migration takes place between this culturally similar zone lying in different administrative units. This is actually a zone of cultural transition from Punjabi culture to *Himachali/ Pahari* culture.

Table 1
Himachal Pradesh
Rural-to-Rural Out-migration, 1991-2001

1991				2001			
DESTINATION	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	LAST RESIDENCE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
ALL STATES/ UTS	102,284	28,418	73,866	ALL STATES/ UTS	113,773	31,043	82,730
PUNJAB	53.81	42.09	58.32	PUNJAB	55.16	41.56	60.26
UTTAR PRADESH	12.32	14.71	11.40	HARYANA	14.22	13.66	14.43
HARYANA	11.63	9.92	12.29	UTTARANCHAL	9.13	11.29	8.32
ASSAM	4.67	7.04	3.75	UTTAR PRADESH	5.30	3.30	6.04
ORRISA	4.16	3.34	4.47	CHANDIGARH	3.83	9.34	1.77
CHANDIGARH	2.18	5.24	1.00	DELHI	1.87	4.02	1.07
REMAINING STATES/ UTS	11.23	17.66	8.77	REMAINING STATES/ UTS	10.49	16.83	8.11

Source: Computed from:-Census of India 1991 and 2001

Apart from Punjab, rural-to-rural migrants from Himachal Pradesh were reported in considerable proportion in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. These three states are the ones from where migrants in Himachal Pradesh were enumerated. Thus it can be said that these were the counter streams of migration generated in response to streams of in-migration from these states to Himachal Pradesh.

3. Reasons of Rural-to-Rural Out-migration

Table 2 depicts the main reasons of interstate rural-to-rural out-migration from Himachal Pradesh. It is revealed that the chief reason for rural-to-rural out migration from Himachal Pradesh was marriage. So a large proportion of migrants was constituted by females who had migrated to their spouses' place post marriage.

Marriage as a reason for migration was not at all important in case of male migrants. Males migrated primarily for employment. On the other hand, employment was not a principal cause of migration for majority of females even on exclusion of marriage as a reason for migration.

When marriage as a reason for migration is excluded, overall picture of reasons of migration undergoes a significant change. An immense increase is observed in proportion of migrants citing employment and family moved as reasons of migration. However, no considerable change took place in case of male migrants which was quite obvious as proportion of males citing marriage as a reason of migration was negligibly small. Proportion of females in various reasons of migration changed significantly when analysed on exclusion of marriage induced migration. Family moved became the most important reason of migration. Employment was still not a prime controlling factor of movement of females.

Table 2
Himachal Pradesh
Reasons for Rural-to-Rural Out-migration, 1991-2001

ALL REASONS							
1991				2001			
REASON	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	REASON	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
ALL REASONS	102,284	28,418	73,866	ALL REASONS	164,582	59,552	105,030
EMPLOYMENT	10.59	32.45	2.18	WORK/ EMPLOYMENT	24.23	60.59	3.62
BUSINESS	1.76	5.31	0.40	BUSINESS	0.58	1.43	0.10
EDUCATION	1.11	2.73	0.48	EDUCATION	0.68	1.40	0.27
FAMILY MOVED	17.63	30.83	12.56	MARRIAGE	47.74	1.23	74.11
MARRIAGE	56.50	2.44	77.30	MOVED AFTER BIRTH	2.14	3.40	1.43
NATURAL CALAMITIES	0.59	1.58	0.21	MOVED WITH HOUSEHOLD	16.26	17.89	15.34
OTHERS	11.82	24.65	6.88	OTHERS	8.36	14.06	5.14
REASONS EXCLUDING MARRIAGE							
ALL REASONS	44,493	27,724	16,769	ALL REASONS	86,011	58,817	27,194
EMPLOYMENT	24.34	33.26	9.59	EMPLOYMENT	46.37	61.34	13.98
BUSINESS	4.05	5.44	1.75	BUSINESS	1.11	1.45	0.38
EDUCATION	2.55	2.80	2.13	EDUCATION	1.29	1.41	1.03
FAMILY MOVED	40.54	31.60	55.30	MOVED AFTER BIRTH	4.10	3.44	5.52
NATURAL CALAMITIES	1.36	1.62	0.92	MOVED WITH HOUSEHOLD	31.12	18.11	59.24
OTHERS	27.17	25.27	30.30	OTHERS	16.01	14.23	19.84

Source: Computed from: Census of India 1991 and 2001

4. Conclusions

It is evident that rural-to-rural migration in Himachal Pradesh was directed towards neighbouring states. Main destination states were Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi. As far as gender composition of migrants is concerned, females outnumbered their

male counterparts by large margins in neighbouring destinations namely Punjab and Haryana; whereas males were reported in higher numbers in far-off places like Delhi. Hence, female migration was primarily short distance migration and male migration was both short distance and long distance



depending on employment opportunities at the place of destination.

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