

In-Migration in NCT of Delhi: An overview

¹ Pradita Gupta, ² Smita Bhutani

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab, India

³ Professor, Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab, India

Abstract

Since migration results in the redistribution of population, its study assumes great importance in the analysis of demographic data. Geographers with their concern for spatially expressed processes are attracted to the study of relocation of people. It is in this context, that migration has been of central interest for the disciplines like geography which is spatially oriented and which lays its emphasis upon the understanding of spatial processes and spatial interactions. For a city like Delhi, serving as a nation's capital as well as the union territory of India, the study of migration has become all the way more important as it helps in understanding the dynamics of the society better. Delhi has been receiving population through international and national migration so much so that, today's more than one third of its total population is accounted as migrant population. This rise in the migrant population of Delhi is mainly due to the migration of people to the capital in search of a better living standard. Today, the composition of population in Delhi ruminates the perfect cosmopolitan image. The cosmopolitan city bears with it multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious composition of the population. Due to this high rate of in-migration Delhi has become one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Thus, it is necessary to understand the patterns of migration in the national capital territory of India.

The objectives of the present study are (i) to assess the growth of population and in-migration in Delhi; (ii) to examine the patterns of in-migration in Delhi; (iii) to explore the duration and reasons of in-migration; (iv) to study the characteristics of in-migrants in NCT of Delhi including the proportion of workers in different occupational categories; age-sex structure; literate population; degree of educational attainment; sex ratio; marital status etc. Due to the unavailability of migration data for 2011, data of 2001 has been used and mathematical techniques like rates, percentages have been applied to get the desired results. It has been found that the decadal growth rate of Delhi was 21.2 per cent in 2011, which is quite alarming. The pattern of in-migration from different states also shows a great variation. Only six states contribute more than 80 per cent of the total migration in Delhi. Employment was main reason among males while marriage and family moved with household was the dominant reason among females.

Keywords: in-migration, characteristics, Delhi, patterns

Introduction

Migration is one of the three basic determinants of population change, the other two being fertility and mortality. Migration cannot be considered as a mere shift of people from one place of residence to another, as it is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space-content and space-relationship of an area (Gosal, 1961). It not only changes the pattern of distribution of population but also affects the places of origin and destinations in all spheres of life i.e. social, economic and political. Hence, it is a continuous process which takes place during all the stages of the development process. It is said that the flow of migration depends largely on the differential level of economic development of different regions (Chandrasekhar, 1949). Moreover, other scholars have observed that the acceleration of migration from rural economy to industrial economy is due to reasons like small landholding, unemployment, indebtedness, declining yield crop etc (Emes, 1954; Mukherjee, 1979; Ogutu, 1993) ^[6]. Age is also a vital factor for deciding the flow of migrants as people during their teens, twenties and early thirties are more migratory than other groups. Kayastha and Prakash (1971) ^[4] during their study on internal migration in India found that the adolescents and

adults migrate more than the other migrants. Besides this, distance also plays a significant role in migrating phenomenon. Often long distance migration is accompanied by the reason of "family moved with household" whereas, in the short distance migration, majority the male migrates to the area of destination and later on brings their family (Kamble, 1982).

Delhi, the national capital, officially known as NCT of Delhi is one of the oldest cities in India. Migration for economic and political reasons (i.e. refugees) has played an important role in increasing Delhi's population growth. In-migration in the mid 1900s brought urbanization and a faster rate of population growth to the city. As a nation's capital and union territory, Delhi has been receiving population through international and national migration so much so that, today's more than one third of its total population is accounted as migrant population. Declining trends of villages and increasing trends of urbanization over the decades in Delhi has further accentuated the growth of in-migrants in the city known as 'Urban Magnet'.

Objectives of the study

In view of the above discussion, the present study tries to give

an overview of in-migration in Delhi in respect to following objectives: (i) to assess the growth of population and in-migration in Delhi; (ii) to examine the patterns of in-migration in Delhi; (iii) to explore the duration and reasons of in-migration; (iv) to study the characteristics of in-migrants in NCT of Delhi including the proportion of workers in different occupational categories; age-sex structure; literate population; degree of educational attainment; sex ratio; marital status etc.

Data Sources and Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data published by Census of India. Due to unavailability of 2011 migration tables, data for 2001 has been analysed elaborately to know the trends, patterns and characteristics of in-migrants in NCT of Delhi. Mathematical techniques such as rates, percentages have been calculated and data is processed and presented in the tabulated form.

Analysis and Discussion

Trends of In-migration in Delhi

The trends of population growth and in-migration in NCT of Delhi over the span of past four decades, has shown some

remarkable population growth patterns. The total population of NCT has witnessed more than six fold increase from 1961 to 2011 i.e. from 26.59 lakhs in 1961 to 167.87 lakhs in 2011. During the same time the total in-migrant population has also increased from 9 lakhs in 1961 to 53 lakhs in 2001. But, Delhi recorded a significant decline in growth rate of population ever since 1981 i.e. from 51.45 per cent in 1981-1991 to 21.20 per cent in 2001-2011. The decline in the growth rate of population can be attributed to the implementation of various programmes like MNREGA and welfare schemes by the central and state government. On the other hand, the percentage change of migration has been fluctuating over the decades. In 1971-81, the growth rate of migration was up to 62 per cent from 50 per cent in 1961-71, but after that it sharply declined to 39 per cent. In the decade 1991-2001 it again increased to 62.8 per cent. Besides this, the percentage of in-migrants to the total population in each of the decades since 1961 has been about 35 per cent. This is due to large scale urbanization and availability of large number of service sector and informal sector jobs, availability of better educational and health services etc in the NCT of Delhi.

Table 1: NCT of Delhi: Population Growth and Trends of Migration, 1961- 2001

Total Population			
Year	Total Population (Lakhs)		Growth Rate (%)
1961	26.59		-
1971	40.66		52.93
1981	62.21		53.00
1991	94.21		51.45
2001	138.51		47.02
2011	167.87		21.20
Total In-Migrants			
Year	Total Migrants Lakhs)	% of In- Migrants to Total Population	Growth Rate (%)
1961	9.71	36.55	-
1971	14.52	35.74	49.53
1981	23.51	37.79	61.84
1991	32.68	34.68	38.99
2001	53.24	38.43	62.88

Source: Computed from D2 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India 1961- 2001

Patterns of In-Migration in Delhi

Besides studying the trends it is equally important to study the patterns of migration as such a study reveals the origin and destination of migrants. The interstate pattern of in-migration in Delhi shows a great variation. Only six states i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal accounted for more than 80 per cent of the total migration (Table 2) whereas all the southern states added to less than 10 per cent of the total volume of in-migrants in Delhi. This shows that the language as well as the distance might be the major obstacle for the southern people to migrate to Delhi. Furthermore, to analyze the proportion of male-female

migrants from different states and Union Territories of India, it can be inferred that the percentage share of male and female migrants from the state of Uttar Pradesh is more or less equal to each other (Census of India, 2001). From Bihar, however, the percentage of male migrants outnumbers the female migrants. The male migration from Bihar is due to the economic reasons of 'employment' i.e. labor force, whereas the migration pattern from Uttar Pradesh is more dependent on the 'movement with the household'. However, from Haryana more females are migrating as compared to males. This may be also because of 'marriage' migration.

Table 2: NCT of Delhi: Pattern of Inter-State In-Migration, 2001

States	Share of Migrant Population to Total Migrant Population in NCT of Delhi
Uttar Pradesh	43.1
Bihar	13.6
Haryana	10.4
Uttaranchal*	5.7
Rajasthan	5.2
Punjab	4.8

Source: Computed from D-3 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

* Known as Uttarakhand as per Census of India, 2011

Reasons for In-Migration to Delhi

In the field of migration studies, reasons for migration hold the vital position. Census has discussed seven reasons for migration namely, employment, business, education, marriage, moved after birth, moved with household and others. The reasons for migration in Delhi show that employment (36.42 per cent) and moved with household (33.73 per cent) together are responsible for more than 70 per

cent of the in-migration in Delhi (Table 3). After these two, marriage is the third important reason for in-migration in Delhi, which is responsible for 16 per cent of in-migration. There is a very small contribution (about 13 per cent) of the remaining reasons. Among males 'employment' is the most important reason to migrate to NCT of Delhi and females' dominance was seen for the reason 'moved with household' followed by 'marriage'.

Table 3: NCT of Delhi: Reasons for Migration for All Duration, 2001

Reasons for Migration	Migration for All Duration of Residence		
	Total (in percentage)	Male (in percentage)	Female (in percentage)
Work/ Employment	36.42	61.64	4.37
Business	0.72	1.14	0.18
Education	1.48	2.09	0.7
Marriage	16.12	0.28	36.25
Moved after Birth	2.27	2.37	2.14
Moved with Household	33.73	21.99	48.66
Others	9.26	10.49	7.7
Total	100	100	100

Source: Computed from D-5 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Reasons for migration from different states

Table 4 shows the spatial variations in reasons for total in-migration based on place of last residence among different states. 'Moved with Household', was predominantly the main reason in all the states with the exception of Bihar, Orissa, Kerala, West Bengali and Jharkhand where 'employment' was the major reason for migration of people. Karnataka recorded the highest percentage (47.6 per cent) of such migrants and Kerala with approximately 30 per cent was at the lowest level.

When migrants tend to move long distances 'moved with household' becomes the major reason to move. Employment as the reason for in-migration in Delhi is highest in case of Bihar followed by Kerala, West Bengal and Orissa. From these states more than 44 per cent of the migrants have come to Delhi for employment. 'Marriage' as the reason for migration in Delhi is found prominent among the migrants from Haryana and Punjab. This might be because of neighbourhood effect.

Table 4: NCT of Delhi: Reasons of Migration (State wise), 2001

States	Reason for migration (in per cent)						
	Employment	Business	Education	Moved with Household	Moved after Birth	Marriage	Others
Andhra Pradesh	27.1	0.2	3.2	45.7	2.5	14	7.3
Bihar	50.8	0.2	3.3	30.6	1.9	6.9	6.3
Goa	27.8	0.2	2.1	43	3.2	16.6	7.1
Gujarat	23.2	0.4	3.8	42.5	1.3	21.4	7.4
Haryana	20.4	1.3	2.1	38.8	1.7	29.8	5.9
Himachal Pradesh	35.2	0.2	4.2	37.8	0.3	17.2	5.1
Jammu & Kashmir	25.4	0.3	1.7	45.8	0.1	15.4	11.3
Karnataka	28.5	0.2	2.5	47.6	1.0	11.8	8.4
Kerala	45.7	0.1	3.9	29.7	0.9	13.8	5.9
Madhya Pradesh	32.8	0.5	1.6	40.8	1.0	17.5	5.8
Maharashtra	23.5	0.6	1.4	45.7	1.3	19.6	7.9
North East states	27.7	0.5	7.8	45.7	1.9	8.8	7.6
Orissa	45.5	0.2	5.8	32.5	1.0	9.5	5.5
Punjab	21.2	1.6	1.9	41.1	3.1	22.8	8.3

Rajasthan	29.6	0.9	2.4	41.5	3.6	15.7	6.3
Sikkim	26.3	0.1	6.1	37.8	1.1	21.8	6.8
Tamil Nadu	33.1	0.6	1.3	42.9	1.5	13.8	6.8
Uttar Pradesh	36.1	0.4	1.7	38.8	2.4	14.3	6.3
West Bengal	45.5	0.5	2.6	32.9	1.8	11.1	5.6
Uttarakhand	35.8	0.3	3.1	37.4	1.8	14.6	7.0
Jharkhand	45.5	0.2	5.8	32.5	1.0	9.5	5.5
Chhattisgarh	29.2	0.2	2.2	41.5	3.2	16.6	7.1

Source: Computed from D-5 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Reasons for migration among males and females from different states

The census data reveals that employment is the most important reason for male migration followed by family moved (Table 5). From Bihar, Orissa and Kerala, Jharkhand more than 65 per cent of males were migrating to Delhi for employment. For education, males are migrating in substantial proportion from Northeastern states and Sikkim (9 per cent and 7 per cent respectively). The reason of 'marriage' for

migration is given by less than one cent of male migrants in all the states except Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim. Among females; 'moved with household' and 'marriage' were the most important reasons to migrate (Table 6). However, from Haryana 61 per cent of females are migrating to Delhi for marriage as the dominant reason. Moreover, the reason of 'business' and 'employment' play the least important role in migration among females.

Table 5: NCT of Delhi: Reasons for Migration among Males, 2001

States	Reason for migration among males (in per cent)						
	Employment	Business	Education	Moved with Household	Moved after Birth	Marriage	Others
Andhra Pradesh	48.6	4.3	4.6	32.3	0.3	2.2	7.7
Bihar	68.7	5.9	3	18.3	0.1	0.3	3.7
Goa	49.1	5.8	2.9	33.2	0.2	1	7.8
Gujarat	44.4	11.7	1	35.1	0.6	0.6	6.7
Haryana	45.7	10.9	2.2	35.1	0.1	0.8	5.3
Himachal Pradesh	59.7	6.3	2.8	25.8	0.1	0.5	5.8
Jammu & Kashmir	39.1	6.7	2.1	36.2	0.2	0.5	13.5
Karnataka	49.3	4	2.6	33.9	0.1	0.5	9.7
Kerala	68.7	4	2.6	18.8	0.1	0.5	5.5
Madhya Pradesh	56.8	6.6	1.6	29.4	0.1	0.4	5.5
Maharashtra	43.4	6.9	1.8	37.7	0.1	0.6	9.5
North East states	46.2	4.7	8.8	31.6	0.2	0.7	7.8
Orissa	65.1	4.4	6.6	17.9	0.1	0.3	5.7
Punjab	40.8	11.6	1.1	37.5	0.3	0.6	8.2
Rajasthan	54.6	9.2	1.4	29.2	0.2	0.6	5
Sikkim	40.7	6.6	7.2	24.9	0.4	12.1	8.2
Tamil Nadu	56.9	5.4	1.6	27.3	0.1	0.5	8.2
Uttar Pradesh	58.2	8.2	1.8	27.4	0.1	0.5	4
West Bengal	56	7.8	2.1	27.6	0.2	0.5	5.9
Uttarakhand	55.2	8.2	1.8	27.2	0.1	0.7	6.8
Jharkhand	66.2	5.6	3	21.4	0.1	0.3	3.4
Chhattisgarh	51.5	6.6	1.6	32.5	0.2	0.8	6.8

Source: Computed from D-5 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Table 6: NCT of Delhi: Reasons for Migration among Females, 2001

States	Reason for migration among females (in per cent)						
	Employment	Business	Education	Moved with Household	Moved after Birth	Marriage	Others
Andhra Pradesh	5.1	0.7	1.8	59.3	0.1	26.2	6.8
Bihar	4.9	0.7	1.2	59.2	0.1	29.5	4.5
Goa	6.6	1.1	1.0	52.7	0.2	32.0	6.5
Gujarat	3.8	1.2	0.6	49.2	0.2	40.4	4.2
Haryana	1.6	0.5	0.7	33.0	0.1	61.3	2.9
Himachal Pradesh	2.6	0.5	1.4	49.9	0.1	40.5	5.0
Jammu & Kashmir	3.1	0.7	1.3	55.8	1.2	28.9	9.1
Karnataka	6.3	0.7	1.5	61.5	0.1	22.9	7.0
Kerala	19	1.1	5.4	41.4	0.1	26.8	6.2
Madhya Pradesh	6.6	0.9	0.7	52.2	0.1	35.0	4.5
Maharashtra	4.3	0.8	1.1	52.1	0.1	35.6	6.0

North East states	5.5	1.4	6.5	61.1	0.1	16.4	7.0
Orissa	7.7	0.7	3.2	56.5	0.1	26.7	5.2
Punjab	1.8	0.7	0.5	47.2	0.2	44.7	5.0
Rajasthan	3.9	0.8	0.5	48.2	0.2	42.3	4.1
Sikkim	6.0	1.9	4.8	50.0	0.2	32.0	5.1
Tamil Nadu	7.8	0.8	1.1	57.3	0.1	27.9	5.3
Uttar Pradesh	2.6	0.6	0.7	50.8	0.1	41.8	3.5
West Bengal	6.0	0.9	1.2	51.9	0.2	34.4	5.3
Uttarakhand	4.8	0.5	0.8	47.8	0.1	39.1	6.9
Jharkhand	6.6	1.1	1.0	52.4	0.2	32.3	6.4
Chhattisgarh	6.4	0.6	0.7	52.5	0.1	35.2	4.5

Source: Computed from D-5 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Educational level of migrants

The educational level of in-migrants in Delhi states that more than 63.7 per cent of the migrants in all duration of residence had not completed graduation, whereas 46.5 per cent of recent migrants have not completed graduation. Percentage of total

migrants holding technical diploma is similar in both i.e all duration of residence and less than 1 year of residence (1.1 per cent) (Table 7). Overall the educational level of recent migrants is lower as compared to the older migrants.

Table 7: NCT of Delhi: Educational Level of Migrants, 2001

Educational Level	All Duration			Less than 1 year		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Literate but below Matric/Secondary	29.7	45.9	39.2	29.2	9.7	27.6
Matric/Secondary but below graduate	24.7	13.4	24.5	19.9	7.8	18.9
Technical Diploma or certificate not equal to degree	1.1	15.9	1.1	0.9	3.2	1.1
Graduate and above other than technical degree	12.5	3.4	12.6	9.5	6.2	9.3
Technical Degree or diploma equal to degree of post graduate	2.6	15.7	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.4

Source: Computed from D 4 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Not only this, even the male female differentials are quite high in educational attainment of migrants. Only 12.5 per cent female migrants in recent years were educated beyond matriculation as compared to 12.7 per cent male migrants. However, a slightly high proportion of female migrants were educated beyond graduation than male migrants in all duration category.

Working composition of migrants

The in-migrants in Delhi are predominantly engaged in production related works, transport, equipment operations and labour. The percentage of male migrant workers as production

and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers is highest (58.1 per cent) in less than 1 year duration than for all during migrants (48.2 per cent) (Table 8). On the other hand, the migration of workers engaged in ‘clerical and related works’ and ‘sales work’ is less during the residence of less than 1 year as compared with the all duration of residence. Although both males and females are predominantly engaged as transport equipment operators and labourers, a higher proportion of female migrants than male migrants is engaged as professional, technical and related workers.

Table 8: NCT of Delhi: Occupational Division of Workers, 2001

Occupational Division	All Duration		Less than 1 Year	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Professional, Technical and Related Workers	7.1	19.9	4.8	12.2
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	4.5	3.0	4.0	1.3
Clerical and related workers	13.3	13.8	7.3	4.9
Sales Workers	13.4	4.9	9.0	1.4
Service Workers	11.0	26.7	14.2	17
Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and related workers	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.1
Production and related workers, Transport equipment operators and Labourers	48.2	29.0	58.1	62.4
Workers not classified by occupation	1.6	2.3	1.8	0.6

Source: Computed from D 9 Migration Tables of NCT of Delhi, Census of India, 2001

Conclusion

It can, thus, be concluded that decadal growth rate of population in Delhi has declined over the decades. The contribution of in-migrants to the total population in each decade has been about 35 per cent. The patterns of in-migration in Delhi show large variations among different

states. Six states i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and Uttaranchal contributed more than 80 per cent of the total migrants in NCT of Delhi, whereas the whole of the southern states added less than 10 per cent of the total volume of in-migration in Delhi. ‘Employment’ and ‘Moved with Household’ together are responsible for 70 per cent of the

migration in Delhi. Marriage was the third important reason for in-migration after these two reasons. Males were dominant in employment, whereas female's dominance was obvious in 'moved with household' 'marriage'. The least number of migrants moved for reason like business, education, moved after birth etc. Furthermore, majority of the migrant workers are engaged in production and transport equipment related jobs and as labourers. Hence, Delhi designated as 'The City of Dreams' is attracting large number of migrants from different parts of the country.

References

1. Bouge DJ. Principles of Demography. New York. John Wiley and Sons, 1969.
2. Chandrashekhar. Population problem of India and Pakistan. The Eugenics Review, 1949.
3. Diwakar A, Quereshi MH. Demographic processes of urbanization in Delhi. Population Geography. 1992; 14(1-2): 27-36
4. Kayastha SL, Prakash OM. Trends of population growth in Uttar Pradesh. In: Selected papers in Population and Settlement Geography, 1971.
5. Mishra D. Some aspects of demographic change: Research need in migration. Journal of Social and Economic Studies. 1980; 7(2).
6. Mukherjee S. Understanding canonical analysis and its application through human mobility research. Geographical Review of India. 1979, 41(3).
7. Premi MK. Who migrates to Delhi? Demography India. 2001; 30(1):49-59.
8. Tyagi VK. Urbanisation and changing pattern of fertility in Delhi. In: The geographical approach to fertility, Jurgen Bahr and Paul Gans. Kiel, Germany. 1991; 389-402.