

P. S. Nair

Inter-State Period Migration in India, 1971-81—Levels and Trends

In this paper, an attempt is made to (a) trace out the recent trends in the levels of internal migration in India, (b) find the latest inter-censal migration levels among the major states based on 1981 census data, and (c) estimate the inter-state migration flows during the decade 1971-81. The data base for this exercise is the 5 per cent sample data published by the Census Actuary from the 1981 Census analysis (Padmanabha, P. 1983). The State is taken as the unit of analysis for two reasons: (i) published data on migration refer to the major states of India and (ii) the state is a more policy relevant unit in India.

Internal Migration in India, 1961-81 : An Overview

According to 1961 Census, 3.3 per cent of the total population of India was enumerated as inter-state lifetime migrants, while 30.7 per cent of the total population was enumerated outside the place of birth, (Census of India, 1961). In 1971, the corresponding figures were 3.4 per cent and 30.4 respectively. The interstate life-time migrants as of 1981, according to provisional figures (Padmanabha P. 1983) was 3.5 per cent, and 30.7 per cent of population was enumerated outside their places of birth. These figures imply the static nature of spatial mobility in India during 1961-1981.

However, as Bose (1983) asserts, the fact that about a third of India's population is enumerated outside their place of birth clearly indicates the importance of migration in India as a major demographic process. In 1961, 1971 and 1981, the rural to rural migration stream was by far the most important. Females constitute a significantly higher proportion of ruralward migrants mainly on

account of marriage. The next major stream is, of course, rural to urban migration. Another notable feature is that the urban to urban movement is on the increase since 1961.

As regards long distance (inter-state) movement in India, we find a clearcut sex differential from 1961 to 1981. Among the male migrants, the predominant stream is rural to urban while among females rural to rural migration is the major pattern of movement. Table 1 shows the distribution of life-time long distance migration streams in India since 1961.

TABLE 1—LIFE-TIME INTER-STATE MIGRATION STREAMS IN INDIA, 1961, 1971, and 1981

<i>Type of Migration Stream</i>	<i>1961</i>		<i>1971</i>		<i>1981</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Rural to Rural	28.27	46.80	25.89	42.68	20.86	37.78
Rural to Urban	41.72	24.41	39.36	23.24	42.33	26.09
Urban to Urban	25.94	23.79	28.58	26.46	30.74	28.27
Urban to Rural	4.07	5.00	6.17	7.62	6.07	7.86
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Migrants ('000)	7,781	6,701	9,276	8,854	11,378	12,446
Percent to total migrants	18.78	7.21	19.19	8.22	19.80	9.04

later-State Period Migration Levels : 1971-1981

The results of the five per cent sample data analysis of 1981 census (Padmanabha, P. 1983) provide the life-time immigration and outmigration totals for 14 major states of India. An unfortunate but conspicuous exclusion is the state of Assam where 1981 census was not conducted. Using census survival ratio method and by adjusting for international migration during the decade, we have estimated the levels of intercensal (1971-1981) immigrants and outmigrants.

The lifetime in- and out-migration totals, as given by 1981 census, and the final (adjusted) figures of period migration for the 14 major states of India are shown in Table 2.

Using The totals of immigrants and outmigrants of each state, we have computed the decadal (1971-81) rates of immigration, outmigration and net migration. Here comes a thorny issue in migration analysis, i.e. of the population 'exposed' or the denominator for computing rates. It is, of course, insurmountable although not impossible. We have used the mid-decadal population of each state based taking the exponential rate of growth. The rates are given in Table 3.

TABLE 2—LIFETIME AND PERIOD MIGRANTS IN INDIA, 1981

(in '000)

State	Lifetime Migrants		Period Migrants (1971-81) (Adjusted)	
	Inmigrants	Outmigrants	Inmigrants	Outmigrants
1. Andhra Pradesh	861	1,322	206	375
2. Bihar	1,348	2,537	329	637
3. Gujarat	1,304	1,032	429	199
4. Haryana	1,686	1,156	369	351
5. Karnataka	1,637	1,491	547	472
6. Kerala	356	1,112	114	255
7. Madhya Pradesh	2,369	1,508	522	570
8. Maharashtra	4,633	1,190	1,340	386
9. Orissa	807	528	301	98
10. Punjab	1,757	1,296	205	55
11. Rajasthan	1,452	1,683	429	390
12. Tamil Nadu	1,212	1,409	204	461
13. Uttar Pradesh	1,981	4,856	521	1,827
14. West Bengal	5,692	981	837	276

Haryana has the distinction of having the highest rate (3.24%) of Emigration, It is followed by Maharashtra (2.38%) and West Bengal (1.70%). Three Southern States—Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu—have low integration rates.

So far as the intercensal outmigration levels are concerned, again, Haryana outstrips all other states with a conspicuous margin (3.08%) and it is followed by Uttar Pradesh (1.85%) and Karnataka (1.43%). One would naturally expect a high outmigration rate for Kerala and to some extent for Punjab. But here, Kerala has an outmigration rate of 1.1% only which stands at the intermediate level. One plausible reason is that the centre of attraction of Kerala and Punjab outmigrants during the recent past has not been the other states of India but the countries of the Gulf region.

The states of Punjab (0.36%), Orissa (0.41%) and West Bengal (0.56%) have very low outmigration rates. From the levels of internal mobility, we get an impression that Haryana's population is comparatively the most mobile in India in recent times. The reasons for this are worth investigating. The states of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have more or less similar levels

TABLE 3-INMIGRATION AND OUTMIGRATION RATES IN INDIA, 1971-1981

<i>State</i>	<i>Mid Decadal Population (‘000)</i>	<i>Rate of Inmigration (Per mille)</i>	<i>Rate of Out-migration (Per mille)</i>	<i>Net migration rate (per cent)</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	48265	4.26	7.77	-0.35
2. Bihar	62769	5.25	10.14	-0.49
3. Gujarat	30166	14.21	6.59	+ 0.16
4. Haryana	11359	32.37	30.79	+ 0.16
5. Karnataka	32985	16.56	14.31	+0.23
6. Kerala	23310	4.88	10.96	— 0.61
7. Madhya Pradesh	46620	11.20	12.24	— 0.10
8. Maharashtra	56259	23.83	12.20	+ 1.69
9. Orissa	24056	12.52	4.09	+ 0.84
10. Punjab	15083	13.61	3.62	+ 1.00
11. Rajasthan	29712	14.45	13.13	+ 0.13
12. Tamil Nadu	44658	4.57	10.33	-0.58
13. Uttar Pradesh	98963	5.26	18.46	—1.32
14. West Bengal	49179	17.02	5.62	+ 1.14

of immigration and outmigration, whereas Maharashtra and West Bengal have much higher levels of immigration than that of out-migration.

As regards the net transfer of population, Maharashtra (1.7%) West Bengal (1.1%) and Punjab (1.0%) are the top ranking net Emigratory states. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh (-1.3%), Kerala (-0.6%) and Tamil Nadu (-0.6%) are the top most net outmigrating states.

Inter State Migration Flows, 1971-81

Although, the marginal totals—totals of outmigration and immigration—are enough to measure the amount of net migration, the directions (e.g. states) to/from which the migrants moved determine the structure and pattern of internal migration in a country. Unfortunately, the flow matrices are not readily available from the census publications.

Since the detailed data on migration which enable the construction of flow matrices during 1971-81 are not yet published, we have resorted to an indirect estimation technique (Nair 1985) to estimate the directional flow matrix (14 X 14) for the period.

Using the total volumes of period in-and out-migrants of each state as the marginal totals, and the 1971 lifetime migration flow matrix as the initial guess, we have estimated the interstate migration flow matrix. This model was, in fact, employed to estimate the migration flows for India for the period 1961-71. A comparison of the estimated and the expected (observed) flow matrices showed an estimation error of only 4.87 per cent. Table 4 shows the estimated migration flows for India during the decade 1971-81.

From the largest three or four magnitudes of outmigration proportions of each state, we find that majority of the migrants have moved to neighbouring states only. There are two exceptions for this; Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra comes within the three major outmigrating states although Maharashtra is not a border state. **Here**, one has to remember the enormous variations in the geographical size of Indian states. With the distance covered by an inter-district migrant from Gwalior to Bastar in Madhya Pradesh, a migrant from Tamil Nadu or Kerala can reach Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh. The latter case is of inter state migration.

A close look at the pattern of each state's outmigration directions is as follows. 89.1 per cent of the outmigrants from Andhra Pradesh have moved to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, Two thirds of the Bihari migrants moved to West Bengal, The rest of the outmigrants have chosen mainly Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Slightly above three fourth (77%) of the *Gujarati out-migrants* have moved to Maharashtra—a neighbouring state. The other two major destinations are Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Comparatively, outmigrants from Haryana are more widespread in terms of location. However, the three major destinations are Rajasthan (33.6 per cent), Punjab (26.9 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (26.0 per cent). The reason why Rajasthan has overshadowed Punjab as a centre of attraction of Haryana migrants may be political. Turning to Karnataka, as one would "expect, about two third (65.8%) of the outmigrants have moved to Maharashtra. The other major states of attraction are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. For about 83% of the Kerala out-migrants, destinations are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. For the outmigrants from Madhya Pradesh, the major destinations are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. 80.6 per cent of the outmigrants from Maharashtra have been enumerated in three neighbouring States; namely Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are the three major states of attraction for Orissa with West Bengal having the largest share (46.8%). Where do Punjabis migrate? Haryana (35.4%). Uttar Pradesh (27.7%) and Rajasthan (17.0 per cent) are the largest three receiving states. Rajasthani outmigrants also appeared to be slightly widespread in terms of destinations. There is no excessive flow towards any particular state. Outflows to Gujarat and Haryana are evenly distributed, so also the case with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. A considerable fraction of the outmigrants from Tamil Nadu

TABLE 4—ESTIMATED INTER-STATE MIGRATION FLOWS, INDIA, 1971-1981

(in '000)

From/To	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Gujarat	Haryana	Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	*Maharashtra	Orissa	Punjab	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal
Andhra Pradesh	—	33	63	59	1433	12	116	910	597	5	13	399	43	118
Bihar	13	—	27	22	11	3	181	71	599	18	26	6	1114	4275
Gujarat	16	18	—	4	27	8	90	1533	25	4	163	16	37	48
Haryana	17	30	66	—	15	5	87	128	55	945	1178	7	912	62
Karnataka	769	10	81	5	—	133	24	3104	11	5	16	505	39	19
Kerala	75	23	74	7	693	—	78	481	40	5	25	936	71	46
Madhya Pradesh	33	160	358	37	18	7	—	1559	625	30	1017	11	1962	161
Maharashtra	309	16	1334	19	1008	28	770	—	18	25	72	59	153	51
Orissa	95	122	8	2	2	2	229	23	—	23	2	2	15	461
Punjab	3	12	10	193	3	1	20	31	7	—	93	2	151	21
Rajasthan	38	57	921	860	98	3	525	476	43	79	—	41	560	203
Tamil Nadu	562	31	86	13	2052	907	56	858	44	12	21	—	72	100
Uttar Pradesh	87	1642	1205	2494	86	21	2924	4083	200	870	1621	36	—	2802
West Bengal	41	1140	53	25	24	7	124	149	747	34	47	23	349	—

are enumerated in Karnataka (44.5 per cent) followed by Kerala (19.7%) and Maharashtra (14.3%). One fourth of the U. P. outmigrants are in Maharashtra. The other three major states of attraction are Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. Lastly, where do Bangalese move? Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh together have about 81% of the Bangalee migrants, half of which are located in Bihar.

By and large, 75 to 97 per cent of the outmigrants have moved to the bordering states. Similar pattern was observed earlier also (Bose A. 1983; Premi. M. K. 1983). Obviously, similar trend is observed for the patterns of in-migration flows as well.

Conclusion

The volume and level of in-migration and outmigration and their directional flows for the period (1971-81) in respect of the major 14 states of India are analysed in the preceding paragraphs. The flow estimates are based on the data on the volumes of in-migrants and out-migrants—marginals—provided by the census authorities from the five per cent sample data analysis. An indirect method (Nair, 1985) is used to estimate the gross directional migration flow matrix.

Overall, the inter-state migration during the decade 1971-81 amounts slightly to over one per cent (1.05). The in-migration rates vary across the state considerably, from 0.4 per cent in Andhra Pradesh to 3.2 per cent in Haryana. Similarly, out-migration rates also vary from 0.36 per cent in Punjab to 3.1 in Haryana. In terms of both in-and out-migrants, Haryana's population appears relatively the most mobile in India during the decade 1971-81. As one could expect, Maharashtra has the highest net migration rate (1.69 per cent), followed by West Bengal and Punjab. The state with the largest net out-migration is Uttar Pradesh (—1.32 per cent), which is followed by Kerala (—0.61 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (—0.58 per cent).

The estimated migration flows matrix reveals some insights into the directions migrants take, with regard to both in-and out-migration. By and large, the negative relationship normally found between geographical distance and spatial mobility is reinforced here too. Majority of the inter state migrants (75 to 97 per cent) choose the bordering states as their destinations.

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